

EMPIRE STATE

FAMILY NEWS WATCH



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A Publication of the Faith & Freedom Coalition of NY, a ministry of Marriage and Family Savers Institute, School of Public Policy –

2012 will be a make it or break it year for our nation on so many fronts: the safety and security of the unborn, the definition of marriage, religious liberties, the economy and so much more. The outcome of these issues will depend on who wins the White House in November. That's why Christians must get educated and motivated to get to the polls in November and vote for the leaders who best reflect our values. (See article on the candidates).

We've gotten off to a good start with the new **FAITH & FREEDOM COALITION**, but we still need new members and supporters to raise an army that will make a difference in New York state come November.

Our challenge is great! But our God and His people will be victorious for the benefit of the next generation and His glory!

FAITH & FREEDOM ON THE MOVE!

The new **FAITH & FREEDOM COALITION OF NEW YORK** is on the move and accepting new members. Meetings are held on the **Second Sunday** of each month at New Harvest Christian Church, 1230 Blooming Grove Trpke (Route 94), New Windsor. Each month we worship God, and take up an important issue that believers need to be informed about to make a difference in their community, in our state and in the nation. We have already covered issues like Radical Islam, our Christian Heritage, the Sanctity of Life, and in February we'll be taking a serious look at the Presidency, since we will be meeting on February 12th, the week before President's Day weekend.

We're raising an army of informed and motivated Christians who will give to Caesar what is due to Caesar—our informed vote and active participation in this government, "of the people."

If you're in the area, come join us on February 12th. If you aren't in the area you can still join the Coalition by logging on to www.marriageandfamily.org, and click on the **FAITH & FREEDOM** link. The direct web site to the coalition is still under construction, but until then you can reach us through marriageandfamily.org.

You may also consider having **Second Sunday** meetings and/or organizing a local chapter in your area, at a local church or community center. Just give us a call and we'll be glad to help.

THINK OF WOMAN AND INFANTS

MAGGIE GALLAGHER —used by permission
Commentary published in the Times Union January 17, 2012

When the news broke over the New Year's holiday that abortionist Steven Brigham had been charged with 10 counts of murder in Maryland, it made me sick to my stomach. I remember Brigham well, from when he operated American Women's Services on Central Avenue in Coltonie in the mid-1990's.

I still cringe as I pass the building that housed his clinic on my way to work each morning, the building where police found 17 frozen fetuses in 1996. I didn't need another reminder of the horrors he had inflicted.

But there he was making headlines in Maryland, where authorities say they found the corpses of 35 fully formed unborn babies, some just a few weeks shy of full-term, stuffed in a freezer in his clinic. The grisly discovery led to charges of illegal abortions, as well as others stemming from a botched abortion that left a woman critically injured at his clinic. And Brigham wasn't even licensed to practice medicine in Maryland.

How can this happen?

Here's a practitioner who was stripped of his medical license in Pennsylvania in the early 1990's only to open up shop in New York. Once here, he was convicted of Medicaid fraud and illegal billing practices and had his license revoked in 1994, only to have it reinstated in New Jersey.

Why is it that the abortion industry stands out as a medical practice in which doctors with long and horrific records of gross negligence, incompetence, fraud, suspensions and license revocations continue to practice?

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WOMEN AND INFANTS— Cont.

In no other health care specialty would that be tolerated.

How can this be pro-woman or pro-choice?

Brigham is not an anomaly. Abortion thrives virtually unchecked in our state. New York's archives are replete with a history of abortionists who cynically disregard their patients' health in pursuit of monetary gain:

Dr. Abu Hayat of Manhattan, who severed the arm of an 8-month-old unborn baby girl (but failed to get the rest of her) in a badly botched abortion, one of many in a string of slipshod abortions, including one he stopped midway through because the patient couldn't pay additional costs.

Dr. David Benjamin, the first physician convicted of murder in New York after a woman bled to death following a bungled abortion in his Queens clinic.

Dr. Fred Pulver, the former medical director of Schenectady's Planned Parenthood, who was forced to surrender his medical license after admitting he tried unsuccessfully to abort a 27-week-old fetus who was born alive five days later.

This is "safe, legal and rare," as politicians vow abortion to be?

Our state needs greater restrictions and regulation of abortion, not less. We need enforcement of the laws that are on the books requiring protections for viable unborn infants, regular inspections of abortion facilities and routine monitoring of abortionists for the health and safety of women.

Instead, elected officials like Gov. Andrew Cuomo pledge support for extreme measures that would make abortion even more available, and dangerous, than it is right now. In the text of his State of the State remarks, the governor touted the radical "Reproductive Health Act," a bill that would empower non-physicians to perform abortions and allow late-term abortions of viable infants.

Really? Do we indeed want to put out the welcome mat for doctors like Steven Brigham to come back and hang up their shingle?

That defies common sense for the sake of a political agenda. And more women and babies will end up paying with their lives.

Kathleen M. Gallagher is director of Pro-Life Activities for the New York State Catholic Conference.

Join the **Faith & Freedom Coalition** today. Go to www.marriageandfamily.org and click on the Faith & Freedom Link, or send in the response form and check the "I want to Join Faith & Freedom" Box.

ON THE CANDIDATES

At this writing the South Carolina Primaries are yet to be. As of now, the candidates we have our Romney, Gingrich, Santorum, Perry and Ron Paul. Let me share my thoughts on each one—in reverse order:

Ron Paul—Ron Paul has some excellent ideas on the economy and the federal Reserve, but his views on national defense are naïve and dangerous. I'm reminded of Neville Chamberlain who thought he could negotiate with Adolf Hitler, and by expressing legitimacy to Hitler's rule, he in fact, undermined an ongoing plot by the German military to remove him from power. In a very real sense appeasement by Britain actually set the stage for Hitler's maniacal conquest of Europe. Unfortunately, the only way to effectively deal with delusional leaders is to remove them from power. For this reason Paul's candidacy is unacceptable.

Rick Perry—has been the most outspoken about his faith and has a proven record of accomplishing in Texas the very things we want to see for America. It's unfortunate that his first debates did him in, but God is a God of miracles, and one who specializes in demonstrating His strength through human weakness. Who knows; we'll keep watching. (By the time you receive this he may have dropped out—I hope not.)

Rick Santorum—Rick Santorum seems to be the only candidate who understands that, as important as the economy may be, the integrity of marriage and the family is even more fundamental to the prosperity of a nation. He's a good candidate.

Newt Gingrich—Gingrich, in my opinion, would have the best chance of defeating Obama in the debating arena as he has already demonstrated by his knowledge of history and sense of self-assurance and authority.

Mitt Romney—Romney, in my opinion, and contrary to conventional punditry, is the weakest of the candidates, because he still comes across as a plastic politician with a passion for running for office, and a weak core of principles and values that have guided his public service.

All of these men demonstrate a set of values consistent with our Judeo-Christian tradition as well as our U.S. Constitution. (That's only natural since the latter is derived from the former.)

We must pray for all of them, and pray that God will shed His grace on us by raising up the very best man for the job. The next generation is counting on us.

Pray...and vote!