

EMPIRE STATE

FAMILY NEWS WATCH



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FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, REV. BILL BANUCHI

We have a new president. While it seemed like the whole world was celebrating his inauguration, many Americans were in deep prayer for a nation that seemed to be in a collective stupor after this historic event. Though one ought not deny the historic nature of the election of the first "black" president, it does not make up for the thousands of babies –perhaps millions- who will be murdered in the womb if the Freedom of Choice Act becomes law as Obama promised. The African-American community should be the most outraged because most of those babies killed according to current trends will be African-American. Gay activists are dancing in the streets as they fantasize about the hijacking of the holy institution of marriage. Obama has pledged to overturn Federal Defense of Marriage laws. If he carries through on this promise it will bring one more curse upon our nation and the children of the next generation. Yet, we know that light shines most brightly in the darkness, the light of Christ that abides in the people who are called by His Name. This is the time for His Church to rise up, to be relevant once again as we point to the real "hope" whose name is Jesus! We're committed to the battle though it may call for greater commitment and greater sacrifice. We owe it to the next generation. We value your fellowship, your prayers and your financial support as we continue moving forward. Please pray about renewing your membership in this Institute for the New Year, and doing your part however God calls you to serve, and pray that God will stir the hearts of others to join us in the fight.

LIFE WINNING IN AMERICA, LOSING IN D.C.

Congressman Mike Pence (R-Indiana) delivered a speech on the House floor, urging Americans to "never relent in the defense of life." Pence, the chairman of the House Republican Conference, reserved floor time for 12 Republicans to give remarks on the eve of the 36th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in America. He expressed optimism about the shifting attitudes in America on abortion. "It is accurate to say life is losing in Washington, DC -- both in our judiciary [and] among a pro-abortion majority in the House and Senate, and now with the election of a pro-abortion president of the United States," said the Republican lawmaker. "But let me say with confidence that while life may be losing in Washington, DC, I believe life is winning in America," Pence continued. "Despite the best efforts of the pro-abortion movement to defend abortion on demand, ***more Americans embrace the sanctity of life today than ever before -- especially younger Americans.***"

Along with 63 original co-sponsors, Pence has reintroduced the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act ([H.R. 614](#)). The bill would prohibit the distribution of Title X family-planning funding to abortion providers like Planned Parenthood of America. Speaking at the March for Life, Pence stated that many Americans remain unaware that Planned Parenthood -- the largest abortion provider in the U.S. -- is also the largest recipient of federal taxpayer dollars through Title X. "This should not be," he said. "...It is...morally wrong to take [the dollars] of pro-life Americans and use them to promote abortion at home or abroad."

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

As we near the observance of Lincoln's birthday on February 12, and in light of President Obama's apparent identification with our 16th president, it would do us well to study Lincoln, not in a selective way recalling

only those ideas we like, but we must study Lincoln in all his ways. On March 30, 1863 President Lincoln, in his *Proclamation for a Day of Prayer and Fasting*, called the nation to find spiritual strength through prayer:

“Whereas, it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history: that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord:”

Mr. Obama, let this be the starting point from which to derive all your governing policies

PARK RANGER PROHIBIT EVANGELISM

Liberty Counsel has filed suit in federal court against the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. According to a press release, members of Grace Baptist Church were visiting Fort Macon State Park along the North Carolina coast when they shared their faith with some other park visitors. Mat Staver, head of Liberty Counsel, said "Several members of the Baptist church were in this public park having good times together, swimming, having group games and having a picnic when they wanted to be able to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with some people in the park," he explains. Staver notes the conversation was cut short. "They were approached by park officials saying that you could not communicate with anyone else in the public park unless you have a permit," he says. The park ranger cited the North Carolina Administrative Code, which says "a person shall not hold any meeting, or exhibitions, perform any ceremony, or make any speech, unless he has a permit." Staver suggests the policy is patently unconstitutional and based on the religious content of the message. "This kind of prior permission requirement on speech is a license on speech -- [a license] that is not allowed by the First Amendment," he contends. "It absolutely prohibits spontaneous expression." Liberty Counsel wants to make sure members of the church or any other church in the city have full rights under the Constitution.

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT FAILS TO PROTECT CHILDREN.

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to revive the Child Online Protection Act, designed to protect children from sexual material and other objectionable content on the Internet, said Pat Trueman, special counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund. He objects to the decision by the nation's highest court not to revive the federal law that would have barred websites from making harmful content available to minors over the Internet. "Why is it that the Constitution allows adults to give pornography to children?" he asks. "Point me in the direction of that provision in the Constitution. It does not exist." Trueman believes the decision means America has a crisis on its hands. "At least two generations of children getting hardcore pornography on the Internet, and the Supreme Court looks the other way," he points out. "I think this is a travesty of justice. The case is *Mukasey v. ACLU*.—OneNewsNow.com

REPORT FROM NEW YORKERS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS (www.nycf.info)

- The Assembly Health Committee passed the **Healthy Teens Act (A1806)** this week. The bill would authorize groups like Planned Parenthood to teach comprehensive sex education in the public schools on your tax dollars.
- Governor Paterson named a replacement for Senator Hillary Clinton. **Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand (D)** from the Hudson Valley is the choice. She is liberal on most issues (including same-sex marriage and abortion), but favors the Second Amendment right to bear arms.
- New Yorker's Family Research Foundation hosted the first **Legislative Prayer Breakfast** of the new legislative session this week. Over twenty legislators and staff members attended. Praise the Lord! Rev. Jason McGuire is continuing a study through the Gospel of John this year at the Capital.