

EMPIRE STATE

FAMILY NEWS WATCH



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FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Rev. Bill Banuchi

There is clearly coming into focus: a polarization in America. Presidential candidate John Edwards spoke of two Americas. There are two, but not the two he tried to convince us of. The two Americas are represented by those who believe in God, the Constitution and the rule of law, and those who reject God, the Constitution and the rule of law. Just before the 2004 elections I wrote a book entitled, *"How Shall I Vote? -Choosing godly leaders in an Ungodly World."* (Still available at Amazon.com). In that book I defined the contrast between what I called the "Conservative Traditional Judeo-Christian Worldview" and the "Liberal Secular Humanistic Worldview." When I wrote the book I had no idea how prophetic its message would be. Today, we see clearly, that the left, now in power has one agenda: the elimination of human liberties. Every move the current administration takes -whether it succeeds in its intended purpose or not- does, in fact, succeed in expanding the power of government. The concentration of power is the common denominator of all of the present administration's policies, as evidenced by the executive directive to all federal agencies to discontinue outsourcing jobs to the private industry to bring those jobs under government control. Let private businesses fail while the federal government grows. That is nothing less than totalitarianism in the making. Woodrow Wilson taught us, *"The history of liberty is the history of the limitations of power, not the increase of it. When we resist, therefore, the concentration of power, we resist the powers of death, for the concentration of power always precedes the destruction of human liberties."* There are two Americas competing for dominance: one based in liberty under God, the other based in Socialism under human government. For the sake of the next generation I pray the former prevails.

THE MANHATTAN DECLARATION

Bill Wilson, a Washington-based journalist recently summed up the unstable tide of our times. He says, "The Senate is poised to debate socialized health care and take a vote on it despite its unconstitutionality and opposition from the American people. This bill shreds the Constitution and the rights of Americans under the false pretense that it will provide health insurance to every American. **This bill is the linchpin to legislating unprecedented and unconstitutional socialist humanism as the form of government in America.** These usurpers in Congress must be stopped, and the American people must be heard from. From a Constitutional perspective this legislation, in effect, surrenders the power of the people to the power of the government."

Additionally, we have activist judges and other leftists who are attempting to ram down the throats of Christians some of the most radical, anti-biblical policies in the history of America. "Conscience issues" are facing doctors, nurses, pastors, ministries, radio personalities, and more. As a result, 150 leaders representing Evangelical Christianity, Catholicism, and Orthodox Christianity, issued a joint statement ,

"Because we honor justice and the common good, we called *The Manhattan Declaration* reaffirming their opposition to many of these conscience issues. In a nutshell they will not comply with any edict that purports to compel our institutions to participate in abortions, embryo-destructive research, assisted suicide and euthanasia, or any other anti-life act. We also will not bend to any rule purporting to force us to bless immoral sexual partnerships, treat them as marriages or the equivalent, or refrain from proclaiming the truth, as we know it, about morality and immorality and marriage and the family. *We will fully and ungrudgingly render to Caesar what is Caesar's. But under no circumstances will we render to Caesar what is God's.*"

Signers pledge to each other, and to fellow believers, that "no power on earth, be it cultural or political, will intimidate us into silence or acquiescence. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in its fullness, both in season and out of season. May God help us not to fail in that duty." The full text of the Declaration and an opportunity to sign on can be found at www.manhattandeclaration.org.

WE WIN THE VOTE!

The Marriage & Family Savers Institute wants to commend the members of the New York State who voted to defeat the Same-Sex Marriage bill by a vote of 38 to 24. It's encouraging to see that there is still a modicum of sanity and common sense in our State Legislature. However, only one brave senator spoke on the floor to defend marriage, a Pentecostal Minister, named Ruben Diaz. All the others who spoke on the floor spoke passionately about human interest stories and personal experiences, but conspicuously absent was any intelligent debate on the issue. Even those who attempted to quote our founding fathers, either misquoted them or quoted them out of context. One senator even attributed to Moses a teaching given by Jesus! Though we are relieved that the institution of marriage is preserved for another season, it was disconcerting to observe the level of ignorance demonstrated in New York's "Upper" house. It becomes apparent why New York was rated the most dysfunctional state government. This underscores the need to be actively involved in the political process by concerned citizens, and the need to elect intelligent officials who understand the principles involved in preserving this "One Nation Under God."

NJ SENATE TRIES TO REDEFINE MARRIAGE

Trenton – New Jersey Family Policy Council Founder & President, Len Deo issued the following statement in response to the New Jersey Republican State Committee adopting a resolution calling for the voters to be given the opportunity to vote on the definition of marriage.

"I am very glad to see that Assemblyman Jay Webber, in his role as State Committee Chairman led the passage of a resolution calling for the people to have the right to vote on whether New Jersey should redefine marriage. This issue is too critical to the welfare of our state to have the lame duck legislature pass a piece of legislation of such magnitude," Deo stated.

However, the Jersey State Senate may take up a same-sex marriage bill and try to redefine marriage by an act of the Legislature rather than leaving it to the people. If the Democrats in the Senate succeed and New Jersey passes this legislation it will become the sixth state to legitimize immorality in the name of "civil rights." By the time you receive this report the issue may be already settled.

CLIMATE CHANGE NEEDED

President Obama is joining nearly 200 world leaders in Copenhagen to discuss a manufactured crisis called climate change. It used to be called Global Warming until the truth came out. Now they've had to settle for "climate change." After all, who can debate that the climate is changing? Today it's warm; tomorrow may be colder. There's your climate change. Case closed. We therefore need global governance to keep the climate from changing. Sound ridiculous? It is. But that won't stop the "one worlders" from plunging forward with their plan to redistribute wealth among the whole world! Our President apparently doesn't understand that his responsibility is to defend American liberty and our Constitution. We must demand that our Congress and our President address the issues that are real, like getting Americans back to work. We need to change the climate at home. Let's all work to address real issues. Let's work to establish a favorable climate in our own homes first, then in our communities then in the nation. We can do it if we'll pray like it all depends on God and work like it all depends on us.

A SPECIAL NOTE

As we wind down the end of the year, we do so with an uncertainty about how we will continue in 2010 because of our current financial picture. We are seeking answers. We know the need for this ministry is as great now as it has ever been, and we are determined to continue to fight for our faith, our families and our freedoms as long as we are able, but we cannot continue operating at a deficit. So we would ask that you would, first of all, be in prayer for us. Secondly, if you know of any funding sources, we sure would like to know about them. And lastly, if the Lord directs you to help with a special end-of-year gift it would be greatly appreciated. You can use the enclosed envelope and response form or make a donation on line at www.marriageandfamily.org. You can call us to make a donation by phone at 1-877-MSAVERS, or you could just send a check to Marriage & Family Savers - 229 Robinson Ave.– Newburgh, NY 12550.

Your gifts are tax-deductible for the year as long as we receive them by December 31st. Thank you in advance for your prayers and support.