



December 2014

Merry CHRISTmas,

Concerned Women for America of Iowa wishes you a very Merry Christmas filled with peace and joy!

Jesus came into a world much like today ~ a world full of unrest but He came offering something that only He could offer. He gave a gift for our minds and hearts in John 14:27, **“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”** Whatever troubles and unrest we face as families or as a nation, they are not new to God - Ecclesiastes 1:9. If we'll turn to Him, He'll heal our land - 2 Chronicles 7:14. With God all things are possible - Mark 10:27. So, in this fast-paced, every-day's-a-race world, doesn't the idea of a trouble-free heart and stress-free mind sound like a wonderful idea? May the reminder of John 14:27 be our gift to you this CHRISTmas season as we celebrate the birth of our King!

Thanks to your immense support we are excited to share some of the work Concerned Women for America of Iowa has done to bring peace, truth, and understanding to our state this past year:

- ✦ Blessed elected leaders once again with our Encourage-A-Leader program thought the legislative session.
- ✦ Protecting local control and working to stop Common Core / Iowa Core. Spoke across the state and brought in national speakers for two Town Hall meetings. Did several interviews with experts David Barton, Karen Lamoreaux, Mary Byrnes, Alice Linahan, Henry Burke, Tanya Ditty, Brad McQueen, Jane Robbins, Joy Pullman, Larry Krieger, Orlean Koehle and more which are now on YouTube. The only group to bring in national experts to testify in legislative education committee hearings.
- ✦ Sent several members to Washington, D.C., for our 535 Lobby days.
- ✦ Lobbied the Education Chairman, Speaker of the House, Judiciary Chairman, House Majority Leader, and numerous legislators, attended committee meetings and lobbied several Congressional members on legislation concerning Israel, religious liberty, education, sex-trafficking, and family matters.
- ✦ Sponsored the breakfast for NICHE/Homeschool Day at the Capitol and prepared talking points for the parents to lobby their legislators.
- ✦ I was honored to speak at the March for Marriage at the U.S. Capitol.
- ✦ Continued support for Israel as Denise Bubeck, our state outreach coordinator, participated on a panel at a local synagogue in support of Israel. Tamara, Denise, and Diana Cummins-Bates have built relationships with the Jewish community in Iowa through pro-Israel conferences, seminars, etc. With God's grace and the help of a dear friend, several CWA of Iowa members were able to charter a flight to join CWA CEO and President, Penny Nance and Gov. Mike Huckabee for CWA's Support Israel Rally in Washington, D.C.

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- ✦ Spoke at the Statewide Sex-Trafficking and Abuse Prevention Conference.
- ✦ Traveled the state with the Family Research Council Value Voters Bus Tour.
- ✦ Launched our first ever Young Women for America Conference in Des Moines with YWA Coordinator Chelsea Patterson from CWA's D.C. office.
- ✦ Encouraged our members to participate in our 8th annual National Day of Fasting Repentance and Prayer (always the 3rd Thursday in November).
- ✦ CWA of Iowa is regularly sought out to help bridge varying groups of interest and bring leaders together on a variety of issues.
- ✦ As records correspondent, Linda Chisolm's attention to detail and paperwork, along with Kay Ealy's prayer covering are invaluable to our Iowa team.
- ✦ Blessed by each and every one of our many Prayer/Action Chapter leaders across the state who meet to pray, learn and take action to better their nation, state and communities.
- ✦ Trained Iowans through our "Learn to Lobby" program.

We're looking forward to continuing our work in 2015:

We have great plans for this coming year in which you might participate. They include bringing in **Dr. Alveda King** January 19-21, continuing to build community relationships, flying in national experts to testify before legislative committees, hosting events on Iowa Core and other pressing state issues, creating and printing educational materials, traveling the state to educate Iowans on the issues, running our Encourage-A-Legislator program, lobbying the state and national legislature and on and on. Be sure to watch our Facebook page and website for more details for opportunities to participate in our events and projects.

We appreciate your prayers and your continued support of CWA of Iowa. As we end this letter, please allow us to ask you to financially partner with us as together we look towards 2015. Prayerfully consider blessing CWA of Iowa with a tax-deductible gift that will remain in the state to help our work locally. Send donations to the address below or donate online at ia.cwfa.org. Be sure to click on the "Donate to Your State" box below my picture, not the one at the top.

We so appreciate you, your participation at our events, your encouragement to us during the year, and your partnering with us physically, and financially. Most of all, we thank you for your prayers. Let's get a jump on the New Year by praying without ceasing for our church, state, and national leaders - I Thessalonians 5:16.

Let's protect our religious liberty and the sanctity of that Holy Night. When you hear *Away in a Manger*, remember, the only way is the Manger! Take time to teach the children in your life the truth of the CHRISTmas story all the way from the stable to Christ's sacrifice on the cross, so they too can experience true peace for the fear-free life of John 14:27. There just isn't a better gift.

Have a blessed Merry CHRISTmas and a Healthy, Happy and Peaceful New Year!



State Director Tamara Scott & CWA of Iowa team

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