



Christmas 2014

Christmas greetings!

As the Holy season of Christmas approaches, I wanted to thank you for your continued support of CWA here in North Dakota! We are incredibly grateful to you for your prayers, gifts and actions.

We have had a busy year promoting Measure 1, The Human Life Amendment! While we are certainly disappointed in the outcome of the election, we are not disappointed in the effort CWA put forth to stand for the cause of life. Along with other pro-life organizations, we ran a unified campaign intent on protecting our existing pro-life laws from being overturned. Our opponents were able to mischaracterize Measure 1 by making false claims about its impact on end-of-life decisions and other non-issues. All bogus, yet unfortunately, the media let them get away with these claims, and the voters sadly failed to see through the smoke screen created by Planned Parenthood and their abortion industry partners.

While it was frustrating to watch our opponents be able to avoid a discussion about the real issues, we were nonetheless heartened as a result of the campaign. First, we were able to bring the entire pro-life community together to work for the passage of Measure 1. That sense of unity will serve us well as we continue to work together to protect life and engage in CWA's core issues in the future. Moreover, by never addressing the issue directly, our opponents had to effectively concede that North Dakotans are supportive of the pro-life laws enacted by our legislators. Finally, the state Supreme Court overturned the ruling creating an unlimited right to abortion which sparked Measure 1 in the first place. With the immediate threat of the court ruling off the table, voters decided to vote for the status quo which leaves our strong pro-life laws on the books. BUT these laws are not secure in the long run, as already the abortion industry is planning to reengage in legal tactics to nullify our laws. They are also asking lawmakers to propose laws that inch us towards euthanasia, and, of course, they are joining the alternative lifestyle groups in trying to impose "sexual orientation" laws once again.

Along with our allies from the NDChooseLife campaign, CWA of North Dakota will continue to monitor and assess the tactics coming against our common sense laws. Having experienced the utterly false campaign of misinformation waged by Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry, we are in a much better position to craft new language for the future if we think it once again becomes necessary to stop the imposition of abortion on demand in our state through legislation or initiated measures. We are also keenly aware of the Common Core issue that will be one of the most debated issue in this upcoming Legislative Session. CWA believes

in local control of education and parental rights foremost of all. Common Core is wrong on so many levels, and we are grateful for many citizens and lawmakers who will stand with us to undo North Dakota's adoption of this liberal government intrusion into our children's education.

Some of the fruits from this year's life campaign, however, will linger in eternity as we have heard of post abortion families coming forward for healing, abortion minded moms choosing not to abort their children and more North Dakotans joining us publically in the fight for the right to life. So many new young outspoken leaders have come forward which is a true delight to see. And the nation is still watching our state and our leadership on this issue.

On a personal note I wanted to let you know that I will take a one-year leave of absence from my leadership of CWA here in North Dakota. A year ago, before I took on the Chairmanship of the NDChooseLife campaign, this had already been decided, so it has nothing to do with the outcome of the election. It is not at all easy to step away for this time as there are so many issues and challenges to be taken on; however, I am deeply confident that our great CWA Leadership team here in North Dakota will carry on in strength and conviction in my absence. Times come in each of our lives when we have to step back, for many reasons, and be renewed in heart, body and soul, and this is such a time for me personally. I also wanted to take this time to thank each of you personally for your prayer covering over this past year. It was appreciated more than you will ever know! God is indeed good to give us all strength for the journey He calls us to take.

I wish to end with a quote I hold dear:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." Theodore Roosevelt.

Thank you for being in the arena with us and for your faithful service to the cause of Biblical truth applied in the public square.

Merry Christmas!

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