“The heavens declare the glories of God,” proclaimed the psalmist. Perhaps he was gazing into the night sky or the deep blue space of a springtime afternoon. Whatever the setting, the poet saw something God had placed there for him to soak in and later pen into a song of praise.

Have you sung the song of the psalmist? The tapestry from which he drew his thoughts is still among us. It’s woven into a gentle breeze, the warmth of a summer day, the light of a new dawn, the darkness of a moonless night, and the radiance of the star-filled heavens. Its threads are the flowers and grass, the stream and spring, ocean and lake, the open field, towering mountain and deep forest. The storm, gentle rain, and morning dew, the love of a mother to her child and the husband to his wife all take in the words of the songwriter of the psalm. Though all are so different, they share a common theme . . . they all are pictures of our Lord.

The gentle breeze and mighty wind of the Spirit. The warmth and radiance of the Light of Life. The streams and springs and oceans of the Living Water – vast, abundant, fresh, and life-giving. The stars of the night sky tell of the Morning Star and the power of the sunrise points to the Day Star and an empty tomb. The open field speaks of the Lord of the Harvest, the mountain His majesty and awesome presence, the deep forest of the Shoot from the Stump of Jesse. The storm declares His power, the gentle rain His provision, the morning dew His peace. And all the relationships rooted and grounded in love point to the One who is called Agape – Genuine Love.

The tapestry from which the psalmist drew his thoughts is still among us. Do you see it? The pictures are ever before us. Take a moment, even now, to step outside, look around and soak in the symbols of our Lord.

“For since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen from what has been made…” Romans 1:20
Influencer Monthly

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Time to Tell Your Senators to Stand for Marriage
Alexandra McPhee, Director of Government Relations

Following the historic victory of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization (2022), the pro-abortion majority in the U.S. Congress eagerly launched a slew of legislative attacks undermining the sanctity of life. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would have mandated coverage for abortifacients. Pro-abortion legislators in the U.S. Senate tried to advance legislation to codify a right to abortion travel and to blacklist pregnancy resource centers from partnership with the federal government. Fortunately, these efforts are not law.

Unfortunately, there is one post-Dobbs effort that may succeed—S.4556, the Respect for Marriage Act, better titled the “Disrespect of Marriage Act.” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York) said he would try to move the bill this month after failed efforts earlier this summer.

What does same-sex marriage have to do with the pro-abortion agenda? Well, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, in a separate and nonbinding (“concurring”) opinion in Dobbs, made the point that abortion access is one of several court-created rights that do not appear in the U.S. Constitution. Other court-created rights include the ability to enter into a same-sex marriage. His point was about only recognizing rights based on the text of the Constitution rather than a judge’s preferred policy.

In response, pro-abortion legislators introduced a bill, the Disrespect of Marriage Act, under the guise of codifying the right to same-sex marriage created by the Supreme Court in Obergefell v. Hodges (2015).

The bill goes beyond codifying same-sex marriage in federal law. It expands the definition of marriage and who may be sued if they disagree. The bill’s open-ended text means that policies about marriage, its benefits, and rights of parents and children will become law for later interpretation via litigation. Activist groups could have the power to wage lawsuits against parties ranging from pastors to faith-based child welfare service providers and financially bleed parties dry.

Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) opposes this bill. We believe in policy that honors marriage. Our conviction stems from the biblical belief that God made marriage between one man and one woman. We are also concerned about the consequences of the bill as described above.

ACT TODAY! Contact your Senator to state your opposition to S.4556, the so-called Respect for Marriage Act.

JOIN US IN PRAYER for a society that seeks God’s will for marriage and sees it for what it is: the symbol of His commitment to His beloved creation.

Freedom of Speech & Religion in Public Schools

With school now in full swing, it is crucial that students know they have the right to express their religious beliefs at their schools. Concerned Women for America’s Know Your Rights: Freedom of Speech & Religion in Public Schools bookmark is a great resource to print and distribute to students and parents. Print the bookmark double-sided on 8.5” x 11” white cardstock and cut. You may also order copies through your state director. Download your copy today.
Jesus asked a simple question of the disciples, “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46 NIV). He was stressing that He was to be Lord (the Master of our lives) not just called Lord. He commands, we obey. He leads, we follow. He plans, we execute. It is why Paul identified us as “slaves of Christ,” (see Ephesians 6:5, for example).

This reality is most challenging when the command is for us to wait on the Lord. Listen to Psalm 27:14 (ESV), “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” As activists, we are geared towards action, which is not a bad thing—unless we are ignoring the command of the Lord at any given time to, “Be still, and know that I am God…” (Psalm 46:10a NIV). The promises for our faithfulness in waiting are varied and glorious. Take Isaiah 40:31 (ESV), for example, “But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” or Lamentations 3:25 (ESV), “The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.” It is good to wait on the Lord!

But life is hard. We look at overwhelming injustice around us and we want action. This is always the case when it comes to legal matters. The courts move traditionally at a very slow pace. Resolution of one case, merely means the start of the long and arduous appellate process that will take us, after multiple cases on a single issue, to a resolution at the Supreme Court.

The recent Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other intelligence agencies abuses and injustices that seem to only multiply are also another example of areas of frustration where we want action. We want reform. We want accountability in the political landscape. That is fine, as long as we keep our heavenly kingdom perspective and ultimate hope, right? We cannot let hopelessness settle within our hearts.

But, if we are truthful with ourselves, some of us frankly get tired of waiting on the Lord. We still call Him Lord, but do not trust Him.

Let us repent of this attitude for, “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you…” (2 Peter 3:9 ESV). PRAY: “Father, recalibrate my heart, and recenter my gaze upon You, my Lord and my only source of hope. Amen.”

**Praise & Prayer**

Praise God that He is in control of all things and that nothing comes to us but that it is filtered through His heart and His hands. “By Me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. By Me princes rule, and nobles – all the judges of the earth.” Proverbs 8:15-16.

Praise God that we do not have to rely on our strength and power to accomplish His will. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

Please pray for our 2022 Leadership Summit. Pray for those who are attending. Pray also that the Lord will direct every aspect of this event. “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.” Psalm 32:8

As students head back to school, pray especially for the protection of the minds and hearts of our children in public schools. We know that the mind is a battlefield; therefore, we must pray without ceasing for the children and be wise in our dealings with the governing bodies whose decisions affect entire generations. “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.” Matthew 10:16
Why are gender reveal parties still a thing? If woke America were consistent in its cause, they’d have been canceled by now. Why would expectant parents reveal their baby’s sex if the child is supposed to decide? Today’s prevailing worldview rejects the foundation of human identity as being born male and female. Gender ideology claims that created bodies have little to do with defining human identity. Psychology overrules biology. Like the God of Creation, the science of genetics and human development is denied.

From the youngest age of awareness, as early as two years old, children are now responsible for determining whether they are boys or girls. Feelings overrule facts. “Gender identity” overrules sex. Society is expected to affirm this declaration as well as mandate compliance by others.

Gender ideology is penetrating at a deep and insidious level across every sector of our culture, most dangerously, the medical industry.

Last year the American Medical Association (AMA) adopted a policy that doctors no longer include a baby’s sex on the birth certificate of record. It states the AMA “opposes efforts to deny an individual’s right to determine their stated sex marker or gender identity.”

Elite medical organizations are chief promoters of gender identity ideology. They might admit female XX or male XY chromosomes comprise every cell of the human body, but they consider this fact irrelevant to a person’s identified sex. Babies are merely “assigned a sex at birth.” Children can be “born in the wrong body.”

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) asserts that “the internal sense of being a girl, boy, in between or something else (i.e., gender identity) cannot be changed.”

The premier organization of doctors taking care of kids claims that preschoolers decide if they are boys or girls or something else while they are pretending to be princesses and superheroes. Parents must fall in line and affirm this identity that “cannot be changed.”

This is heresy. As Christian parents, we are commanded to train up our children in the way they should go – medical professionals, on the other hand, are telling parents that children determine who they are.

Children are at risk from the very profession expected to protect them. Gender centers at academic hospitals run by activists consider mental health counseling “conversion therapy.” They advocate social transition followed by chemical and surgical treatment starting as young as eight. Doctors sworn to “do no harm” peddle procedures like double mastectomies on teen girls so bodies align with feelings.

Concerned Women for America is committed to bringing truth to light in the fight against the deceptive, unethical practice of so-called “gender affirming care.”

PRAY against the idolatry of gender identity: “They have built the high places of Baal to burn their children in the fire as offerings to Baal—something I did not command or mention, nor did it even enter my mind.” (Jeremiah 19:5)

ACT to educate and advocate for policies protecting children from radical, irreversible gender transition procedures.

EDUCATE: CWALAC Fact Sheet Protecting Vulnerable Children from Medical Harm
CWA IN THE NEWS

Taking on Woke Corporations
Diana Banister, Senior Communications Consultant

On August 2, CWA jumped into the discussion regarding the U.S. Department of Justice's wrongful decision to sue the state of Idaho claiming the state's ban on abortion violates federal law.

Following the defeat of the Kansas "Value Them Both" Amendment, Penny was interviewed by The Los Angeles Times as well as on radio's the Steve Gruber Show.

On July 9, CWA launched its #TossTarget campaign focused on encouraging Americans to no longer shop at Target stores because of their decision to pay for their employees to obtain abortions following the Dobbs Supreme Court decision that overturned Roe v. Wade.

The communications team worked closely with a reporter to offer an exclusive to The Washington Examiner to launch the effort in the media - 'Toss Target': Huge retailer boycotted over pro-abortion stand | Washington Examiner. From that point, the CWA website and all social media channels were focused on getting attention for this effort.

On Americans to Boycott Target Over Retailer's 'Incredibly Offensive' and 'Insidious' Decision – Faithwire

CWA Calls for Americans to 'Toss Target' After Retailer Joins the Abortion Travel Caravan | CBN News

Throughout the month, CWA social media channels urged followers to utilize our Action Center and provide comments to the Biden Administration’s proposed Title IX rule that would allow men to participate in women’s sports. We also continued to urge supporters to contact their senators to urge them to vote no on the “Respect for Marriage Act.”

On Friday, August 19, Penny was informed by Walmart that it would be increasing abortion coverage in their healthcare plans and paying for travel for their employees to obtain abortions. The CWA team immediately posted to social media channels, Twitter and Instagram, and alerted conservative leaders of this decision.

Along with the Conservative Political Action Convention (CPAC) leader, Matt Schlapp, Penny rallied national leaders to sign a letter to Walmart President and CEO Doug McMillon to express our concern over the new policy. Giving an exclusive first story to The Daily Wire, the comms team promoted heavily with other news outlets.

’Full-On Battle Mode’: Conservative Leaders Put Walmart On Notice For Promising To Pay For Abortions | The Daily Wire

Walmart Expands Abortion Coverage for Employees, Will Also Increase Its Aid for Adoptions | CBN News

Pro-Life Leaders Blast Walmart for Funding Abortion Travel Killing Babies | LifeNews

Penny sat down with America First Legal’s John Zadrozny to discuss woke companies who have decided to fund abortion travel for their employees and how pro-life Americans should respond. Listen to the podcast.

Penny spoke at CPAC on the issue of life and the recent Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. Watch Penny’s interview.

“Not only is your pro-abortion policy reprehensible, but your touting of a small increase in adoption benefits as a way to atone for what you know to be an immoral, anti-woman policy is offensive, especially for women.”
YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA
YWA Speaks Out for Life and Title IX
Annabelle Rutledge, National Director, Young Women for America

Concerned Women for America (CWA) launched two campaigns this month: Toss Target and the Title IX comment period. Since Toss Target has launched, Young Women for America (YWA) leaders have made social media posts of them contacting Target executives using CWA’s sample verbiage. CWA’s summer Communications intern and YWA Ambassador, Paige Nelson, is featured in CWA’s Toss Target campaign video.

The public comment period for the Biden Administration’s proposed rule change to Title IX to include gender identity is now open. Since that change would strip women and girls of vital protections under the law based on their female status and conflict with the Christian faith, we have asked our leaders to send comments to the Department of Education.

PRAY: As this month nears the end, the YWA Team is finalizing plans for YWA Leadership Training 2022. As you read this, please pray for the girls attending this year. It is our prayer that every girl who attends would grow closer to the Lord and each other and be equipped to speak the truth in love on their campus and in their communities.

Meet the New State Director of Florida!

We are thrilled to introduce you to Ruth Smith, CWA’s new Florida State Director. Ruth is no stranger to CWA, having served as a CWA of California Prayer/Action Chapter Leader and California Area Director since the early 1990s.

In her role as Area Director in California, Ruth assisted in building a robust network of Prayer/Action Chapters across the state. She engaged in policy issues where she lobbied on issues impacting life and the family, along with assisting in planning pro-life/pro-family rallies. And now, Ruth is ready to bring this experience to Florida.

A note from Ruth: “I love that CWA is rooted in prayer and action. I am a firm believer that we fight our battles on our knees. We have to pray, or we are powerless, and we have to take action, or our prayers are meaningless. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, ‘Silence in the face of evil is itself evil; God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.’

“I am grateful for the work of former State Director Terri Johannessen, now State Director Emeriti, and look forward to continuing to provide a Christian conservative woman’s voice on current issues in Florida, and building a network of Prayer/Action Chapters around the state.”

A little bit more about Ruth: She has been a soprano soloist and piano teacher for decades and has performed major works with the local Master Chorale and Orchestra. Ruth is also a woman of the Word and a gifted Bible study teacher. Ruth leveraged the COVID restrictions and started teaching Bible studies online. She and her husband were missionaries to Peru, where they planted a church and taught missionary children at the Wycliffe Center in the Amazon jungle. Ruth and her husband George live in Palm Bay and have five children and 17 grandchildren.

PRAY: Please pray for Ruth as she establishes CWA of Florida.