

INFLUENCER

MONTHLY



APRIL 2025

A publication prepared exclusively for CWA leaders, members, and friends dedicated to impacting the culture for Christ through both prayer and action.

Strong and Courageous

Joshua had just become the leader of the Israelite army, tasked with leading Israel to take possession of the Promised Land. Miracle after miracle began to unfold as the LORD supernaturally opened the Jordan River for Israel's fighting men to cross on dry land. Next, Yahweh, the Commander of angel armies, led the way to destroy the fortified city of Jericho, which was the first obstacle to Israel's inheritance. Scripture tells us that every man, woman, child, and every living thing was destroyed except for Rahab, the harlot, and her family, who were spared because of Rahab's faith in God. And the bounty was unbelievable: gold and silver, bronze and iron, all delivered to the House of Yahweh as a sacrifice holy to the LORD.

Joshua tasted victory.

God was with Joshua and IT. FELT. AMAZING.

Can you picture Joshua? A sincere, faithful man, wholly devoted to God, experiencing undeniable confirmation of the Word God gave him in the beginning, "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you."

Elated and confident, Joshua boldly focused on the next campaign to possess Ai. But before any contact was made, Scripture says that "the hearts of the people became as water; they were full of fear." His terrified men withdrew, and 36 of his warriors were chased down and killed by the smaller army of Ai.

Now we find Joshua prostrate before the ark of the LORD. Defeated. Desperate. Doubting his leadership and even questioning God's call on his life.

Have you ever been there? I sure have.

I am standing on the mountaintop singing songs of praise, and the next minute, discouragement clouds my vision, and I wonder what God was thinking when He picked me for this work. We can experience success in our role with CWA, but then one leader decides to move on, or legislation stalls, and we are utterly defeated.

Don't fret! To be discouraged is to be human. I believe God uses this emotion to humble us and remind us of our dependence on Him (for in Him we live and move and exist. Acts 17:28a). I also believe we can lose sight of our mission and become discouraged. In those times, we must remember what God said when He called us and refocus on the future.

As you move forward in your calling as a leader in CWA, never lose sight that just as God faithfully fulfilled His promise to use Joshua to finish the job and lead Israel to possess the Promised Land, He will faithfully guide you in the work that He has prepared for you to do.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be in dread or dismayed, for Yahweh, your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Jennifer Pendleton lives on a little patch of heaven in Kentucky with her husband, daughter, and a menagerie of farm animals. She currently leads the Central Kentucky Prayer/Action Chapter in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, and serves as Kentucky’s State Director. **Recently, she joined the CWA National Field team as a Field Engagement Specialist.**



SENATE INSIGHTS

Long-Awaited Shutdown of Department of Education



Maggie McKneely, Legislative Strategist

For decades, many Americans have advocated for the closure of the Department of Education (ED). Earlier this month, President Trump signed an Executive Order to do just that.

Since it first opened its doors in 1979, ED has spent nearly \$3 trillion dollars, yet the state of education has not improved. At best, it has stagnated. In some districts, it has even become dramatically worse. Nationwide math and reading scores for 8th grade students are the lowest that they have ever been. Instead of focusing efforts to improve basic academic success, however, ED has forced local school districts to implement gender and divisive race-based ideology curriculum in order to receive federal funds.

At best, ED has been ineffective in its mission to improve education. At worst, it has forced radical ideologies into the school at the expense of real learning. But opposition to shutting down the agency is fierce. Many argue that special needs and low-income students will lose access to education, that closing ED will mean shutting down important programs that help impoverished families.

This is just fear-mongering on the part of the anti-school choice lobby. Both Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) funding and Title I programs will remain intact but moved to other agencies. After signing the EO, Pres. Trump announced that “special needs and all of the nutrition programs” will move to Health and Human Services (HHS). Student loans will be handled by the Small Business Administration.

To fully close ED, however, will require an act of Congress. Several bills exist that would do just that, such as the “Returning Education to Our States Act” sponsored by Sen. Mike Rounds. If voted on as a standalone bill, it would need seven democrats in order to meet the 60-vote threshold in the Senate, assuming all Republicans vote to close ED. But there is the possibility that language to shut down the agency could be added to the upcoming reconciliation bill, which only needs a simple majority in both chambers of congress to pass.

Pray that the President and Sec. McMahan would have wisdom in administrating needed programs while giving power over education back to the states. Pray that Congress will be able to officially shut down the Department of Education once and for all.

HOUSE INSIGHTS

Tell Congress to Defund Big Abortion

Macy Petty, Legislative Strategist

In 2022-2023, U.S. taxpayers [gave](#) Planned Parenthood \$2 million *every single day*. That's nearly \$700 million in total handed over in a year. This isn't just piling on the heap of government waste, it's financing their full-scale attack on the moral fabric of our nation. Every single family feels the effects of this, not just in their pockets, but in their communities.

Public polling reveals the majority of Americans increasingly [oppose](#) taxpayer funding of abortion. As the nation's largest abortion business taking the life of nearly [400,000](#) human beings a year, cutting Planned Parenthood's tap into taxpayer's pockets should be an easy budget cut.

Not only does Planned Parenthood promote the killing of unborn children, they also deal wrong sex-hormones to children, fund anti-family and anti-life political initiatives, and are [alleged](#) aids to widespread sex trafficking and child abuse. In this pursuit, they have become one of the nation's foremost indoctrinating machines, corrupting the minds of young children by surrounding them with oversexualized materials that villainize protective parents and plant seeds of gender confusion.

This funding stream is a betrayal to American families, and you deserve better.

As Congress considers spending for the next year, we must remind them that Americans do not support publicly funding the scandals happening inside Planned Parenthood. Despite the Hyde Amendment's specific provisions against publicly funded abortion, Congress continues to cave to woke demands trapping them to support this backwards view of "healthcare."

Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) called out their failure to appropriately steward public funds in a letter to Congress last week:

Planned Parenthood's annual report reveals a steady 74% decrease in breast exams, 70% decrease in pap tests, and 85% decrease in prenatal services since 2010. However, some of their clinics boasted a 544% increase in "trans" care in just one year. Clinics are revealing an observable change in priority. Without clear guidelines to protect public funding, taxpayers find themselves paying for wasteful political initiatives rather than the public good.

Take Action: As we continue to work with Congress to establish clear spending guidelines, we encourage you to reach out to your members and ask them [to protect your dollars from sponsoring abortion and wrong-sex hormones for children](#). Funding these scandals attacks the very heart of America's families and denies the life and dignity of the most vulnerable among us.

Please Prayer: Father, justice is Yours. Strengthen and enable us to defend the innocence of the most vulnerable among us, according to Your perfect will.

CWA IN THE NEWS

CWA is Advocating for You!

February 3: The Daily Wire: [Why College Sports Need To Kill DEI Programs](#) - Macy Petty, Legislative Strategist and former NCAA volleyball athlete, wrote an op-ed on the harm of DEI programs in college sports.

February 20: Penny Nance at [CPAC 2025](#) - Penny spoke on many issues vital to Concerned Women for America's mission.

February 22: Newsmax - Penny joined the [National Report](#) to discuss the environment at CPAC and the importance of family and Christian values in America.

March 6: Rightside Radio - Legislative Strategist, Macy Petty was a featured guest on [Rightside Radio](#) with host Phil Williams discussing all we are doing to protect women's sports for women only.

March 7: Women for America Podcast: [Discussing the Tate Brothers](#) - Penny Nance discusses the controversial release of Andrew and Tristan Tate. Senior VP and Director of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation Law Center, Dani Pinter, joined the podcast.

March 18: Women for America Podcast: [A Family's Story of Survival: Hostage, Hate, and Healing with the Neutra Family](#) - Penny Nance is joined by Ronen and Orna Neutra as they share their story of the October 7th attack and losing their son, American-Israeli soldier Omer Neutra.

March 18: CWALAC Urges Swift Confirmation of Mike Huckabee as U.S. Ambassador to Israel : [Letter to Senate](#)

March 19: FoxNews.com - [Democrats have lost their way on women's sports – and here's the political price they'll pay](#) - Senior Advisor Doreen Denny wrote an op-ed about Democrats failure to defend women's sports.



March 19: American Thinker - [Silence over Syria](#) - Penny Nance wrote an op-ed on the heartbreaking situation taking place in Syria, particularly what is happening to Christians.

March 20: *New York Times* - [‘It Sounds Strange, Doesn’t It?’ Trump Muses About Gutting the Education Dept.](#) Penny Nance was quoted discussing President Trump's Executive order dismantling the Department of Education.

March 25: Daily Signal - [Supreme Court Should Uphold State's Rights to No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Businesses](#) - Macy Petty, Legislative Strategist, wrote an op-ed regarding the Supreme Court Case decision on States rights to no taxpayer funded abortion.

March 28: Defund Planned Parenthood Presser: [Press Conference](#) - Penny calls for defunding Big Abortion in front of the Capitol alongside leaders of other major pro-life organizations.

March 28: Christian Broadcasting Network - [Faith Nation](#) - At around the 12:50 mark Penny spoke on the upcoming Supreme Court case *Catholic Charities Bureau v. Wisconsin Labor & Industry Review Commission*.

GENDER IDEOLOGY

Do Parents Have a Right to Opt Kids Out of the LGBTQ Agenda?



Doreen Denny, Senior Advisor

On April 22, the U.S Supreme Court hears oral arguments in a case that represents a raging modern-day conflict pitting parental rights against government-driven ideology. It's a case resulting from tragedy and triumph. Tragedy because plaintiffs are a notable coalition of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian elementary school parents in Maryland who've been defeated in lower courts as they've sought to protect their children from books and materials promoting gender ideology. Triumph because this strong and committed coalition has never wavered in the face of adversity and now have an opportunity to have their case heard by the highest court with impacts that could reach across the country.

Here's the question before the court:

Do public schools burden parents' religious exercise when they compel elementary school children to participate in instruction on gender and sexuality against their parents' religious convictions and without notice or opportunity to opt out?

The stridency of schools cloaking LGBTQ ideology has advanced unabated in many districts, even in places traditionally considered "safe." Books litter school libraries; special recognition and instruction are embedded across subjects and activities. Taxpaying public-school parents in Montgomery County challenged this, only to find they have no recourse in the public-school square to protect their children from indoctrination.

Prior to 2000, the Supreme Court ([SCOTUS](#)) followed a doctrine of parental rights establishing that parents have the fundamental right to direct the upbringing and education of their children. Its decision in a case in 2000 left a gaping hole in that doctrine, leading to actions by judges and states to deny parents this right. The case *Mahmoud v. Taylor* gives SCOTUS an opportunity to correct this error.

Please Pray as the nine Justices hear this case and that their decision will restore a God-given doctrine of parental rights.

"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck."

-Proverbs 1:8-9

2025 CWA SUMMIT

Save-the-date
September
11, 12, and 13

Event will be held in
Washington, D.C.

Watch for more
information to come!

STATE HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

Boldly Marching, Walking, and Standing for Life



← Pro-Life Day with CWA of Missouri at the capital in Jefferson City.



CWA of Virginia Smith Mountain Lake Prayer/Action Chapter at the Defund Planned Parenthood Life Chain.

CWA of Kentucky State Director Jennifer Pendleton with Prayer/Action Chapter leader Debbie McCool at the Kentucky March for Life in Frankfort.



CWA of Louisiana Lafayette Prayer/Action Chapter sharing the mission of CWA at the March for Life.

CWA of Illinois and Young Women for America make their voices heard at the Walk for Life at the state capitol in Springfield.

Fiercely Protecting Values



↑ CWA of South Dakota Legislative Liaison Lisa Gennaro testifies in support of age verification for pornographic websites.

Lisa Gennaro (far left) and State Director Linda Schauer → (2nd from the right) are on the front lines witnessing the governor signing a bill to promote a culture of life in the state.



CWA of Texas Legislative Liaison Mary Smith (left) and State Director Jana Long testify on two pro-life bills.



Tamara Scott (far left), State Director of CWA of Iowa testifies in support of the protection of women's safe spaces.



Jennifer Pendleton (center), State Director of Kentucky, attends the Pro-Life Caucus meeting to encourage continued support for legislation supporting a culture of life in Kentucky.



Noelle Fitchett, Communications Coordinator for CWA of California, speaks at a press conference to protect girls' sports.

Representing Women Across America



CWA of Oklahoma State Director Joy Howell (center) with Sen. Kendal Sacchieri (R-Blanchard) (left) and former Rep. Sherrie Conley (R-District 20) (right) all spoke at the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Prayer/Action Chapter.



Laura Huber (far left), CWA of Louisiana State Director, joins the Lafayette Prayer/Action Chapter meeting with Rep. Josh Carlson (R-District 43).



CWA of North Dakota State Director Linda Thorson testifies to protect minors from explicit sexual materials in public libraries.



CWA of New Mexico hosted its Third Annual Prayer and Worship Gathering at the Capitol & Jericho March.



Beverly Shoemaker, State Director of Florida, shares about CWA and state legislation at the Citrus County Conservative Women's group.



Beverly then enjoyed time with the Citrus Prayer/Action Chapter.

YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA

Faithfully Feminine: YWA Leaders Exhibit Biblical Leadership



Faith Ozenbaugh, National Director of Young Women for America

Each year, it's inspiring to see how God stirs the hearts of our leaders in specific issue areas. This semester, Biblical femininity has been a key focus for many young women in

our program. Across the nation, our leaders are hosting events, book clubs, and educational meetings to discuss what it looks like to live as God-honoring, Biblically feminine women in 21st century America.

Since its inception, CWA has championed Biblical womanhood, from opposing the Equal Rights Amendment to affirming God's design of two sexes. Through the Young Women for America program, we're discipling young women nationwide to embrace their femininity with strength and grace in leadership.

The feminist movement has distorted society's view of womanhood, but YWA leaders are rejecting the lies that promise freedom yet enslave women to false ideals. They're seeking to understand God's true design for womanhood and how it shapes their leadership in policy and culture.

At College of the Ozarks, YWA is studying *Captivating: Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman's Soul*. A group of women meet regularly for breakfast, pouring over Scripture and sharing insights found in the book. I had the privilege of visiting them in March, joining CWA's Missouri State Director Haven Howard for a sweet and fruitful discussion on this topic.

YWA at Grove City College hosted a "Femininity > Feminism" Garden Party, where they made bouquets and explored how femininity is a gift. YWA Inland Empire organized a "Faithfully Feminine" event that brought together students and female professors for impactful conversations. This followed a campus-wide event the chapter hosted on Biblical masculinity that drew nearly 200 students.

In Tennessee, YWA Rutherford County, composed of some of our youngest chapter members, held a sweet event where they discussed the gift of Christian sisterhood, compassion, and purpose.

God is moving in the hearts of young people. It's truly encouraging to see their wisdom in recognizing that embracing God's distinct design for men and women is the foundation of a flourishing society. Please continue to pray for our leaders, that they would follow Matthew 22:37 and love the Lord their God with all their hearts, souls, and minds, and in doing so, find true joy in embracing their femininity.



YWA College of the Ozarks



YWA at Grove City College



YWA Rutherford County