Salt Shakers Inc Newsletter

Steven Alan Samson, Liberty University

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/steven_samson/36/
A PERSONAL NOTE
The SaltShaker, Inc., newsletter will suspend publication with this issue.
A meeting of the board will be held this fall to assess the need for a regular newsletter and to consider the possibility of the first of the SaltShakers — through education, lobbying, fundraising, speaking, writing, research, printing, correspondence, distribution — please send your name, address, phone number, and an indication of your area of interest.

I have enjoyed the privilege of editing this publication during the last two years. I am currently devoting most of my attention to completing a political science doctoral dissertation on government regulation of churches and preparing for fatherhood. Some deadlines can not be delayed, so I must keep my time free to concentrate on writing this book — Crossed Swords: Conflict Between Church and State in America — and looking for full-time employment in teaching, writing, research, or a related field, which is to say I would appreciate your prayers and suggestions. I have enjoyed corresponding with many of you and hope that we will be able to stay in touch in the future, either through this newsletter or some other vehicle.

Let me conclude with an observation and a prayer. I have reached one firm conclusion from my experience in this work. The Christian community needs to be revived before this nation can be converted. The growing sobriety. But suppose that what you are up against is a surgeon whose intentions are wholly good. The kinder and more conscientious he is, the less we believe that there is any use in begging for tenderness. A cruel man might be bribed — might grow tired of his vile doings and stop before the operation was complete. All the pain up to that point would have been useless.

We need to understand that God's mercy is often severe. If we would love our neighbors as we should, we must hold forth God's eternal standard as the only way to life. Those who restrict the good news of Jesus Christ to personal salvation are preaching only half the gospel. It is time to reread the Great Commission and put it to practice in all dimensions: "And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth, Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matt. 28:18-20).

Jesus came to fulfill, not to destroy, the law and the prophets. He instructed his disciples to do and teach the same. (Matt. 5:17-20). It is by our works that our faith is known. Let us work together to the end that God be glorified in all that we do and teach.

Steven Alan Samson

DON'T TELL ME AMERICA IS NOT DYING
In a May, 1983 article in U.S. News And World Report, entitled "Institutions That Influence The Nation", it was reported that a survey asked distinguished Americans to rate 30 institutions and organizations according to the amount of impact each one had on decisions affecting the nation as a whole. Of those 30, guess where the family and organized religion were in the rankings?

Before you have a chance to think thoroughly, allow me to prejudge your answer. With illusive optimism you may have at first thought they would be in the top 10. Then reality (not pessimism) — just cold reality — prevailed. You knew then they were forever locked in between the most influential and the least influential institutions in the second group of 10.

Wouldn't that be a tragic diagnosis of America's health? As if a failing heart were not serious enough. If the family and organized religion were not in the top or second group of 10, but, rather were ranked in 25th and 26th places respectively! Though the secular press is not known for clear, unbiased and comprehensive reporting, it grieves us to have to swallow that bitter pill of accuracy in this case, but we must. America is dying! America is dying!

In Nebraska, North Dakota and Kentucky according to a book written by Dr. Everett Slienven, "Fundamentalists On Trial", it is becoming increasingly more obvious that children are considered to be "wards of the state". All over America the news media, courts, legislatures and other institutional figures are promoting the idea that your children and grandchildren belong to the state. America is dying!

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It was reported that a survey asked, "private Christians." If we allow ourselves to criticize those who are willing to point out the reality of a dying nation and to simply dismiss them as having a pessimistic attitude, then we may as well shake the sprinkler systems out of our buildings, the smoke detectors should be removed, and heart monitors become pure folly — based on the aforementioned criticism!

Could it be true that those who are careless and/or apathetic, in general, usually give names like "alarmists" to those who are willing to view history as a basic story in human and governmental nature and who are daring enough to "cry wolf" when there really is a wolf at the door? Tyranny is at the threshold. Tyranny and life never were bedfellows! This new mind-set of tyranny which is rampant in our society has been diagnosed by the "alarmists" as the malignant cancer in the body of this great nation. Our historians have documented the fact that great nations survive approximately 200 years. They start in bondage, attain spiritual faith, become courageous, gain liberty, live in abundance, become selfish degenerate to complacency, live in apathy, end in war and return to bondage — until enough people rise up through humility to true spiritual faith to make the difference.

The tidal wave of problems which is inundating almost every family and individual in America has come upon us because we are failing to be obedient to the God of the Bible! Despite what many modern textbooks would have our public school children think, our country truly was built on Biblical principles. It is no accident that America has advanced this far (not only in material gain, but, more importantly, in freedom).

Why, then, is the degenerative process compounds? As this writer sees it, one of the key ingredients is what I call the "freedom-minus principle".

1. Freedom to do drugs minus the responsibility of reality.
2. Freedom to have illicit sex minus the responsibility of a marital relationship.
3. Freedom to promote and participate in lewd lifestyles such as...
The SaltShakers, Inc., Newsletter
Edited by Steven Alan Samson. Published monthly. SaltShakers, Inc., P.O. Box 30114, Portland, OR 97230, is a Christian public affairs research and education ministry in Portland. Rev. Stu Weber is the president. The board members are listed below:

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homosexuality and lesbianism (which God is in the process of judging) minus the responsibility of the normal God-ordained relationship of marriage only between male and female.

4. Freedom to boot prayer and Bible out of the public schools minus the responsibility of the normal God-ordained relationship of church and state. The power to control is the power to confiscate and destroy!

The reason the good fruit on America's tree is withering and dying is because the "good" roots are had and presently do have the disease of apathy and slothfulness. Too slothful to even drink of the precious life giving waters of freedoms guaranteed in our constitution. Freedoms are lost when "good men do nothing." Ask yourself — "Who is killing America?"

Don't tell me America is not dying ... unless YOU are willing to sustain her life! What can you do?

1. Be involved with a local church which preaches salvation by grace through faith and actively be involved in the winning of souls to Christ, teaching those souls how to live the life of Christ.

2. Read! Read! Read literature that states true to the Word of God as it relates to these issues of our day.

3. Be aware of the legislative process and make calls when your Pastor or another good leader asks you to call. (If your Pastor thinks this is not a matter of real substance, find one who does. Your children and grandchildren are at stake.)

4. Pray for your governmental leaders.

5. Don't be afraid to call or write a governmental official — they are human just like you!

6. VOTE!

7. Spread the word. Talk to others. It has been said, "Two things I don't talk about: politics and religion." LET'S REVERSE THIS POLICY FOR THE GOOD OF AMERICA!

— Pastor Joe P. Lutz
Liberty Baptist Church
8490 S.E. King Road
Portland, Oregon 97266.

RELIGIOUS ROOTS OF AMERICA

An editorial in the May 3rd issue of The Oregonian expressed opposition to Mayor Frank Ivancie's "City Day of Prayer," program scheduled to be held at City Hall on May 5th. "Surely," the editor wrote, "Ivancie cannot be unaware of the ACLU's constant vigil to keep church and state separate in a nation founded on that principle. " Pastors and church members who address public issues are often criticized in similar terms. There is considerable misunderstanding about the relationship between religion and politics. It is time to clear up some historical inaccuracies and set the record straight.

First, our earliest government documents reflect a belief that God is the ruler over all things. The Mayflower Compact of 1620 opens with these words: "in ye name of God, Amen." The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut of 1639 begin in a similar fashion: "Forasmuch as it hath pleased the Almighty God by the wise disposition of his diuinly pruidence so to Order and dispose of things .... " The first union of American colonies was established by the Articles of Confederation of the United Colonies of New England, 1643-1684. The opening paragraph after the preamble began as follows:

"Whereas we all come into these parts of America with one and the same end and aim, namely, to advance the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and to enjoy the liberties of the Gospel in purity with peace ...."

Second, the constitutions of the newly independent American states often began by acknowledging God's blessings. The Constitution of Connecticut, 1818, contains the following preamble:

"The people of Connecticut, acknowledging with gratitude the good providence of God in having permitted them to enjoy a free government, do, in order more effectually to define, secure, and perpetuate the liberties, rights, and privileges which they have derived from their ancestors, hereby, after a careful consideration and revision, ordain and establish the following Constitution and form of civil government."

Even today, most state constitutions refer a belief that God is the ruler over all things. The words of Samuel Cooper in 1780 speak eloquently to our time as well: "Peace, peace, we ardently wish; but not upon terms dishonorable to ourselves, or dangerous to our liberties; and our enemies seem not yet control. The power to control is the power to confiscate and destroy!"
prepared to allow it upon any other.”

Fourth, the federal government itself has never practiced a separation of church and state in the strict sense some critics require. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution begins: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” The problem is not whether Congress may not create an official national church. Several states at that time had their own church establishments. And even while the Declaration of Independence was being signed, George Washington gave attention to the needs of a paid chaplaincy. To this day, tax-supported chaplains in Congress and the military continue to be used at the beginning of our nation.

Fifth, the federal government was required by treaty to help build a church and maintain a Catholic priest on Kaskaskia Indian lands. Land grants to the trustees of the United Brethren were also signed by Presidents Adams and Jefferson.

Sixth, Presidents Washington, Adams, and Madison all issued proclamations of national days of thanksgiving, public humiliation, and prayer. This custom is still honored in the annual National Day of Prayer.

Seventh, Congress has taken notice of our Christian heritage at various times. During a controversy over the chaplaincy, a lengthy report was issued on March 27, 1854 and included the following statement:

At the time of the adoption of the Constitution and the amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged, not any one sect. Any attempt to level and discard all religion would have been viewed with universal indignation.

Eighth, Supreme Court justices have occasionally commented on the biblical roots of our legal system. Justice Joseph Story frequently repeated the old maxim that Christianity is a part of the common law. Justice David Brewer expressed himself in even stronger terms in 1892: “This is a Christian nation.” Justice William O. Douglas wrote this in 1952: “We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being . . . . Two years later in his Almanac of Liberty he wrote:

A “religious” rite which violates standards of Christian ethics and morality is not in the true sense, in the constitutional sense, included within “religion,” the “free exercise” of which is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

Advocates of a strict “wall of separation” between church and state depend on a handful of statements by Jefferson and Madison to support their case. But Jefferson was not an author of the Constitution and, even then, his statements as President do not fully support the secular humanist position. And Madison’s support for religious liberty was Christian, not secular, in its motivation.

The evidence that may be gleaned from official documents overwhelmingly favors the tradition of close cooperation between church and state. Our system of government is unworkable, even unimaginable, apart from its roots in Christianity.

**Recommended Reading**


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**Affairs of State**

**HIGH-HANDED COURT RULINGS**

Washington D.C.: The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in May that Bob Jones University forfeited its tax-exempt status because its dating policy is contrary to the public interest. It is evident that the Court regards tax exemptions as a favor rather than a constitutional right, as religious organizations are denied tax-exempt status on the basis of their discriminatory policies. The decision was a blow to other religious organizations that rely on tax-exempt status to maintain their financial viability.

The Court cited the University’s policy that forbids students from dating non-Christian students. The Court argued that this policy is discriminatory and violates the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause. The Court stated that the University’s policy is “a violation of the First Amendment’s guarantee of religious freedom.”

**Community Calendar**

**GREG BAHNSEN SPEAKS IN AUGUST**

Dr. Greg Bahnsen, author of *Theonomy in Christian Ethics* and pastor of Covenant Community Church in Orange, California, will be a guest of Reformation Covenant Church of Beaverton on Thursday, August 4 and Friday, August 5, from 7:00 to 9:30 each evening. Dr. Bahnsen will be speaking on presuppositionalism and theonomy at Oregon Graduate Center, 1960 NW Walker Road near Aloha. The registration fee is $10/person, $15/couple, and $5/student until July 19th. After that date it is $15/person, $20/couple, and $10/student. In committee, address, and phone number, along with a check, to Reformation Covenant Church, P.O. Box 2129, Beaverton, OR 97075 or contact Dennis Tuuri at (503) 645-3709.

** Legislative Hopper**

**SCHOOL CENSUS PROPOSED**

Testimony by local Christians has made a critical difference on several bills this session. An attempt to rush through one of the sexual orientation bills was prevented by the quick action of a few concerned Salem residents who were on the scene and able to alert others throughout the state. Many thanks are due to Sylvia Wirth and Elizabeth Freaux of Legislative Alert ’83, P.O. Box 335, Turner, Oregon 97392 for their weekly newsletter. Thanks also to Teresa Shaw of the Good Shepherd Community Church citizenship class and Rev. Joe Lutz of Liberty Baptist Church for passing along information on various bills. They have attended committee sessions and been prepared to offer testimony on occasion. More Christians should go and do likewise.

For further information on the bills listed below, call the Assembly’s toll free number: 1-800-452-0290. Consult the March-April issue of our newsletter for more details on bills.

**Abortion:** SB 397 repeals provisions of the law inconsistent with recent Supreme Court rulings on abortion. It is sponsored by the Judiciary Committee and the request of the Oregon State Medical Society. The bill modifies the definition of abortion and the rights of the pregnant woman.

**Capital Punishment:** HB 2294 and HJR 3. An initiative drive to place the issue on the ballot next year is currently being planned.

**Churches:** The portion of SB 234 dealing with conditional use permits for churches in farm use zones is now under consideration. The Senate 25-3 and has gone through hearings in the House. The bills modifying church property tax exemptions — HB 2708, 2709, and 2718 — are still in committee.

**Drugs:** HB 497 to license marijuana cultivators was tabled in committee.

**Employment:** SB 245 has had no action taken. SB 484, the “comparable worth” bill passed the Senate unanimously and has been recommended for passage by the House Labor committee. Hearings in the Ways and Means committee must be held.

**Genetics:** HB 2855 setting guidelines for recombinant DNA research has passed the House 55-5.

**Juries:** SB 542 was tabled in committee.

**Lottery:** HB 8 has been recommended for adoption with amendments by the Trade and Economic Development committee. The other bills — SB 743, HB 2749, HJ 4, and HB 10 — are still in committee.

**Pornography:** SB 410 prohibiting use of minor children in pornography is stalled in committee.

**Schools:** SB 329 changing the dates for determining age for purposes of school attendance was signed into law on June 15th. SB 772 requiring a central school age children in public, private, and home schools passed the Senate 22-5 and is currently under committee consideration. HB 2001, 2471, 2497, and 2571 have all been stalled in committee.

**Sexual Orientation:** SB 319 defining sexual orientation and prohibiting discrimination on that basis was narrowly defeated in the Senate 17-13. No action has been taken on SB 435 or HB 2803. HB 2881 prohibiting discrimination with regard to state public services passed the House 53-7.

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**One Oregon:** The Assembly passed and the Governor signed legislation that restores the tax-exempt status of the sixty churches faced with closure and sale for back taxes.
SIX WORDS THAT PROVIDE LOTS OF ANSWERS

A friend gave me six words on a paper:

Family  Church  State
Education  Provision  Protection

The more I think about them, the more valuable they become. They hold solid answers to such problems as teen-age abortion rights, Social Security, community zoning ordinances, and national defense.

The top three are the only human organizations I find that God created. The bottom three are among the primary jobs assigned by God to each organization. Though the Bible supports these statements, common sense will lead to the same conclusions.

Look at our society today. Which of the three organizations is dominant in the fields of “education” and “provision (welfare)” How good a job is the state doing in the field of “protection”? Does it point the way to solid solutions for current problems?

The family has the most at stake in the education of its children. A teacher can only train students to serve that which the teacher sees as most important. In a state school, that which will either be the state (socialism) or themselves (selfishness). Value systems of both the church and the family have been carefully removed from state schools today.

History illustrates that even some church schools have trained their students to serve the church, not God. Home schools or schools under the influence and authority of the students’ families may be expected to train students to serve that which is most important in the family. Hopefully, that will be God. The dominant influence in the next generation will be whatever it is that the students who become leaders were trained to serve.

Today, many private schools are using the facilities of churches. That appearance seems to be well within God’s mandate for the church. Both parents and church leaders, however, must remember that ultimate authority for education rests with the parent and that the church is assisting those parents by providing facilities.

The family is also the basic building block in God’s plan for meeting unmet needs. When the needs exceed the capacity of the family, or when the family is not available (as with widows and orphans having no relatives), the church is directed to provide.

God uses things and experiences we understand in teaching about Himself. Unless representatives of the church come over and “unstick the windows and kill the spiders” it will be difficult for an orphan to understand Bible terms like “fatherhood of God.”

The Christian view of man and government is that man is to have dominion under God over all God created, save his fellow man. How can man have dominion over the state if he grows dependent upon the state for his life needs? The only way the state is able to supply such needs is at the expense of other citizens. Through the state, this extends man’s dominion over man and exceeds God’s dominion mandate.

Without private possession, there is no stewardship. Men form civil governments to help protect those things they possess. As with education and provision, the family is the first line of protection. Then comes the church. Any sin, unchecked will grow and destroy the community.

Our possessions are “external” real-estate, houses, currency and “internal” plans, hopes, opinions, and the most sacred of possessions, conscience. Police and fire departments are examples of protection at local level of government. Systems of just and equitable laws and consequences are another. Military forces provide protection on a national level.

Note that all three organizations (family, church, state) are “governmental.” There is yet another God-ordained form of government: “Self-Government.” As the quality of self-government decreases in an individual, the void is quickly filled from outside. External pressures limit freedom. Look at your own family to understand this.

The rebel wishes to push back against those limits without improving the quality of individual self-government. The result is strife. If the limits are relaxed, discord spreads. The end result is either destruction, or even tighter limits.

Man has a natural desire for “liberty” (the internal expression of external “Freedom”). The only sound method of pushing back the external pressures of government is to improve the quality of internal, individual, self-government. That is a project with which God is most anxious to cooperate!

— Ben Gilmore
Box 905, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Christian Jurisprudence
RESOURCES FOR CHURCH LIBRARIES (Part III)

Several organizations of Christian lawyers have emerged in the last few years to protect religious liberty and voice concern about the divorce of American law from its Christian roots.

The Christian Legal Society is directed by Lynn R.uzzard. Its chief publications are the Christian Legal Society Quarterly and Religious Freedom Reporter. The latter is the single most important source of information on the whole scope of religious cases and controversies. Buzzard has edited a book entitled Freedom and Faith, published by Crossway Books; authored another entitled Schools: They Haven’t Got A Prayer; and co-authored The Battle for Religious Liberty. The last two are published by David C. Cook. The Society’s address is P.O. Box 2069, Oak Park, Illinois 60303.

The Christian Law Association, P.O. Box 30290, Cleveland, Ohio 44130, currently publishes a newsletter that focuses on cases handled by the law firm of David C. Gibbs and Charles Craze. The Association also sponsors annual Biblical Legal Seminars.

The Rutherford Foundation, 4391 Davis Fork Road, Suite H, Woodbridge, Virginia 22193, was established in November, 1982. Its director is John W. Whitehead and its purpose is to establish network of lawyers who can handle First Amendment cases wherever they arise. Whitehead is the author of The Separation Illusion, The Second American Revolution, The New Tyranny (Coral Ridge Ministries), and co-author of Schools on Fire. In Oregon, Judge William C. Beers is serving as a circuit rider and spokesman for the Christian Reconstruction movement. The Rutherford Foundation, Judge Beers may be contacted at P.O. Box 315, Clatskanie, Oregon 97016.

The Christian Legal Defense and Education Foundation, P.O. Box 41209, Jacksonville, Florida 32203-1209, is directed by William A. Owen, who puts out a monthly newsletter.


The Creation Science Legal Defense Fund has been established to seek legislation and court rulings mandating that public schools give unbiased treatment to the creation and evolution theories of origins. The Fund has two chapters, one is located at P.O. Box 1238, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203 and the other at P.O. Box 78312, Shreveport, Louisiana 71107.

Other organizations have been started recently. The first of these is the Bill of Rights Legal Foundation, P.O. Box 1219, Olympia, Washington 98507. Michael P. Farris is the president. The Foundation publishes a monthly newsletter on judicial and legislative issues. It is devoted to lobbying and litigation from a biblical standpoint. Farris, an attorney in Olympia, also works with the Home School Legal Defense Association, P.O. Box 2567, Olympia, Washington 98507. Another attorney, Dave Haigler, has a company that specializes in assistance to home educators. He also contributes a regular column, “Casenotes,” to Counsel of Chalcedon, 3032 Hadjienda Court, Marietta, Georgia 30066, edited by David and Marlene Goodrum. Haigler’s company Lexacomp, Inc., is at P.O. Box 61782, Dallas, Texas 75261-0782.

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