
CHRISTIAN LIFE REPORT

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Campus Problems

By Jeff Iorg

President Obama has formed a task force to study the problem of sexual assaults on college campuses. He has asked for a report in 90 days — record time for a governmental study — indicating how serious he is about finding solutions to this urgent problem. Some reports indicate one in five college students is victimized by some form of sexual assault. It's a serious problem, and the president should be affirmed for putting the weight of his office behind finding solutions.

The White House report leading to the formation of the task force indicated sexual assaults on campuses occur in a "special context." One reporter described it this way: "Drugs, alcohol and a party-hearty atmosphere prevail in dorms and apartments, leaving women incapacitated and vulnerable." I would add "and drunken and stoned men doing stupid things" — to balance the responsibility for both sexes!

It will be interesting to see what the task force comes up with as solutions. Let me propose three that will not be in the report — but should be. They are common sense suggestions libertarian educational elitists won't consider. But hey, it's my blog — so here goes.

First, no drugs or alcohol on campus among college-affiliated groups or at college-sponsored events. Why must "college" equal intoxicated? Who made that rule an inviolable part of the college experience? Eliminate easy access to booze and pot, and the incidence of

sexual assault will plummet.

Second, put men and women into separate living quarters. No more shared rooms, floors, bathrooms and buildings. Eliminating easy access to shared facilities, coupled with the absence of intoxicants, and sexual assault will also decline significantly.

Three, train men to respect women. This will be virtually impossible. Many men today are confused about how to treat women. Many women demand equality and resent any deference or hint of special treatment — like the lady who glared at me for opening a door for her and brushed past me in a huff. When our culture tells men that women don't deserve special respect, some men will take that to an illogical extreme and take advantage of women any way they can.

These three common sense suggestions are already in place at most Christian colleges. While they have an occasional sexual assault on campus, the incidence rate is miniscule compared to secular schools. Perhaps the task force will do a comparison study among different kinds of schools and realize common sense solutions based on timeless moral values still work.

Not likely — it's a government study so more complex and costly answers are assured!

Jeff Iorg is president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. This article was originally published online at <http://ggbts.edu/president/blog.aspx>.

The articles in this issue were gathered from various sources.
The opinions in the *Christian Life Report* are not necessarily the opinions of the Christian Life Commission.

Our Adoption Story: A Decade Later

By Chris Crain

After eight years of marriage, Carol and I began our journey to become adoptive parents. We researched reputable adoption agencies. After selecting an agency, we sensed God leading us to adopt an infant girl from an orphanage in Taipei, Taiwan. We had no idea we were on the leading edge of a movement among evangelicals to answer God's call to orphan care and adoption. Today, a decade after bringing our daughter home, I encourage you to consider adoption.

My wife and I grew up in Jasper. We were high school sweethearts. In our hometown, we only knew two transracial families. An adopted child from one of those families was instrumental in our calling to be adoptive parents. As an older teen, I led a Korean child to embrace the Gospel. He had been adopted into a Caucasian family as an infant. I will never forget hearing Tae, a normal 10-year-old boy with a unique story, praying to commit his life to Jesus Christ. I knew that God brought Tae into his family for that moment.

Years later, Carol and I went to enjoy a worship concert. During the intermission, the artist presented a video about the plight of children in many international orphanages. It sparked a passion in our hearts to extend a lifeline to an orphaned child. We resolved that our first child would be an orphan deserving a Christian family. This was a natural decision flowing from what we were taught in our pro-life, pro-family Alabama Baptist churches.

Lauren is now 10 years old and in the fifth grade. She loves her dance class and enjoys singing at church in the children's ministry. Lauren trusted Jesus and was baptized two

years ago. Tears flowed down my cheeks as I baptized her; in that moment I remembered praying with Tae years ago. Again, it was God's providence!

Honestly, I don't think of her as adopted that often. Lauren's two siblings have red hair like their mother. Jackson, age 7, and Carianne, age 8, are our biological children. Often people ask, "Do you have different feelings for your adopted child? Do you love her differently than 'your own' children?" My response is always the same: "I love my wife most of all. We are not genetically linked. We are emotionally and spiritually bound together by the love of God. The same is true of Lauren — and her brother and sister."

A decade has passed since we landed at the Birmingham International Airport with five-month-old Lauren in our arms. Since that time, Lauren has grown in "wisdom, stature and in favor with God and people." Wherever our transracial, adoptive family walks into a room with others, we are an analogy of God's redemptive, adoptive love for all believers. We represent the reality that Christ adopted each believer into His forever family: "He predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and will" (Ephesians 1:5, HCSB). Our adoption story has helped others to understand that adoption is a call from God that many families can answer. We consider this a great honor.

Chris, Carol, Lauren, Carianne and Jackson Crain live in Odenville. Chris is the lead pastor of North Valley Church, Margaret, and South Roebuck Baptist Church, Birmingham.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS REMAINING IN 2014

- **Citizenship & Religious Liberty Sunday:**
June 29
- **Social Issues Sunday:**
August 3
- **Anti-Gambling Sunday:**
September 21

- **World Hunger Sunday:**
October 12
- **ALCAP Sunday:**
November 9

FACTS & ISSUES

Compiled by Keith Hinson — Associate for Public Relations & Christian Ethics
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It is so important for churches to emphasize Bible study for children and youth. In Deuteronomy 6:5-7, God's people are commanded to love the Lord and His commands and to teach them diligently to their sons. In II Timothy 3:15-17, Paul reminds Timothy that, as a child, he learned the sacred writings of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ — and that all Scripture is God-inspired for teaching, training and equipping men of God for good work.

The Bible must be opened, read and taught. I read somewhere that only 12 percent of professing American Christians read their Bible daily. If that's true, why are we surprised that our country is in such decline? If we don't discipline ourselves and our children to read the Bible daily and develop a biblical worldview, how can we expect our country or the world to change?

Open the Bible, and read it daily! It's the #1 bestselling book of all time for a reason. — *Art Burroughs, retired pastor, Fulton Road Baptist Church in Mobile, and member of the Christian Life Commission*

When a society bases its moral standards on public opinion, as in the case of same-sex marriage, the populace gets frustrated and confused because they do not know what the standards will be from one day to the next. The most viable Christian response to this phenomenon is to base moral standards on a stable source, specifically the Bible. The adoption of morality founded on the Bible may not receive the approval of the majority of people. But it will please God. That matters more than the any public opinion poll. — *Darryl Wood, pastor, First Baptist Church of Vincent, and member of the Christian Life Commission*

In a time where most people will write off Jesus' clear warning that even looking at a woman lustfully is equivalent to adultery, we need to be able to make the case why this stuff is so wrong and such a bad substitute for the beautiful sex God designed. Here's a good place to start.

Pornography is an assault on human dignity,

because it changes the way a viewer looks at and relates to other people. When a man consumes porn, women become a commodity rather than a person. And this alters how men treat women off-screen, too, and threatens real and loving relationships. — *John Stonestreet, "Hearing the Creator's Voice," BreakPoint (Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview), 3/12/2014*

In run-of-the-mill discussions on biblical morality in public policy, commentators will often differentiate between economic issues and moral/social issues. But the foundation of all law must be moral. An economic system which penalizes production and rewards indolence is an unjust system and contrary to biblical principles. Hence, our opposition to Marxism and socialism is certainly a moral cause. — *John H. Killian, pastor, Maytown Baptist Church and president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention*

A 2012 study commissioned by Virginia Tech and Texas Tech universities found that 28 percent of ministers had been forced out of their positions, normally by a small but vocal faction in the congregations. And the study found about one-third of annual terminations come from seven percent of the churches — churches that are chronically conflicted.

Christian ministry is a unique calling. Ministers deal with the needs of people — often overwhelming — and usually don't have the satisfaction of accomplishing everything that could be done on a given day. And they're on call after hours. An agent told me once that ministers are good insurance risks save for working too hard and eating too much! Unhealthy eating habits are often symptoms of stress.

Individual Christians can be agents of redemption by rejecting destructive criticism in their church and supporting their minister with prayers, affirmation and love. — *Michael J. Brooks, pastor, Pine Flat Baptist Church in Selma, and member of the Christian Life Commission*



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Christian Voices in the News

from reports at www.BPNews.net

Young evangelicals are not rising to defend traditional marriage. Perhaps this is because they don't have the theological and intellectual tools to do so, or because they don't want to be derided and marginalized as "haters" of homosexuals or "on the wrong side of history." Many want marriage for themselves, but don't care how others define it. ...

The church must do a better job of teaching a theology of marriage. But it must not withdraw from the culture wars, especially the one over marriage. — *Penna Dexter, "Privatizing marriage," 2/24/2014*

America's moral fabric is unraveling at breakneck speed. It is proven that those who stand up for Christ and biblical values are going to be metaphorically shot. Liberal activists have even been known to "kill" a reputation from time to time. As a result, we need courageous leaders to stand and take the bullets.

Standing and speaking out might help slow America's skid into a moral morass. More than that, getting attacked by the enemies of righteousness might inspire others to stand and

speak. Many voices are needed if we are to stem the rising tide of godlessness. — *Kelly Boggs, "Alamo courage," 3/7/2014*

By building into diverse relationships, we display the reconciliation and redemption of Christ to a world that is broken and divided. True unity is found first through being reconciled to God and then to each other. To walk in that unity arm in arm with people of every tribe and race is to declare to the world that Christ's blood is enough for the fight for racial reconciliation. — *Trillia Newbell, "Ethnic diversity viable in church, Newbell says," 3/12/2014*

Simply put, stewardship is a way of living, or farming, that recognizes everything belongs to God and our resources are His resources to be used for His glory and the common good. And as long as I continue to operate within the framework of God's created design, I'll steward the ground over which God has entrusted to my care so that that choice will remain as long as people want it. — *Shane Burchfiel, "Stewardship of land," 3/10/2014*