Why we need a Christian democratic coalition to save America now!

By Rabbi William Handler

America is in deep trouble. If something is not done quickly to change America's course, the United States will be destroyed from within in a relatively short period.

The crisis has been building for 40 years. The American family has become an endangered species. The divorce rate has doubled, the number of children victimized by divorce has quadrupled, the number of juvenile arrests for crime and drugs has increased fifteenfold.

Moreover, increasing numbers of people don't even bother to get married. Premarital sex among teenagers has doubled, out-of-wedlock births have increased fivefold, and the number of couples living together without the benefit of marriage has increased twenty-five fold.

The failure of the public school system to properly educate America's youth is now openly acknowledged. Real education has been replaced by sex education, socialism, and environmentalism. Any mention of religious faith is now almost entirely forbidden. An openly religious teacher, principal, or college professor now finds it very difficult to secure a position or to advance in his field.

The national and local print and electronic media attack religious people and ideas daily. Anti-abortion protesters are either ridiculed or ignored, entertainment programs portray religious people as know-nothing boobs, and cynical amoral villains are held up to the public as role models.

Art and culture have been debased. Ugliness, immorality, and blasphemy are now glorified, while films and works of art honoring religious values are labeled as "lacking in integrity."

Our national and local government are now strongly infiltrated by secular humanists, who are constantly working to force their agenda on the unsuspecting American people.

The Supreme Court has outlawed prayer in the schools, legalized abortion, and greatly diminished the power of the police to maintain order.

The Congress is working to diminish the role of the family by increasing the tax burden on families, reducing tax exemptions for children, creating welfare laws that break up poor families, funding abortions, encouraging homosexual lifestyles, and promoting quota systems that demoralize working fathers.

The Congress is also working to diminish the role of the church by actively discouraging Bible-believing Christians from sending their children to church schools. There are news stories every day of church schools that are forced to close for lack of adequate support.

Although AIDS is a national plague that threatens to overwhelm our health facilities, Congress and local government are being pressured to give homosexuals still more special privileges in the form of "gay rights" and "hate crimes" bills.

In recent years, we have seen the rise of the radical feminist movement, the homosexual rights movement, the animal rights movement, and the political correctness movement.

We have a society that is disintegrating at its most basic level: the family. According to historian George Unwin (Monograph on Monogamy and Social Energy), no society in all of recorded history has survived a descent into sexual license and family dissolution.

We all know the Biblical account of the destruction of Sodom and its sister cities. What is not so widely known is that Sodom was singled out for destruction not because of the uniqueness of its evil activities—there were other cities that engaged in similar practices—but rather because it legitimized these practices by giving them legal sanction as the law of the land.

In Sodom, anyone helping wayfarers or trying to protect them from robbery and rapine was considered a criminal. Thus, it had become impossible for Sodom to redeem itself, because the institutionalized legal system made that redemption unlikely.

The clincher for Sodom, as we all know, was that even 10 righteous men could not be found in the entire city. If there had been at least 10 righteous men, the destruction of the city could have been avoided, because those men would have campaigned against those evil laws until they were overturned.

The Biblical account of the destruction of Sodom gives us a clear guide for action if we are to save this country from certain destruction. We must locate at least 10 righteous men in each city in America and encourage them to protest the evil in their midst until America is redeemed.

Are there 10 righteous men to be found in cities all over America? The answer is Yes. All over this great land there are to be found Bible-believing Christians, who strive to live their own lives and to bring up their children as decent, moral, productive, charitable, disciplined, and religious citizens.

All that is necessary to mobilize this great GOD-fearing army is to explain clearly to these good people that there is a great revolution underway in their beloved nation and that they must act immediately to prevent imminent catastrophe to their families, their communities, and their country.

Accurate and timely information needs to be provided to every group, so they will know what kinds of activity need to be pursued to bring the most fruitful results.

However, before this great plan can be put into action, we must have effective leadership. Right now, the most dynamic opposition to the deterioration of American society is coming from the Evangelical Christian community.

The activities of Dr. James Dobson, Dr. James Kennedy, the Reverend Don Wildmon, the Reverend Jerry Falwell, Beverly LaHaye, Pat Robertson, Charles Colson and many others all serve to inform and motivate Americans on the issues facing them.

If these groups could be unified in one great coalition; if they could communicate more effectively among themselves and devise a common strategy for saving America from the impending disaster, they would surely be successful.

It is vitally important for the future of this country that Christian Americans recognize their common interest in preserving what the founding fathers handed down to them: a republic under GOD, with liberty and justice for all.

A republic of this sort is in the best interest not only of Christians, but of all men of goodwill, no matter what their religion, race, color, or ethnic group.

This is a legacy worth preserving.

To win this battle, it will be necessary for the strong leaders of the various Christian groups to agree to be guided by a unified strategy under a unified leadership. Only in this way can the virtuous people in every town and hamlet be properly guided to succeed without getting confused by uncoordinated messages.

We should remember that famous slogan of the American Revolution: "Either we hang together, or we hang separately".

And we would do well to remember an even more important slogan: "IN GOD WE TRUST".

Americans United for Separation of Church and State: the humanist connection

By Roger Moran
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At the forefront of the religious liberty issue is an organization called Americans United for Separation of Church and State. For years Americans United (AU) has enjoyed the unchallenged support of Christian people, churches and denominations across America. Portraying themselves as the leading defender of America's "religious liberty," AU has successfully sustained the support of Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Southern Baptists, etc., giving AU established recognition, respectability and financial ability to effectively pursue their vision of a secular America.

In the name of religious liberty, Americans United has systematically fought to remove prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Bible, Biblical moral values and the scientific evidence supporting creation from our public schools. They have fought long and hard against any type of educational choice, including vouchers, tuition tax credit, and even tax deductions for tuition cost, thus resulting in a virtual monopoly of public education because of simple economics. Since the mid 1960's, AU has diligently fought for the right of a woman to choose an abortion, calling it a religious liberty issue. They have fought against nativity scenes on public property and even opposed Good Friday as a legal holiday in Hawaii. They deny that America is, or ever was a Christian nation, or that it was founded on Christian principles, calling such ideas a "revisionist" view of history. They have consistently opposed the so called "religious right" while consistently supporting and aligning themselves with the religious and political left.

According to Americans United, religious liberty can only be fully realized in a secular society. To achieve this objective, AU has utilized the concept of a **wall of separation** between church and state. But the "wall of separation" isn't unique to AU alone. The American Humanist Association (AHA) also believes very strongly in the concept. The Humanist Manifesto II states, **"The separation of church and state and the separation of ideology and state are imperative."** This radical concept of "separation of ideology and state" is the exact same concept as AU's "wall of separation." Here we find the philosophical compatibility between AU and AHA–their mutual dream of a secular American society.

Since its earliest days. Americans United has had very close ties to the American Humanist Association (AHA). One of AU's earliest and most influential staff members was Paul Blanshard who served as AU's first Special Council and traveled across America speaking on behalf of the organization. He also wrote extensively for AU's monthly journal, *Church and State*. During Blanshard's long association with AU, he was also heavily involved with the AHA, where he wrote for *The Humanist* magazine. In 1973, Blanshard signed the Humanist Manifesto II at which time he commented in *The Humanist:*

> ...humanism is not a religion but a philosophy and a social movement opposed to all the supernatural claims of religion. **We have an obligation to expose and attack the world of religious miracles, magic, Bible-worship, salvationism, heaven, hell, and all the mythical deities. We should be particularly specific and energetic in attacking such quack millennialists as Billy Graham and such embattled reactionaries as Pope Paul VI because they represent the two greatest anti-humanist aggregates in our society.**
>
> Second, our movement should stand for an action program in defense of the constitutional **separation of church and state.** (Emphases ours)[1]

But Paul Blanshard is by no means the only humanist among the religious liberals of Americans United. In 1966. Edd Doerr came to the AU Executive Staff, where for the next 16 years he would serve as director of field services, educational relations director and editor of AU's *Church and State* journal. Mr. Doerr's various responsibilities included lecturing, radio and television appearances, AU's liaison with other organizations, and writing and editing for AU's monthly journal. During Mr. Doerr's entire 16 years at AU (1966-1982), he also wrote for the Humanist magazine. For some time Doerr and Blanshard served as contributing editors for *The Humanist* magazine where they wrote a column together. In 1973, Edd Doerr also signed the Humanist Manifesto II, and has since served as Vice President of the AHA and Chairman of their Board of Directors.

During the mid to late 1970's **two more signers of the Humanist Manifesto II also served on the staff of AU.** Robert W. Lawson served as an AU Field Representative and Robert E. Jones served as Director of Organization on the Executive Staff.[2]

More recently, in 1986-1987, **Humanist Manifesto II signers** James F. Hornback of the St. Louis Ethical Union, William F. Schulz, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association and James T. McCollum. were elected to serve on Americans United's National Advisory Council (AU-NAC). Both the Ethical Union and the Unitarian Universalist Association are Humanist organizations. James T. McCollum is a "Humanist Counselor" and his mother (Vashti McCollum) was once president of the AHA. In 1952, Vashti McCollum was an AU conference speaker, after her successful 1948 Supreme Court case, *McCollum v. Board of Education.*

Also elected to the AU-NAC board in 1986 was humanist Kenneth Gjemre. Besides serving on the National Advisory Council for AU, Gjemre was also nominated to serve on the AHA Board of Directors[3] and currently serves as treasurer for Edd Doerr's Americans for Religious Liberty. (Remember, Doerr is recent past chairman of the AHA Board of Directors.)

In 1990, Dr. Norman J. Bauer, **who also signed the Humanist Manifesto II**[4], was elected to serve on the AU-NAC board, along with Jeanne Pugh, who recently retired as religion page editor of the St. Petersburg, Florida Times. Pugh was honored at a December 1989 luncheon hosted by "Humanists of Florida," at which time the AHA awarded her with a certificate of appreciation for her outstanding reporting of "religion" in the United States.[5]

Far too numerous to list are the casual connections between the American Humanist Association and Americans United, but a few examples to show the depth and consistency of the AU/AHA relationship would certainly be appropriate.

In the early 1970's, AU's first executive director, Dr. Glenn L. Archer and editor, C. Stanley Lowell, were featured in a video for the AHA entitled RELIGIOUS LIBERTY. The video was part of a series called the Humanist Alternative. AU's Paul Blanshard was also featured in a Humanist Alternative video entitled ETHICS WITHOUT RELIGION. AU's Glenn Archer and Edd Doerr were featured in a third video, THE CHURCH, THE STATE, AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT.[6]

AU is always quick to respond that guilt by association isn't fair, but AU has always been quite aware of the humanist involvement in their organization as well as their philosophical