politicians of every political stripe should embrace. But what precisely do pro-family principles imply? What would a society based on the traditional values they represent really look like?

I believe that we owe you, and America's families, a concise answer to that question. That is why I have written a new book called *Our Hopes, Our Dreams*. Dr. James Dobson encouraged me to write this book and Focus on the Family has agreed to publish it. In about 150 pages, *Our Hopes, Our Dreams* lays out a vision of homes, neighborhoods, businesses and governments that have been transformed by the pro-family message. It outlines what our schools should look like, how to protect the sanctity of life, what must be done to make our streets safe and how to preserve religious liberty. In short, this book is a blueprint for building a pro-family America where our children and grandchildren can enjoy the blessings of liberty.

Dr. Dobson and I have another hope and dream, too, and that's where you come in. We want to put a copy of *Our Hopes, Our Dreams* in the jacket pockets and purses of millions of American men and women who may share our vision, but are unaware that they do. Perhaps it's the constant name-calling of the media that has discouraged them from taking public stands for the timeless values of family, faith and freedom. Whatever the reason, these citizens may yearn to know there is a pro-family platform that, regardless of party affiliation or political season, reflects their own desires for the future of our children and our nation.

Here's how you can help. Order a copy of *Our Hopes, Our Dreams* for yourself. Buy copies for your neighbors, friends, co-workers or Sunday School classes. *Our Hopes, Our Dreams* will be available in bookstores for only $3.99—one-third of the cost of a typical book today! I have asked my friends at Focus to keep the suggested donation at that extraordinarily low amount because I want the widest distribution possible. I am confident that if our neighbors, co-workers and family members actually read what we believe, instead of a media caricature of what we are said to believe, we will change hearts and minds.

Share it with friends. Ask your local Christian and secular bookstores to carry it. Challenge your local public libraries to carry it. Just imagine what could happen if a million or more Americans read this pro-family book during this important year. Instead of the constant liberal media distortions of what pro-family people believe and want, our fellow citizens will be able to see and understand firsthand our vision for America. God willing, this effort can play a major role in guiding America back to her moorings. The enclosed reply card has all the information you'll need to order *Our Hopes, Our Dreams* today.

As this new year begins, how is our cause faring? Nineteen ninety-five truly was a year of change toward a more pro-family America. We saw the new Congress pass a balanced budget bill which, even though repeatedly vetoed, commits the legislative branch for the first time in a generation to bring government spending into line with revenues. Moreover, this was done with a significant move toward family tax relief. These strides cannot be underestimated. Previously, every effort at federal budget-balancing has involved increasing the tax burden on families. This was the famed "root canal" approach to fiscal responsibility. Worse than this, for all the pain, there was precious little gain. In fact, historically, whenever the Congress raised taxes, it found new programs on which to squander its increased resources. This much has changed, and we hope it has changed for good. Now, at least, both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue are talking a balanced budget within seven years. That's progress.

Progress can be reported, too, on the abortion front. The passage by the House and Senate of a ban on partial-birth abortions was historic. For the first time since Roe v. Wade, the people's elected representatives have said "NO" to a particularly gruesome form of warfare against the unborn. Of course, abortion always offends justice and the God who made us all. But the ghastly partial-birth procedure merely had to be described to evoke an overwhelming response. On this measure, we saw representatives and senators who hadn't voted pro-life in decades rise up and say: "Enough." We thank God for those votes—and for those of the faithful pro-life members who have championed the unborn year in and year out. We thank God, too, for the overwhelming response of our constituents on this issue.

The debate over partial-birth abortions forced millions of Americans to consult their consciences in a new way. It has helped bring the truth home to the American people.

Even one word of truth, as Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn has written, can move the world. In fact, the image of the collapse of the Berlin Wall is one to keep in mind as we observe the lamentable 23rd anniversary of the infamous Roe v. Wade decision. That grim monument to man's inhumanity to man never looked so solid, so unyielding as it did in the very days before it crumbled. I believe the abortion culture will collapse too!

These are but some of the reasons why I, for one, will never give in to discouragement and despair. When we have nothing else, we have Hope. And Hope does not disappoint. It is one of the greatest resources of our movement. Because of this fact, we have been able to return again and again to the fights many others thought lost and the One who gives Hope has sustained us. With our combined efforts, and continued reliance on His Providence, 1996 can bring us even closer to the vision we share.

Thank you, dear friends, for the letters, the prayers and the many personally expressed good wishes you have offered me as we have met along the way, as well as during this holiday season. I know that without God's blessing, your ongoing financial support and goodwill, we would have been overwhelmed long ago. I will never forget that. May you and yours be richly blessed in this historic year of Our Lord, 1996.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Bauer

Gary L. Bauer

P.S. I encourage you to order your copy of *Our Hopes, Our Dreams* today and hope you will order others for your family and friends.

Your financial support is especially important to us right now as well. FRC is engaged in many difficult battles. We must maintain the fight for the family on every front where it is challenged today. Unfortunately, these fronts continue to multiply.

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