



Family Research Council
— Gary L. Bauer, President —

April 12, 1996

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed,
we are perplexed, but not in despair;
persecuted, but not forsaken, cast down, but not destroyed."
— 2 Corinthians 4: 8-9

Dear Friend,

I write to you this month on a subject that weighs heavily on my heart. That subject is the persecution of believers around the world, including here in the United States. As I've learned more about the nature and extent of this persecution, it has become increasingly clear to me that as Christians, we must do more for our suffering brothers and sisters both here and abroad. From China to Saudi Arabia to Sudan, one's profession of faith in Jesus Christ is becoming an ever more dangerous act in the eyes of the state. It is time for men and women of faith to speak up!

Michael Horowitz and I go back many years, primary responsibilities matters in the Office of Management and Administration. I observed the character of summer when Mike Horowitz persecution for The Wall.

Mike was expelled from the government to focus on an organization, founded at the conviction that it is a systematic persecution of

This past January, incorporated with Freedom of Information Act, systematic persecution of

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WASHINGTON WATCH

SHREDDED BLISS

In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that marriage is "the foundation of the family and of society, without which there would be neither civilization nor progress." Because of its crucial role, marriage has a special status within the culture and the law. In recent years, the joining of one man and one woman in an exclusive legal, sexual, economic and spiritual bond with the protection of children as a desirable and common result — has not been seriously challenged for thousands of years.

Hawaiian Havoc

Now, a tiny segment of a tiny fraction of the population — the homosexual activist community — is on the verge of radically redefining marriage and family. If they succeed, all distinctions based on sex may fall, and the worst aspects of the so-called Equal Rights Amendment will be imposed. Homosexuals will gain the "right" to adopt children, schoolchildren will be taught that homosexual sex is the equivalent of marital love between husband and wife; businesses will be forced to subsidize homosexual relationships; churches will be pushed outside the civil law; and government power will be wielded against anyone who holds the biblical view of homosexuality.

In August, a Hawaiian court is expected to strike down that state's law limiting marriage to "one man and one woman." The case, *Baile v. Leile*, was brought by three same-sex couples who charged the state with "discrimination" for not granting them marriage licenses. Despite widespread opposition within Hawaii (recent polls show that 71% of Hawaiians oppose same-sex "marriage"), homosexual activists hope to impose their agenda through court action.

Because the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause calls for states to honor each other's laws, homosexuals are planning to fly to Hawaii, "marry," and return to the mainland to claim "married" status. About 25 states now have efforts underway to prevent

homosexuality from being heard around the nation.

In Georgia, a federal appeals court ruled in favor of a lesbian fired from her job as the state attorney general's office after she announced that she had "married" her lover. Now it must be that the attorney general is required to defend Georgia's sodomy law.

In New York, the state's high court opened adoption proceedings to homosexual couples and unmarried heterosexual couples, thus devaluing marriage and jeopardizing children.

The pattern is clear: homosexual activists are using the courts to get what they cannot achieve through democracy. But the courts do not operate in a vacuum. U.S. Supreme Court justices noted that one factor that affected the *Cruikshank* decision upholding *Roe v. Wade* was the court's public image. Another legal scholar, Hadley Arkes, notes that if Americans boldly defend marriage, the courts may hesitate to radically redefine it. If the states pass marriage protection bills, and Congress enacts DOMA, the judicial assault on traditional morality could halt.

What You Can Do

Call your Congressmen and Senators and ask that they cosponsor the coming Defense of Marriage Act. The Capitol Hill switchboard is 202-225-1121.

Call state legislators and ask them to support your state's marriage protection bill, or if there isn't yet such a bill, ask them to sponsor one.

Educate yourself about the threats to marriage today — from mistaken public policies and cultural decay. Consult the enclosed reply card for information on new resources that defend this embattled, but essential institution.

FOR CUMULATIVE
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION DIAL
1-202-785-HOME MESSAGE
UPDATED EVERY FRIDAY.

FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL WASHINGTON WATCH

Detach Here

Are you receiving too much mail from the Family Research Council (FRC)?

We understand that many of you were originally referred to FRC through friends already receiving our materials. While we hope that you enjoy our monthly updates and find both Gary's letter and *Washington Watch* useful to your efforts, we understand that multiple publications from the same organization can sometimes lead to information overload. We want to be good stewards of our mailing dime, but we want to be even better stewards of our relationship with people like you who sacrifice time and precious finances to support our work.

Please note that while we do hope you will respond to the questions below, no financial gift is necessary to continue on our mailing list. If you are pleased with your current status, no response is needed.

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Do you have an Internet/E-Mail address?

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If yes, may we have your address so we can contact you via the Internet?

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