SALT AND LIGHT (Continued)

of fact, was to campaign and do benefit concerts for candidates for county commissioner, state representatives, and governor of the state of Washington. Mom and Dad were the primary organizers of a successful campaign for county commissioner in 1984, which is when we became aware of how much influence a family can have on the local level if they are willing to work hard for what they believe. Through our travels over the years, we have also been involved in several other key campaigns on the local and state levels, in addition to the presidential campaign of 1988.

Our involvement in Oregon in a senatorial campaign for our friend, Joe Lutz, was where I learned the most about how to work effectively as a Christian young person in the political arena. There were several young people who worked full time on that campaign who inspired me to recognize how much influence the young can have with their energy and zeal. I learned a lot about how to approach people and share my convictions through these political experiences than anything else I have ever done.

In my capacity as Vice President of the Young Republicans of Stevens County, Washington, I have been involved in coordinating a benefit concert that our family and another family are going to do on behalf of three candidates from our area for the state legislature. I found that even many Christian businesses do not like to contribute anything to political candidates because it may be bad for business. However, when I approached several about supporting the young people in the Young Republicans as we try to serve our community, several have responded positively, including the radio station, which has agreed to donate air time for advertising. The newspaper says that this type of donation is against their policy, but the owner contributed money instead. I have several other businesses to approach on the same basis to see if they will be willing to help fund our benefit. My philosophy is that you will never know unless you try!

The Young Republicans are doing a lot of the seemingly boring work such as stuffing envelopes, putting up yard signs and whatever else needs to be done, but we also have the privilege of meeting and dealing with people. We get to see exactly what the community is feeling and what the real needs are, which can be translated to determining how the churches should be responding to serving those needs.

Last Saturday, my family, along with several other families from our fledgling Church went to town to march in the rodeo parade carrying signs on behalf of a candidate who is running for a her seventh term as County Assessor. She was so touched by the unexpected support and expressed such gratitude that one of our ladies said, "Golly, it really makes me ashamed that I haven't been involved before."

As Christians, we have become so isolated in our our thinking and way of life that we may grumble and complain about the wrongs that the government has imposed upon us and our families, but we aren't worried enough to DO anything about it. Why is this? Are we so comfortable that we

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SALT AND LIGHT (Continued)

won't do anything we can while we still can to get Godly, principled men and women elected to local positions of authority? Yes, there is some hard work and a little time involved, and there are also major disappointments that have to be faced. But the local level of civil government is the "grass roots" of America. If the roots are corrupt and diseased, the grass dries up and is blown away!

Young people, it is truly shocking just how much we can accomplish. Our Young Republican group consists of eight young people over eighteen, and ten or twelve other teenagers who want to see things get done in our county. There are only a couple of Christians, but we are all working hard for a common goal of traditional values, and I have a wonderful opportunity to build relationships where I can share the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Please don't misunderstand me. I am not advocating the Republican party as the vehicle of salvation for America. In many ways, both of the major parties are equally bankrupt spiritually, but at this point the Republican platform is at least pro-life and pro-family. There is no question that there are going to have to be other vehicles for Christians to work through, but for now I am gaining experience, building relationships and representing my Lord in the public arena. In many ways, I feel that I am in training for fulfilling the destiny for which God created me, and I love it! We are only at the beginning stages of mobilization, but I am really excited and encouraged by what is taking shape.

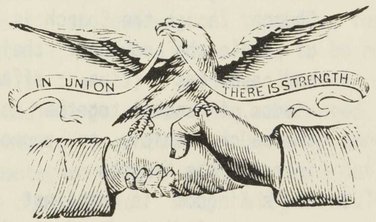
I encourage anyone who reads this to seriously consider becoming involved. I believe it is essential for young people to have oversight and spiritual covering and accountability before entering into this arena, but Godly parents like mine are more than willing to be their childrens' counselors. Our childrens' and our childrens' childrens' futures are at stake! It may seem inappropriate for an unmarried teenager to be talking this way, but I have a tremendous burden for my own posterity. I do not want my children to be slaves to an antiChristian government. God help us to pick up the torch and carry the light forward for our Lord and the next generation!

PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE!

Because we have reestablished our home base in northeastern Washington, we request that all correspondence be sent to our new address:

WATCHMAN
P.O. BOX 1030
NORTHPORT, WA 99157

CAN YOU HELP US?

We are in the market for a photocopier, and the need is becoming desperate! Is there anyone out there who can provide us with a good deal on a versatile and dependable machine? If so, please contact us as soon as possible with the details.

Other ministry needs include an IBM compatible computer system with the capability to run a major desktop publishing program; a laser printer; farm equipment; sound equipment; and a tape duplicator.