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COUNCIL**

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**SEPTEMBER 2020
UPDATE LETTER**

Dear Friends,

In July of 1965, Barry McGuire recorded the hit single "Eve of Destruction." If you are my age, you probably remember it. If not, let me enlighten you. The song was recorded late one night in L.A. in one take from lyrics on a crumpled piece of paper. By September it was number one on the music charts.

It is a very dark song—so dark and controversial that some stations wouldn't play it. McGuire belted out lyrics that spoke of racism, protests, hypocrisy, inept politicians, nuclear annihilation, Vietnam, rockets to space, Communist China, and the assassination of President Kennedy. Making one final point McGuire cries, "Hate your next door neighbor, but don't forget to say grace!" In between each verse, he repeats the chorus, "But you tell me over and over again my friend, Ah, you don't believe we're on the eve of destruction!"

But there's more. McGuire sang the song, but he didn't write it. Nineteen-year-old P.F. Sloan wrote the song. The words came to him between midnight and dawn sometime in mid-1964, he said, and even though it was the biggest protest song of the 1960's, that wasn't how Sloan intended it. He said, "I told the press it was a love song. A love song to and for humanity, that's all. The song contained a number of issues that were unbearable for me at the time. It wrote it as a prayer to God for an answer."

A prayer to God for an answer. That sounds familiar. The Book of Psalms is filled with prayers to God for answers from psalmists like King David. The Holy Spirit of God inspired them to write songs asking God when He would punish their enemies, rescue the helpless, comfort the afflicted, bring peace to the nation, and come to His people. "Eve of Destruction" may not be the inspired Word of God, but laying our burdens and worries before the King of Kings is very biblical.

Sloan remained in the music business until his death in 2015. Barry McGuire became a born-again Christian in 1971, and he still writes and performs Christian music. Sometimes he performs an updated version of "Eve of Destruction" that he has changed to reflect the new challenges in the world and his new outlook on life.

We're only two-thirds of the way through 2020, but already a lot of folks have asked, "Are we on the eve of destruction?" Shootings, protests, riots, looting—not to mention a vicious presidential election—make it feel like our nation is unraveling at the seams. Is this the end?

Eight years after Barry McGuire topped the pop charts with a song asking the same question, Billy Graham proclaimed these profound words at a crusade in St. Louis, Missouri.

"Don't you think God's given up, and God's abdicated, and God's left the throne. He hasn't! He's still on the throne. And those of us that know Him put our trust in Him and Him alone. I don't put my trust in Washington. I don't put my trust in the United Nations. I don't put my trust in myself. I don't put trust in my money. I put my trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. When all the rest of it fails and crumbles and shatters, He'll be there."

God hasn't given up, and we aren't either! Family Council is still hard at work in Arkansas. We still want to know and do the will of God. And now let me tell you a little more about what we have been doing—and about what we have planned for the rest of the year.

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Family Council
President Jerry Coe

MY THOUGHTS: WE DON'T ENDORSE CANDIDATES

Family Council does not endorse or oppose candidates. We never have, and we have no intention of endorsing any candidates in the future.

In August a good friend contacted us to suggest we make it clear that Family Council doesn't endorse candidates. She told us about some baseless rumors floating around claiming we support certain candidates or are campaigning against others.

We publish a lot of information about elected officials. We also produce the state's leading nonpartisan resources when it comes to understanding where candidates stand on important issues. Unfortunately, unethical political campaigns sometimes weaponize this information without our permission and use it in ways we would never condone.

We're "old school." We prefer to let candidates' words and actions speak for themselves. We've never bought into the idea that smearing peoples' character is a good way to wage the culture war. That's why we publish the Arkansas Voter's Guide.

We survey the candidates on issues like abortion, education, taxes, immigration, and more, and we publish their responses in print and online so that Arkansans can know where they stand. We don't editorialize. We let the candidates' answers—or lack thereof—do the talking. Because our guide doesn't favor one candidate or party over another, churches are free to distribute the Arkansas Voter's Guide.

Enclosed with this letter is your free copy of the 2020 Arkansas Voter's Guide. I hope it will help you and your family cast an informed vote as you head to the polls this November. If you would like to request additional, free copies of the guide for your family or church, call our office at (501) 375-7000 or visit ArkansasVotersGuide.com.

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You can request free copies of the 2020 Arkansas Voter's Guide by calling our office at (501) 375-7000. You can also request additional guides by visiting ArkansasVotersGuide.com. Just tell us how many guides you need and where we need to send them. We will send you copies of the Arkansas Voter's Guide free of charge. You can give these guides

to members of your church, home school group, Sunday school class, Bible study, or neighborhood. If you would like to help us continue providing tools like the Arkansas Voter's Guide to voters free of charge, I hope you will consider making a generous, tax-deductible donation to Family Council.

Arkansas Governor Rolls Out Another Bad "Hate Crimes" Proposal

On August 19, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson and State Senator Jim Hendren (R – Gravette) held a press conference with Democratic legislators, a few Republican lawmakers, Attorney General Rutledge, business leaders, and others to once again call on Arkansas to pass hate crimes legislation granting certain classes of people special protections under the law, including protections for sexual orientation and gender identity. The latest proposal is very similar to one State Senator Hendren and State Representative Nicole Clowney (D – Fayetteville) unveiled in June.

Unfortunately, hate crimes laws simply do not work. These laws have not prevented hate crimes in other states, and they won't prevent hate crimes in Arkansas. We all wish there were a way to eliminate hate by passing a law, but it simply isn't possible. Hate crimes legislation punishes peo-

ple for their thoughts and beliefs. Laws carving out special protections for people based on sexual orientation and gender identify have been used to target Christians who disagree with same-sex marriage. No one should be punished for what they say or believe.

Here's What You Can Do: Supporters of hate crimes legislation in Arkansas are actively trying to persuade your lawmakers—and even pastors—to support this bad proposal. Please contact your state senator and state representative. Talk to your pastor. Ask them not to support any proposal to pass hate crimes legislation in Arkansas. You can leave a message for your state representative by calling (501) 682-7771. You can leave a message for your state senator by calling (501) 682-6107.

Eighth Circuit Lifts Lower Court's Order Against Four of Arkansas' Pro-Life Laws

On August 7, a three-judge panel from the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals lifted a lower court ruling against four pro-life laws the Arkansas Legislature passed in 2017. This lawsuit has been in motion for more than three years now—and it isn't finished yet. However, the order could pave the way for these four pro-life laws to be enforced.

Here's a quick overview of the laws and what they do:

- **Act 45 of 2017 (Disemberment Abortion):** Act 45 prohibits certain dismemberment abortions—such as D&E abortion procedures—in which a living unborn baby is dismembered. It does not affect other common abortion procedures—such as chemical abortion or suction abortion procedures.
- **Act 733 of 2017 (Sex-Selection Abortion):** Act 733 prohibits abortions performed due to the baby's sex. It contains a provision requiring the doctor to request some of the pregnant woman's medical records before performing the abortion. The ACLU challenged the part of the law requiring abortionists to request medical records.
- **Act 1018 of 2017 (Reporting Requirements):** Act 1018 requires abortions performed on any girl under the age of 17 to be reported to the State Crime Lab in case the girl is the victim of sexual assault.
- **Act 603 of 2017 (Prohibiting Buying and Selling of Aborted Babies):** Act 603 prohibits biomedical and behavioral research on aborted fetal remains, and it requires aborted fetal remains to be disposed of according to the Arkansas Final Disposition Rights Act of 2009. This helps stop abortionists from selling organs and tissue harvested from aborted babies.

Here's a Timeline of the Laws and Lawsuits Since 2017:

- **January 26, 2017:** The legislature passed Act 45 prohibiting some dismemberment abortions. Lawmakers later passed bills prohibiting sex-selection abortion, expanding the reporting requirements for abortions on underage girls, and addressing the buying and selling of aborted babies.
- **June 20, 2017:** The ACLU filed a lawsuit challenging these four laws.
- **July 28, 2017:** U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker blocked Arkansas from enforcing these four laws. Attorney General Leslie Rutledge appealed to the Eighth Circuit.
- **March 19, 2020:** The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals indicated it would not make a decision until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the *June Medical Services v. Russo* case. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in that case was expected to affect other pro-life laws.

Rep. Andy Mayberry (R – Hensley) presents Act 45 before a packed House Public Health Committee (1/19/2017).

- **June 29, 2020:** The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana pro-life law in its *June Medical Services v. Russo* ruling.
- **August 7, 2020:** A three-judge panel from the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals unblocked Arkansas' laws and sent the case back to Judge Baker's court for reconsideration in light of nuances in the *June Medical Services* decision.
- **August 21, 2020:** The ACLU asked for a hearing before the entire Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

So Where Do Things Go From Here? As of this writing (August 24), the lawsuit is still in play. The ACLU has asked the entire Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals to rehear the case and rule against the laws. This lawsuit has been going for more than three years, and it probably will go on a while longer. However, there's a good possibility the Eighth Circuit will uphold these four pro-life laws from Arkansas. That has the potential to save hundreds of unborn children from abortion in Arkansas every year—and impact pro-life laws across the nation.

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As we wrote in August, the *June Medical Services* was a setback. But if the court decides nuances in the *June Medical Services* decision actually make it easier for states to restrict abortion, it will reshape abortion laws and lawsuits nationwide. It could even set the stage to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Once again Arkansas is at the forefront of the fight to end abortion.



Chief Judge Lavenski Smith (above) was one of three judges from the Eighth Circuit who together unblocked Arkansas' pro-life laws. Chief Judge Smith is a native of Hope, Arkansas, and has served on the Eighth Circuit since 2002.



Arkansas State Medical Board Suspends Abortionist's Medical License

The Arkansas State Medical Board has suspended the medical license of a Little Rock abortionist pending a hearing this October, according to official documents provided to Family Council. The documents indicate the State Medical Board issued an emergency order suspending Dr. Thomas Tvedten's medical license and scheduling a hearing before the board following allegations that Dr. Tvedten "exhibited gross negligence and ignorant malpractice" in evaluating, diagnosing, and certifying a minor for a medical marijuana card.

Dr. Tvedten is an owner of Little Rock Family Planning Services, Arkansas' only surgical abortion facility. He has been one of the state's primary abortionists since the 1980s. Little Rock Family Planning Services utilizes other abortion doctors besides Dr. Tvedten. At this point, we don't think this disciplinary action against him will affect activities at the clinic very much.

The State Medical Board's order indicates the board will hold a hearing on October 1 to determine if Dr. Tvedten violated state law and whether or not he should be penalized. Members of our team plan to attend that hearing to learn more about the board's reasons for taking disciplinary action against Dr. Tvedten.

Planned Parenthood Affiliate Over Arkansas Lays Off Three Dozen Employees

Earlier this summer Planned Parenthood Great Plains—the Planned Parenthood affiliate responsible for abortion facilities in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas—laid off three dozen employees. According to KCUR, the employees worked primarily in communications, development, education, human resources, finance, and public affairs. Nationwide, Planned Parenthood's organization is broken into regional affiliates, and each affiliate is responsible for day-to-day operations in different states. According to news sources, most of the layoffs at Planned Parenthood Great Plains seem to have been at the organization's main office in Kansas. In April some 20 Planned Parenthood employees in Texas were laid off, and in May Planned Parenthood of Greater New York reportedly laid off or furloughed more than 240 workers. It's unclear what this will mean for the nation's largest abortion provider in the long run, but so far Planned Parenthood appears to be struggling.



Dr. Tvedten is an owner of Little Rock Family Planning Services (above), Arkansas' only surgical abortion facility.

Pro-Abortion Groups Endorse Candidates in Arkansas

In July the pro-abortion group NARAL Pro-Choice America PAC endorsed Sen. Joyce Elliott for Arkansas' Second Congressional District. Sen. Elliott (D — Little Rock) currently serves in the Arkansas Legislature, and is running against Congressman French Hill in the upcoming election. NARAL is the second major pro-abortion group to make political endorsements in Arkansas. Earlier this year Planned Parenthood endorsed Sen. Joyce Elliott as well as Celeste Williams, who is running against Congressman Steve Womack for the

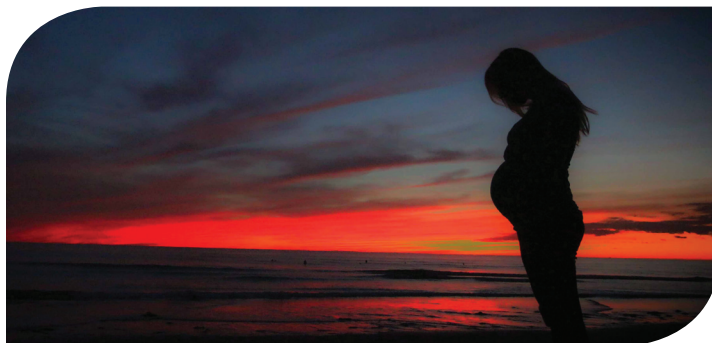
Third Congressional District. Planned Parenthood also has endorsed the following candidates for the state legislature:

- Suzie Bell for Arkansas House District 97
- Daisy Bonilla for Arkansas House District 93
- Rep. Denise Ennett for Arkansas House District 36
- Lisa Hassell for Arkansas House District 68
- Rep. Tippi McCullough for Arkansas House District 33
- Rep. Clarke Tucker for Arkansas Senate District 32
- Rep. David Whitaker for Arkansas House District 85

Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center Offers Antidote to Abortion Drugs

Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center in Little Rock is now offering abortion pill reversal. Doctors have found it's possible to counteract the abortion drug RU-486 if a woman receives the hormone progesterone soon after taking the abortion pill. RU-486 deprives the woman's body of progesterone. Without progesterone, the baby will die. Women who take RU-486 may be able to counteract the abortion drug and save the baby's life if they receive progesterone quickly enough. A 2018 study concluded chemical abortions could be halted 64%–68% of the time using this method. This process has been used to save the lives of hundreds of unborn babies whose mothers regretted their abortions immediately after taking the abortion pill. Charities like Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center in Little Rock offer women real options besides abortion. They help women navigate

unplanned pregnancies, and they provide resources from maternity clothes to diapers and adoption referrals to parenting classes—all free of charge. They are important leaders in the fight to end abortion.



Here are Just a Few Things We Have Planned for the Rest of 2020 and 2021

Distribute 100,000 Voter's Guides: We plan to distribute about 100,000 copies of the Arkansas Voter's Guide in churches, by mail, and online this fall. This week alone we have distributed about 8,000 printed copies of the guide. The Arkansas Voter's Guide helps people know where candidates stand on social, moral, economic, and governmental issues.

Support Home Schooling: Our Education Alliance home school division is the hub for home schooling statewide. With COVID, lots of people are home schooling for the first time, and we're here to help. Since 1998, we have promoted, protected, and strengthened home schooling in Arkansas. Our work to pass good laws has resulted in great freedom for Arkansas home school families. We will fight to keep home schooling accessible to as many people as possible.

Establish the Rapid Response Network: To give regular people a voice, we've established the Family Council Rapid Response Network, a team of several hundred people across Arkansas who can mobilize voters to contact their state lawmaker about legislation and important issues. Your gifts will help us inform local citizens so they can encourage their lawmakers to vote right.

Inform Arkansans: Someone besides the liberal media needs to keep people around the state informed about what's really going on. Every week we send thousands of emails to people all over Arkansas about current issues. We mail letters like this one to thousands of families and churches across the state every month. As our culture becomes more polarized, people are looking for someone trustworthy who can give them the truth about what's happening in our state. We can do this.

Oppose Hate Crimes Legislation: Governor Hutchinson, many Democrats, a few Republicans, and several powerful businesses are calling for Arkansas to pass a "hate crimes" law. Imagine a law that punishes belief and thoughts in the hands of a liberal judge or a rogue local official. We are already fighting this bad law, and that fight will intensify when the legislature convenes in January.

Counter Radical Leftist Groups: When the legislature convenes in January, we need as many voices of reason at the Capitol as possible. I expect radical leftist groups like those we've seen in Seattle, Portland, Detroit, and even Little Rock to be on the march. I can foresee the halls of the Capitol being filled with many of the same types of people who have violently protested on the Capitol steps, defaced statues, and broken windows in the neighborhood near the Capitol. They will be bold. They will be loud and intimidating. Lawmakers need to hear from reasonable people back home. We can help give reasonable people a voice at the legislature.

Draft Legislation: We're planning to champion about 20 good laws during the coming legislative session. We need a law that prevents transgender boys from competing against girls in sports. We're planning to get a law passed that protects hospitals and doctors from being sued for refusing to do sex-changes on patients. COVID has shown we need laws declaring churches as essential services so they can't be closed by the government.

Fight to End Abortion: We have drafted more than half a dozen laws that, if passed, should propel Arkansas into the position of being the most pro-life state in the nation. We're currently number two. The even better news is that abortions in Arkansas are at a 43-year low. We want to take those numbers to an all-time low.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE COMING THIS MONTH

40 Days for Life will hold its semi-annual prayer vigil this month in Little Rock. The vigil will run from September 23 through November 1. Volunteers will take turns praying throughout the 40 days. This year prayer warriors will gather on the public right of way outside the Planned Parenthood facility on Aldersgate Road in Little Rock.

40 Days for Life is not a rally or protest. It's a peaceful assembly for prayer and reflection—and it works. Every year we hear stories from other states of abortion clinics shutting down and abortion workers coming to Christ in the wake of a 40 Days for Life prayer campaign. In the past, 40 Days for Life has said that the “no-show” rate for abortion appointments can go to as high as 75% when people pray in front of an abortion facility. Prayer works! **You can learn more at 40DaysForLife.com/LittleRock.**



PLEASE THINK ABOUT HOW YOU WILL HELP US THIS YEAR

Even though it's only September, I hope you will think about how you will help Family Council and the Education Alliance this year. Your gifts let us stand in the gap—sometimes alone—but we're making a big difference. Each of our eight staff members is called of God to do this important work. We count it an honor to be able to serve God and to serve the people of Arkansas in this way.

Here are a few ways you can help us between now and the end of December:

- **Become a monthly supporter.** If you aren't already a monthly donor, giving a little bit of money to Family Council or the Education Alliance every month is a great way to support our work. Your gifts are tax-deductible, and they will do so much to help us make a difference in Arkansas.
- **Send a generous one-time gift.** Near the end of the year, many of our friends like to send a generous, tax-deductible gift over and above their normal gifts. Their extra support does so much to help us stand up for traditional family values!
- **Donate stock, property, or other assets.** Did you know you can get tax benefits by donating personal property, stock, or other assets to Family Council or the Education Alliance? If you have a used vehicle, appreciated stock, or other assets you might like to donate, feel free to give us a call to learn more. There's no obligation if you call.

Thank you so much for all you have done for us. We would not be here without friends like you who believe our state and nation are worth fighting for. We always do our best to turn your generous gifts into good work and lives changed. Please let me know if there is anything my staff or I can do for you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Cox, President

Thank you!!

P.S. Here's your free copy of the 2020 Arkansas Voter's Guide. You can request additional free copies by going to ArkansasVotersGuide.com or calling our office at (501) 375-7000. I know there's a lot going wrong in the world, but we are going to keep standing up for what is right. I hope you will stand with us. Your generous financial support keeps us in the fight for traditional family values. Thank you so much!