

# Great

2008 FALL

# Commission News

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## The Giant Awakes!

Here it is! The giant is waking up. The silent majority is silent no more! The Christians, finally, are voting! And the churches are in action!

By midnight of November 4, Tuesday, the voting of "Yes" on Proposition 8 in California looked strong and promising. By the afternoon of November 5 it was confirmed. 99% of votes have come in and counted. Victory for one-man-one-woman marriage in California has become a fact. This constituted a great encouragement and assurance to those who believe in the traditional marriage which God initiated since the Garden of Eden.

We are highly appreciative of reports by the secular press. The San Francisco Chronicle reported on November 5, 2008 (by Chronicle staff writers John Wildermuth and Bob Egelko) as follow:

*The Prop. 8 battle, born in San Francisco, came eight years after more than 61 percent of California voters came out (in the year 2000) in favor of Prop.22, which banned same-sex marriage in the state. But supporters had little time to savor the victory.*

*In 2004, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom set off a political and social explosion when he ordered marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples in the city. Gay and lesbian couples flocked to the city, showing up in wedding dresses and tuxes for the chance to be legally married. Despite outraged reaction from across the state and nation, Newsom didn't back down until a court ordered the city to stop issuing the same-sex licenses.*

*In 2005 and 2007, the Legislature passed bills that would have allowed same-sex marriage, but Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed them. In 2006, the state Supreme Court voted unanimously to hear several challenges to same-sex marriage and rule on them.*

*Opponents of same-sex marriage were ready with a challenge that became Prop.8.*

*Worried that a governor after Schwarzenegger would sign a same-sex marriage bill or that the court would rule against them, Prop.22 supporters began putting together*

*another initiative drive to make the same-sex marriage ban part of the California Constitution, beyond the reach of either the legislature or the courts. They raised the money and gathered more than 1.1 million signatures by this spring.*

*On May 15, the state Supreme Court cleared the way for same-sex marriage. The court voted 4-3 to overturn Prop.22 and the same-sex marriage ban, ruling that the state Constitution provided a right to marry that extends to same-sex couples. The three dissenting justices argued that it was up to the voters or Legislature, not the court, to permit same-sex marriage, a view quickly taken up by opponents of the ruling.*

*"Four judges ignore 4 million voters and imposed same-sex marriage on California," Prop.8 supporters said in a TV ad. "It's no longer about tolerance. Acceptance of gay marriage is now mandatory."*

*It was an argument that continued all the way to election day.*



# God shall Prevail

Valeria Sage

Thank you and your organization for your commitment to the nation and to God and His Word. I rejoice in your courage to take a stand on godly principles.

Sometimes, God works in mysterious ways that take us down unknown and uncomfortable paths. Thirty years ago, He began to burden my heart concerning the same issues which you have presented in your publications — the presence of humanism, secularism, relativism, socialism, violence, immorality, prejudice, anti-Americanism and blasphemy in the curriculum of the local school system. God continued to urge me to stand up and step out in obedience. I am by nature timid and am not an aggressive person, especially in dealing with unknown elements. But I have been known to take strong stands for my convictions. I obeyed God's prompting and took every step by faith. I had no idea what my concern for children's education would bring into my life.

At my first approach concerning the curriculum, I was asked by the Principal of the school, "Who do you think you are to be questioning professionals?" Satan wanted me to think I had stepped out of bounds. But God had a different plan and it took me way out of my comfort zone!

God sent me to petition the School Board with issues concerning the quality of the curriculum. After the story hit the local news media, national television cameras were set up in my living room and my story was plastered across the United States by radio, newspapers and television. The producers edited their reports until sometimes I hardly recognized the actual issues. Each had their own version and opinion writers would call to rake me over the coals day after day, until God instructed me to stand on His Word. I obeyed God and it literally stopped them. I stood in absolute awe as I saw the power of God's Word at work!

God vindicated the truth of His Word when He said, "I will make your enemies to become your friends." The Public School Administration began to realize we were genuinely concerned with the values of a curriculum that publishers had progressively changed since its inception into their school system several years before at the lower elementary level. The Principal became very concerned with inappropriate contents of library material in the school.

Yes, the unseen enemy is still at work: Satan strives hard to keep his lies before the eyes and minds of the young and vulnerable, especially away from the scrutiny of the parents, and in the minds of parents and adults who do not listen to God.

## 30 STATES THAT PASSED PROTECT MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

State	Year	State	Year
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Alaska	1998	Georgia	2004
Hawaii	1998	Mississippi	2004
Nebraska	2000	Kansas	2005
Nevada	2002	Texas	2005
Oregon	2004	Idaho	2006
Montana	2004	Colorado	2006
Utah	2004	South Dakota	2006
North Dakota	2004	Tennessee	2006
Oklahoma	2004	Alabama	2006
Missouri	2004	South Carolina	2006
Arkansas	2004	Virginia	2006
Louisiana	2004	Wisconsin	2006
Michigan	2004	California	2008
Ohio	2004	Arizona	2008
Kentucky	2004	Florida	2008

### FROM DR. BILL GOTHARD

## Congratulations!

November 06, 2008

Dear Dr. Wang,

We are thrilled at God's blessing on your courageous and diligent efforts to pass Proposition eight. News of God's victory has reverberated throughout America and given hope and courage to millions of people.

May God continue to give you wisdom to follow up on this victory with a second initiative among pastors who vow to honor the marriage covenant. It was a delight to be with you for your prayer rally. Robert and David join me in wishing you and your whole team God's very best.

Through Christ our Lord,

Bill Gothard

# How Should Christian Churches Respond to Homosexuality?

James Lau M.D., M.A. (bioethics)

## Holiness and Repentance

A church that cannot uphold the biblical standard of holiness is a pathetic church. Such a church cannot be the salt and light of society. Indeed, many churches today fail to respond and act appropriately toward sins such as adultery, fornication, pornography, prostitution, and human trafficking, among others. Moreover, wrongdoings are not uncommon among church members (fornication, for example). Clearly, the church must repent of her immorality.

In the past, some churches did not address the needs of homosexuals. Frequently, churches condemned homosexuals and seldom granted them help and acceptance. Many homosexuals therefore could not seek healing and comfort in the church. The church must repent of its hostility toward homosexuals.

## Uphold The Truth: Resist Immorality

If the Church wants to be a beacon of light in society, then it must not compromise with the secular world. Today, many churches have degenerated into mere community centers, providing meeting places for social gatherings while ministers turn their backs to the vices in society. These churches should take the warning that Jesus gave to the church in Sardis: *“Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.”* (Rev 3:2-4 ESV)

The gay churches encourage homosexuals to continue their sinful way of life. This is a path of death and destruction. They should heed Jesus' condemnation to the church in Thyatira: *“But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent for her works.”* (Rev 2:20-22 ESV)

To be able to teach her members, the church must understand the truth in the Bible. She should be the con-

science of society and uphold a high ethical standard. This is not a popular role: it frequently draws attacks from the secular world. The city of San Francisco, for example, recently passed a resolution condemning the teaching of the Vatican and Christian churches on homosexuality, stating that it is an insult to the residents of the city. In the book of Revelation, the words of Jesus to the church in Philadelphia offer encouragement to churches under assault of persecution. *“I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ... Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.”* (Rev 3:10-11 ESV)

## Healing and Acceptance with Love

Although homosexuality has never been proven to be inborn, to many homosexuals the same-sex attraction seems natural. This is due to abnormal psychological development in childhood. Many homosexuals experienced a lack of parental love while young: some fell victim to sexual abuse. The church should love them and accept them just as it loves and accepts other sinners. Counseling and assistance should be provided to steer homosexuals away from their harmful lifestyle. Exodus International is an international Christian organization that provides professional help to homosexuals and can be contacted to assist homosexuals struggling in the church. ([www.exodus-international.org](http://www.exodus-international.org))

According to studies by the National Association for Research and Therapy ([www.narth.com](http://www.narth.com)), most homosexuals show a decrease in or elimination of same-sex attraction after treatment. Indeed, many homosexuals have been successfully treated and are now married with children and enjoying their new freedom from same-sex desire.

Homosexuality is not pleasing to God. However, if one repents and is willing to change, one can be saved by Jesus' precious blood, as the apostle Paul said: *“And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”* (1 Cor. 6:11 ESV)



October 19, 2008



# Marriage = 1 man 1 woman Open-Air

5 Thousand people of different ethnicities joined the Open-Air Rally.

Some families came with their children to show that 1-Man-1-Woman marriage is the foundation of a normal family.

Rally leaders prayed before the Rally began.



Rev. Luke Poon of Peninsula Chinese Alliance Church greeted the crowd.





8 Cupertino, CA

# Man 1 Woman Air Rally



The crowd marched out of the park toward Stevens Creek Blvd.

Participants holding signs to support 1 Man 1 Woman Marriage.



# AMERICA HAS HOPE?

With a newly elected President who is tolerant and goes along with same-sex marriage and abortion on demand, America is drifting into an unknown direction of amorality, and will probably and progressively losing her moral and righteous leadership in the world.

Throughout history, God has never tolerated homosexual lifestyle. Severe judgment came upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). The entire tribe of Benjamin was nearly wiped out (Judges 19) for the same reason. Homosexual practices were widespread during the waning years of both the Greek and Roman Empires! For to God, homosexuality is not only a sin but an “*abomination*” (Leviticus 18:22 AV).

It was therefore a grave matter when the Justices of the California Supreme Court on May 15 of this year, by a vote of 4 to 3, declared, “to forbid same-sex marriage is unconstitutional”. And immediately in June, major cities of California began issuing same-sex marriage licenses. Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco announced victory for the homosexual lifestyle and said to the people of his city, “whether you like it or not”. Yes, judicial dictatorship is upon us whether we like it or not!

However we are encouraged that Proposition 8 of California which defines marriage as between one man and one woman is passed in the election. This will confirm and uphold the traditional marriage in California and hopefully will affect the rest of the union.

We therefore wish to respond to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, “No, Mr. Mayor, we don’t like it, and neither could you practice it anymore. Proposition 8 is now the law of the State. You have to abide by the opinion of the people and stop polluting their lives any longer!”

With the current cultural and moral drift the America Return To God Prayer Movement is needed more than ever.

The ARTGPM, GCCI and a number of organizations and

churches in both southern and northern California saw the seriousness of the situation, took up the challenge and engaged themselves in this spiritual warfare. They conducted open-air rallies in San Francisco Bay Area, Monterey Park and Temple City.

America (and the Western countries in general) during the past 200 years were missionary-sending countries and led the world to believe in God. But today, America (and the Western countries in general) is deserting God and is leading the world away from Him!

Yet, the world owes a debt of love to America (and the Western countries in general) and should do our best to pray and to awaken America and the West, to remind them of their precious Christian heritage and to encourage them to repent and to return to God!

**May God’s mercy be upon America, the West and us all! Let us repent and drift back to God!**

## THREE NEW HERO STATES

In addition to the 27 States whose Constitutions define marriage as between one man and one woman, 3 new States have just declared the banning of same-sex marriage. This will make a total of 30 States which are decisively against gay marriage.

	YES	NO
Arizona	56%	44%
California	52%	48%
Florida	62%	38%



# World Mission News

**China:** On August 6, just 2 days before the Olympics started, a pastor was arrested along with his wife and a coworker. 2 agencies started a petition drive to free them and to let the authorities know that people around the world were concerned. Some 50,000 signed the petition and the arrested were released on August 29, well treated while in custody. This pastor was known as Pastor Bike because he has traveled over 10,000 miles on bicycle to share the gospel leading thousands to Christ.

<Voice of the Martyrs, [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com), 9/1/08>

**China:** When asked how the Olympics had affected their situation, the Chinese house church leaders replied “normal,” adding “of course many of us were brought in for questioning, in hiding, or even under arrest, but all of these are normal.” Despite facing hardships, they are powerful testimony to Christian joy and perseverance. And they request much prayer.

<Open Doors USA, [opendoorsusa.org](http://opendoorsusa.org), 9/8/08>

**Africa:** The need for Bibles in the growing churches in Africa far outstrips the available supply. In many of the small churches there may be only one Bible and they do not have any other Christian material either. The need is urgent, especially in Nigeria, as militants from the north are pushing for Sharia law.

<Bible Pathway Ministries, [www.biblepathway.org](http://www.biblepathway.org), 9/23/08>

**Iran's** parliament overwhelmingly passed a bill mandating death penalty for apostasy on September 9. It has to be voted on again for it to become a law. Currently, apostasy is a capital offense, but judges are free to mete out the penalty. The last death execution of a Christian charged for leaving Islam was August 21, 2008. Though no deadline is set for voting, chances of reversing the bill are slim.

<Voice of the Martyrs, [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com), 9/22/08>

**Dallas-Fort Worth, TX:** For the last 2 to 3 decades, God has raised up people for marketplace evangelism with great success. A recent survey in Dallas-Ft. Worth area in US showed that the average church budget costs US\$25,000 per conversion, while the average full-time workplace chaplain costs just US\$1,700 per conversion. The average chaplain led 28 people to Christ per year, while some churches have no baptism in some years. One part-time chaplain led 750 people to Christ over 15 years.

<LCWE Mission Report, [www.lcwe.org](http://www.lcwe.org), September/08>

**Thailand :** A successful evangelism strategy used in India and Argentina is making a start in Thailand. An agency supplies copies of The Godman, a 3D animated film on life of Christ, to churches to show in each home they visit. Then they go back over the next few weeks to ask what they think of the film. Quickly, the children become involved also starting a relation-

ship with Christ. With less than 1 % Christians Thailand is a hard soil.

<Book of Hope International, [www.bookofhope.net](http://www.bookofhope.net), 5/26/08>

**South Africa:** An evangelist traveled to South Africa to speak at a conference. A high school student known of the evangelist's marathon training arranged for him to run at the school's track and also asked him to talk to students before running. Eventually he spoke to all 2,500 students and led some to Christ.

<Sammy Tippit Ministries, [www.sammytippit.org](http://www.sammytippit.org), 9/8/08>

**Europe:** Many call Europe the new “Dark Continent.” Statistics show that of 800 million Europeans only 2% are evangelical believers. An agency has opened ministry in 3 major cities: Berlin, Paris and Rome, also have teams in 30 other cities and plan to build that to 50 cities in the next 10 years.

<Evangelical Free Church of America, [www.efca.org](http://www.efca.org), 9/12/08>

**“JESUS” film** is the most-watched film in the world. It has been shown to over 6 billion people, obviously some more than once. And nearly 226 million have indicated some kind of decision for Christ afterwards. The film has now been translated into 1,059 languages and there are officially 2,864 JESUS Film Project teams working in 103 countries.

<JESUS Film Project, [www.jesusteam.org](http://www.jesusteam.org), 9/3/08>

**Bolivia:** The efforts by Bolivia's president to take more control of the country and to rewrite the constitution have met staunch opposition. Riots and strikes erupted after a national referendum on the president's demand for another vote in December. He has taken steps to nationalize many companies and threatened to kick all missionaries out of the country.

<Bright Hope International, [www.brighthope.org](http://www.brighthope.org), 9/10/08>

**India:** After weeks of violence against Christians in India's Orissa State, churches have reopened, though thousands are still sheltering under police guard in makeshift camps on church grounds, school campuses and police stations. At last count, 53 people had been murdered, and 60,000 fled to the camps and forests following the August 23 murder of a popular Hindu leader. Christian schools seem to enjoy a unique protection, because many Hindus send children to them as they recognize the value of these schools.

<Worldwide Christian Schools, [www.wwcs.org](http://www.wwcs.org), 9/12/08>

**China:** Of the 93 million population of Shandong province, 1.2 million (1.3%) are Christians. Many people there listen to gospel broadcast according to FEBC. The responses they receive from them rank second among all provinces.

<Far East Broadcasting, [www.liangyou.net](http://www.liangyou.net), June/08>

**San  
Francisco,  
Oct. 12,  
2008**



## **Restore Marriage Protect Children Rallies**

**Monterey Park, Oct. 19, 2008**

