

FAITH & JUSTICE

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Christians gather to worship in the city of Indore, in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, despite the country's growing hostility toward Christians.



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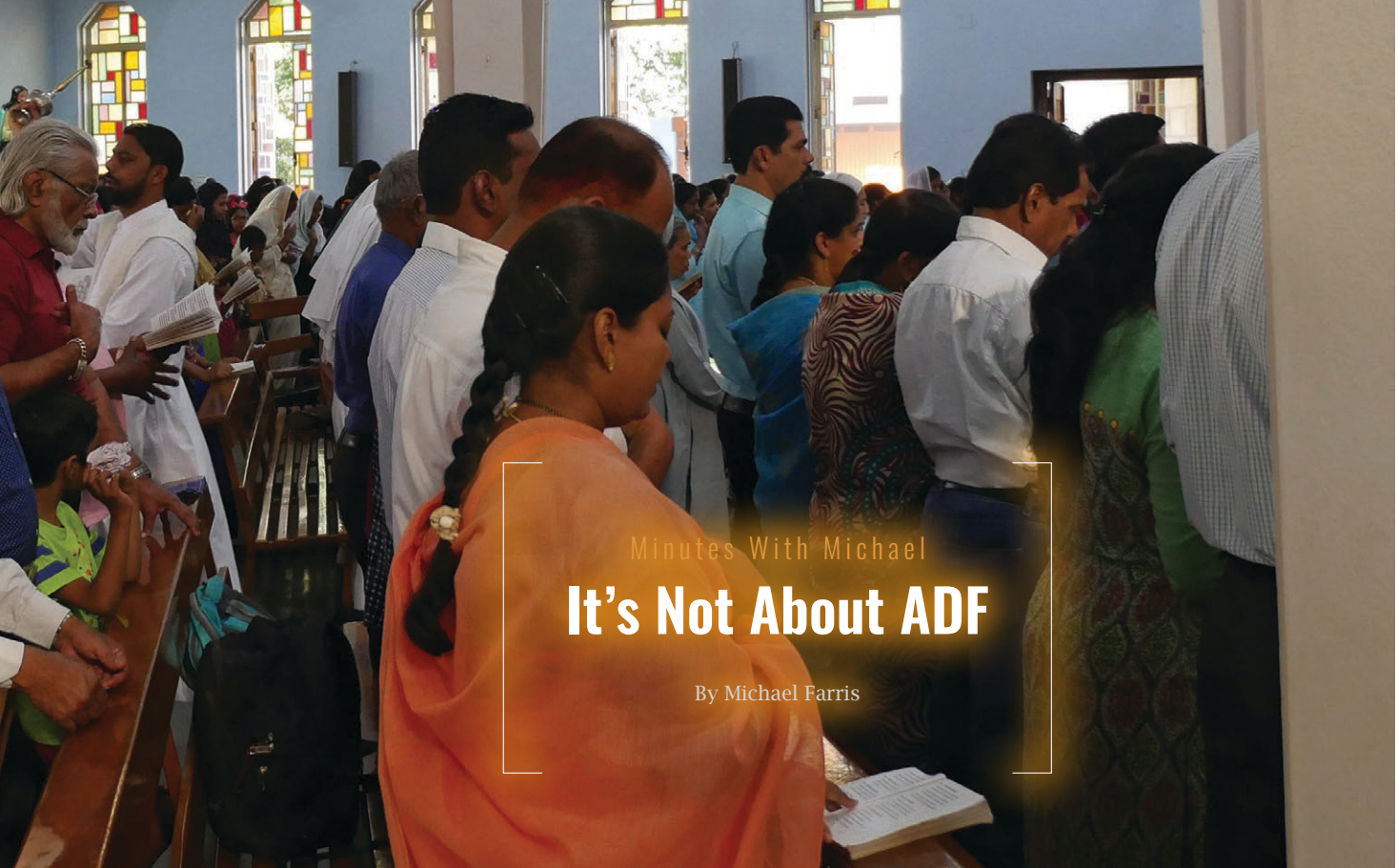
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Minutes With Michael It's Not About ADF

By Michael Farris

Christian children pulled from a train on their way to summer camp. Their chaperones marched to the local jail — and left there for more than 100 days.

Those same children locked away in “protective custody” for three days.

Their chaperones — church leaders — charged with kidnapping, forcible conversion ... even assault.

I knew of these distressing stories before I visited India in October. The world's second-most populous country is plagued by incidents of violence directed toward religious minorities, carried out by Hindu extremists. The violence is aimed at people of faith, like these Christians.

Hearing is one thing. But seeing their pain in person made all the difference in the world for me.

I saw tears fall from a mother's eyes. Her children were yanked off that train by the mob of extremists. Her husband reported the incident to authorities, assuring them that his children had permission to attend the camp. He has since been

falsely implicated, arrested, and jailed for a serious crime he had nothing to do with. This was no coincidence.

A young man — one of the leaders taking kids to the summer camp — gripped my arm, pleading with me to help him put the false charges behind him.

Their stories ... their pain ... changed my life forever.

By God's blessing, ADF India is hard at work, helping people who are in the most desperate of circumstances. This trip made it clear to me that the work ADF does is never about ADF. It is about those we serve.

You will not hear the shocking plight of these precious children of God on the nightly news. It will not make headlines.

But as one who has looked into their faces, I ask you: please remember India's Christians and the harassment they face on a daily basis. Please, please pray for them.

And pray for the ADF India team that is taking on the challenge — and honor — of defending them in court.

India's Christians (including every member of the ADF India team) demonstrate incredible courage — daily, hourly — in living out their faith. I am so glad that, through the generous support of people like you, we are able to come alongside them in their time of deepest need.

It is a stunning reminder that without Christ, we can do nothing. (John 15:5). 



VISIT: ADFinternational.org/Regions/Asia to learn more about how ADF is fighting for religious freedom in India.

News & Quick Takes

Case Updates From Around The World

Anchorage, Alaska

ADF attorneys representing a faith-based women's shelter have asked a federal court to stop Anchorage officials from forcing it to allow men to sleep next to abused women in its women's-only shelter.

In January 2018, **a biological man who identifies as a woman tried to gain access to the Downtown Hope Center women's shelter.** Because he was inebriated and injured, employees paid for his ride to a local hospital. Soon after, a complaint was filed against the Hope Center with the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission, claiming the center had discriminated against the individual.

Women's-only shelters retain the right to provide overnight housing only to biological females to ensure these women have a safe place to stay.

Colorado Springs, Colorado

In November, Ratio Christi, a Christian student organization represented by ADF, filed a federal lawsuit against the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, for **forcing them to accept as officers students who don't share the group's beliefs.**

"It would be absurd for the university to require the vegan student group to appoint a meat-lover as its president," says ADF Senior Counsel Travis Barham. "Likewise, the University of Colorado shouldn't force Christian students to let atheists or other non-Christians lead their Bible studies."

Colorado

In December, the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado issued an order that **permanently prevents the federal government from enforcing the Affordable Care Act's abortion-pill mandate against six Christian organizations** represented by ADF. The order also declares that the mandate violates the organizations' rights protected by the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The Obama administration's mandate forces most employers, regardless of their religious or moral convictions, to provide abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization, and contraception through their health plans — under threat of heavy penalties.

Other federal district courts have issued similar orders in recent months for Christian organizations in Oklahoma, Indiana, California, Iowa, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Florida. ADF staff and allied attorneys continue to litigate numerous other lawsuits against the mandate.

Laurel, Maryland

In the wake of a federal lawsuit filed in February 2018 by ADF attorneys, **the city of Laurel has reversed a change to a local zoning law intended to stop a church from holding Sunday worship services and serving underprivileged people in the community.** The city also made changes to other commercial zones to eliminate the possibility of any similar legal problems in the future.

At issue was an unconstitutional zoning code change initiated by city officials to stop Redemption Community Church from operating in the city's downtown area. The changes forced houses of worship to submit to an expensive, time-consuming, and uncertain special exception process that wasn't imposed on nonreligious organizations.

Bladensburg, Maryland

ADF filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of retired Major General Patrick Brady, a Medal of Honor recipient, plus seven veterans groups representing thousands of living veterans. The brief supports the American Legion's efforts to protect a World War I memorial in Bladensburg, Maryland, which the American Humanist Association wishes to either uproot or destroy just because the memorial is in the shape of a cross.

"A passive monument like the Bladensburg Cross, which celebrates our veterans and acknowledges our nation's religious heritage, simply does not amount to an establishment of religion," says ADF Senior Counsel and Vice President of U.S. Litigation David Cortman.



New York

ADF secured billboard space in Times Square over the Christmas holiday season, in response to an attack campaign against the ministry that had used the same ad space a month earlier. The attack ad, placed by Citizens for Transparency, read: “No Gays Allowed. STOP Alliance Defending Freedom.” The campaign repeated false claims and misrepresentations made by the Southern Poverty Law Center against ADF.

In response, ADF’s two-panel billboard included an ad scrolling through six ADF clients along with the words “I am Alliance Defending Freedom” and “IamADF.org.” The IamADF website describes the work of ADF through the clients’ compelling stories.

Syracuse, New York



In December, **ADF attorneys asked a federal court to stop New York officials from targeting a faith-based adoption provider because of its religious beliefs.** Pending court action, New Hope Family Services faces a no-win scenario: either the interruption of adoption placements and immediate phase-out of its adoption program ... or a change to its policy prioritizing the placement of children in homes with a married mother and father based on New Hope’s beliefs about God’s plan for marriages, families, and children.

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services calls this approach “discriminatory and impermissible,” and is threatening to revoke New Hope’s license to act as an adoption service.

The lawsuit, *New Hope Family Services v. Poole*, asks the court to protect New Hope from being singled out, punished, or disfavored because of its religious beliefs.

An adjacent billboard panel showed a text-only ad reading: “*Tolerance is a Two Way Street. ADF is for truthnottrolling.org.*” The TruthNotTrolling.org website answers the false charges made by Citizens for Transparency against ADF.

The ADF ads ran in Times Square from Dec. 10 through Jan. 6.



United Nations, New York

In December, ADF International and the Holy See Mission to the United Nations co-sponsored “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70: Its Foundations, Achievements, and Violations” at the UN headquarters in New York City. The panel event was the culmination of the *I’m Human, Right?* campaign and brought together leading academics in the field of human rights to discuss the original purpose and intent of the UN’s 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Michael Farris, ADF President, CEO, and General Counsel, shared his concerns about continuing human rights violations occurring all over the world, especially with regard to freedom of religion and the right to life.

“If we stay on our current course, we may soon arrive in a future where human rights are in danger of becoming discredited and the entire system of international human rights law may be jeopardized,” Farris said during his presentation.

Rights of Conscience Case Updates

A federal district court issued an order in January that allows Colorado cake artist Jack Phillips to proceed with a lawsuit against the state for its hostility toward him and his religious beliefs.

ADF attorneys representing Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, filed suit when the state chose to prosecute him again even after he won his case at the U.S. Supreme Court in June. The high court ruled that Colorado cannot treat Phillips differently than other cake artists who decline custom projects based on the messages they convey.

An attorney who targeted Phillips complained to the state after Masterpiece Cakeshop decided not to create a cake with a pink inside and a blue outside to celebrate and reflect a gender transition. Afterward, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission — the same state agency that lost its case against Phillips at the Supreme Court in June — filed a formal complaint against the cake artist.

The Arizona Supreme Court heard a case ADF filed for Joanna Duka and Breanna Koski, owners and artists of Brush & Nib Studio — an art studio specializing in creating custom artwork celebrating

weddings and other events. Under sweeping Phoenix criminal law, the two artists face jail time and fines if they decline to create artwork expressing messages that violate their core beliefs.

ADF Senior Counsel Jonathan Scruggs presented oral arguments to the court on January 22. The Arizona attorney general (joined by other states), numerous state lawmakers, various scholars, and a diverse array of business, artistic, and faith-based groups filed friend-of-the-court briefs with the court in support of the Phoenix artists.

A decision in the case is expected this spring.

Special Feature

Ambassadors: The Eyes And Ears Of ADF

By Karen Kurtz

“What more can we do than simply write a check?”

The question kept coming up years ago, as Alliance Defending Freedom Ministry Friends looked for ways they might give more than dollars to support the ministry’s mission. ADF responded by launching a program that equips volunteers to build awareness of the ministry in communities large and small, throughout the United States.

Started in 2004, the Ambassador program offers practical ways for volunteers to be “information agents” within their sphere of influence — through activities such as one-on-one encounters, in-home meetings, church presentations, or community events.

“We consider Ambassadors the eyes and ears of ADF,” says Neville Verster, Ambassador Program Director. “They introduce others to the ministry.”

The Ambassadors represent a wide range of skills, abilities, and personalities, Neville says. Some are natural networkers, others are skilled at public speaking, and others are focused on major giving.

Some who express interest in becoming Ambassadors are concerned they won’t have time to be involved, Neville says. But the program has no time requirement — only an expectation to pray for the ministry and become acquainted with ADF’s core mission areas.

“People think it might be too big for them — that it may require a lot of effort,” Neville says. “But this can be whatever level they want it to be.”

Beginning with 14 volunteers, the program has grown to nearly 500 Ambassadors — and continues to expand. The group’s work is having a profound effect: at least one out of every three people Ambassadors refer to the ADF website or materials will become a donor. Often, a very generous donor.

“Ambassadors have generated over \$64 million in giving to ADF,” Neville says.

Beyond the dollars, Ambassadors are bringing hope to other Christians, as they share the successful work of ADF amid a culture increasingly hostile to people of faith.

“Ambassadors are like-minded Christ-followers,” Neville says. “They want to *do* something. As individuals, we can only do so much. Being aligned with a ministry like ADF allows them far greater impact than they could achieve as individuals.”



Ambassador Deborah Rotman presents ADF to church leaders at an Arizona pastors conference.

Below, read how five Ambassadors are making an impact —
and finding personal enrichment in the process.

Sam and Deborah Rotman

Deborah Rotman was cleaning out a file cabinet in her Scottsdale, Arizona, home and came across articles written in the 80s by prominent Christian leaders, predicting the decline of American culture.



"I was looking at these articles, and I said, 'True. True. True. True,'" she remembers. "They were predicting the future."

She had long been concerned about the issues at the center of the decline — abortion, same-sex marriage, and dwindling moral absolutes — but felt helpless to make a difference. Then she learned about ADF and its work to change the

culture by advocating for religious freedom. She knew she wanted to be involved.

When she and her husband, Sam, were invited to support the ministry as Ambassadors, she thought, "Absolutely."

"It was a perfect fit for the things that had deeply concerned me for years and years," she says. "Wherever I go, I talk about it."

Sam is a concert pianist, and she sometimes accompanies him when he performs in churches — offering brochures and magazines, and inviting people to join ADF's email distribution list. "When he has his CDs out, I have my ADF materials out."

ADF is a frequent topic of conversation in everyday encounters as well — a "natural outcome," Deborah says, of her love and respect for the ministry.

"I enjoy sharing about the work of ADF with everyone I can," she says. "Everyone who comes to visit us — before they leave, they'll hear about ADF."

Sheryl Voth

"I'm one of those people who likes to fix things," says Sheryl Voth, a retired nurse who serves as an Ambassador in Red Wing, Minnesota. "I'm concerned about where our country is headed. What better purpose than to spread the word of what ADF does?"

Sheryl learned about ADF and the Ambassador

program through a church presentation in Casa Grande, Arizona, where she and her husband sometimes spend winter months. Sensing God tugging at her heart, she wanted to introduce the ministry to people in her community.

She calls the Ambassador experience "an adventure." Shortly after completing her training, she met with her pastor to tell him about ADF. He quickly arranged for her to share the story of the ministry with the congregation. That led to presenting ADF to a local public policy group.

"God keeps opening doors," she says.

**I'm concerned about where our country
is headed. What better purpose than
to spread the word of what ADF does?**

“

Sheryl Voth, Ambassador
Red Wing, Minnesota

During that meeting, in Minneapolis, she learned of a state-sponsored "toolkit" designed to help school districts craft aggressive gender-identity policies ... opening locker rooms, restrooms, and other private spaces to students of the opposite sex.

Sheryl also learned of an alternative policy that would instead equip those same school districts to protect the safety and rights of all students.

"I came back to Red Wing, and connected with school board members about how ADF could help," she says. "We really need this right now," a grateful board member told her. "Please pray for us."

Responses like that give her hope — as does the growing awareness of ADF. A year ago, when she talked about ADF within her Lutheran church community, many weren't aware of the ministry. Now she frequently hears, "Thank you for what ADF does."



Sheryl Voth

Ways To Be Involved

Considering becoming an Ambassador?
Here are just a few of the ways that you can help further the mission of ADF as part of the Ambassador program.

Network — Work within your existing community of influence to raise awareness and support for the work of ADF. Simply share ADF in your normal daily activities, such as church study groups and one-on-one interactions.

Pray — Whether you join the Ambassador Prayer Team or pray on your own, you can effectively support the ministry through prayer.

Generate Contacts — Ambassadors have proven to be the ministry's most effective recruiters, and about one-third of those they contact go on to support the work of ADF. Generating contacts is as simple as distributing ADF information at a convention booth, at your church — or in your own home.

Host Events — Hosting events is a natural way to introduce ADF to others. Events may be as intimate as hosting a small group for coffee and dessert, or as extravagant as securing a hotel ballroom and bringing in an ADF speaker and entertainment.

Be a Community Influencer — Invest yourself in your community. Run for your local school board or city council. Volunteer at a crisis pregnancy center. Allow ADF to be your vehicle for making a cultural impact.

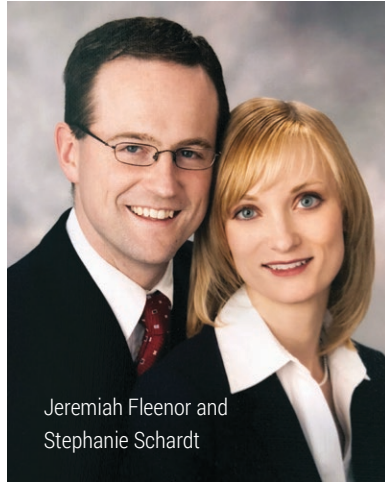
VISIT:

ADFambassador.org to
learn how you can join
the Ambassador program

Jeremiah Fleenor and Stephanie Schardt

Jeremiah Fleenor and Stephanie Schardt, married physicians, are building a healthy awareness of ADF as Ambassadors in Omaha, Nebraska.

The couple developed a passion for ADF about seven years ago, after hearing then-President, CEO & General Counsel Alan Sears speak about the ministry at a fundraising event.



Jeremiah Fleenor and
Stephanie Schardt

"Everything he said resonated with everything in our hearts," Jeremiah says. "We haven't found a ministry that shares our heart so closely and is so effective in all that they do."


"When we heard about ADF, it was a light of hope they gave us," Stephanie says. "They're not just fighting — they're *winning*."

"It's encouraging," Jeremiah says. "I can't tell you the number of Christians I come in contact with who are discouraged. They want to do something, but wonder 'how do I do something?' [Through ADF] you can do something, and affect change."

The couple's primary focus as Ambassadors is hosting events — about one each year — to share the story of ADF in their community. For one event, they invited Jeremy Tedesco, ADF Senior Counsel and VP of U.S. Advocacy, to present the ministry to a local conservative women's group. Afterward, Tedesco led an informal question-and-answer session for about 20 people in the couple's home over coffee and dessert.

With four young children, Jeremiah and Stephanie admit they have limited time to give to ADF. But it's the smallest members of their family who motivate them to be involved.

"I want to preserve this country for our children," Stephanie says. "We look at our kids every day, and think — what kind of world are they going to inherit?"

The flexibility of the Ambassador program allows the couple to participate in a capacity that fits their schedule. "That's what's cool about how ADF sets this up," says Jeremiah. "There are different areas of operating. It's definitely not 'one-size-fits-all.'" 

WATCH:

Hear Ambassadors share
their experiences at
ADFlegal.org/fj-Ambassadors

**When we heard about ADF, it was a light of hope they gave us.
They're not just fighting — they're *winning*.**

“

Stephanie Schardt, Ambassador — Omaha, Nebraska

Alliance Profile

Jeanne Mancini

By Jessica Prol Smith

Each person has a very particular mission in life,” says Jeanne Mancini. Jeanne has put feet to her mission — a lot of feet.

As president of March for Life (MFL), she is the prime mover behind the nation’s largest annual pro-life rally, which each January draws hundreds of thousands of marchers from around the country to the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Last month’s multitude marked the 46th since the March was first organized following the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion.

“Sometimes we’re asked, ‘Why do you still march, since abortion is still legal?’” Jeanne says. But for her, the urgency of the issue requires taking a stand on what she calls “the human rights abuse of our time.”

“You can’t *not* [take a stand],” she says. “No sacrifice is too great for this.”

What’s more, she sees tangible progress: the number of U.S. abortions has been declining each year. Public opinion, she says, is shifting.

Contributing to that shift are advances in technology that ground the pro-life movement in scientific fact. In truth, science is inherently pro-life, Jeanne says, and technology only underscores the humanity of each unborn child. At just six weeks, for instance, an expectant mom can hear her baby’s heartbeat. At seven weeks, a blood test will show her baby’s sex.

But even those illuminations haven’t turned on the moral lights for everyone. “The flipside is that science is not always at the service of life,” Jeanne says. “As we make advances in all sorts of prenatal diagnoses, more and more we’re seeing entire populations of people being essentially eliminated.”



**You can’t *not*
[take a stand].
No sacrifice is too
great for this.**

““

Jeanne Mancini

Iceland has virtually eradicated Down syndrome, Jeanne says — by aborting children in the womb diagnosed with the condition. In the U.S., 67-85 percent of unborn children who test positive for Down syndrome are aborted.


In 2013, MFL faced an unexpected challenge when the Obama administration introduced new regulations for reproductive health coverage, requiring all employers — including MFL — to provide insurance coverage for abortion-inducing drugs.

“That ... meant we’d have to go against our very tenets of why we were founded,” Jeanne realized, financing the same abortions MFL was created to oppose.

She called a friend at Alliance Defending Freedom, whose attorneys helped MFL challenge the new laws in federal court, requesting a permanent injunction against the Obama administration’s mandate. In 2015, MFL won the right to provide health care that once again matched its mission: “to defend and protect life

from the moment of fertilization.”

In 2017, California and several other states filed suit (*State of California v. Azar*) to challenge new government regulations that provided more conscience-based protections for organizations like March for Life. ADF is again representing MFL in an effort to defend those regulations.

Through victories and challenges, Jeanne remains laser-focused on the mission to defend and protect life. Buoyed by the enthusiasm of the multitude who march each year, she urges each one to invest not only their feet but their talents in building “a culture where abortion is unthinkable.” 



Cover Story

You Get What I Pay For

A Young Pro-Life Advocate Exposes His School's
Misuse Of Millions In Student Fees

By Chris Potts

Funny how you can live near a place for years and have no real idea what makes it tick.

Nathan Apodaca grew up about 20 minutes from the California State University-San Marcos campus. A lot of his friends attended the school, and Nathan himself cheered for the Cougars and planned to study criminal justice there, as soon as he knocked off a few preliminary courses at the community college across the street.

He was in for a few surprises.

The university dissolved its criminal justice program the year before Nathan enrolled, converting the remaining classes into a sociology degree. Along with criminology courses, he found himself taking a fair amount of philosophy, taught mostly by very liberal — and some openly communist — professors.

“It made it interesting,” he says. “Some professors I really admired, even though I disagreed with them. They were actually helpful to me ... kind of mentors, in a way. They would challenge my worldview a lot, and challenge me to do the proper research.” Those skills would serve


him well. Soon enough, Nathan would need to be prepared to dig for facts — and speak up for his beliefs.

Always pro-life, Nathan was no great activist for the issue until a friend took him to a Summit Ministries conference in high school. Among the speakers was Scott Klusendorf, president of Life Training Institute, a group that specializes in training pro-life advocates to defend their views.

“That’s what inspired me to start taking a deeper look into the life issue,” Nathan says.

Just out of high school, at Palomar College, Nathan and a church friend elected to launch a Students for Life (SFL) group on campus. The next semester, when he transferred to CSU-San Marcos, he joined its SFL chapter ... and soon found himself holding the reins.

“They were in desperate need of new leadership,” he says. “One other student was in charge and kind of doing everything himself. He transferred out, and I wound up doing almost everything by *myself*.”

A portrait of Nathan Apodaca, a young man with short dark hair and a slight smile, wearing a grey button-down shirt. He is looking towards the camera. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a stone wall and some foliage.

His objectives, from the start, were threefold: “1) to make a positive case for the pro-life position, 2) to show others the pro-life position can be reasonably defended against competing views, and 3) to reach out and be a resource to others on campus who might be hurting or in need of assistance.” He and the 15-20 others in the club began working on education projects that would accomplish those objectives, and many of them were well-received.

“We’ve had op-eds in the school paper a number of times, answering arguments that have been put forward by professors and defending the pro-life view,” Nathan says. “It got the campus talking.”



No more than 150 students attend the largest events presented by the Gender Equity Center and LGBTQA Pride Center at Cal State-San Marcos — drawing from an under

The campus did more than talk when SFL brought the Genocide Awareness Project to San Marcos. A photographic display that juxtaposes pictures of aborted babies with other photos showing victims of genocide, the Project is designed to stir emotions and debate on life issues — and at San Marcos, accomplished both.

“It sparked a huge debate,” Nathan says. Although he posted plenty of signs around the display, warning people what to expect, many “were obviously not happy about it. But it made a lot of them actually confront their viewpoints on the issue, and ask themselves, ‘Why do I really support the pro-choice deal?’”

Among those most upset by the Project was the dean of student affairs, who resigned when other administrators supported SFL’s right to set up the display. “The school itself defended me,” Nathan says. “They said, ‘He gave us advance warning, and he was within the First Amendment exercise area. He was fully within his legal rights.’”

Encouraged by that support and the lively interest of so many fellow students, the SFL group decided to follow up on the Project by inviting Dr. Mike Adams — a professor at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, syndicated columnist, and prominent speaker on student free-speech issues — to come to San Marcos and address some of the questions raised by the display.

Nathan submitted a request for a grant from the student activity fund to cover the costs of Dr. Adams’ travel to California. And suddenly, all of that official support evaporated.

“They turned me down,” Nathan says. He soon learned that his organization wasn’t the only one being denied the money to bring in speakers. Nobody else was being given those monies, either.

Well ... almost nobody.

Funding student activities at San Marcos is big business. Each student is required to contribute to the student activity fund. The year Nathan applied for funds to bring in Dr. Adams, those mandatory fees came to about \$1.3 million. Even with the university recognizing more than 100 campus clubs and organizations, that *should* leave a lot of money to go around for each club’s activities.

But in fact, only 3 percent of the money available for clubs is actually ... available for clubs. (That comes to about \$400 apiece). Why so little?

Because, Nathan learned, how much money is allotted, and to whom, is decided by a board of directors — all students, elected by students — of Associated Students, Inc. (ASI), a non-profit corporation separate from the university itself. The school collects the student activity fees, and administrators pass the cash along to ASI, placing no real restrictions on how to disperse the money. So ASI leaders are free to distribute those million-plus dollars any way they like.

In recent years, they’ve taken about \$800,000 off the top to cover their own salaries and benefits, and those of full-time staff members they’ve hired to run ASI and its two social centers. Last year, those two centers,



graduate student population of about 13,000. The two centers, however, receive seven times more from the student activity fund than all other campus clubs combined.

**Just because an idea might offend us doesn't mean it's wrong.
And just because we're okay with a certain idea doesn't make it right.**

“

Nathan Apodaca

Gender Equity Center (GEC) and the LGBTQA Pride Center, received \$296,000 between them — seven times the amount allocated for all the other clubs on campus combined.

And while ASI puts no restrictions at all on how the GEC and LGBTQA Pride Center spend their money, they're pretty fussy about how other groups spend theirs. Especially groups like Students for Life, whose pro-life ideals most ASI leaders and university officials find objectionable.

So ... Nathan and his fellow SFL members would not be allowed any money to bring in Dr. Adams, or anyone else. Nor could they have any say in how the activity fees they were required to pay were being spent. ASI leaders have full power to use those fees to bring in speakers whose viewpoint they agree with — and to keep out those they don't. Which means, in effect, this handful of students exercises almost complete control over what ideas student organizations present to the rest of the student body.

ASI created the Gender Equity Center to promote feminism, and the LGBTQA Pride Center to promote progressive sexual agendas, says Tyson Langhofer, ADF Senior Counsel and director of the ministry's Center for Academic Freedom. Together, the two centers represent the university's political “sacred cow,” he says, and administrators support ASI's decision to fund and push the centers' agendas above all others.

“That is their primary objective — to advocate for those viewpoints,” Langhofer says. “There's no way they're going to voluntarily change how those two centers are funded, because there would be substantial pushback on campus from the faculty and others invested in promoting this ideology.” So pervasive is the faculty and administrative commitment to these agendas, Langhofer says, that anything short of special treatment is considered unfair.

And so, ASI is allowed to slot a blatantly disproportionate amount of the monies raised from mandatory student fees to promote the two centers'

**I told him this was not a
case that would be settled
... that this was going to
go on for many years.
He didn't flinch at that.**

“

Tyson Langhofer,
ADF Senior Counsel



Tyson Langhofer, ADF Senior Counsel, talks with Rebecca Holdenried, ADF External Relations Director, Communications, after testifying before two U.S. House subcommittees in May 2018. Tyson spoke about free speech issues on college campuses, including the misuse of student activity fees.



activities ... even though students themselves show little interest. San Marcos has an undergraduate student population of about 13,000. Yet, to Nathan and his attorneys' knowledge, the centers' largest events typically draw no more than 150 students.

"Those are their signature events," Langhofer says. "It's interesting that, although these events are so key to their mission, they're not drawing large numbers of students."

Even many students who buy into the university's political agenda, Nathan says, are embarrassed and angered by some of the events ASI sponsors with student activity fees, including: "Sex Week," featuring sex-toy giveaways and "Pleasure Party" demonstrations of sexual activity; "Kink 101," introducing participants to the basics of sadomasochism; and even a celebration of borderline bestiality.

"A lot of students, even in the LGBTQA community on campus, were beginning to become sort of outraged at the activities of the LGBTQA Center," Nathan says. "It was mostly promoting bizarre sexual behaviors. [Students] were saying, 'We don't want to be associated with this.'"

But, Nathan realized, their mandatory fees — and his — were going to pay for these events. So, at the suggestion of a friend, he contacted ADF attorneys to see if they could help him force a change in the university's policies.

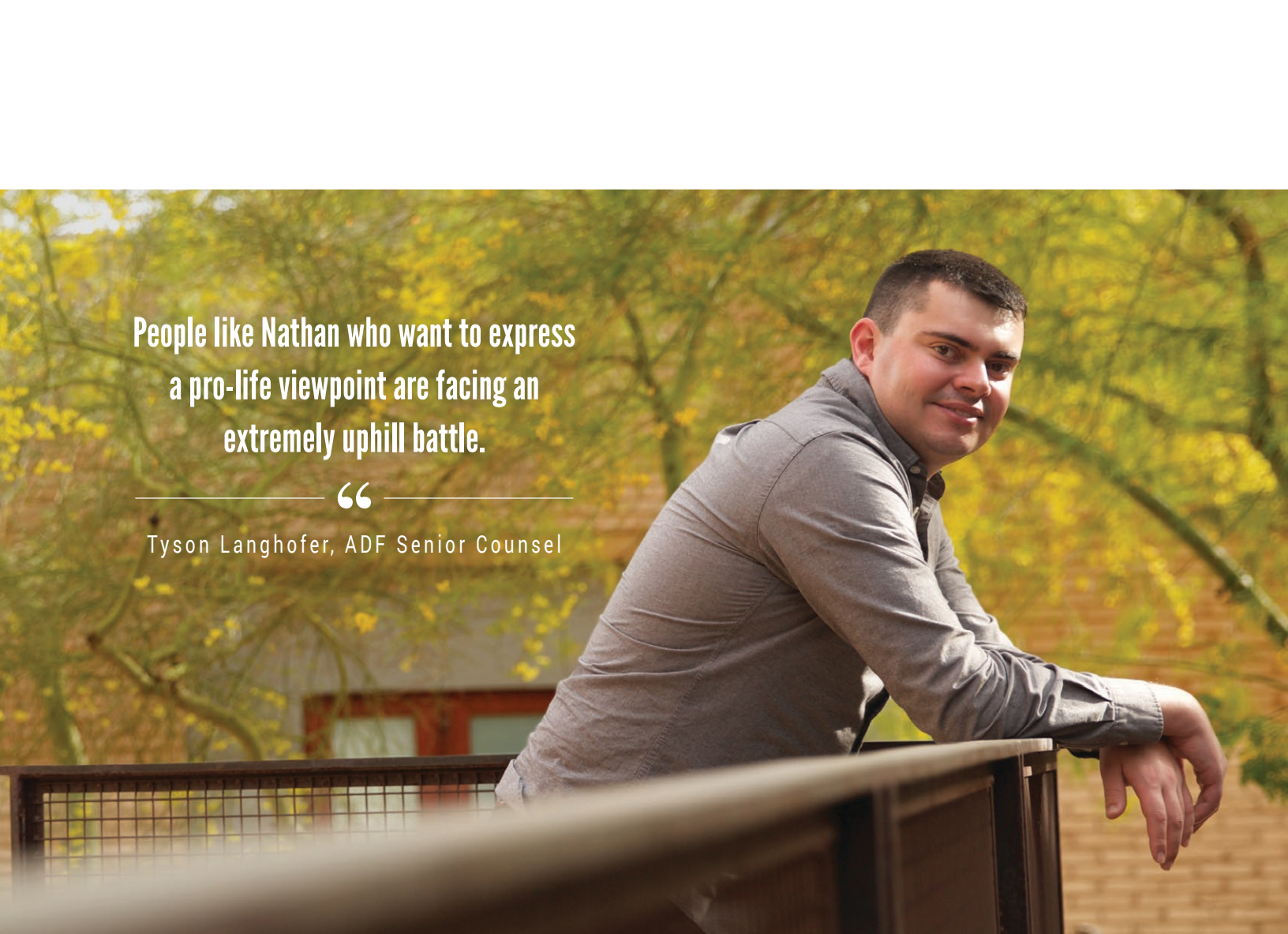
Federal law makes two provisos for the situation at San Marcos, his new attorneys explained. One, the university can lift the mandatory student activity fee, giving students the option of whether or not to contribute. Or two, the school can create a "viewpoint-neutral" policy ... one that still requires the mandatory fee but gives those distributing the funds clear, objective

directions for sharing the available monies in a fair and equal way with all the clubs on campus.

San Marcos administrators are so far refusing to do either. That marks a clear violation of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, in the *Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System v. Southworth* (2000) decision — one that ADF played a major role in securing. The justices determined in a 9-0 decision that a university cannot take into account the viewpoint of a club's members in deciding whether or not to allocate funds for that club's events — which is the very thing ASI leaders are doing, with the university's blessing.

As a result, Langhofer says, students like those in SFL are not only competing to communicate a message counter to the one university officials themselves are pushing every day. They are also denied access to what limited monies the student activity fund is supposed to afford them. "So people like Nathan who want to express a pro-life viewpoint are facing an extremely uphill battle," Langhofer says.

Forcing Nathan and his fellow students to fund messages they object to — while denying them equal time, money, and opportunity to offer a counterpoint — "is not permissible under the First Amendment," says ADF Legal Counsel Caleb Dalton, who works with the Center for Academic Freedom and is one of the attorneys representing Nathan. "But it's also common practice on campuses all over America."

A man with short dark hair, wearing a grey button-down shirt, is leaning on a dark metal railing. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green and yellow foliage, suggesting a park or campus setting.

People like Nathan who want to express
a pro-life viewpoint are facing an
extremely uphill battle.

“

Tyson Langhofer, ADF Senior Counsel

It's rampant," says Langhofer. "Hundreds of millions of dollars are being paid by students in student fees throughout the country, on top of tuition. A large portion is going to fund very progressive causes, and they're just magnifying the progressive voice of a university that's already speaking those messages. And those funds are not being allocated in a viewpoint-neutral way.

"This student fee system is a symptom of the broader problem," he says, "which is university faculty and administrators saying, 'We're going to pursue [our ideas of] social justice, instead of pursuing truth. And so we will suppress any voice that goes against 'social justice' ... even if it would advance truth.'"

The implications of that choice for society are enormous, says Dalton.

"On university campuses, what happens there doesn't stay there," he says. "Students learn that it's okay for the government to tell them where they can and can't speak or what they can and can't say or what they have to fund. Those same students then become our

next lawmakers, policy makers, judges, law enforcement officials, and citizens.

"That's why cases like this matter," Dalton says. "It's not only protecting the rights of students on campus. It's a teaching tool, so that students understand that the First Amendment protects their right to speak freely, and their right to have equal access to the marketplace of ideas."

The decision to file a lawsuit against San Marcos proved an easy one for Nathan. "I honestly don't see that we have any other choice," he says. "If we back down on this, it's going to continue on for years and nobody's ever going to pay any attention to it." And for all the pushback he's received from university officials and ASI leaders, he's also been pleasantly surprised to find how many people agree with his stand.

WATCH:

Hear Nathan's own
take on this case at
ADFLegal.org/fj-Nathan

“We’ve gotten very positive response all around, from everybody — regardless of what side of the abortion issue ... of human sexuality ... of religion ... or the political aisle they fall on. I’ve had people writing in from all across the nation, saying, ‘We just heard about your case, we’re fully supporting you on this. We’ve got your back.’” He even stumbled on a post on a pro-abortion website that read, “I really hope this life group wins their case.”

Some of those letters of support are taking a while to catch up with Nathan. A member of the Army National Guard, he was deployed last summer to the Middle East, and won’t be continuing his studies until he returns home later this year. The case will be waiting. San Marcos officials have declined to settle, and both sides are awaiting a decision on summary judgment (a judge’s decision whether to rule on the case outright or take it to trial).

“What impresses me with Nathan,” Langhofer says, “is his determination to see this through. He recognized early on that this was going to be a big fight, with a lot of money at stake. I told him that this was not a case that would be settled ... that this was going to go on for many years. He didn’t flinch at that. He said, ‘This is the right thing to do, and I want to do it.’”

What’s right, to Nathan’s mind, is engaging this legal fight not only for his own organization, but for all of the students at San Marcos and other schools all over the country.

“I’m hoping schools will start opening up and actually encouraging *debate* on these controversial topics,” he says, “encouraging students to look at all sides of an issue, not just the side that happens to be popular at any given moment. When the conversation becomes one-sided, nobody’s going to benefit from it. It becomes indoctrination.” There are more human factors, too.

“With the pro-life issue, there are a lot of lives on the line right now who are counting on us to actually have courage and man up and do the right thing. And a lot of students who are hurting ... who need a chance to find healing they’re not going to find if things don’t change.”

“It takes a lot of time and effort to bring these things forward,” says Langhofer. “I do believe there’s an appetite for — a broader agreement for — these principles Nathan is advocating. But it takes someone like Nathan to really continue to push them forward.”

He’s pushing. The boy who grew up 20 minutes from San Marcos is doing what he can to help his school and fellow students — even from the far side of the world. **A**



Nathan Apodaca is currently deployed in the Middle East with the Army National Guard.

There’s a lot of lives on the line right now who are counting on us to actually have courage and man up and do the right thing.

“

Nathan Apodaca

Opinion

How ADF Found Its Theme Verse

By Elise Gillson

“Apart from Me, you can do nothing.”

JOHN 15:5

Alliance Defending Freedom had just launched, and then-President and CEO Alan Sears was facing what seemed to be overwhelming obstacles. The promised funds to start the ministry had never arrived, and folding seemed inevitable. There were days when he wondered if he and other founders may have misheard God’s calling.



Rev. H.B. London

The newly minted leader confided his frustrations to Rev. H.B. London, who filled the unofficial role of pastor to the new ADF team from time to time. A Nazarene minister and cousin of ADF

co-founder Dr. James Dobson, London was also the “pastor to pastors” at Focus on the Family.

London listened thoughtfully, then encouraged Sears to choose a theme verse.

The suggestion took Sears by surprise. “I am just trying to keep the doors open and the lights on, and he is asking me about a theme verse?” he thought. He admitted that ADF did not have one.

London responded with a tongue-in-cheek admonishment.

“You know, if you don’t have time to find a theme verse, you might have a lot of spare time to do other things soon,” he said. “Without a theme verse, you are never going to succeed.”

He went on to recommend Christ’s words to His disciples in John 15:5: *“Apart from Me, you can do nothing.”*

Adopting these few words as a theme verse marked a turning point for both Sears and ADF. They had trusted God from the start, but these words gave them focus for *how* to trust and pray — knowing not only that God could provide, but also that they could do nothing without Him.

And God did provide — sometimes miraculously.

On a dismal afternoon, Sears’ heart sank as he imagined rising the next morning to tell the small-but-devoted team they would not receive their paychecks. Funds had been tight since the beginning, but by God’s grace, ADF had never before missed payroll.

After business hours, a knock was heard on the locked office door. The driver of an express delivery service stood



Without a theme verse, you are never going to succeed.

“

H.B. London

My View

How God Led Me To The Steps Of The U.S. Supreme Court

By Heidi Matzke, Executive Director, Alternatives Pregnancy Center

Growing up in a Christian home, I knew my great worth as a daughter of God from an early age. But at some point, I began believing the lie our culture impresses upon women: that our worth and value stem from what we wear, how we look, and how smart we are.

Because I believed those lies, I chose to live a somewhat promiscuous life in junior high and high school. Then, in 10th grade, I met my future husband. He reminded me of my value and worth and treated me with godly respect — respect I no longer had for myself. I married him seven years later, and I am still in awe at how God rescued me from myself.

This was particularly evident to me when my sister became pregnant at 17. The day we were supposed to leave for college, she came home from a doctor's appointment and collapsed on the floor. "I'm pregnant," she said. Just a few years earlier, it could have been me in her place.

With the help of Alternatives Pregnancy Center in Denver, our family walked through my sister's unplanned pregnancy together, experiencing firsthand what it meant to live according to our Christian and pro-life beliefs. Today, I am so thankful for my 21-year-old nephew, who pastors youth at a church in Denver.

Looking back at that situation, I can see that God was preparing me for what He had planned for my life.

Three years ago, I was asked to become the executive director of a local pregnancy center in Sacramento, California, where I now live with my husband and three children. Its name is also the Alternatives Pregnancy Center (APC).

I didn't know the first thing about leading a pregnancy center. But God reminded me that anything I willingly choose to lay down on the altar for His glory will always be blessed and rewarded. So, I said yes.

Early on, I often reminded God of how unfit I was for this position. He agreed. "Heidi," He said, "you'd better be face down before Me every day, fasting and praying and waiting for My lead. And when I make this ministry successful, you'll get no credit for its success — other than the fact that you've walked in obedience to My calling."

**It was an appalling threat. I thought,
"How could this be happening?
God, where are You?"**

“

Heidi Matzke

When I came to APC, we had two employees, no nurse, and only one payroll left before we'd be forced to close our doors. But God was faithful. In three years, our little clinic has grown to include 10 staff, two ob-gyns, a physician assistant, six registered nurses, and two Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (those licensed to perform ultrasounds). In the past three years, we have tripled the number of clients we serve and now have a mobile clinic serving the community in multiple locations.

But despite that wonderful growth, my faith was sorely challenged during much of that time by California AB 775 — a new law that threatened the freedom of speech of all pregnancy centers by forcing us to tell our clients where they could obtain an



Heidi Matzke

God reminded me that anything
I willingly choose to lay down
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“

Heidi Matzke

abortion, and to print that message on our paperwork or on signs in our waiting rooms.

It was an appalling threat, and it precipitated a lot of other problems that soon became overwhelming. I thought, “How could this be happening? God, where are You?”

One night after leaving the clinic, I called my sister and told her I felt as if someone had put a bag over my head and was suffocating me. After such a short time on the job, the battle already seemed too much to bear, and I was looking for a way to escape.

I will never forget what she said: “Heidi, the enemy sees you coming. He knows what you’re capable of. But you are a daughter of the King of Kings, and He has equipped you for this battle. Go — fight for life. Fight for the unborn, and fight for women who deserve an alternative to the Planned Parenthood option. He has you here for such a time as this.

“Now go — put your armor on. Because what was intended to harm you, God will use for His glory.”


God intended for our future to look hopeless, and He allowed the attacks to bring us all to our knees — that is how He gets the ultimate glory. In our weakness, He is strong.

He showed His strength in a powerful way this time last year, when He led me and other California pregnancy care centers to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys argued on our behalf.

Engaging in the public arena is out of my comfort zone, just as it was to start leading APC in the first place. But if I’ve learned anything, it’s that when God calls, you follow. Since this law directly contradicted what God has called me to do, I publicly advocated against it.

On March 20, 2018, the court heard our arguments, and not long afterward — when the justices granted us a highly publicized 5-4 victory — the entire nation heard about pregnancy centers. Women all over the country, some possibly for the first time, learned they had an alternative to Planned Parenthood — a *free* alternative. And now, our state’s pregnancy centers no longer have to fear being forced to advertise for abortion.

What we believe will always dictate how each of us lives our lives. I desire to live my life in full surrender to Jesus Christ every day, wherever He leads me — whether it be to the helm of a pregnancy center, or the steps of the Supreme Court.

Day by day, He is teaching me what it means to lay down my own desires for my future ... to deny myself, pick up my cross, and obediently follow Him, regardless of the cost. 

WATCH

See more of
Heidi Matzke’s story at
ADFlegal.org/fj-Matzke

Q & A

Dr. Michelle Cretella

Standing For Truth In Medicine

By Maureen Collins



Dr. Michelle Cretella is executive director of the American College of Pediatricians (ACPed), a national organization of pediatricians and other health care professionals dedicated to the health and well-being of children. A mother of four, Dr. Cretella practiced as a board-certified pediatrician with a special interest in adolescent mental and sexual health prior to working full time with ACPeds. Today, she is at the forefront in the battle to maintain the integrity of biological sex in the field of pediatrics.

ACPed is an important ally for Alliance Defending Freedom, especially when it comes to standing up for truth about sexuality and sexual identity. ACPeds recently played a key role in stopping California's counseling ban, which would have made it illegal for paid counselors to help others live in ways consistent with their faith.



Dr. Michelle Cretella

F&J: How is transgender ideology affecting the field of pediatrics?

MC: Transgender ideology has been embraced by most mainstream medical and psychiatric organizations, which are responsible for setting so-called standards of care and treatment. They are also responsible for determining what is taught in medical schools, schools

for mental health care, and continuing medical education for physicians and nurses. What is really frightening about transgender ideology is that there is no science behind it. The claim that you can be born in the wrong body is anti-biology.

I have received emails from students, therapists, and pediatricians saying that they know that sex is biological and gender identity is learned. But if they express this, they are sanctioned, sent to sensitivity training, passed over for promotions — and some have been outright demoted.

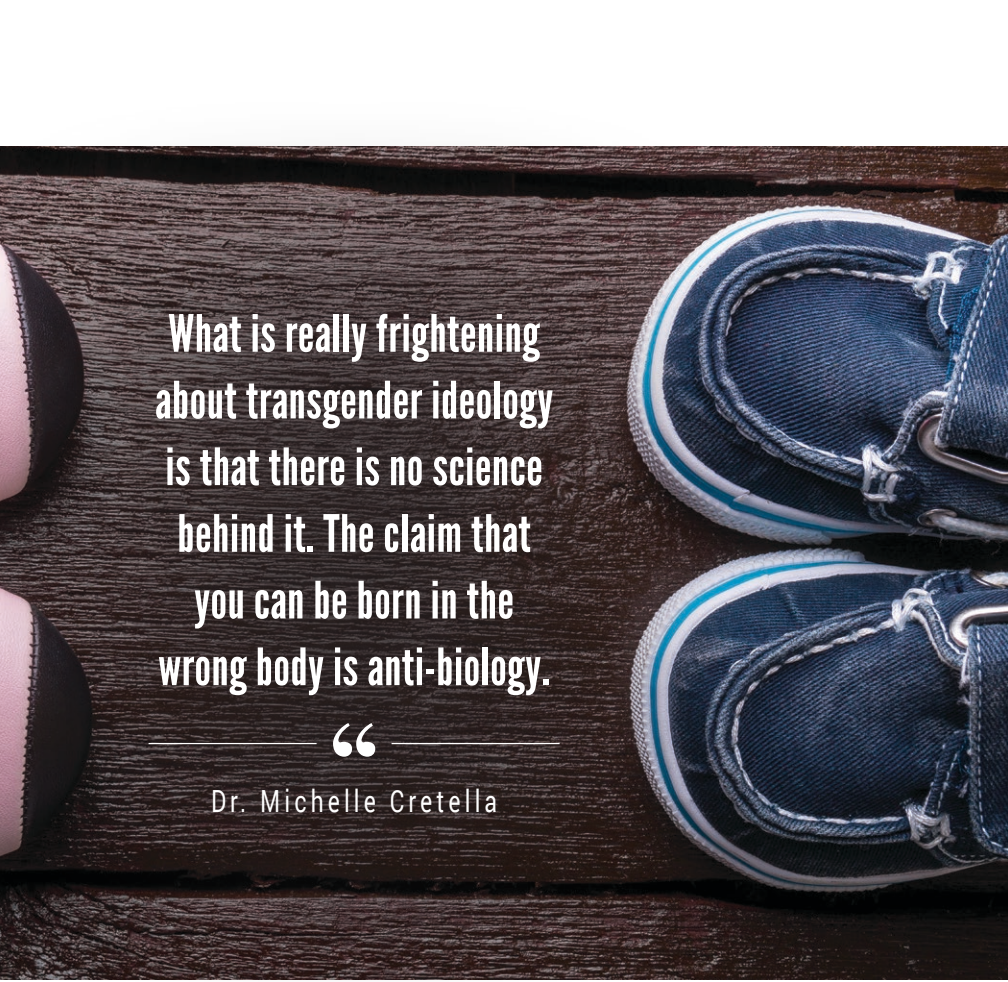
A number of states have wrongly recognized “gender identity” as an innate and immutable trait and are protecting “gender identity” as a civil right. This is why it is so important for physicians on the side of truth to cooperate with lawyers in this battle, because they are up against anti-science being promoted as the scientific consensus.

F&J: What dangers do you see in supporting transition affirmation for children?

MC: The danger is that when kids get the idea that they are the opposite sex — whether they are little or teenagers — if we affirm them, as “you’re right, you were born in the wrong body,” it makes it very likely that they are going to persist in this belief.

If we had a culture supporting the truth, which we did at one time, over 80 percent of these kids would grow out of their confusion. But now that our culture is reinforcing the lie that you can change your sex, we are seeing an astronomical increase in the number of kids who are requesting and who are being given puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones. Once they go down that medical pathway, it’s highly likely that children will be permanently sterilized, and they will have to be on toxic drugs and hormones for life to continue impersonating the opposite sex — which means an elevated risk of heart attacks, increased blood pressure, strokes, diabetes, and cancers.

It is a complete impossibility to change from a man to a woman — from a boy to a girl — or vice versa. It cannot be done. We are giving children these really toxic



What is really frightening about transgender ideology is that there is no science behind it. The claim that you can be born in the wrong body is anti-biology.

“

Dr. Michelle Cretella

hormones that do not belong in their bodies at these levels. At best it's malpractice, and at worst it's institutionalized child abuse.

F&J: Advocates of the transition-affirming protocol claim that children confused about their gender identity must be affirmed as the opposite sex or they will commit suicide. Is this true?

MC: We can all agree that children and teenagers who are confused about their gender identity are at a higher risk for mental illness in general, especially depression, anxiety, and suicide attempts. However, there is no evidence that so-called “lack of affirmation” is the primary cause of suicidal thoughts and attempts in these children. In fact, it is just as likely that the same factors precipitating the gender confusion are precipitating depression and suicidal thoughts.

F&J: Like ADF, your organization has been unfairly labeled a “hate group” by the Southern Poverty Law Center. What is your response to this claim?

MC: The SPLC has become an organization that makes personal attacks on any and every group that disagrees with its far-left views, including those on marriage and gender identity. We are a scientific physician organization. Every recommendation or position statement that we take

references sound scientific literature. We never make personal attacks against those with LGBT attractions or identities. We share the science proving LGBT attractions are neither innate nor unchangeable. We warn about the risks of these lifestyles, because there is no such thing as “informed consent” otherwise.

As physicians, we are bound by “first, do no harm.” Patients need the truth, and they are not receiving the truth. The SPLC has a progressive agenda. They can't argue with the truth, so they attack the messenger.


F&J: The proposed counseling ban in California would have made it illegal to be paid for counsel consistent with the Bible's teaching on human sexuality. What part did your organization play in opposing the bill?

MC: Our members were very actively engaged in a broad alliance opposing that bill. They personally advised

task forces, lobbied legislators' offices, provided media interviews, and wrote blog pieces for state and national audiences to inform the public about the bad medicine behind the bill. Our members also worked with a powerful grassroots network by sharing their medical and scientific knowledge with local churches. This armed believers with the truth that science and Scripture are complementary on LGBT matters, and that's what “woke the sleeping giant” legislators simply could not ignore.

This was a critical win, since the bill would have outlawed not only medical professionals from practicing good medicine, but also would have made it illegal for Christian individuals, counselors, churches, and religious groups to engage in compensated counseling consistent with the Bible's teaching on human sexuality. It was a much-needed win for both medicine and faith.

F&J: If people want more information about your work, what's the best way to get in touch?

MC: If you would like to become a “Friend of the College” and subscribe to our parenting blog, please email admin@acpeds.org. Please also encourage conservative pediatricians to join us! 

VISIT

The ACPeds parenting blog
at www.acpeds.org/blog

A photograph of an older man with a beard and a young girl in a garden. The man is wearing a straw hat and a blue and white striped shirt. The girl is wearing a blue denim shirt. They are both focused on watering a small green plant in the soil with a silver metal watering can. The man is holding the handle of the can, and the girl is holding the spout. The background is a soft-focus garden with green plants and yellow flowers.

TODAY'S PLAN is TOMORROW'S PROMISE

"We are honored to have included ADF in our charitable remainder trust, for they are a world-class organization that runs to the battle. God has blessed our nation with wonderful, dedicated leaders in ADF. Although we are not equipped to participate on the front lines, it is a joy and privilege to support them now and in the future."

— Mr. & Mrs. Jay Vick



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