



The Vision

October 2000

"Mobilizing Pastors Across America"

October 2000

Rick Scarborough, President
Dave Welch, Executive Director

Monthly message from Pastor Rick

National Advisory Board

Bishop Charles Brown
Full Gospel COGIC, New Orleans

Jerry Falwell, Pastor
Thomas Road Baptist Church

Ronnie Floyd, Pastor
First Baptist, Springdale, AK

D. James Kennedy, Pastor
Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church

Tim LaHaye, President
Family Life Seminars

Tim Lee, President
Tim Lee Ministries

Peter Marshall, President
Peter Marshall Ministries

Dan Patrick, Vice-President
KPRC Radio, Houston

Paul Pressler, retired
Texas Court of Appeals

Adrian Rogers, Pastor
Bellevue Baptist Church

Paul Weyrich, President
The Free Congress Foundation

Don Wildmon, President
American Family Association

Dear Vision America Family,

On the tenth of October, many Americans will lose their right to vote, because that is the deadline for registration to vote on Election Day 2000. It goes without saying that every Christian should, without hesitation, exercise this constitutionally-guaranteed right. This is why Vision America is urging Pastors across the country to set aside at least two Sundays to register their congregations.

The upcoming elections will surely go down in history as pivotal, and much more is at stake than who will be elected president. As many as four Supreme Court positions may be appointed during the next four years meaning that the next president will have the authority and to shape America's course with regard to many issues important to Believers.

One Critical issue is the "right" to partial-birth abortion, which the Supreme Court recently found Constitutional by a 5-4 majority. Partial-birth abortion is nothing less than full-term infanticide, and even proponents of abortion find this act reprehensible. Another issue is the right of organizations like the Boy Scouts of America to embrace long-standing, morality-based positions regarding the prohibition of openly gay men to serve as Scout Masters. The Supreme Court is showing a growing hostility toward matters of Biblical morality, and Christians will be held accountable if we do not take action to prevent further cultural erosion.

Active citizenship is not an option for Christians in a nation such as the United States of America. We have a duty before God and a moral obligation to the next generation to become informed of the candidates positions on the issues, and then to vote our principled convictions. It is time for the church to rise from her slumber and let her voice be heard. I remain ... Your friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Scarborough".

Taped Public Service Announcements encouraging Christians to vote, featuring Dr. James Dobson, Chuck Colson, Tim LaHaye and other leaders are available by calling our office at 281-485-6633. Please take a copy to your local Christian radio station ASAP!

What's at stake?

(sermon by Dr. Ronnie Floyd, delivered on September 3, 2000)

The most strategic day in modern day American history may be Tuesday, November 7, 2000—the day we elect the next President of the United States. Much is at stake in this election. Much is to be gained, and much is to be lost.

You will look at this election in one of two ways:

1. *The Humanistic way*—This approach will be concerned for one thing alone... what's in it for me. A humanistic approach will place you as the center of attention... your rights, your advantages, your opinions and your benefits.

2. *The Christian way*—This approach will be concerned for one thing alone... what does God stand for and want in this election. A Christian approach will place God as the center of attention... His Word, His ways, and His desires for our nation.

In this message, I am not endorsing any candidate. What I am going to do is to call you to see matters from a biblical, Christian perspective.

I am going to announce to who I am voting for in this election... On November 7, I am voting for God! You might say, "Well, I did not know He was running." He is not running. He has already won! He is President...not just of America, but of the universe. On November 7, it is my goal to act like He is, and be concerned about what He is concerned about, and vote that way!

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). Just as wisdom in a person brings the approval of God, so does righteousness in a nation. The issues are so clear on November 7 that you will vote for righteousness or unrighteousness.

The absence of righteousness brings shame to a nation, sin to a nation, reproach to a nation and judgement to a nation. Have we not seen how true this is in

the Clinton presidency?

It is not my role to determine whether the President was truly repentant or not—that is up to God, but, I want to make something very clear to you. I am tired of having the leader of this country be nothing more than a poster boy for the liberal culture of America. In this schizophrenic culture, he continues with high ratings, but most Americans would not trust him to sell them a car. Baffling!

I want our nation to have a President and our country to have a Congress that is committed to doing what is right...not under man's thoughts, but what is right according to God's words and ways. What God says is more important than what Wall Street says. What God says is more important than "soft money," "hard money," or "a lot of money." What God says is more important than what the women say, the minorities say, or the majority say. What God says ought to rule and determine that we go the ballot box and what we do ought to determine what we do when we get there. We will answer to God.

The Five Real Issues on Nov. 7

1. *Leadership*—We must elect a real leader. Leadership is about: Integrity, Honor, Morality, Friends, Platform, Family, Responsibility

2. *Justice*—Justice is all about rightfulness, lawfulness and fairness. Justice is a foreign concept to an American mindset that does not believe in such a thing as "moral absolutes." This redefinition of justice has been catastrophic to our nation. Many believe that over the next four to eight years, the next President may be able to appoint as many as four new justices to the nine member United States Supreme Court. The moral conscience of these individuals is critical to the survival of our nation.

3. *Family*—The most important issue concerning family is what defines a family. A family is a man and a woman who have been married and are living together in the same home. Regardless of what the state of Vermont has done in permitting marriage between homosexuals to be legal and right, God says it is an abomination to Him. Who you vote for and what platform you support in November will determine how family is defined in our nation.

4. *Morality*—We live in a very immoral and amoral day. We live at a time when right is seen as wrong and wrong is seen as right. A politician who talks morality and hangs out constantly with immorality is nothing more than a hypocrite. He may look like a leader, but if you get close enough...he smells like a skunk. November 7 is about morality. It is not about party and politics.

5. *Life*—Life, from beginning to end. Life, from the moment of conception to the moment of death by natural or catastrophic causes. I will not and cannot under Holy God ever vote for any politician or any political party who will ever, in any way, stand with or for abortion in any form at all. The Word of God and its definite commitment to life would never permit such action.

When I walk into that ballot box I will think about real leadership. I will think about real justice. I will think about real family. I will think about real morality. I will think about real life ... all life. Yes, I have no choice.

What will you think about? What will you do?

(The full sermon is available on our website, or by calling First Baptist Church, Springdale, AR at 501-751-4523)

VISION AMERICA MAILED OVER 5,000 CITIZENSHIP SUNDAY MANUALS TO CHURCHES, AND DISTRIBUTED MANY MORE THROUGH OUR WEBSITE!!

Our comprehensive Citizenship Sunday manual, which provides a simple step-by-step plan for voter registration and turnout as well as a thorough presentation of "do's and don'ts" for church political activity has been well received across the country, and is still available from our office. It can also be downloaded from our website. ***It will not be possible to exert too much effort in activating Christians to vote on November 7, so please use this tool and the bulletin inserts also available to assist you and your pastor with this vital task!***

VA sponsors successful Missouri Pastor events

Governor Mike Huckabee is well aware of the reasons why pastors must take a more active role in promoting citizenship, and he knows the challenges as well. As a pastor and former president of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, Gov. Huckabee addressed over three hundred pastors and leaders in Kansas City and St. Louis Missouri at Vision America Pastor Policy Briefings on September 18.

The events were sponsored by VA as a part of our Christian Citizenship project, and also featured U. S. Senator John Ashcroft, Pastor Rick Scarborough and Pastor Laurence White. Both events were "home runs" based on the post-event response from many in attendance, and a large number of pastors committed to conducting voter registration and voter turnout efforts in their churches.

The pastors at both events represented a wide range of denominational backgrounds - protestant and Catholic, mainline and evangelical, conservative and some not generally identified as such. Several members of our host committee mentioned that they saw many pastors who normally are not seen at these type of events, and we were encouraged to hear that. A major element of our strategy is to find pastors and churches who have not yet become involved in this effort and encourage them to do so, believing that, if motivated and informed, most Christians will cast a vote consistent with our faith and values.

White and Scarborough presented a

phenomenal "tag team," with White's trademark and powerful comparison of modern America to Nazi Germany, and Scarborough challenging those in attendance to action.

Some of the most respected and prominent pastors in Missouri served on our host committees for the events, adding a crucial dimension to them. Pastor Jay Scribner, president of the Missouri Baptist Convention, and Pastor Gerald Davidson of First Baptist Church, Arnold, also joined us at a press conference in St. Louis, where we brought in area Boy Scout leaders and publicly presented a challenge to all members of Congress to vote for legislation protecting the scouts from discrimination by the Federal government. The conference was covered by the local NBC television affiliate and several major radio stations. The pledge is posted on our website, and we will update you on the results in the next newsletter.

The Lord once again blessed our efforts and we are believing for a dramatic increase in the number of Missouri pastors and Christians who serve as salt and light this fall!



Pastor Rick challenged the pastors to "stand up, speak up and refuse to give up!"



Gov. Huckabee addressing the Pastor Policy Briefing



Over three hundred pastors and leaders attended the two events.

Vision America Upcoming Activities

- **SEPTEMBER 23**—Pastor Rick is a featured speaker along with Chuck Colson, Congressman Tom DeLay, Kay Cole James and others at the Christian Worldview Conference, Houston
- **SEPTEMBER 28**— Pastor Rick speaking at the Vision New Jersey Pastors Luncheon
- **OCTOBER 1**— Citizenship Sunday
- **OCTOBER** — Dr. James Dobson, interview with Pastor Rick and Pastor Laurence White (broadcast date TBA)
- **OCTOBER 16**—Pastor events in Corbin and Lexington, KY
- **OCTOBER 26**—Pastor Conference in St. Louis, MO, featuring William Bennett, Pastor Rick, and Pastor Laurence White

LIBERTY

"Liberty has never come from the government.... The history of liberty is the history of resistance...a history of the limitation of governmental power, not the increase of it."

Woodrow Wilson

Mission Statement

The mission of Vision America is to inform, encourage and mobilize pastors and their congregations to be proactive in restoring Judeo-Christian values into the culture and civil institutions of our nation.

The Influence of the Bible on the Development of
American Constitutionalism
“Blue Law” of New Haven Colony (1656)

by Stephen McDowell
The Providence Foundation

In 1655, Governor Eaton, as an “able, judicious and godly man,” was appointed to form a code of laws for the New Haven colony based upon the laws of the colony that had been developed over the years, and aided by the laws of the colony of Massachusetts and other writings. The past laws had been passed on verbally, and through hand-made copies. Five hundred copies of the new compilation were printed in England in 1656. They came to be known as “blue laws,” because these first printed laws were enveloped in blue paper. The name,

“Blue Laws,” was later applied to laws in many other colonies, and, after independence in various states. They have remained in use up until recent times.

Governor Eaton made “the sacred volume” his guide, and cited scripture in all cases upon which his laws were based. It is obvious that the Bible was the central source for what constituted lawful and unlawful behavior. Scripture is quoted for capital offenses, and in cases of theft the Biblical idea of restitution was applied. Behavior of the

incurable criminal was also addressed.

The Blue Laws acknowledged “that the supreme power to make laws and to repeal them belongs to God only, and that by Him, this power is given to Jesus Christ, as Mediator. (Matt. 28:19. John 5:22) They also stated that the Laws for Holiness and Righteousness are already made and given to us in the scriptures.” This code of law formed the foundation for civil government of the state and influenced laws throughout the United States.

It is hoped that but few will think the subject of it an improper one to be discoursed in the pulpit, under a notion that this is preaching politics instead of Christ. However, to remove all prejudices of this sort, I beg it may be remembered that "all Scripture is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Why, then, should not those parts of Scripture which relate to civil government be examined and explained from the desk, as well as others?...

Rev. Jonathan Mayhew, 1749

IMPORTANCE OF VOTING

“Now more than ever the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption.”

James Garfield, "A Century of Congress" published in *Atlantic*, July 1877.



“Look well to the characters and qualifications of those you elect and raise to office and places of trust.”

Matthias Burnett, Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Norwalk,

An Election Sermon, Preached at Hartford, on the Day of the Anniversary Election, May 12, 1803

W 'RE

WEB!



___ IS A PUBLICATION OF
VISION AMERICA

P.O. Box 1000, Pearland, TX 77588

Phone: 281-485-6633 Fax: 281-485-7382

E-mail: mail@visionamerica.org