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DON'T MESS WITH MARRIAGE - IN TEXAS!

The latest victory for marriage and the family happened in Texas on Tuesday. I was among the many Texas pastors who labored to make a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman a reality. The amendment, which passed by a 3-to-1 margin -- in one of the largest referendum turnouts in the state's history -- not only bans homosexual marriage but civil unions as well. It provides, "This state or a political subdivision of this state may not create or recognize and legal status identical or similar to marriage."

While they weren't exactly predicting a win for their side, homosexual activists said the vote would be close due to their extraordinary efforts. (They outspent proponents of the amendment by a margin of 10-to-1.) Instead, over 70% of Texas voters endorsed the measure - compared to 61% who voted for favorite son George Bush, when he ran for reelection last year.

Kudos to my good friend and colleague, Pastor Laurence White of Our Savior Lutheran Church of Houston. Dr. White led the Texas Restoration Project which mobilized more than 2,000 pastors statewide, who registered voters in their churches and educated them on the Biblical position on this crucial question. Pastor White is the honorary National Co-Chairman of Vision America. Texas becomes the 19th state to pass a marriage-protection amendment by referendum. They include red states and blue states, conservative states (like Mississippi) and liberal states (like Oregon).

The movement's political repercussions have been significant. While the president carried Ohio with slightly more than 51% of the vote last year, the Ohio marriage amendment passed by 62%. Without the tens of thousands of evangelical voters the amendment mobilized on Election Day, the president might well have lost this swing state and the election.

However, as we savor this hard-earned victory, it's important to note that without a Federal Marriage Amendment all of these state victories could be undone. Congressional leaders have promised us a vote on the FMA before next year's election. Since some in our nation's capital have yet to hear the voice of the people, much work remains to be done.

JIMMY CARTER SAYS HIS PARTY'S OUT OF STEP ON ABORTION

Meeting with reporters in Washington recently, former President Jimmy Carter observed that its rigid pro-abortion stance has hurt the Democratic Party. He also confessed that, as Christian, he believed abortion is always wrong.

In the past, it was a disappointment to me that, as an evangelical, President Carter was reluctant to express himself here. As president, he appointed many pro-abortion judges and government officials. The president seemed to acknowledge that when he told reporters that he thought he was a "better ex-president than I was a president."

While noting his foreign policy disagreements with President Bush, Mr. Carter said he sees eye-to-eye with him on abortion. "I've never been convinced, if you

let me inject my Christianity into it, that Jesus Christ would approve abortion," Carter declared. That's something of an understatement.

The ex-president went on to attribute his party's staggering losses in the 2004 election to its failure "to demonstrate a compatibility with the deeply religious people in this country." I couldn't agree more.

We welcome these frank admissions from one of only two Democrats elected to the White House in the past 40 years.

9TH CIRCUIT RULES PARENTS IRRELEVANT

The US 9th Circuit Appeals Court is known as the most liberal appellate court in the land, as well as the most reversed. For its many bizarre rulings, critics have taken to calling it the 9th Circus.

Last week, it issued an outrageous opinion which, if not overturned, will tear the moral fabric of the nation. A group of parents sued over a highly intrusive and inappropriate survey on sexual matters sent to children as young as 7. (Among other things, it asked them to rate how often they thought about "touching my private parts too much".)

A three-judge panel of the 9th. Circuit dismissed the suit. In his opinion, Judge Stephen Reinhardt (author of the notorious decision declaring God in the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional) ruled, "There is no fundamental right of parents to be the exclusive provider of information regarding sexual matters to their children." Further, Reinhardt observed that parents had neither a privacy nor a due process right to challenge the decisions of the schools in this regard.

In other words, the court is saying that the rights of parents end at the school-house door. Educators can indoctrinate your children as they see fit, and you can't do a thing about it!

And liberals wonder why ordinary folks are so incensed over an activist judiciary. But good can come out of evil. When liberal judges continually push the envelope, it provokes a backlash from the decent majority. That backlash is coming in the form of legislation pending in Congress to limit the jurisdiction of

the courts, as well as in the swelling cry to impeach judges who violate their oath of office.

NEWS NOTES

Meeting in Washington on November 9th

At a closed-door meeting in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, organized by Vision America, more than 40 leaders of the conservative and pro-family movement (including a number of prominent pastors) discussed how we can focus our efforts to mobilize the values vote next year.

Over the course of 5 hours, we discussed the growing hostility to people of faith and how we could use the War on Christians to educate, energize and activate values voters in the 2006 election. There was a broad consensus on goals and means.

I'll have more to say about this in future reports.

"The War On Christians And The Values Voter in 2006" Conference, March 27-28, 2006

I am excited to announce that to date our confirmed speakers include Alan Keyes, Gary Bauer, Congressman Tom DeLay and Janet Parshall. The conference will be an important stage in Vision America's campaign to activate, educate, energize and mobilize the values vote in 2006. For more information on the conference, visit the Vision America website, www.visionamerica.us.

Help us fight the War on Faith - Get involved by following the action items above and by forwarding this alert to your friends and family. Your financial contributions are always appreciated. [Click here to contribute.](#)

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