

New Resource Coming Soon

Stay tuned for a new booklet series titled *What Every Parent Needs to Know About...*

This four-part booklet series educates parents on a variety of relevant issues including:

- Addressing the sexualized culture
- Raising kids in a XXX culture
- Wireless technology and mobile entertainment
- Leaving a godly legacy

Be one of the first to get this series hot off the press in a few months!



Letter from the President

Rick Schatz

Dear Friend,

Looking back on the forty years my wife, Sharon, and I have been married, I can honestly say we are more in love today than when we first said "I do."

But unfortunately, so many marriages today are broken...torn apart as husbands and wives give in to the sexualized messages of the culture that say marriage and children are obstacles to fulfillment.

That is why I am so excited about our marriage initiative, which you read about on page one.

The National Coalition stands ready to provide premarital counseling, programs for blended families, services for hurting marriages, enrichment classes for healthy marriages, and mentoring programs for young couples to begin restoring marriages across this nation!

And we have too often seen couples suffer because of sexual addiction...which makes me so thankful for the recent petition drive in Kansas City. We must protect communities from sexually oriented businesses and their secondary effects that harm families. Phillip and Cathy Cosby are doing all they can in the Kansas City metro area to limit these devastating effects.

Lastly, the overwhelming response we have received thus far from *iCare...about protecting children* has been inspiring. Women across this nation are standing up to protect their children in unprecedented ways...most importantly in prayer.

As I close this letter, I am again reminded of all you have done to help move the National Coalition's work and ministry forward. Without your gifts and the strength and power of Almighty God, we could not effectively accomplish our work. So thank you for your gifts, your support, and most of all, your prayers.

For our children and families,

Rick Schatz
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National Coalition Attends Marriage Conference

married4ever

The team at the National Coalition could not be more excited about its new marriage initiative, Married4ever, and the positive impact it will have on families across this nation.

On June 4, five National Coalition staff members were among 400 attendees at the Association of Marriage & Family Ministries' 2007 conference. The event, held in Charlotte, North Carolina, included representatives from 38 states and four countries.

"It was so exciting to join with leaders from around the nation who deeply care about strengthening marriages across the country," commented Jack Samad, senior vice president who is heading the marriage initiative for the National Coalition.

AMFM's goal is to draw as many ministries together as possible in order to train mentors as they work with local churches to promote healthy relationships.

"This is a natural partnership for the National Coalition as we implement the marriage initiative through our Church Outreach program," added Samad.

Workshops focused on subjects such as marriage mentoring, marriage ministry, premarital education, reconciling troubled marriages, sexual wholeness, single-parent families and stepfamily ministry.

"Currently, our staff is meeting with local pastors in Cincinnati to establish a community marriage policy by the end of the year, as well as training mentor couples in churches throughout the area. We look forward to implementing this initiative in all of our regional offices in the coming months."

Some highlights from the conference included:

- A recurring theme that God designed the oneness and intimacy in marriage to reflect (not replace) the oneness and intimacy He desires between Himself and His people. A lack of intimacy in marriage usually reflects a lack of intimacy with the Lord.
- *Restoring Healthy Sexuality* workshop which gave renewed hope that sexual brokenness can be healed and included therapeutic approaches for pastoral counseling.
- The five types of intimacy needed in marriage, including social intimacy, mental intimacy, emotional intimacy, physical intimacy, and spiritual intimacy. Since we are complex and multifaceted creatures, we need to develop intimacy in each of these areas.
- *Creating a Framework and Network of Family-Friendly Churches* seminar that provided a vision for shifting from a church-centered model to a home-centered model, thus becoming an intentional marriage and family forming center.

• A list of common problems within marriage and concrete solutions to deal with these issues. The speakers, most of whom were Christian counselors, gave examples from their ministries to illustrate universal difficulties in marriages.

• *A Comprehensive Lifespan Church Sex Education Program* workshop which helped conceptualize the integration of sex education into the church's curriculum, perfect for a home-centered ministry model.

• The introduction of a new premarital counseling curriculum. The computer-based inventory gives engaged couples more freedom as they review results and recognize their strengths and growth areas. This innovative curriculum comes with a DVD to initiate premarital counseling sessions and can be used in groups, at retreats, and while mentoring individual couples.

• *The Top Ten Brutally Honest Reasons People Aren't Getting Married* workshop which focused on the stigma our society has applied to marriage today. Unconsciously, many have adopted unhealthy beliefs concerning marriage and reinforce patterns which hinder their ability to maintain healthy relationships.



To help you better understand the profound role marriage plays in our society, the National Coalition produced the booklet *Why Is Marriage Important? The Reasonable Defense of Marriage*.

This short publication, which is part of the organization's Cultural Apologetics Series, demonstrates God's principles for marriage and offers a rational argument for rejecting any attempt to redefine the institution of marriage.

For your copy of *Why Is Marriage Important*, simply check the box on the enclosed reply device when you send your gift this month.

And thank you for your support, which helps us protect marriages, children and families in America!

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Kansas City Holds Successful Petition Drive



Wyandotte County pastors prepare to depart for their respective courthouses to file grand jury petitions.



Phillip Cosby, Kansas City executive director, gives presentation to KC metro area pastors and media on Christians combating a highly sexualized culture in a corporate expression of unity and resolve.



Pastor Howard Cordell, left, and associates deliver grand jury petitions to Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's assistant, Ms. Cosby.

On May 17, 2007 the National Coalition's Kansas City office led a successful petition drive and delivered over 20,300 signatures to prosecutors in six counties. The purpose of filing these signatures is to request that thirty-two pornography outlets be investigated by grand juries for promoting obscenity.

"In Kansas, a grand jury investigation via a petition is assured by law," said Phillip Cosby, executive director of the Kansas City office. "In Missouri, however, it is up to the discretion of the county prosecutor. We are now watching to see what unfolds as the 'community standard' is unveiled as allowed by law."

During this time of community discussion, the National Coalition is asking pastors to use this window of opportunity to speak about sexual purity and the devastating effects of sexual immorality on individuals, marriages, families, congregations and communities.

"We at the National Coalition stand ready to assist in educating and impacting our culture," added Cosby.

For decades, the courts have consistently upheld zoning laws that recognize communities' right to protect themselves from the negative secondary effects of the sex industry, including increased crime, increased sexually transmitted diseases, general blight and decreased property values.

"The deleterious effects of sexually oriented businesses on communities are too significant to remain silent. The documented harms of obscenity are not conjecture but real...real victims...real crimes...a real threat to the safety and health of our children!"

Future generations are dependant on our ability to recognize this threat and confront it head on.

We thank all the Kansas and Missouri citizens who helped make this petition drive a success!

Center for Christ & Culture Impacting Communities



The Center for Christ & Culture, led by its founding director S. Michael Craven, has had significant impact as it equips Christians with solid answers to a variety of issues in which truth is at stake.

One recent example of the Center's impact and effectiveness was Craven's publicized response to the reported claim that a "new study," known as the Mathematica study, indicated abstinence education has failed.

"The facts of the Mathematica study were widely misrepresented," said Craven. "In contrast to the media spin, abstinence-centered education has actually had a significant impact on reducing teen sexual activity, sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy rates."

Although the study inaccurately portrayed abstinence education, school officials in Oregon were persuaded to revise their current abstinence-centered curriculum based on an editorial citing of the Mathematica study in the *Oregonian*.

However, after reading Craven's *Truth In Culture Weekly* commentary, a subscriber was able to present the truth to the school board. This reader wrote to Craven:

Thankfully, since I had heard your podcast and read the article about that issue directly, I was able to immediately respond with the facts about the Mathematica study... God bless you in your continued work for His kingdom!

"I am pleased my research and arguments helped this citizen succeed in halting the school district's decision," added Craven. "We must impact one person, one school and one community at a time."

With a syndicated audience of more than three million, Craven's weekly commentaries have been an effective tool in helping Christians confront important cultural issues in order to "take captive every thought making [them] obedient to Christ."

If you have not already, we invite you visit the Center for Christ & Culture website at www.battlefortruth.org and take advantage of the many helpful resources.

SAVE THE DATE: 2007 Annual Banquet



Dan Seaborn

On October 18, the National Coalition will host its 2007 Annual Banquet in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Our featured speaker will be Dan Seaborn, founder of Winning At Home, Inc., an organization designed to assist and encourage individuals and families to lead Christ-centered homes.

Dan has earned recognition as a powerful and passionate communicator while speaking at various large-scale events such as Promise Keepers, marriage conferences, and university assemblies.

Author of seven books about marriage and family, Dan uses practical illustrations and memorable real-life examples as he teaches others how to win at home.

Please call (513) 521-6227 for more information on this exciting event!

National Coalition Educates Women Through New Movement

The National Coalition is pleased to announce its *iCare...about protecting children* movement is officially underway.

"Thousands of women have already responded to the need for prayer and action to protect the nation's children," said Jerry Kirk, founder of the National Coalition. "We are armed with information, action steps and educational material to mobilize the women of America."

After hearing about this national women's prayer movement, Kim Hauser, a mother and grandmother from Orlando, Florida said:

When I first heard about the iCare campaign, my heart was instantly drawn. How could I not participate in a prayer movement to protect the nation's most vulnerable? After all, our youth

have been exploited far too long...and I believe it's time to stare pornographers in the face and exclaim, "Not my children. Not my grandchildren!"

The lies of our sexualized culture have produced great devastation within the lives of our kids, and it's now time for the women of America to stand up...and take back our children!

"Kim is only one of thousands of passionate women who have joined *iCare*. We pray that as God leads, thousands more will stand up to protect the nation's children," added Kirk.

Please take a stand today by joining iCare...about protecting children at www.icarecoalition.org.

