



Register Today!

Iron Sharpens Iron
Men's Conference

OCTOBER 13, 2007
Colonial Presbyterian Church
Kansas City, Missouri

OCTOBER 27, 2007
First Baptist Church
Lakewood, Washington

For more information on these
exciting events, please visit
www.IronSharpensIron.net.



Letter from the President

Rick Schatz

Dear Friend,

Summer has already passed us by...and it's now time to gear up for another school year. While your children and grandchildren may not be thrilled about the studying that will shortly meet them, I'm sure they can't wait to reconnect with old friends, meet new friends and begin fall sports!

With all this fun, though, comes some danger. As you know, many children succumb to peer pressure and are influenced by the messages of the culture...messages that say sex with anyone, anytime, any way is great and without consequence.

That's why it is so important to engage in open conversation with your children... and that's why I'm so thrilled for our new booklet series you read about on page two. *What Every Parent Needs to Know About* will help you address the sexualized culture with your kids and give you practical advice on raising children in a XXX world.

Too many girls and boys have been devastated by the lies of our culture and trapped in horrific lifestyles, which makes me thankful for the work Claire Hertzler is doing in Atlanta to combat sex slavery. We must act with great urgency if we are to make a difference!

Lastly, the Center for Christ & Culture is continuing to educate and train Christians across the nation on secular worldviews that have helped produce today's postmodern culture. We must be armed with a sound biblical worldview if we are to bring a Christian perspective back into the public square.

As always, I thank God for each of you who have supported this ministry. It is only with the help of His people that we can accomplish our work. You are a true blessing...and I pray you are blessed ten fold for giving back to the Kingdom of God!

For our children and families,

Rick Schatz
President and CEO

EDITOR:
Francesca Jensen
Director of Communications

PRESIDENT AND CEO:
Rick Schatz

PUBLISHED BY:
National Coalition for the
Protection of Children & Families

NATIONAL OFFICE
800 Compton Road, Suite 9224
Cincinnati, OH 45231
Phone (513) 521-6227
Fax (513) 521-6337
www.nationalcoalition.org

CONFIDENTIAL HELPLINE
(800) 583-2964
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. EST

REGIONAL OFFICES
Atlanta: (404) 817-0499
Charlotte: (704) 650-9595
Dallas: (972) 764-3521
Kansas City: (913) 839-1643
New England: (603) 232-8236
Seattle: (206) 686-3093

Back to School...Girls Going Mild

by S. Michael Craven



In the wake of Madonna, Paris Hilton, and countless other "role models" encouraging young women to "express their sexuality" and drink deeply from the pool of promiscuity, there are a few refreshing voices of reason emerging that support the mission of the National Coalition.

One such voice is that of Wendy Shalit. At twenty-three, Shalit challenged conventional wisdom with her 1999 book *A Return to Modesty: Discovering the Lost Virtue*. The publication prompted James P. Pinkerton to write in *Newsday* that Shalit's book was "strong evidence that the backlash against Monica Lewinsky will come, not from her elders, but from her youngsters." His prediction, it seems, may be coming true.

Despite the fact that pornography is mainstream and those who choose to delay sex are labeled prudes, Shalit argues "a youth-led rebellion is challenging the status quo."

In her latest book, *Girls Gone Mild: Young Women Reclaim Self-Respect and Find It's Not Bad to Be Good*, we hear from voices at the frontlines of this new movement. Some of them, Shalit reports, are "pressured by their own mothers to lose their virginity, and come to resent it; others just don't think they need to be 'bad' to be liberated in the first place."

One reviewer writes: "Drawing on numerous studies and interviews around the nation, Shalit's findings are at once shocking and encouraging. Nowadays, as even the youngest teenage girls feel the pressure to become cold sex sirens, put their bodies on public display, and suppress their feelings in order to feel accepted and (temporarily) loved, many young women are realizing that 'friends with benefits' are often anything but."

Shalit reveals how the media, peers, and even parents can undermine girls' quest for their authentic selves. She also details the problems of sex without intimacy, and explains what it means to break from the herd mentality and choose integrity over popularity.

Parents cannot underestimate the enormous cultural pressure placed on young people, in particular young girls, when it comes to sex today. There is little social support for sexual purity—almost everything in today's sexualized culture is at odds with this goal.

Recently, an *American Psychological Association (APA)* study analyzed the content and effects of virtually every form of media, including television, music videos, music lyrics, magazines, movies, video games and the Internet. It also examined recent advertising campaigns and products aimed toward girls.

What they found was a sort of "Girls Gone Wild" effect in which young girls, more and more, succumb to the pressure of sexualization as demonstrated by everything from provocative dress and sexual promiscuity to "posting nude pictures of themselves on the Internet, allowing boyfriends to photograph them in the nude and making their own amateur porn videos."

Dr. Eileen L. Zurbriggen, chairwoman of the APA Task Force and associate professor of psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz said, "The consequences of the sexualization of girls in media today are very real and are likely to be a negative influence on girls' healthy development."

The APA report went on to say that "as a result of an over-sexed society, young girls are reaping the following mental health issues:

- **Cognitive and Emotional Consequences:** Sexualization and objectification undermine a person's confidence in and comfort with her own body, leading to emotional and self-image problems, such as shame and anxiety.
- **Mental and Physical Health:** Research links sexualization with three of the most common mental health problems diagnosed in girls and women—eating disorders, low self-esteem, and depression or depressed mood.
- **Sexual Development:** Research suggests that the sexualization of girls has negative consequences on girls' ability to develop a healthy sexual self-image."

As our children return to school this fall, let us be mindful of the pressures imposed on them both by the culture and by their peers. We are losing generation after generation of young people to the sexualized culture and we must counter its messages with a thoughtful rationale for chastity that supports their quest for sexual purity.

(continued on Page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ATLANTA OFFICE EDUCATES COMMUNITY
- *iCare...about protecting children* MOVEMENT
- CENTER FOR CHRIST & CULTURE CORNER
- UPCOMING 2007 ANNUAL BANQUET

(continued from Page 1)

The National Coalition has developed a new booklet series titled *What Every Parent Needs to Know About*. The series includes the following topics:

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



To thank you for your support of the National Coalition this month, we are pleased to offer you a gift copy of this new booklet series. As you engage in honest, open conversations with your children before they enter another school year, this booklet series will help you effectively discuss these difficult issues.

To receive your copy, check the box on the enclosed reply device when you send your gift to the National Coalition...**and please know how thankful we are for your generosity and support!**

Center for Christ & Culture Training Christians Nationwide



The National Coalition's ministry, Center for Christ & Culture, has diligently worked throughout the summer to counteract the tectonic shifts in Western culture: *the marginalization of Christianity in the public square, the growth of religious pluralism, and the pervasive effects of individualism, narcissism, and consumerism.*

"We believe it is neither possible nor practical to simply address the symptoms of these ideological shifts, such as sexual promiscuity and pornography. Instead, we hope to address the root causes and thereby affect lasting influence on the culture," said Michael Craven, founding director of the Center for Christ & Culture.

Unfortunately, these shifts in culture *have left many churches, pastors and faithful Christians uncertain about their place and purpose in this postmodern culture.*

"What is desperately needed is a thoughtful approach to cultural engagement that presents a deeper, more intelligent Christian perspective and offers substantive insight and answers to today's moral and cultural dilemmas," added Craven.

To meet this need through serious research, writing, and teaching, the National Coalition established the Center for Christ & Culture.

Following is a small sample of recent events where the Center for Christ & Culture has educated, trained and equipped Christians with a thoughtful biblical worldview:

- Iron Sharpens Iron in Boston
- The Fellowship of Mere Christianity (an association of churches)
- The Covenant School of Dallas
- Camp of the Woods in New York

"By addressing the ideologies themselves from a thoughtful Christian worldview, we equip believers to take every thought captive, making it obedient to Christ. It is ultimately a battle of ideas, and 'bad ideas' must be countered with 'good ideas' as revealed in Scripture and thoughtfully applied to all of life."

The National Coalition is pleased to report that we are reaching the largest audience ever with "good ideas" through the combination of:

- www.BattleForTruth.org
- Truth in Culture Weekly e-mail broadcast and podcast
- Craven's weekly commentaries on Crosswalk.com, Christianity.com and ChristianPost.com
- Syndication on more than 104 Salem Radio websites
- Hundreds of Christian weblogs

By God's grace we can boast of a monthly audience of more than 3 million readers!

Atlanta Office Educates Community on Human Trafficking



Hertzler displays her stand against human trafficking by including her handprint at the *Save Atlanta* event.

"Pimps most often use the Internet, upscale shopping malls and popular entertainment venues to entice unsuspecting girls and boys into 'designer sex.'"

To raise awareness, Hertzler attended a recent *Save Atlanta* meeting to present an overview of the new Georgia law against human trafficking, as well as the National Coalition's involvement in helping change the penalty for pimping a minor from a misdemeanor to a felony.

Pattie Harrelson, host of the event, shared a compelling video and presentation on trafficking. She has felt



A powerful black and gray painting entitled "Slavery Still Exists" painted by Harrelson the evening before *Save Atlanta*.

compelled to motivate others to stop sexual slavery after her involvement with *Do Justice*, a young adult outreach event.

"Pattie's passion and energy is a great example of what one individual can do to turn the tide against this horrific evil in our city and our world," said Hertzler. "She has inspired friends, neighbors and students to take action. I look forward to lending my support at future meetings as more cell groups form throughout the city."

In addition, Kim Blunt from Trade As One sold products made by former trafficked victims in Southeast Asia who are now receiving fair market prices for their handmade goods. "We must do all we can to support those who have escaped the snares of sex slavery," added Hertzler.

For more information on hosting an event to raise awareness of human trafficking, please contact Hertzler at (404) 817-0499 or claire@nationalcoalition.org.

Claire Hertzler, regional director of the National Coalition's Atlanta office, has been actively engaged in combating human trafficking, as Atlanta has become a hub for trafficking children into prostitution.

"It's devastating to see young kids trapped into sex slavery," said Hertzler.



Prayer Movement Gaining Momentum



When mothers and grandmothers across the country learn of the National Coalition's *iCare...about protecting children* movement, their response is the same: "YES, we want to pray and take action to protect our children!"

So, not surprisingly more than 2,000 women have joined *iCare* and are receiving twice monthly inspirational and educational *iCare eNews* updates.

"Through this piece we are educating parents as to the realities of mobile entertainment devices and calling us all to a specific scripture and prayer focus," said Angela Stutz, *iCare's* Interim National Director. "Several thousand women united in meditation and prayer will make all the difference. And we are especially

pleased and grateful to announce that beginning in September, *iCare eNews* will be available in both English and Spanish!"

Wendy Kuremsky, an *iCare* mom from Cincinnati, Ohio said:

"As a result of the iCare movement, I have been both enlightened and empowered as a parent. Thanks to the cutting edge information I have received regarding wireless technology, I am aware of the potential dangers lurking within seemingly innocent devices such as cell phones and gaming systems."

"I am empowered to set boundaries and restrictions where needed for my 12 and 13 year old children, regardless of outside pressures. I continue to make my children's friends' parents aware in order to better protect my kids when they are away from home. And truthfully, prayer is the only real answer. Only God can affect lasting change in a problem of this magnitude."

Join *iCare...about protecting children* free of charge at www.icarecoalition.org TODAY!

Mark Your Calendars NOW!



Dan Seaborn



October 18, 2007 ■ 6:00pm – 9:00pm
The Manor House ■ Mason, Ohio

The National Coalition is pleased to announce Dan Seaborn will be the featured speaker at its 2007 Annual Banquet.

Dan is the founder of Winning At Home, an organization designed to assist families to lead Christ-centered homes. He has earned recognition as a powerful and passionate communicator while speaking at large 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.

The National Coalition is working with churches in Cincinnati and across the nation to implement marriage mentoring programs to strengthen marriages and help families live out the truth of biblical sexuality. We are excited to be partnering with ministries like Winning At Home as we kick off this initiative.

We hope you can join us for this special event.