

# [VIDEO: U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse at Celebrate the Family 2017](#)

Over 550 people packed the Hall of Cities Ballroom at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown Saturday night for the 2017 Celebrate the Family banquet.

The event drew a diverse crowd of young and old, faith and government leaders and everyday Americans who came to hear about The FAMiLY LEADER's vision for cultural transformation and to hear from keynote speaker U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska.

Norman Rozendaal of Monroe, Iowa, [told Radio Iowa's Kay Henderson](#) he felt "honored" to be in the room.

Speaking of keynote speaker Ben Sasse, Rozendaal said, "I have never heard anybody as articulate as that man, off the cuff, saying exactly what has to be said in our American culture. ... I would give him A+++."

The evening also included three inaugural awards The FAMiLY LEADER bestowed upon a pastor, legislator, and citizen champion, respectively, for steadfast commitment to Christ-like leadership in engaging government and culture.

- The Timeless Voice Award was given to Pastor Brad Cranston of Heritage Baptist Church in Burlington, Iowa:



- The Dwayne Alons Award was given to State Sen. Dennis Guth of Klemme, Iowa:



- The President's Wilberforce Award was given to TFL founding board members Dean and Judy Lauterbach:



In addition, TFL President and CEO Bob Vander Plaats presented “The Daniel Initiative,” The FAMiLY LEADER’s bold, new vision for equipping other states to adopt TFL’s proven model of cultural transformation.

The unique aim and success of TFL’s model has been to flip the old paradigm of the Church being hijacked for political “kingdoms” on its head – to instead inspire the Church to engage government for the advance of God’s kingdom.

The ultimate goal of “The Daniel Initiative” is to energize Christians through a state-by-state, contagious vision of seeking a revived America that honors God and blesses people.

**[Join the movement to spread cultural transformation, state by state, across America today!](#)**  
**[Click here now to fuel the fire!](#)**

Sen. Sasse, meanwhile, echoed the themes and heartbeat of a Church engaged with government, but not for the sake of politics.

“Friends, there is no politician that is going to save

America,” Sasse said in his speech. “Friends, there is no election that is going to transform your life to become so much better than it is right now, and into all that you want it to be. There are definitely reasons to walk precincts and to sign people up to register them to vote ... but let us be sure we live among our neighbors as people who know that we actually believe, that we put not our hope in princes, except we believe there is a Prince who is yet to come.”

Watch Sen. Sasse’s speech in full below:

*(Video courtesy of Shane Vander Hart and Caffeinated Thoughts)*

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**VIDEO: You don’t want to miss this night!**

***Get more information on “Celebrate the Family” by clicking here and reserve YOUR tickets today!***

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**VIDEO: After Las Vegas shooting ... what can we DO?**

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## [VIDEO: Bob speaks to NFL, anthems, and America's greater needs](#)

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## [Two Americas: Charlottesville and Houston](#)

Pictures from the racial violence in Charlottesville and the hurricane recovery efforts in Houston reveal two very different faces of America.

The FAMiLY LEADER's Drew Zahn explains that you and I can make a difference in which face becomes the truer one:

[Click here to read the full column: "From Charlottesville to Houston ..."](#)

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## [Should Trump's faith advisory council resign?](#)

Since several members of President Trump's business advisory council resigned en masse, multiple reporters have asked The FAMiLY LEADER President and CEO Bob Vander Plaats if Trump's faith advisory council should do the same.

In fact, Pastor A.R. Bernard [has already left the council](#), suggesting its “advisory” capacity is little more than a “photo op.”

But Vander Plaats believes the faith council, like the Prophet Nathan who once corrected a wayward King David, may yet have an important role to play in the path of this president:

[Watch more video and commentary from The FAMiLY LEADER by clicking here now!](#)

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## [\*\*You don't want to miss a moment: 2017 Family Leadership Summit\*\*](#)

One month ago, the 6th Annual Family Leadership Summit inspired and encouraged Christians to join a movement advancing the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

Watch a 4-minute video recap of the amazing day below:

[Would you like to inspire more great content like this? Support future Summits by donating to The FAMiLY LEADER today!](#)

Watch the entire day's livestream, click here:

To watch individual moments or speakers, click their name below to watch on YouTube:

- [The opening](#)

- [Sen. Chuck Grassley](#)
- [Gov. Kim Reynolds](#)
- [Sen. Joni Ernst](#)
- [Benham Brothers](#)
- [Pastor Jim Garlow](#)
- [Kellyanne Conway](#)
- [Jeff Meyers](#)
- [Church Ambassador Network, Greg Baker](#)
- [Steve Scheibner](#)
- [George Barna](#)
- [If 7:14](#)
- [Rafael Cruz](#)

*And, for the first time widely available to the public, click the link below to be taken to a previously created “thank you” page, where you can listen to audio of the breakout sessions!*

[Breakout sessions page](#)

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## [Does the Bible really address politics? Should preachers?](#)

No matter what you believe about church and state, Pastor Jim Garlow is sure to challenge your thinking.

When pastors tell him, “I only preach Jesus,” he has a return question: “Are you telling me that if you were a pastor before the Civil War, that you wouldn’t have spoken out against slavery?”

For when you refuse to preach biblical principles because they’re too “political,” what you’re really doing is allowing politics to censor your Bible.

“I don’t want you to be more political,” Garlow tells preachers, “I wish you were more biblical.”

Watch Garlow’s riveting address to the 2017 Family Leadership Summit below:

[Join The FAMiLY LEADER in encouraging pastors to speak out for biblical truth in America again!](#)  
[Click here to give today.](#)

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## [Watch Kellyanne Conway interview from FLS17](#)

At The Family Leadership Summit on July 15, attendees saw a side of Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway they virtually never see on mainstream television.

Rather than being badgered by a hostile reporter, Conway was given the opportunity to be interviewed about her faith, her family, and her challenging task of working in the White House and before the public eye.

After news reports were hastily filed criticizing Conway yet again, why not watch for yourself to see what she *really* said?

[Would you like to inspire more great content like this? Support future Summits by donating to The FAMiLY LEADER today!](#)

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## **Bob on CNN: Tells Trump to focus while others 'jump to conclusions'**

While politicians and reporters are quick to pile on or defend Donald Trump amid the latest "Russia" news, Bob Vander Plaats has a message for President Trump: Focus on results. And for the rest of us: Let's wait for the truth to come out before "jumping to conclusions."

See Bob's recent interview on CNN by [clicking here](#).

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## **WATCH: "There's never been a time more urgent than now ..."**

Earlier this month, a gunman asked whether it was the Republican or Democrat baseball team practicing on the field below him. When he found out those on the field were members of the opposite political party, he opened fire.

It's clear America must stop the "us vs. them" rhetoric and the demonizing of those with whom we disagree.

Or as Bob Vander Plaats explains in this brief video, "There's never been a time more urgent than now for principled leadership over politics":

Come, join thousands of others like you, who love God AND America, and who want to see our nation put "Principle over Politics" again! Come, join us at the 2017 Family Leadership

Summit on July 15. [Click here to learn more and reserve your tickets today!](#)

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**Bob Vander Plaats: Trump delivers 'presidential moment' on Islam**