

Power of prayer leaps political borders

In Apopka, Florida, the fires of an “If 7:14” revival are burning.

The northwest suburb of Orlando made national news last year when, after an atheist organization complained of the high school football team’s chaplain, hundreds of community members stepped out of the stands following a game to “cover the field” in prayer.

This is a community that understands the power of “taking a knee.”

On Thursday, May 7, Apopka welcomed Bob Vander Plaats of The FAMiLY LEADER to share the “If 7:14” vision for a prayer and revival movement that can spread from Iowa, Florida, and anywhere the Spirit of God may be moving.

Vander Plaats told the story of taking his son Josh to another field – a baseball field in Sioux City, Iowa – for a Little League photograph.

While the dads stood around talking, Josh came over and tugged on his father’s sleeve. Pointing to the sky, Josh identified a funnel cloud threatening to strike the field with a tornado.



Vander Plaats said he grabbed his son, got him into the car, and tried to outdrive the looming storm. But funnel clouds began descending from the sky all around – four, in fact, that threatened to form tornadoes.

Vander Plaats turned the car for home instead and gathered his family into the basement to pray.

“When the funnel clouds come toward you, and you have nowhere else to run and nowhere else to hide, what do you do?” Vander Plaats asked the Apopka prayer gathering. “You start turning your focus back to God.”

That’s what “If 7:14” is all about: God’s people turning their focus away from every other source of security, turning away from their sin, and turning back to God.

Discover how you can join the If 7:14 movement by clicking here!

Local reports estimated 350 people attended Apopka’s 2015 Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast Thursday morning, including city commissioners, police and fire chiefs, pastors, and the city’s mayor.

Pastor Doug Bankson of the Victory Church World Outreach Center introduced Vander Plaats to those assembled. Bankson had met Vander Plaats on a trip to Israel.

“This man’s heart is for the people and for God,” Bankson said, according to The Apopka Chief newspaper. “You know people by the company they keep, but what’s more is by the people they influence.”

For years, Vander Plaats has influenced politics and policy in both Iowa and in presidential elections. But through “If 7:14,” Vander Plaats is seeing a message that resonates beyond politics and well beyond his home state of Iowa.

The “If 7:14” initiative, Vander Plaats told the gathering, comes at a time when America needs the healing promised in 2 Chronicles 7:14: *“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will*

forgive their sin and heal their land.”

And though 2 Chronicles 7:14 was originally written for Israel and not the United States, Vander Plaats told the Apopka prayer gathering, this scripture gives a glimpse into God’s heart about spiritual revival. The scripture is not focused on our troubles or perceived enemies, but on *us*. Revival in America and its institutions can’t happen unless it begins in the heart.

“Revival is an ‘inside-out’ proposition, not an ‘outside-in’ proposition,” Vander Plaats said, according to the Chief.



Bob Vander Plaats in Apopka,
Florida

God wants people to “seek His face” so they see things the way He sees them and turn back to Him, Vander Plaats explained. This includes repenting from indifference about God or thinking God has no permission to speak to public life, a stiff-arm of God that Vander Plaats said “is killing this country.”

“When it’s people’s turns – leaders, pastors, parents, public officials, teachers, you name it – to take to the microphone and say something like, ‘No, that’s not right; that’s wrong,’ we backed away,” the Chief quoted Vander Plaats as saying. “We backed away because it was too ‘hot,’ ‘too controversial.’”

But the healing America needs won't be found in silencing the Word of God; instead, it will come in heeding it – specifically, in heeding the call to repentance and prayer of 2 Chronicles 7:14.

As Vander Plaats told the prayer warriors in Apopka, “I don't think [God] is done with this country yet ... this city yet ... your home yet ... your church yet.”

Discover how you can join the If 7:14 movement by clicking [here!](#)

Learn other ways you can get involved in the ministry of The FAMiLY LEADER by clicking [here.](#)

ACTION ALERT, May 8 – Stop human trafficking now

Your immediate action could save the lives of Iowa's daughters.

Human trafficking is more widespread in Iowa than most people realize. Our Interstate system and truck-stop network make Iowa fertile ground for this heinous crime. Just this week, CBS reported the case of an Iowa girl kidnapped, drugged, tortured, and forced into a prostitution ring halfway across the country.

Now a bill to combat these crimes is being considered in joint committee in the Iowa Legislature. But this critical piece of legislation is hanging by a thread and is in danger of being tabled as this session comes to a close.

Yet if we act together now, we can make a difference in the

lives of countless girls and boys!

What can I do?

We are urging you to send just one email, but *do it now*. By following the steps below, you can contact the governor's office, legislative leaders, and the 10 members of the joint committee all at once – yet this weekend is critical, as the bill's fate will likely be decided Monday, May 11, or immediately thereafter.

Send just one email to the key people who hold this legislation in their hands. Your voice could determine whether or not law enforcement officers get the funding they need to rescue Iowa boys and girls and stop human traffickers now.

Here's how

Three steps:

- 1.** Draft an email to Gov. Terry Branstad through his office at margaret.hough@iowa.gov.
- 2.** Then, copy and paste the following list of email addresses into the carbon copy or "cc" box of that same email:

mike.gronstal@legis.iowa.gov; robert.dvorsky@legis.iowa.gov;
thomas.courtney@legis.iowa.gov; rob.hogg@legis.iowa.gov;
rich.taylor@legis.iowa.gov; julian.garrett@legis.iowa.gov;
mark.chelgren@legis.iowa.gov; kraig.paulsen@legis.iowa.gov;
chuck.soderberg@legis.iowa.gov; gary.worthan@legis.iowa.gov;
Darrel.Branhagen@legis.iowa.gov; chris.hagenow@legis.iowa.gov;
todd.taylor@legis.iowa.gov; marti.anderson@legis.iowa.gov

- 3.** Include a simple, urgent plea, such as the following sample text, in the body of the email, and hit send. It's that simple. But by following through now, the next boy or girl you save could be someone you know.

Dear Iowa leader,

As a fellow Iowan, I am urging you to fully fund needed efforts to stop human trafficking in Iowa.

The bill being considered in joint committee right now, SF 497, will help save the lives of Iowa sons and daughters.

PLEASE, don't let this session close without passing this critical piece of legislation. What priority could be more important than protecting and defending the lives of our children from those who would kidnap and horribly abuse them?

Sincerely and with great respect,

[name]

[city], Iowa

Discover other ways you can get involved by [clicking here!](#)

Visit our Facebook page for ongoing updates on this effort by [clicking here.](#)

'I can't help but feel a revival is coming'

Over 120 Iowans met in the Capitol Rotunda Thursday, April 30, reminded of the words of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams, declaring America's dependence on God, as well as Abraham Lincoln, who in 1863 proclaimed April 30 as a day of fasting, repentance, prayer.

But this wasn't a rally to champion America's Christian heritage or Christian conservative causes.

It was a day of humiliation.

As 2 Chronicles 7:14 declares, and as was proclaimed several times as the same Scripture was read beneath the Capitol's golden dome, "If my people who are called by my name *humble* themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."



Just as in Lincoln's day, when the U.S. was bitterly divided in the midst of a brutal Civil War, America today is sharply divided and in need of God's mercy to bring hope, forgiveness and healing.

At the Capitol, those gathered for the Iowa Call to Prayer heard from pastors, Iowa legislators, and other faith leaders about the need for God's people, those "called by my name," to lead the nation toward repentance. The turning back to God, they were told, must begin with the church.

Iowa State Rep. Steven Holt boldly challenged those present to learn from the church's mistakes in history and not permit America's freedom of religion to be convoluted into freedom *from* religion.

Pastor Andre Brooks of Kingdom Life International Family Ministries in Des Moines, Iowa, called on those present to raise their hands in surrender to God, to seek God's forgiveness and call for revival.

Bob Vander Plaats of The FAMiLY LEADER warned that Christian leaders and churches cannot, as they have too often in the past, remain silent behind their wooden doors, afraid to pick up the microphone when the culture needs their voices most.

Several of the speakers led those present to pray in repentance, to pray for our pastors and leaders, and to pray for our nation.

Yet even in the humiliation, the confession, and the repentance, attendees did not leave feeling shamed or downtrodden.

For even as in 2 Chronicles 7:14, when God's people return to Him, the promise remains that God will hear from heaven and will hear their land.

"I can't help it," said The FAMiLY LEADER's Greg Baker as he walked down the Capitol's north stairs into the sunshine of a glorious April day in Iowa, "I can't help but feel a revival is coming."

Discover how you can get involved in the ministry of The FAMiLY LEADER by visiting our Action Center today!

Iowans lead nation – again – to prayer

In 1863, an Iowan by the name of Sen. James Harlan asked President Abraham Lincoln to proclaim a national day of prayer.

Lincoln agreed, declaring by presidential proclamation April 30 as a "day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer."

Now, on April 30, 2015, in the spirit of 2 Chronicles 7:14 – "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" – Iowans will once again lead the nation to prayer and repentance.

As part of a nationwide effort, you are invited to the **Iowa**

Call to Prayer, to gather at the State Capitol, where together we will humble ourselves, pray, and seek God's healing for our land:

DATE: April 30, 2015

TIME: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Iowa Capitol Rotunda, Des Moines

COST: None

In cooperation with the National Governor's Prayer Team, Concerned Women of America, The FAMiLY LEADER, Iowa For Jesus Network, Transformations Group, AGLow, National Day of Prayer, National Day of Repentance, American Renewal Project, the Iowa Prayer Caucus, and other faith-based organizations, Iowans will join together to declare April 30 a day of repentance again.

As Abraham Lincoln wrote in his proclamation:

"All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace."

The April 30 gathering at the Capitol will include several key prayer initiatives:

- National Day of Repentance
- The kickoff of the In God We Trust Campaign
- Stand Up for Your Biblical Foundations & Religious Liberties
- A Call to Unceasing Prayer for Iowa & Our Nation

Speakers will include Iowa state legislators, Bob Vander Plaats of The FAMiLY LEADER, Ginny Caligiuri of the Iowa Prayer Caucus, and more.

In addition, attendees will be invited and given the opportunity on April 30 to sign the same “Call to Prayer for America” proclamation that many of Iowa’s legislators have signed.

Come, join with us in prayer – take a long lunch break if you’re already in the area – and let’s declare the United States a people repentant and call upon God to bring His healing again!

Visit IowaPrayerCaucus.org for more information, to donate, or to sign up for prayer. The website also includes links to the Million Windows Campaign and the April 30th event page on Facebook.

For more information contact Ginny Caligiuri at Ginny@CPCFoundation.com or call 641-223-0166.

Discover other ways you can get involved in the ministry of The FAMiLY LEADER by visiting our Action Center today!

Harvard prof explains why faith critical to America

Discover how you can get involved in the defense of religious liberty and the ministry of The FAMiLY LEADER by visiting our Action Center today!

The FAMiLY LEADER responds to defense of LGBTQ Conference

Iowa Safe Schools has issued multiple statements since attendees of the 10th annual Iowa Governors Conference on LGBTQ Youth exposed obscene and sexually explicit content at the event.

Read the Fox News column that blew the cover off this startling story.

What Iowa Safe Schools has not done, however, is issue any sort of apology or admission of error. Iowa Safe Schools has issued no condemnation, for example, of the presenter who instructed LGBTQ kids at an “anti-bullying” conference to “slash the tires” of their fellow students.

Iowa Safe Schools would like to suggest that despite profanity-strewn and admittedly graphic, explicit presentations, that the Governors Conference is still, on the whole, a benefit to Iowa students.

The FAMiLY LEADER questions the judgment of exposing children as young as 8th grade to this kind of material. Clearly a conference that encourages children to lick one another’s anuses and use hormone-altering drugs to delay their puberty is placing other priorities above keeping kids “safe.” Clearly a conference that teaches children to ridicule those who hold altering viewpoints on same-sex marriage and “slash their tires” is placing other priorities above “anti-bullying.”

The FAMiLY LEADER believes that Iowa’s school boards, teachers, and administrators have a right to know the kind of content they are sponsoring and would suggest that there are better methods for addressing the problem of bullying in schools and better methods of keeping our kids safe than allowing presenters with this little discretion and decency to

instruct Iowa's children.

National security summit comes to Iowa

Keeping your family safe is one of your top priorities. But we live in a nation where not everyone takes security seriously.

That's why The FAMiLY LEADER Foundation is partnering with the Center for Security Policy and High Frontier to introduce the Iowa National Security Action Summit on May 16.



The Action Summit – headlined by Frank Gaffney of the Center for Security Policy, U.S. Rep. Steve King, Dr. Ben Carson, former Sen. Rick Santorum, Gov. Bobby Jindal, Donald Trump, and more – will cover four key topics of interest to both our nation and the state of Iowa:

1. The threat from Iran, Shariah, and the global jihad movement
2. Border insecurity and illegal immigration
3. The hollowing out of the U.S. military
4. America's electrical power grid and threats to critical infrastructure

Watch:

The event will be held will be held May 16 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Point of Grace Church, 305 NE Dartmoor Drive, Waukee, Iowa.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased through the Eventbrite website. A boxed lunch will be provided.

[Click here to purchase your tickets now!](#)

Confirmed speakers include Rep. King; Sen. Santorum; Gov. Jindal; Dr. Carson; businessman Donald Trump; Bob Vander Plaats, president and CEO, The FAMiLY LEADER; Admiral James “Ace” Lyons (U.S. Navy, ret.); Ann Corcoran, Refugee Resettlement Watch; Dr. Henry Cooper, chairman, High Frontier; Dr. Peter Vincent Pry, executive director, Task Force on National & Homeland Security; Peter Huessy, president, GeoStrategic Analysis; and Frank Gaffney, president of the Center for Security Policy.

Bob Vander Plaats, president and CEO of The FAMiLY LEADER Foundation, said, “We welcome Frank Gaffney and his team to Iowa and are very grateful to partner with the Center for Security Policy to help provide an Iowa focus on national security and the dangers facing America’s families.”

The Iowa National Security Action Summit is designed to ensure that our national security receives the attention it requires from elected officials and their constituents, alike – both at the federal and state level.

Frank J. Gaffney Jr., president of the Center for Security Policy, said, “Americans are increasingly aware that the world is becoming an ever more dangerous place. They expect their leaders to protect them and our vital interests around the world. The National Security Action Summit is a place where the best minds convene to lay out the best ideas for doing that.”

Press credentials will be required for the event. Members of

the press may contact Drew Zahn at drew@thefamilyleader.com, 515-263-3495, ext.109 (office), 515-835-9645 (cell), to request credentials.

[Click here to download the flier to inform others of the event](#)
:



National media discover shocking content of Iowa LGBTQ conference

The FAMI^I LEADER first revealed the shocking, graphic content Iowa schoolchildren were exposed to at 10th annual Iowa Governors Conference on LGBTQ Youth on April 3.

Now the story is getting national attention.

Todd Starnes of Fox News digs deeper into the story with a column released April 17:

“They thought the Iowa Governor’s Conference on LGBTQ Youth was about anti-bullying,” Starnes writes. “Instead, about 1,000 teenagers from more than 100 Iowa communities were

treated to a profanity-laced performance by a drag queen along with graphic conversations on oral sex and a transgender tutorial on how to make fake testicles.”

He continues: “Many of the young people who attended the Iowa Governors Conference on LGBTQ Youth did so because they cared about their classmates. They wanted to learn how to stand in the gap for others. And yet some of these good-hearted kids were made to feel uncomfortable – and quite frankly – fearful. The individuals I spoke with begged me to protect their identities – deeply concerned about potential backlash from activists.

“How sad that a group of young people found themselves bullied at an anti-bullying conference.”

[Read Starnes' Fox News column by clicking here.](#)

[Read the original FAMIly LEADER report that sparked the story by clicking here.](#)

“It’s hard to believe if parents knew their children were attending obscenity-laced presentations where they’re encouraged to slash tires and use their cell phones to find orgies, they would continue to support it,” The FAMIly LEADER President Bob Vander Plaats said. “It’s hard to believe teachers, school boards, and administrators would want their names and organizations backing these kinds of life lessons. It’s hard to believe the governor would want his name associated with it.

“This is a situation where Iowans may just not realize what’s really going on,” he concluded. “As more and more of this material comes to light, however, I trust Iowans will demand better ways to honestly help kids than continue down this path the Governor’s Conference has traveled.”

“Just for the record, let me restate that The FAMIly LEADER would never approve of bullying or the mistreatment of any

person, at any time, or for any reason. We support the golden rule, which says, 'Treat people the same way you want them to treat you'" (Matthew 7:12).

"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).

Were you at the Governors Conference? Shocked by what you saw? Contact The FAMIly LEADER at info@thefamilyleader.com.

What can YOU do? Share this story with other concerned parents. Post it on Facebook. Ask your school board or administrators if your school district sent students or teachers to the conference and whether this is the kind of material they want to be endorsing.

Also consider investing in the the work of The FAMIly LEADER by making a donation today.

Video: Religious freedom isn't 'discrimination'

As we've seen in Indiana, Arkansas, and even right here in Iowa, when men and women stand for religious liberty, progressives are quick to cry, "Discrimination!"

But Iowa State Rep. Steven Holt, R-Denison, isn't willing to surrender the debate to a buzzword.

Before the Iowa House on April 13, Holt explained with unusual clarity **the issue isn't about discrimination, but about participation** – and whether the law and the courts should

force citizens to *participate* in activities that violate their conscience.

This is must-watch video from the floor of the Iowa House:

Duration ~ 7:37

Iowa Rep Holt on Religious Liberty from The FAMiLY LEADER on Vimeo.

Sign up for The FAMiLY LEADER's email blasts, so we can keep you informed of more stories relevant to your life, like this one!

Also consider investing in the defense of your own religious liberty by making a donation to The FAMiLY LEADER today.

SE Regional Summit Video

Did you miss the gathering of more than 600 Iowans in Mt. Pleasant to hear speakers Kelly Shackelford, Gov. Rick Perry, Gov. Mike Huckabee, Gov. Bobby Jindal, Sen. Rick Santorum, and more?

We'd hate for you to miss out on these fantastic speeches. Watch the video from the SE Summit below:



Click on the link below to view the video where you can click on individual time codes to go to hear specific speakers. View SE Regional Video

Here is the link to

the initial event information and to learn of future events: [click here](#)

Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth not what you think

(WARNING: Sexually explicit summary below)

The Iowa Governors Conference on LGBTQ Youth claims to be the largest homosexual youth conference in the nation, but contrary to popular opinion, its purpose is *not* fostering understanding in the schools or preventing bullying.

“Get that idea out of your head right now,” one attendee of the April 3 event told The FAMILY LEADER. “There were only two sessions [among more than 20] that had anything to do with bullying. It’s a conference teaching kids how to: how to be confidently homosexual, how to pleasure their gay partners – one session even taught transsexual girls how to sew fake testicles into their underwear in order to pass themselves off as boys.”

Even the conference's purpose statement makes no mention of bullying.

"The mission of the Annual Governors Conference on LGBTQ youth is to a) engage and educate students," the official program states, "and b) encourage networking and activism."

So what actually happens at this conference?

An observer The FAMiLY LEADER sent to the conference reported several speakers highlighted horror stories of how outcast they felt as kids. They told stories of "coming out" and finding homosexual relationships. They reinforced the narrative that the world "hates," but the homosexual community accepts. They repeatedly affirmed that it's OK to be gay.

Several speakers also included elements some will find disturbing:

- One speaker wore a dress made of condoms, so they could be easily detached and "used as needed."
- Another told a rousing story of how he used social media to find friends and accidentally stumbled into an orgy.
- One session taught how to properly use "binders" to reduce the visibility of a girl's breasts and discussed hormone treatments for delaying puberty, assuring kids the drugs were safe.

Our observer also reported on the day's final speaker, a drag performer named Coco Peru, who delivered an expletive-laden presentation filled with song and a startling piece of advice for the hundreds of high school students bused in from around the state.

Peru's performance included a song with the lyrics, "People suck. They don't give a f— about you. People thrive on smashing our pride to the ground. People that suck, f— you."

Toward the end of the performance, Peru told the kids if they

see a car with a bumper sticker that reads, "It's Adam and Eve for a purpose," they should, "Reach down inside yourself and give them a blessing ... then slash their tires!"

Peru's performance was clearly a far cry from an "anti-bullying" speech.

The father of one Des Moines area high school senior told The FAMiLY LEADER his daughter was "absolutely distraught" by what she witnessed and, like several other students and teachers, left the conference early in shock.

"She thought she was attending this conference to learn how students can be supportive of their homosexual peers, how they can bring unity to her school. She went thinking it was going to be on bullying, and she wanted to learn how to be more supportive, inclusive and accepting," he said.

"When she got there, it wasn't really on bullying; it was basically a sexual education class for same-sex couples," he said. "It was crude. One presenter told students who asked whether anal sex hurt that, as a lesbian, it really depended on how big the device is that their partner straps on.

"My daughter went to listen to the comedian, Sam Killermann, thinking it would at least be funny," the father continued. "But instead, Killermann explained how pleasurable it is for gay couples to eat each other's behinds and how to use different flavors of [oils] to make it taste better.

"It's totally unacceptable, above and beyond anything we should have our children subjected to," the father concluded. "It was over the line, especially for a conference supported by prominent Iowa businesses."

Who's funding the conference?

In fact, the brochure lists a number of businesses that sponsored the event, including:

- Principal Financial Group
- Nationwide
- Office Depot
- The TJX Companies, Inc. (T.J.Maxx, Marshalls, HomeGoods, Sierra Trading Post)

A number of school and religious organizations were listed as sponsors as well:

- The Iowa State Education Association
- The University of Iowa
- Iowa Association of School Boards
- School Administrators of Iowa
- Episcopal Diocese of Iowa



Buses at Iowa
Governors
Conference

In addition to the support of teacher unions and education groups, Iowa's public schools also dispatched a parking lot full of school buses and vans from districts around the state to Prairie Meadows in Altoona, where the event was held.

"Iowans signed on to this conference because they believed it was about stopping bullying and helping kids," The FAMiLY LEADER President Bob Vander Plaats said. "But 10 years into these conferences, it's clear those values have flown out the window."

"It's hard to believe if parents knew their children were attending obscenity-laced presentations where they're encouraged to slash tires and use their cell phones to find

orgies, they would continue to support it," he continued. "It's hard to believe teachers, school boards, and administrators would want their names and organizations backing these kinds of life lessons. It's hard to believe the governor would want his name associated with it."

"This is a situation where Iowans may just not realize what's really going on," he concluded. "As more and more of this material comes to light, however, I trust Iowans will demand better ways to honestly help kids than continue down this path the Governor's Conference has traveled."

"Just for the record, let me restate that The FAMiLY LEADER would never approve of bullying or the mistreatment of any person, at any time, or for any reason. We support the golden rule, which says, 'Treat people the same way you want them to treat you'" (Matthew 7:12).

"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6).

Were you at the Governors Conference? Shocked by what you saw? Contact The FAMiLY LEADER at info@thefamilyleader.com.

What can YOU do? Share this story with other concerned parents. Post it on Facebook. Ask your school board or administrators if your school district sent students or teachers to the conference and whether this is the kind of material they want to be endorsing.

Unprecedented spiritual challenge hits Iowa

On Thursday, April 9, a Wiccan will open the Iowa House of Representatives in “prayer.”

Every day before the legislature is opened, a prayer is offered for Iowa’s legislators, asking God to give them guidance. Traditionally this invocation has been performed by a Christian pastor, but it is open to whomever the appointed legislator wishes to invite. Rep. Liz Bennett of Cedar Rapids chose to invite a Wiccan priestess.

It’s a development many Christians across the state recognize has spiritual ramifications. Many have asked The FAMiLY LEADER how they can respond.

The simplest and most powerful answer is to pray.

In fact, on Thursday, April 9, several Christian leaders and pastors in the Des Moines area are planning to come to the Iowa Capitol to pray for the Lord’s guidance and protection. You can visit the Facebook page “Prayer at the Capitol,” for example, to hear Pastor Michael Demastus of Fort Des Moines Church of Christ explain in his own words why he’s mobilizing a prayer vigil during the same time as the Wiccan invocation.

The FAMiLY LEADER constantly encourages pastors to take a stand for our Christian values, and we are encouraged that pastors are coordinating prayer efforts at the Capitol.

In the United States of America and the State of Iowa citizens have the freedom to worship whomever they wish. It was these religious liberties that helped the church thrive and grow in America. We believe Rep. Bennett has those same rights as well.

It is not the exercising of Rep. Bennett's rights that brings us concern. Rather it is the spiritual heart and condition of our state and nation that would bring us to the point of seeking a Wiccan's guidance on our government that brings us concern.



Since the founding of our nation many Americans have chosen to worship the God of the Bible, the triune and one true God, the Creator of the universe. It is to Him we have prayed and opened legislative sessions in the state of Iowa. It is He whom the Iowa Constitution refers to as the "Supreme Being." It was also to Him Benjamin Franklin urged the Constitutional Convention to pray to at the founding of our nation.

So, yes, Rep Bennett does have the right to have a Wiccan pray. But why? Why not pray to the God who has blessed our nation and our state since its founding?

In 1 Samuel 17 David a small shepherd challenged Goliath because of Goliath's pride to stand against the one true God. And in 1 Timothy 2:5 Paul writes: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."

On April 9, Christians in the Des Moines area plan to also use their constitutional right and come to the Iowa Capitol to pray for the Lord's guidance and protection. We encourage you to join them, be respectful, and pray to God to guide our state and its elected officials.

Join The FAMiLY LEADER in equipping and encouraging pastors – and all Christians – to become leaders in their homes, churches AND government!