



Dear Friend:

By the time you receive this letter, millions of votes will already have been cast in this year's presidential election. Is yours one of them?

I'm not sure I can remember a more tumultuous and contentious election season – and that's saying a lot given what we witnessed in 2016!

A year of tensions and challenges

Little did we know four years ago what our country would be facing the next time we prepared to head to the polls. Not only have racial tensions roiled America – which have led to violent protests and anarchy in numerous cities from coast to coast – but the coronavirus pandemic remains a concern that has changed our very way of life.

As if that weren't enough, we're seeing ongoing debates and controversy regarding mask mandates, along with battles over religious freedom in the face of seemingly inconsistent orders being handed down by governors, mayors, and even unelected bureaucrats.

Consider, for example, the protests that were carried out in the wake of George Floyd's unfortunate death. Thousands upon thousands of people took part – many of whom did not wear masks or practice physical distancing – and yet numerous politicians applauded these gatherings even as they scolded business owners for simply opening their doors in an effort to feed their families.

Churches, too, have borne the brunt of this uneven application of COVID guidelines issued by our political leaders and health officials.

Law-abiding citizens, who want to gather for worship on Sunday mornings have been told by these same authorities that to do so is to endanger the health and safety of others. In Nevada, for instance, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that casinos could open at 50 percent capacity, while churches could only host a maximum of 50 people. In his dissent, Justice Samuel Alito wrote, "The Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. It says nothing about the freedom to play craps or blackjack, to feed tokens into a slot machine, or to engage in any other game of chance."¹

The double standard is truly staggering. Is it really being argued that First Amendment rights extend to protesters and casino owners, but *not* to Christians?

Standing up for LIFE!

Perhaps you also saw news reports of two pro-life students believing if you defend black lives you have to do it in and out of the womb, were attempting to write the words "Black Preborn Lives Matter" on the sidewalk in chalk outside a Washington, D.C. abortion clinic, only to be arrested for "the defacing of private/public property."² We watched for weeks as historic statues were torn down with impunity and public and private property was defaced with various profane slogans and even antifa symbols – yet the pronouncement that black babies in the womb have value merits an immediate arrest?

It's hard to wrap our minds around the crossroads we've reached as a nation and as a culture. I believe this is seen most starkly in the above example, which points to liberals' and progressives' unflagging

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¹ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2020/07/24/supreme-court-nevada-covid-rules-can-favor-casinos-over-churches/5454128002/>

obsession with abortion. The “right” to abort preborn life has become the Left’s sacred cow, and any suggestion that abortion is wrong is met with widespread outrage and vitriol from those who insist on abortion on demand.

Civilization has been here before, unfortunately.

The Bible tells us of the Ammonite god Molech, to whom ancient people would sacrifice their firstborn children in order to ensure Molech’s “favor.” As you can imagine, the Lord did not view such abominations kindly. In speaking of anyone who engaged in child sacrifice, God said, “I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name” (Leviticus 20:3).

There’s no question that Scripture consistently upholds the sanctity of human life, proclaiming the precious worth of each and every baby that God Himself knits together in the womb. It’s no wonder, then, that child sacrifice is so abhorred by our loving Creator.

I would submit to you that today’s abortion industry is the modern-day equivalent of the ancient worship of Molech. Indeed, today’s abortion workers and activists simply pay homage at a different altar, but the result is the same: the death of an innocent child in exchange for personal gain.

Our team here at Focus on the Family is firmly convinced that abortion is one of the most important issues of our time – and our pro-life convictions should remain at the forefront of our minds when we head to the polls next month. This is why we poured our hearts and souls into our special online event last month, *See Life 2020!* Our goal was to have one million people tune in and commit to standing up for our most vulnerable.

Pray for our nation

I believe this election may rank among the most consequential of our time. It seems we say that every four years, and yet I don’t think anyone can deny the exponential erosion of morality, freedom, and common-sense governance we’ve seen in just the last few months. Many of us have followed recent events with deep concern and growing alarm, wondering what we can do to help restore some measure of liberty and a respect for our country’s founding principles.

Above all, we must devote ourselves to fervent and persistent prayer. Laws can be enacted (or repealed) and leaders installed, but unless the hearts of Americans are guided by Biblical truth, our elections will reflect a morality in direct contrast to Scripture’s teaching about what makes for a thriving, prosperous, and peaceful society. So please join me in pleading with the Lord to bring about a genuine revival that will sweep across our land.

Second, I urge you to vote according to your conscience. I’m well aware there are no perfect candidates – and I know that believers are often divided when it comes to the candidates and issues before us. At the same time, some estimates suggest that nearly *40 percent* of evangelicals refrained from voting in 2016. That is a sobering figure, especially when we take stock of what’s at stake not just in this election, but in every election. The sanctity of human life, the traditional and biblical understanding of gender and sexuality, religious freedom, and many other crucial matters hang in the balance – which makes it imperative that God’s people show up en masse to make our voices heard on Election Day.

Voting is a sacred privilege and duty we’ve been granted as Americans by those who risked their very lives – and, in some cases, paid the ultimate price – to ensure the survival of our great republic and its hard-won liberties.

Samuel Adams was one of our nation’s founders, as well as an American statesman and a political

² <https://www.lifenews.com/2020/08/03/police-arrest-pro-life-students-for-writing-black-pre-born-lives-matter-outside-planned-parenthood/>

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philosopher. Mr. Adams points us to the weighty and profound sense of responsibility with which he and his contemporaries viewed our democratic process.

Elections will never be left by the Many, to be done by the Few; for before we are aware of it, that few may become the Engine of Corruption Let each Citizen remember, at the Moment he is offering his Vote, that he is not making a Present or a Compliment to please an Individual, or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn Trusts in human Society, for which he is accountable to God and his Country.³

It's no wonder Mr. Adams – and, no doubt, his fellow founders – took such pains to urge the American people to soberly and thoughtfully cast their votes. After all, think of the grave risks that were undertaken by pilgrims and patriots who crossed an ocean and fought a war in order to establish “a more perfect union.” Electing America’s leaders, then, would have been seen by our forebears as a cherished right that was paramount in the struggle to preserve freedom.

Likewise, as November 3 approaches, I pray that faithful Christians all across the country will take seriously our civic duty to vote according to our dearly held values.

New Efforts and Highlights of 2020

Even as we look toward the election and continue to navigate these very turbulent days in our nation, Focus is moving forward with a number of exciting, life-transforming programs. Although the nation has been in quarantine for the better part of the year, our generous supporters have stood by us every step of the way – enabling us to minister to families all over the world during these trying times. Following are just a few highlights of our latest outreach endeavors:

- Thanks to our donors, we were able to provide free online streaming of our FOCUS@Home content, which allowed families to enjoy a wealth of great content, such as our award-winning *Adventures in Odyssey* radio drama, during the coronavirus shutdowns.
- We continue offering a broad array of resources on any number of family-related topics through our website, magazines and other print materials, broadcasts and podcasts, and social media channels.
- Our professionally trained counselors have helped people facing complex issues and crises, including the heightened fear and anxiety many have been experiencing throughout the pandemic.
- Prior to the coronavirus’ arrival in the U.S., we had planned a five-city event called ALIVE 2020, which was scheduled to take place in May. Due to restrictions, we re-envisioned this celebration of life, moving it to an online event called See Life 2020 that was held on September 26.
- Throughout all the upheaval and changing schedules, our Option Ultrasound program has continued to build momentum. I’m excited to announce that we are now extending grants to help provide training on abortion pill reversal.
- Our annual Bring Your Bible to School Day event was held October 1. We’re looking forward to hearing the various testimonies from that observance in the coming days!
- This year Focus on the Family had planned on hosting three Wait No More events in two different states. However, like much of the rest of the world, we were forced to postpone these events due to the coronavirus. We are working on rescheduling at later dates. In the meantime, we have not wavered in our dedication to help children and families in foster care, and we’re eager to move forward with our Wait No More gatherings as soon as possible.
- Danny Huerta released his new book, *Seven Traits of Effective Parenting*, in August. Danny is our Vice President of Parenting & Youth, and I’m confident his book will be helpful to many parents in their vital role.
- Our suicide prevention website, AliveToThrive.com, was updated in an effort to help even

3 Adams, Samuel: *The Writings of Samuel Adams: 1778-1802*. New York, NY: G. P. Putnam’s Sons; 1908.

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more folks nurture in children and teens the kinds of habits and perspectives that will lead them away from self-harming thoughts and behaviors.

- *The Plugged In Show* podcast has been given a new website, and it's our hope that many folks will continue to benefit from the wisdom and discernment that mark all of the reviews released by our talented Plugged In team.

As you can see, we are as committed as ever to saving and strengthening families. However, that mission depends on the generosity of friends like you.

As a non-profit ministry, we simply couldn't accomplish even a fraction of these things if it weren't for God's blessing and your heartfelt prayers and generous contributions. As the year-end approaches, please consider giving today to help us finish out the year strong and be ready to impact even more lives in 2021.

Your gift today will help us prayerfully and strategically plan our ministry efforts so that we can be even more effective in the coming year for families like yours. After the year of unrest and uncertainty that we've had, your action that allows us to be here for families is more important than ever.

Please consider a gift today to save marriages, rescue mothers and babies from the pain of abortion, give hope to children and families in foster care, equip parents to face today's challenges and impact culture. Your gift today will be an investment in lives for this year and the next!

Also, amidst global uncertainty and unrest, I want to encourage you to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus Christ. He is the source of all true peace and eternal hope, and He has promised to make all things new (Revelation 21:5). Although our fallen world suffers from sickness and death, natural disasters, and unspeakable evil, we are assured throughout the pages of Scripture that redemption *will* come. Until that marvelous day, may we be a people who bring the love, joy, and truth of our Savior to those around us.

If we can serve you in some way or lift you in prayer, please don't hesitate to call us at 1-800-A-FAMILY (232-6459). As always, I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my heart with you each month and provide an update on our ministry efforts. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones in a special way as you look to Him.

Sincerely,



Jim Daly
President

P.S. As we prepare for a new year of ministry in the middle of such uncertainty and unrest, families need you now more than ever. Please consider a generous gift to help us close out this year strong and make plans to help defend, nurture, and strengthen families during these very challenging times.

In the midst of chaos, God used your support to reach families!

Many people will be glad to see 2020 go . . . maybe you're one of them. From a global pandemic to social unrest and financial devastation, this year has been a challenging one. However, even in the midst of upheaval, God has used your support to reach out to struggling families with hope.

Thank you for joining what God is doing through Focus on the Family to save marriages from divorce, equip parents during these uncertain times, save babies from abortion, help children and families in foster care and more. Your prayers and support have made a difference!

Here's a quick glimpse of some ways God has worked through you in the past year:

“*My mom battled mental illness and my childhood was traumatic. Adventures in Odyssey reminded me that God was there, and I was not alone. Now I'm a 22-year-old college student in the unknown of this pandemic. I prayed for comfort and remembered Adventures in Odyssey. I found the membership trial. A wave of peace came over me as I returned to Whit's End. This has been healing for me.*” —Rory



The COVID-19 pandemic consumed us all in 2020. And for many families, the uncertainty and isolation caused many challenges. Through Focus on the Family, you offered encouragement and hope during this uncertain time.

Focus on the Family Broadcast

In response to the pandemic, our daily broadcast team upended its regular scheduled content in order to bring listeners timely and relevant information on the crisis as it progressed. They recruited broadcast guests that would benefit families like yours the most. From medical professionals to family experts, we've already featured more than 35 guests with unique perspectives on what families are dealing with day by day during this pandemic.

FOCUS@Home

To assist families stuck at home during quarantine orders, you helped Focus on the Family launch a free streaming platform called FOCUS@Home. The on-demand streaming features some of our most popular content for both grown-ups and children. Half of the site was designed for parents and other adults with inspiring programs like biblical teacher Ray Vander Laan's *That the World May Know*® series. The kid-focused resources include popular videos like *Adventures in Odyssey* as well as Focus on the Family's Radio Theatre® versions of *Ben-Hur*, *Little Women* and more.

COVID-19 Resource Page

Because of your faithfulness, we were in a position to act quickly when states began issuing stay-at-home orders. This web page, easily accessible right on the Focus on the Family homepage, offers resources on marriage, parenting, caring for the vulnerable and sharing your faith. Content, which is updated daily, includes special musical guests and free digital issues of our age-appropriate faith magazines—*Brio*®, *Focus on the Family Clubhouse*® and *Focus on the Family Clubhouse Jr.*®

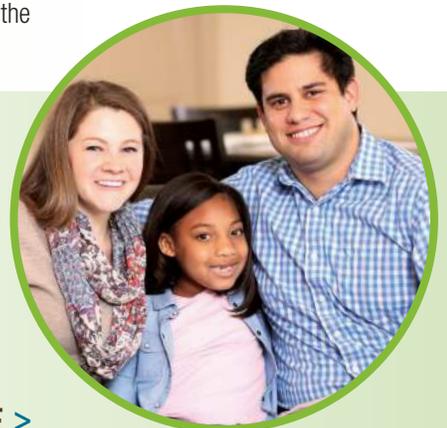
Facebook Live events

With nearly 3 million Facebook followers, Facebook Live events have connected Focus on the Family constituents with marriage and parenting experts to help navigate these challenging and uncharted waters. Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley, licensed counselors and the leaders of the Focus on the Family marriage team, began speaking on topics to help you strengthen your marriage, actively engaging as viewer questions pop up. Facebook followers also have had the opportunity to hear from parenting expert Danny Huerta, head of the Focus on the Family parenting team and a Licensed Clinical Social worker and parent.

“*We knew we were meant to be their family and provide a place of healing and unconditional love.*” —Ashley Woods

Thank you for supporting Focus on the Family's *Wait No More*® Foster Care and Adoption program that works to raise awareness of foster care, adoption from foster care, and supporting foster and adoptive families as well as encourage them to begin the process.

To date more than 4,800 families have initiated the process of foster care, adoption from foster care or supporting foster and adoptive families as a result of *Wait No More*.



The broadcast schedule is subject to change. Listen to the Focus on the Family® Broadcast on your local radio station, your mobile device or online. If you've missed one of these broadcasts, listen online at FocusOnTheFamily.com/Broadcast.

Broadcasts are brought to you by our partners — you!

Feature Guests:

Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley



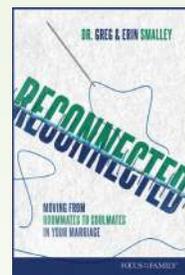
DATE	TITLE	GUEST
10/1	Making Your Marriage a High Priority	Mr. Kirk and Mrs. Chelsea Cameron
10/2	Setting a Godly Example for the Culture	Pastor Brady Boyd
10/5	Simple Ways to Organize Your Home and Family	Mrs. Kristi Clover
10/6	Finding God's Light in Dark Times	Mrs. Patsy Clairmont
10/7	Getting a Handle on Anger	Mrs. Deborah Pegues
10/8	Shouting the Worth of Every Person	Mrs. Heather Avis
10/9	Simple Steps to Improve Your Marriage	Mr. Matt and Mrs. Lisa Jacobson
10/12	How Positive Words Can Change Your Life	Mrs. Sharon Jaynes
10/13	Does Living Together Help or Hurt?	Dr. David Gudgel
10/14	Forgiveness and Healing for Post-Abortive Women	Mrs. Lindsay Christensen and Mrs. Laurie Haynes
10/15	Praying for Unsaved Loved Ones	Pastor Lee Strobel
10/16	Embracing Your Role as a Family's Spiritual Leader	Mr. Jerrad Lopes
10/19-10/20	Hope and Help for Weary Moms I & II	Mrs. Deb Weakly, Mrs. Mari Jo Mast, and Mrs. Krystle Porter
10/21-10/22	Trusting God to Redeem Your Broken Marriage I & II	Mr. David and Mrs. Kirsten Samuel
10/23	Hope for the Anxious During Unsettling Times	Mrs. Deborah Pegues
10/26	Letting God's Light Shine Through Your Marriage	Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Selena Fredrick
10/27	Rising Above the Labels that Bind You	Mrs. Esther Fleece Allen
10/28	The Jesus-Facts Your Child Needs to Know	Mrs. Natasha Crain
10/29-10/30	Finding Freedom from Addiction I & II	Dr. Gregory Jantz

* The broadcast schedule is subject to change.

DATE	TITLE	GUEST
11/2	Offering God's Love to Children without Families	Mr. Darren and Mrs. Stacey Gagnon
11/3-11/4	Sharing Wisdom with the Next Generation I & II	Mr. Rob Parsons
11/5	Sharing God's Light Through Art	Mr. Morgan Weistling
11/6	What Wives Can Do to Bless Their Marriage	Mrs. Angela Mills
11/9	Forging a Partnership with Your Spouse in a Family Crisis	Mr. Evan and Mrs. Elisa Morgan
11/10	Helping Your Teens Put Down Their Screens	Mr. Jonathan McKee and Miss Alyssa McKee
11/11	Rebuilding a Life, Love, and Faith After War	Mr. Carlos and Mrs. Rosemarie Evans
11/12	Practical Ideas for Loving Your Wife	Mr. Jay Payleitner
11/13	Embracing Grace, Fun and Family This Holiday Season	Mrs. Becky Kiser
11/16	Building a Lifelong Relationship with Your Child	Mr. Mike Berry
11/17-11/18	Embracing Messy, Beautiful Forgiveness I & II	Mrs. Lysa TerKeurst
11/19	Finding Hope and Joy While Single Parenting	Mrs. Linda Ranson Jacobs
11/20	Bringing Laughter to Everyday Life	Mr. Tim Hawkins
11/23-11/24	Identifying Triggers in Your Marriage I & II	Mr. Guy and Mrs. Amber Lia
11/25	Building Lasting Memories with Your Family	Mrs. Jessica Smartt
11/26	Celebrating the Miracle of Thanksgiving	Mr. Eric Metaxas
11/27	Showing Kindness and Generosity to Others	Mr. Jim Daly and Mr. John Fuller
11/30	Seeing Christmas through Women's Eyes	Mrs. Liz Curtis Higgs

Reconnected: Moving from Roommates to Soulmates in Your Marriage

In their brand-new book, *Reconnected*, Focus on the Family's Dr. Greg and Mrs. Erin Smalley will help you rekindle the passionate, intimate, heart-to-heart spark of connection with your spouse. Learn how to battle the grind of work and chores and start enjoying life together. We'll send you a copy in appreciation for your ministry gift today of any amount!



Use the enclosed response card to mark your gift and book request or go to FocusOnTheFamily.com/Reconnected20.



Check out our YouTube channel
FocusOnTheFamily.com/YouTube

LIFE UPDATE

Thank you for supporting SEE LIFE™ 2020

God used your support of our SEE LIFE 2020 online event to reveal life to thousands. This transitional event on September 26 featured pro-life stories, speakers, musical guests and a 4D ultrasound of a baby. Thousands joined us online from across the country!

As part of our SEE LIFE 2020 campaign, friends like you also signed our petition to #LoveEveryHeartbeat.

Even more exciting is that many friends like you gave to literally

save lives! Every \$60 helps save the life of a preborn baby through our *Option Ultrasound*. The *Option Ultrasound* program equips pregnancy medical centers with ultrasound machines and sonography training to help expectant mothers meet their babies and choose life.

Go to FocusOnTheFamily.com/SeeLife to learn more about the impact you are making.



These testimonies and updates are just a glimpse into how God is using your generosity to redeem families and impact our culture through Focus on the Family print and online resources, programs and initiatives.

To learn more details about the many efforts your support makes possible, go to FocusOnTheFamily.com