

World Congress of Families Newsletter

November 2007

Vol.1 No.4



WCF NEWS & EVENTS

BERMUDA MEETINGS CHARTS NEW COURSE FOR WCF

A group of dedicated pro-family leaders held three days of meetings in Bermuda (October 4-6) to chart a new course for the World Congress of Families.

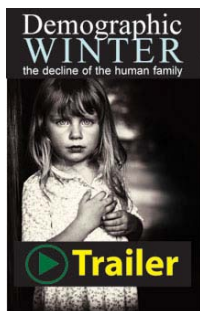


The leaders were asked to speculate on how the global debate over family and life issues has changed since World Congress of Families I (Prague, 1997).

The following consensus observations were made: 1. [continued on page 2](#)

DEMOGRAPHIC WINTER DOCUMENTARY OUT SOON

A soon-to-be-released documentary offers a chilling picture of one of the most disastrous trends in human history – worldwide population decline.



Demographic Winter: Decline of the Human Family is an hour-long examination of the phenomenon culled from interviews done with leaders and scholars from 33 countries, including every continent. A number of discussions took place at World Congress of Families IV (Warsaw, May 11-13) and at the World Family Policy Forum at Brigham Young University (July, 2007).

The documentary examines the economic and social consequences of demographic decline and rapidly aging populations. It also considers the economic impact of below-replacement birth rates and graying populations.

Produced by veteran pro-family activist Barry McLerran, executive director of the Family First Foundation, the documentary will be shown on educational television, as well as in theaters and at film festivals.

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ALLAN CARLSON INTERVIEWED BY SWEDISH NEWSPAPER

An interview with World Congress of Families International Secretary Allan Carlson was published on October 10 in the Swedish Christian newspaper *Varlden idag* (The World Today).

Sweden is currently considering instituting same-sex marriage. (It already has registered partners.) [continued on page 2](#)



BIDS SOON TO BE ACCEPTED FOR WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES V

At the Bermuda Meeting it was decided to begin accepting bids for World Congress of Families V, tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2009.

WCF will soon invite pro-family NGOs – perhaps in partnership with governmental entities – to submit bids to host the next World Congress of Families.



Proposals will be asked to include the following:

- A theme or themes for the Congress
- A likely venue (conference facility) in a city easily accessible by air and ground transportation
- Availability of hotel rooms to accommodate expected conferees.
- A plan to recruit and train volunteers
- A coherent and feasible business plan, including a budget
- Fundraising objectives and how they will be met
- Background on the host organization, including its successes at organizing conferences and other events

Preference will be given to plans that are wholly or largely self-funded as well as to locations of strategic importance to the international pro-family movement. For more details and information on submitting a formal bid, contact WCF Global Coordinator Larry Jacobs at (815) 964-5819, or [by clicking here.](#)

EXPOSÉ OF U.S. DIVORCE INDUSTRY PUBLISHED

Stephen Baskerville, PhD., a Fellow at the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society, is the author of the recently published book, "Taken Into Custody: The War Against Fathers, Marriage and the Family."

The book exposes the devastating cost of the American divorce industry, including civil liberties violations, broken families and disrupted lives. Phyllis Schlafly, president of Eagle Forum, says, "This book is a tremendous and much needed report on how family courts and government policies are harming children."

Baskerville has a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and is an assistant professor of government at Patrick Henry College.

["Taken Into Custody" is available at Amazon.com for the special price of \\$16.47, by clicking here.](#)

WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

World Congress of Families Partners are the foundation of the international pro-family movement. Partners receive all of the benefits of a co-sponsorship of World Congress of Families V, as well as an ongoing relationship with the Congress. [For a list of current WCF Partners, click here.](#) [For a complete list of benefits and to find out how your organization can become a World Congress of Families Partner, click here.](#)



ALLAN CARLSON INTERVIEWED BY SWEDISH NEWSPAPER

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In response, the Swedish Evangelical Alliance called for a nationwide celebration of the institution of marriage on October 21st. (Click here for a related item in Family News From Around the Globe.)

Carlson noted that marriage is a state concern, and not merely a private arrangement, due to the possibility of procreation. "The natural family has that potential. Same-sex couples do not."

Carlson observed, "There's a battle raging in the European Union between two competing visions of the family – the Myrdal vision of the state supplanting the family, and the natural family model, embraced by the World Congress of Families which sees the family as an independent institution and the guarantor of freedom."



BERMUDA MEETINGS CHARTS NEW COURSE FOR WCF

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Homosexuality became mainstreamed. 2. The deconstruction of marriage – reflected in falling birthrates, more out-of-wedlock births, increased cohabitation and singleness – has accelerated globally. 3. Intense competition in a global economy has produced corporations that are indifferent to family and community concerns. 4. Economic, cultural and social environments are increasingly defined by selfishness. 5. There is a growing awareness of falling birthrates and depopulation. 6. Islamic radicalism became visible and divisive. and 7. Family policy-making at the U.N. has shifted from large, international conferences to implementation at the bureaucratic and committee levels.

Participants were then asked to consider where the global family and life debates are headed in the next 10 years. Predictions included: 1. Demographic winter will become a global concern. 2. Biological engineering will accelerate. 3. Religious liberty will come under increasing assault in the name of "abortion rights" and "gay rights." 4. Cohabitation and out-of-wedlock births will continue to increase 5. Traditional families, communities and nations will be increasingly challenged by multinational institutions such as the United Nations and EU. and 6. Global warming will be used to give new impetus to the anti-people message of radical environmentalists.

Finally, participants were asked how the World Congress of Families should respond to these challenges. Among the ideas suggested were: 1. Develop a better human anthropology (What does it mean to be human? Are marriage and children intrinsic to human nature? What are the implications of human exceptionalism?) 2. Place more emphasis on the joy of family life 3. Have more outreach to Asia and non-Western religions 4. Reach out to pro-family movements in Africa 5. Cultivate ties with family-centric NGOs in moderate Arab states 6. Improve networking 7. Expand the WCF cadre of speakers and 8. Create greater continuity and coherence in the WCF process.

The Bermuda Planning Meeting also devised a new committee structure for the Congress, which will be discussed in the December World Congress of Families News.

The following participated in the Bermuda Meeting: Allan Carlson (President, The Howard Center, International Secretary, WCF), Gil Crouse (U.S. Dept. of HHS), Janice Shaw Crouse (Director, Beverly La Haye Institute, Concerned Women for America), Don Feder (Communications Director, WCF, editor WCF News), Enrique Gomez Serrano (Red Familia, Mexico), Larry Jacobs (Global Coordinator, WCF), Paul Mero (President, The Sutherland Institute), Austin Ruse (President, Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute), Bill Saunders (Human Rights Counsel, Family Research Council), Stanford Swim (President, GFC Foundation), Fr. Jaroslaw Szymczak (Institute of Family Studies, Poland), Alberto Vollmer (Pontifical Council for the Family, Vatican City) and Christine Vollmer (President, Latin American Alliance for the Family, Venezuela).

World Congress of Families is grateful to the Vollmers for hosting the meetings at their home.



Allan Carlson and Father Szymczak present WCF IV medal to Christine Vollmer



Family News from Around the Globe



Sweden - Sweden, which has had civil partnerships for gays for more than a decade, is now considering homosexual marriage. A parliamentary committee studying the change is expected to issue a report early next year. An opinion

poll showed only 46% of Swedes favor these unions, while 31% are opposed, with the rest undecided. WCF International Secretary Allan Carlson, who has written extensively on the Swedish family, observed: "Sweden already has the lowest marriage rate in the world, and leads the world in cohabitation. In the United States, 8% of coupled households are cohabiting. In Sweden, the figure is 28%. The failure to form families has predictable consequences. Raising alternative families to the same status as the natural family will exacerbate the trend." In response to the move, the Swedish Evangelical Alliance called in its member churches to celebrate the institution on October 21.

[To read an October 11th WCF press release on this issue, click here.](#)



International - According to a study published in the British medical journal Lancet, worldwide, one in five pregnancies ends in an abortion. In Europe, whose native populations are rapidly disappearing, that's one-in-three. In 2003, the latest year for which statistics are available, there were 42 million abortions

worldwide. Each year, there are 29 abortions for every 1,000 women, ages 15 to 44. Europe has the highest proportion of abortions (involving 32% of all pregnancies), while Africa has the lowest (12%). With its draconian one-child-per-family policy, China accounts for one-fifth of all abortions. The study was undertaken by the Alan Guttmacher Institute (formerly affiliated with Planned Parenthood) which believes the answer to unwanted pregnancies is more contraception – rather than curtailing pre-marital sexual activity or educating on the humanity of the unborn child and offering alternatives to abortion.



Maine - A middle school in Portland, Maine will begin distributing birth control pills to children as young as 11, without parental consent or even notification. Larry Jacobs, WCF Global Coordinator, remarked: "First it was teaching children how to have sex. Then it was giving condoms to high school students. Now, at least one school is distributing oral contraceptives to girls barely out of braces. How does that strengthen the family? It alienates children from their families and tells the former that the school nurse – not their parents – knows best. It also sends a message of societal approval of adolescent sex. Anyone who has intercourse with an 11-year-old is guilty of statutory rape. Is the Maine middle school abetting that crime?"

[To read the WCF press release of October 24th on this development, click here.](#)



United Kingdom - Justice Secretary Jack

Straw has announced that he will propose a law making it a crime punishable by up to 7 years in prison to "incite hatred" based on an individual's actual or perceived "sexual orientation." (For purposes of the law, this will include homosexuality, bisexuality and transgenderism.) Under the proposed law, words alone would be a crime, even words not accompanied by an action like assault or harassment. In Sweden, an evangelical

minister was sentenced to jail time for preaching against homosexuality. (The verdict was later overturned by the nation's high court.) Colin Hart, director of the conservative evangelical Christian Institute in Britain commented: "In a democratic society, people must be free to express their beliefs without fear of censure. A homophobic hatred law would be used by those with an axe to grind against Christians to silence them." Andrea Minichiello Williams of the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship, observed: "The type of actions targeted would not only be violently homophobic words, but would no doubt cover any criticism of practicing homosexuality, homosexual acts and lifestyles." Presumably, truth would not be a defense.

Send us news of pro-family developments in your country and around the world. We're particularly interested in the activities of pro-life and pro-family groups outside the U.S.

[Click here to reach the editor of the World Congress of Families Newsletter.](#)



WCF - PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP

This continues our regular feature of celebrating the women and men who have contributed to the growing success of the international pro-family movement.

MARIE-CLAIRE HERNANDEZ

Marie-Claire Hernandez is a founding member and currently president of Family & Society and a member of the board of directors of Red Familia (Family Network), both based in Mexico. She is also a member of the advisory council of the Family Online Safety Institute in Washington, D.C.



Marie-Claire has been a conference speaker on education and sexuality for 15 years. She has recently been involved in an online safety project in Mexico, and has spoken nationally on addiction to online pornography among children and teens.

Hernandez graduated from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, with a B.A. Honors in Languages. She did postgraduate studies in philosophy and education at the Panamerican University in Mexico City and also studied family counseling at Mexico City's Loma Institute.

She is married to Jesus Hernandez, President of the Mexico Chapter for World Congress of Families III (Mexico City, 2004). Marie Claire both spoke at and took part in the International Organizing Committee for World Congress of Families IV.

Marie-Claire and her husband have seven sons.

[To read her speech at the Warsaw Congress, click here.](#)

WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES MEDALLIONS NOW AVAILABLE – QUANTITIES LIMITED!

A very limited number of World Congress of Families IV medallions are available to the public. The silver-plated medallion, 2 ¼ inches in diameter, comes in a handsome, velvet-lined presentation case, along with a numbered certificate of authenticity. A few of these medals were presented to dignitaries at the Warsaw Congress. Now you can own a piece of history for the modest price of \$100. Sure to appreciate in value.



[Click here to order a medallion.](#)

AUSTIN RUSE

Austin Ruse is president of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (C-FAM), a group which helps pro-family NGOs to negotiate U.N. resolutions, treaties and conventions. He's also the founder and president of the International Organizations Research Group, a think tank that publishes scholarly research on organizations like UNICEF, the U.N. Population Fund, the World Bank and the World Health Organization.



Ruse has briefed U.S. Senate and House members, as well as White House and National Security Council staff on issues relating to the United Nations.

He has appeared frequently on CNN and Fox News, among other broadcast media, discussing U.N. developments. Ruse writes regularly for the Washington Times, National Review Online and The National Catholic Register, and has contributed to two books – one a reflection on terrorism and the other on the future of the pro-life movement.

Ruse has undergraduate degrees in journalism and political science from the University of Missouri and a Doctorate honoris causa from the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

He addressed World Congress of Families II and IV, and was part of the International Planning Committee for WCF IV. Ruse organized an impromptu meeting of parliamentarians in Geneva. In November, 2006, he organized the First Annual Summit of European Pro-Life and Pro-Family Leaders in Paris. The meeting brought together the heads of 50 European groups, as well as a number of parliamentarians, and served as a PrepCon for WCF IV.

Austin is married to the former Cathleen Cleaver, who is a senior legal advisor to the Family Research Council. They have a daughter.

[To read his speech at WCF IV, click here.](#)

DEMOGRAPHIC WINTER DOCUMENTARY OUT SOON

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[To view a trailer for "Demographic Winter: Decline of the Human Family" and pre-order a DVD for \\$19.95, click here.](#) Orders will ship on or before January 1, 2008. One-third of the proceeds from sales will be donated to World Congress of Families.

Spotlight

On.



This is part of our on-going series highlighting speeches from
World Congress of Families IV
(Warsaw, May 11-13, 2007)

BENJAMIN W. BULL, J.D. SPEECH TO WCF IV

Benjamin W. Bull is Executive Vice President and Chief Counsel of the Alliance Defense Fund, a World Congress of Families IV co-sponsor. He has been lead attorney in over 300 trials and appellate cases, including 35 reported decisions addressing Constitutional questions. Several of his cases have been decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Bull is the author of two books and several law review articles. He received a J.D. from the University of South Carolina Law Center (1975) and has been awarded an honorary Doctorate of Law from the Institute of Law and Religion in Moscow.

Bull is a popular speaker on First Amendment litigations, including at conferences of the U.S. Department of Justice and American Bar Association. He has appeared on many television and radio shows, including The Today Show, Good Morning America, Nightline, Crossfire, CSPAN and National Public Radio.

Here are a few excerpts from his Warsaw speech, Attack On Traditional Marriage.

"It is vitally important to recognize that marriage itself is under direct attack by radical homosexual activists and their allies. At a conference at the University of London called 'Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Marriage: A Conference on National European and International Law,' one of the main themes of discussion was whether marriage should exist at all."

"Same-sex 'marriage' is already legal in the Netherlands, and many other European countries have some sort of formal recognition of same-sex couples. In 2003, Belgium joined the



Netherlands to officially recognize same-sex 'marriages.' And in 2005, Spain's new socialist government legalized it as well."

"One can assert that the argument over same sex 'marriage' is only incidentally and secondarily an argument over 'gays.' It is first and fundamentally an argument over marriage itself. Same sex 'marriage' and its imitations will turn out in practice to mean the creation of an alternative form of legal coupling, which will over time result in the practical elimination of marriage and put a new, flimsier institution in its place. Radical homosexual activists recognize this and see their effort to redefine marriage as a tool in their greater agenda to reorder society. Consider this quote from Evan Wolfson, former president of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, 'We can win the freedom to marry.... This won't just be a change in the law either; it will be a change in society. For if we do it right, the struggle to win the freedom to marry will bring much more along the way.'"

"Furthermore, one cannot overstate the threat to traditional religious liberties and free speech if the proponents of alternative forms of same sex 'marriage' have their way.

In the past decade we have seen repeated efforts by the state and homosexual advocates to force religious persons into silence on these issues. Through blatant intimidation, threats, prosecution and law suits, and even beatings, opponents of homosexual behavior have been punished and censored for speaking out."

"Efforts are underway in virtually every western nation to criminalize all opposition to the homosexual agenda, including homosexual 'marriage,' by labeling it as 'hate speech' punishable as a crime. One can only imagine our society when religion-based opposition to the intentional destruction of traditional marriage can only be whispered without fear of punishment or reprisal."

[To read Ben Bull's speech in it's entirety, click here](#)



WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

World Congress of Families relies on the generous support of pro-family donors and activists such as you. Help us to build a truly international pro-family movement and set the stage for World Congress of Families V.

[Click here to make a tax-deductible donation.](#)

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