

Voice in the Wilderness

We must return to God's revelations to find our voice and to shape our vision for the future.

By Mrs. Beverly LaHaye

We've heard many different voices interpreting the terrorism that has been launched against our nation. At such times, inevitably, great minds turn to Scripture to shape a vision for an uncertain future. Ironic, isn't it, how we called on God during 9/11; then shortly afterward, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals wanted to take the words "under God" out of our Pledge of Allegiance?


One of the powerful literary voices of the past was Samuel Beckett. His play, *Happy Days*, was called a masterpiece when he won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1969. That play, like so much of great literature, is related to Scripture. Winnie, the main character, is meant to symbolize "a voice crying in the wilderness." Alone on a stark stage, gradually, she is buried up to her neck in sand to symbolize the isolation of each individual who ends up being merely a lone "voice crying in the wilderness."

Is Beckett's vision true? Are our voices just echoes in a wilderness with no one to hear or care? "No," a thousand times, "No!" Beckett's vision distorts truth. Isaiah's voice reassures us that God is there and He will bring us

comfort. Isaiah tells us to speak the truth to the people. Ephesians 4 tells us to speak the Truth in love, and Ephesians 6 tells us to speak the Truth boldly. Listen to God's words and let them challenge our hearts to speak out with strong voices to proclaim the righteousness of God.

Discordant Voices

Sadly, voices of cynicism, alienation and disbelief, like Beckett's, have duped many other people. A great din of voices has joined Beckett's cynical chorus—a discordant and defiant din



In 1979, Mrs. Beverly LaHaye heard feminist Betty Friedan claim that she spoke for American women. "But she didn't speak for me!" says Mrs. LaHaye. (1990 photo)

that tries to drown out reason and Truth.

Among those discordant voices are the radical feminists and post-modernists whose vision is distinctly contrary to a Biblical worldview, a view that says all human beings—men as well as women—are fallen and disobedient, and we need to humble our hearts and bend our knees to the almighty, omnipotent and omniscient God. What the radical feminists and post-modernists have said is that fallible human beings can and should dictate to God—and to the whole world—how life should be. That feminist vision has failed, yet God's truth about women, and the equality of all human beings, has flourished.

The Truth prevails. Many of the radical feminists have had to take back their words. Gloria Steinem, who said women needed men like a fish needs a bicycle, married a couple of years ago. CWA's voice is unwavering because it is based on Truth from God's Word. Feminist movements have steadily declined—the National Organization for Women today reportedly numbers only 250,000 members. Meanwhile, CWA's membership has increased, and today we number over 500,000 members! Truth marches on! Ultimately, Truth prevails.

Scripture tells us, "Without a vision, the people perish!" Will our vision be grounded in the praise of man . . . or be based solely on the omnipotence of God? At this pivotal point in American history, we, too,

have to resist the temptation to rely on human interventions and our own strength and leadership. We must go back to God's revelations to find our voice and to shape our vision for the future.

Despite what our children are now taught in our more "inclusive" government schools, our Founding Fathers grounded their hopes for our country in God. Our Founding Fathers knew that there have always been and will always be competing visions of what the good society should be. But if

history teaches us anything, it is that false visions must be combated.

In the past century we saw the terrible consequences of a perverted vision,

one dedicated to man's aggrandizement, rather than God's—think of Hitler, Lenin, Stalin, Mao. History is replete with examples. Today the struggle continues: We grapple with the visions of cowardly tyrants and terrorists. Out front are people like Saddam Hussein, the PLO and radical Islamists like Osama bin Laden. Even more frightening are the hundreds if not thousands of unknown terrorists lurking in the neighborhoods of our own country.

The Biblical Vision

A great choice confronts every generation: Whose vision do we follow? Do we accept Beckett's sense of hopelessness? Do we depend, as Plato did, on human rationality? Or, do we look to this nation's Founding Fathers and, like them, trust in God? The line

“When you teach young people that vice is virtue, there is a price to pay.”



President Ronald Reagan was the honored speaker at CWA's Fourth Annual Convention in 1990. "In just a few short years, you have become the largest politically active women's organization in the nation," he told the crowd.

is drawn—Jesus told us that we are either for Him, or against Him. Today we have many highly educated, talented individuals in our universities, the entertainment world, the media, and the courts, which push false visions. But like Plato in ancient Greece, they depend only on their own logic and the creativity of their imagination, which are not based on Truth.

The result is that, as a nation, we have turned away from Virtue. Our culture calls good, evil and considers evil, good. When you teach young people that vice is virtue, there is a price to pay. "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil," proclaimed Isaiah.

Recently, Salon.com ran an article about women who had lost loved ones in the 9/11 attacks. It was meant to generate sympathy for these women who were not married to the men they were involved with. One of these women, Gina, discovered that being a man's lover is not the same as being his wife. Gina had called her firefighter fiancé on September 11 to tell him she

was pregnant. He missed the call, though, because he had just left for the World Trade Center where he became one of the victims. Now, Gina says:

"Not having a marriage certificate has affected every aspect of my life. From not getting the financial support that a widow would receive, to finding myself taking a backseat in everything.

"All of a sudden I feel that the past eight years with this man don't count. I don't have the ability to make decisions that relate to him and on top of that I'm grieving for the loss of my future, for the loss of my child's father, for the loss of [who could have been] my husband. It's just hard that certain people can't see what our relationship meant."

How tragic, Gina just didn't understand that marriage matters.

When King Solomon tells us in Proverbs that the people perish without a vision, he concludes by adding, "He that keeps the law, happy is he." How strange; we think of "vision" as sort of an ethereal, maybe even otherworldly thing. But Solomon grounds vision within the solid boundaries of God's law.

Having a vision doesn't mean going off into flights of fancy and impracticality. Passing on the wisdom of God's law to the next generation;

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passing along a Biblical worldview—a Biblical vision, if you will—means telling young people that freedom comes by living our lives within God's boundaries.

Many of today's generation have grown up in a culture that ignores the revelation of God's Word about what is good, healthful and

meaningful. The voices that shout loudest today sneer at faith. We are bombarded by voices that spin out falsehoods in fancy dress. They sound appealing, but the Bible is clear—"narrow is the way!"

"Gina," the cultural elites said, "marriage is just a piece of paper! You love each other and it feels right. Grab what you want!"

But feelings are not a true vision. Even an infant knows what she likes and dislikes, and the smallest child knows what she wants. But feelings are not an appropriate basis for deciding what are meaningful ends or determining what we should pursue in life. To grow disciplined, one must learn to pursue virtue and hold fast to that which is good.

Gina was living in the here and now of her feelings, unbounded by discipline. Imagine how different her situation—and her child's—would be now if she had been guided by the vision of a holy and committed marriage that reflects the love of Christ for His church.



At CWA's 17th National Convention last September, Mrs. LaHaye concluded the event with a rousing call to action.

Grounded in Virtue

God calls us today, as men and women of faith, to raise our voices proclaiming a vision grounded in virtue. He calls us to be His witnesses in standing against all that is evil and based on vice.

The truth for which CWA stands is marching on. We are called to be God's voice, crying in the wilderness of our day. And though we find solidarity and comfort in our common purpose and our common vision, our ultimate strength is in the Lord and in the sure knowledge of His ultimate victory.

You know, my husband, Tim, tells me there has been some little renewed interest recently in the End Times . . . I'm not exactly sure where he got that idea. I think he said it had something to do with people being stirred up over the prospect of being "left behind."

Seriously, we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God is going to return to reward His faithful. And, in the real play, in the real drama of life, we wait with longing for our God who will surely return to reward His faithful.

So, even though we wait in the wilderness of contemporary culture, we hear a voice crying:

“Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted. . . . The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.” (Isaiah 40:3b-4a, 5a)

Let us go forth in strength into the next phase of our mission as concerned men and women. Let us renew our commitment to our shared vision. We cannot afford to give up.

Dr. Francis Schaeffer put it best when he described our challenge. He said, “We must use our freedom to preserve our freedom, while we still have our freedom, or neither our children nor our grandchildren shall rise up to call us blessed!”

Let me challenge each member of CWA to use your voice to spread the vision and to join with other concerned men and women to care for our country. We must fight the good fight so that virtue will triumph over vice, so this great nation will remain the land of the free. I close with the words of Paul the Apostle, from Ephesians 6:10&11:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord . . .

that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”

The time is now for us to speak boldly. 

Mrs. Beverly LaHaye, who founded Concerned Women for America in 1979, presented this address at CWA's 17th National Convention. It was held September 20-21 in Washington, D.C. Mrs. LaHaye served as CWA's president until 1995, and she currently is Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- PRAY** Pray daily that the young people in your life will revere God's Holy Word.
- PRAISE** Offer praise to God for how He has blessed CWA over these 23 years.
- ACT** Call 800-458-8797, ext. 118, to find or start a CWA prayer/action chapter in your community. Then, with these like-minded people, commit to stand for God's truth!

Correction

The sidebar article, “The Truth About Condoms,” found on page 9 of the Sept./Oct. issue of Family Voice, should have contained the following accurate statements about the failure of condoms to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. (Relative risk does not mean the actual percentage risk of infection but rather refers to the calculated difference of risk between using a condom and not using a condom.)

Even with 100 percent condom use, sexually active individuals still have a:

- ★ 15 percent relative risk of HIV infection;
- ★ 50 percent relative risk of acquiring chlamydia, gonorrhea and, for women, syphilis. Another study has shown that when a sexually active individual uses a condom at least 65 percent of the time, there is still a:
- ★ 50 percent relative risk of contracting herpes.