

March 2011

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Come Let Us Reason Together

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. --Isaiah 1:18

Why does that billboard come to mind? Perhaps it's because state and local tax receipts are plummeting to a greater degree than was the case in 1971 when a certain billboard near SeaTac Airport read "Will the last person leaving Seattle—turn out the lights." It was a time of great uncertainty as Boeing, in particular, was forced to reduce its workforce by more than 60,000 workers. But this time, it is the public sector (government) that is in trouble. Deep trouble.

Even thus, there are loads of pesky bills making their way to the chamber floors for a final vote, not to mention several morally reprehensible measures that should never even have received a hearing.

As longtime activists in the public policy arena, we don't claim to own the solutions to the litany of moral and financial troubles facing our state at this hour. But we know One who does. HE is the great game-changer who responds to those who call upon Him (*Romans 10:12b*). For this reason, we have been led to call for "boots-on-the-ground" at the Capitol campus in Olympia.

Some weeks ago, we initiated a series of visits to 26 newly elected state lawmakers for the purpose of getting personally acquainted, and to let them know "we" are lifting them, their staff, and their families before the Lord. The "we" includes a widely respected capital-area prayer ministry and a local chapter of Gideons who are presenting personalized Bibles to our 26 newest friends.

The game plan has been to see that each new lawmaker, Democrat and Republican, receives at least three "ministry" visits before the current session ends. That portion of our mission will be accomplished ahead of time, maybe even next week. We also are releasing teams of intercessors throughout the campus, bringing with them, a sweet fragrance that can begin to change the atmosphere. This is not to say that we don't have our awkward or intimidating moments. We do. But each week "we grow stronger and our enemy grows weaker."¹

It should be noted that after perusing the BIOS of this freshman class, we are most impressed with their credentials. They have prepared well for their calling, and can accomplish much, if undergirded with prayer. Following are "edited-for-space" BIOS for fewer than half the 2011 freshman class of Washington State legislators (see www.christiancoalition.us for 26 full versions):

Sen. Michael Baumgartner (R-Spokane)—represents District 6. Michael is a former diplomat and business consultant, having served as an Economic Affairs Officer with the US State Department in Iraq. He is currently an economics advisor to the military. Michael has a degree in Economics from Washington State University and a master's in Public Administration in International Development from Harvard where he was a Teaching Fellow. While in college he spent a year as a volunteer teaching in Mozambique.

Rep. Ann Rivers (R-La Center)—represents District 18. Ann heads a governmental affairs consulting firm. She is a member of the Clark County Rotary, and publicity chairwoman for West Clark County Relay for Life—for the American Cancer Society. Ann holds a bachelor's degree, with a major in political science and minor in natural science, and a secondary education teaching certificate from Central Michigan University.

Rep. Chris Reykdal (D-Tumwater)—represents District 22. Chris has worked as a finance administrator for the community and technical college system. Chris is a former teacher, city of Tumwater Planning Commissioner and current Tumwater School Board Member. He earned his baccalaureate degree in social studies with a teaching certificate from Washington State University and a masters degree in public administration from the School of Government at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill.

Rep. Katrina Asay (R-Milton)—represents District 30. Katrina is a tax preparer and real estate agent and has been both a city councilmember and Mayor of Milton. Other community service includes: State Board member of Association of Washington Cities; Past President of Pierce County Cities and Towns Association, and Past President of Fife/Milton Rotary—to name a few.

Rep. Cathy Dahlquist (R-Enumclaw)—represents District 31. Cathy has served as a member and president of the Enumclaw School Board. She has also been a State School Directors Association conference presenter and a symphony guild board president. Other activities include: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Enumclaw, King County 4-H advisor, and Kibler Elementary PTA. Cathy earned a Bachelor's of Science from the University of Alabama.

Rep. Cindy Ryu (D-Shoreline)—represents District 32. Cindy and husband Cody own and manage retail and commercial space. Cindy served as a Shoreline Councilmember before her election as Mayor in 2008 and was president of the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce. She has a BS in Microbiology and an MBA from the UofW.

Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon (D-Burien)—represents District 34. Joe has worked both at the King County Council and as a legislative assistant. In addition, he served as a member of the Burien Planning Commission and later as chair. Joe graduated from Principia College with degrees in history and political science, and has also studied at the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs.

Sen. Nick Harper (D-Everett)—represents District 38. Nick serves as the Snohomish County Conservation Director of the Cascade Land Conservancy, and formerly as Legislative Director for the Snohomish County-Camano Island Association of Realtors. Nick received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Washington and graduated cum laude with a law degree from Seattle University.

Sen. Steve Litzow (R-Mercer Island)—represents District 41. Steve, a former Procter & Gamble executive, is a two-term Mercer Island City Councilmember and a leader on the Public Safety Committee, the Sustainability Committee, the Planning Commission, the Eastside Transportation Partnership and the Green Ribbon Commission. Steve belongs to the Mercer Island Rotary, and three regional Chambers of Commerce.

Sen. Andy Hill (R-Redmond)—represents District 45. Andy is a Colgate University honors graduate in Physics with minors in Computer Science and Mathematics. He received his MBA from Harvard Business School and was later recruited by Microsoft. Andy is very involved in his community. He has received special recognition for his work with a parent coalition for developmental disabilities and has served as president of his local PTA.

Rep. Mark Hargrove (R-Covington)—represents District 47. Mark is an Eagle Scout, an Air Force Academy graduate and a veteran Air Force pilot. He is currently a Boeing instructor pilot for the new 747, 777 and 787 airliners. Mark and his family attend church in Black Diamond. In 2009, they volunteered their time and resources at a rural orphanage in Zimbabwe.

For various reasons, the term “politics” has come to infer “unclean, unclean.” But *politics* is fundamentally the act of persuading others to see things our way. Is that not what the Church is to do? Do we overload the unconverted with facts or do we persuade them to come and taste of the Lord and see that He is good?

As stated, we find no lightweights among our newest public servants. Disagree with some of their views, maybe. But they deserve our respect. And more so, our prayers—as God commands. Will you join us?

Rick Forcier

¹ Adapted from an anonymous Valley Forge soldier—printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet*. Source: P. Marshall, The Light and the Glory, Fleming H. Revell Company, 1977, pg. 325