

# SALT & LIGHT

## BIBLICAL CITIZENSHIP



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### APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

- *Take It Down Act* to Protect Teens
- Homeschooling: Next Gov't. Target?

National

#### **TAKE IT DOWN ACT TO PROTECT TEENS**

In February, First Lady Melania Trump, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, and U.S. Representative Maria Salazar, hosted a roundtable on Capitol Hill with members of Congress, Survivors of Non-Consensual Intimate Imagery (NCII), and online safety advocates for a discussion focused on promoting online protection of children and passing S.146/H.R.633, the *Take It Down Act*. The Act, now moving to the House, passed the Senate unanimously. It would criminalize the publication of non-consensual intimate imagery (NCII), including AI-generated NCII (or "deepfake" [digitally altered] "revenge pornography"), and require websites to remove such content within 48 hours of notice from a victim. "It's heartbreaking to witness young teens, especially girls, grappling with the overwhelming challenges posed by malicious online content, like deepfakes...[w]e must prioritize their well-being by equipping them with the support and tools necessary to navigate this hostile digital landscape," said First Lady Melania Trump. Senator Ted Cruz commented: "The bipartisan *Take It Down Act* empowers victims across the United States, and I am honored that First Lady Melania Trump has lent her strong voice to this cause." The Act would empower victims of real and deepfake NCII by criminalizing the publication of NCII in interstate commerce, protecting good faith efforts to assist victims, requiring websites to take down NCII upon notice from the victim, and protecting lawful speech.

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 1:17; Proverbs 31:8-9.

**PRAY:** Congress passes the *Take It Down Act*.

**ACTION:** In your own words, write a postcard to First Lady Melania Trump, thanking her for promoting the "Take It Down Act" to protect young people online. First Lady Melania Trump: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/03/readout-from-first-lady-melania-trumps-roundtable-discussion-on-online-protection-and-the-take-it-down-act/>

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/2025/2/cruz-klobuchar-bill-to-protect-teenagers-from-deepfake-revenge-porn-unanimously-passes-the-senate>

#### **HOMESCHOOLING: NEXT GOVT. TARGET?**

Homeschool families are being singled out by a legislator in Illinois. State Representative Terra Costa Howard filed a bill known as "The Homeschool Act," or HB2827, that would order parents to register when they decide to educate their children at home. The measure introduces new conditions including educational criteria for parents and reporting requirements for parents who seek to homeschool. Urging lawmakers to oppose the controversial bill, Illinois Christian Home Educators warns, "This is an unprecedented overreach into the lives of homeschool families, and religious, and secular nonpublic schools in Illinois." This measure comes in a state where only 41 percent of eighth graders and 31 percent of twelfth-graders can read at grade level. As for school safety, in 2022, Alex Newman, president of Liberty Sentinel Media and executive director of Public School Exit, documented for Illinois Family Institute a 2018 *Chicago Tribune* investigation that sex abuse was rampant in the state's public schools. Newman reports it is not just Illinois, either. This past February, his *Newman Report* published an article chronicling how government schools in Texas were legally protecting thousands of accused child rapists and molesters from prosecution, even allowing them back into the classroom without being reported to police.

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 18:6.

**PRAY:** Government respects parental rights in education.

**ACTION:** In your own words, write a postcard to Terra Costa Howard stating your opposition to Illinois targeting homeschool families through HB2827. Terra Costa Howard, 244-W Stratton Office Building, Springfield, IL.

<https://www.publicschoolsexit.com/illinois-homeschoolers-under-attack-everyone-else-next/>; <https://tinyurl.com/8awyh4d3>

#### **TRUMP DEMANDS HOSTAGES FREED**

President Donald Trump issued a new ultimatum to Hamas, "Shalom Hamas' means Hello and Goodbye—you can choose," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Release all of the hostages now—not later—and immediately return all of the dead bodies of the people you murdered, or it is OVER for you." Trump's post on Truth Social was uploaded after meeting with eight released hostages in the Oval Office, and amid an apparent impasse in negotiations between Israel and Hamas. The White House later showed footage of part of the meeting, with some of those set free speaking separately to the camera. They reportedly detailed to the president the appalling circumstances of their captivity. Trump has issued multiple ultimatums to Hamas over the past several months with limited success. The terror group did not release all the captives, but did agree to a multiphase ceasefire deal with Israel that secured the return of 33 during the first stage. Of the 59 hostages that remain in Hamas captivity, 25 are assessed to still be alive. "I am sending Israel everything it needs to finish the job; not a single Hamas member will be safe if you don't do as I say," Trump warned. Hamas quickly rejected the proposal.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 12:1-3; Luke 4:18,19.

**PRAY:** Remaining hostages return home immediately.

**ACTION:** In your own words, write a postcard to President Trump, thanking him for his unyielding support for Israel. President Donald J. Trump: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-tells-sick-and-twisted-hamas-to-free-all-hostages-now-or-it-is-over-for-you/>

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/hostages-freed-from-qaza-tell-trump-he-sent-god-save-them-dozens-more-remain>

### **NOT LOST IN SPACE ANYMORE!**

NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams survived nine unexpected months on the International Space Station, but they finally returned home to Earth on March 18<sup>th</sup> thanks to SpaceX. Within an hour of being back on Earth, the astronauts were out of their capsule, waving and smiling at the cameras while being hustled away in stretchers for routine medical checks. When asked about the lesson he takes from the experience, Wilmore replied, "[T]his goes back to my faith. It's bound in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is working out His plan and His purposes for His glory throughout all of humanity, and how that plays into our lives is significant and important, and however that plays out, I am content." The pair first blasted off on June 5 on Boeing's first astronaut flight to the International Space Station for an eight-day mission, but it took an unexpected turn when they began to experience mechanical issues on their original spacecraft. Wilmore and Williams quickly transitioned from "guests" to full-fledged space station crew members, conducting experiments, fixing equipment, and even spacewalking together. Wilmore serves as an elder at Providence Baptist Church in Texas.

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 15:13; Romans 8:28.

**PRAY:** Praise God for bringing home the astronauts.

**ACTION:** In your own words, write a postcard to NASA Astronaut Butch Wilmore, thanking him for his bold witness and expression of faith. NASA Astronaut Barry E. "Butch" Wilmore, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center: 1601 NASA Parkway, Houston, TX 77058.

<https://cbn.com/news/us/after-9-grueling-months-space-rescued-nasa-astronaut-says-it-was-jesus-kept-him>

<https://www.movieguide.org/news-articles/u-s-astronaut-praises-god-amid-being-stuck-in-space.html>

### **DISNEY: 1ST CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IN YEARS**

Disney Pixar's latest animated series, *Win or Lose*, introduced its first explicitly Christian character in nearly two decades. Some say this indicates a sign the entertainment giant is returning to the family values foundation of its success. Laurie, a character feeling self-doubt, turns to God in prayer for help. "Dear Heavenly Father, please give me strength," Laurie prays. "I have faith, but sometimes the doubt creeps in." The company avoided Christian references for years, but that changed with the debut of the show *Win or Lose*, described as "intertwined stories of eight different characters as they each prepare for their big championship softball game—the insecure kids, their helicopter parents, even a lovesick umpire." *Win or Lose* co-creators Carrie Hobson and Michael Yates previously discussed their aim for the

show. "We knew from the beginning we wanted to have all the hallmarks of a Pixar film—humor, heart, and creativity," they said in a press release. "We came to the table also knowing we wanted to tell the types of stories we couldn't tell in a film format. Which included multi-protagonists, nonlinear storytelling, and really just pushing the tone to be more outside of the box."

**SCRIPTURE:** Deuteronomy 6:7-9; Philippians 4:8.

**PRAY:** Disney continues to promote Godly family values.

**ACTION:** In your own words, write a postcard to Disney Pixar's Chief Creative Officer Pete Doctor, thanking him for bringing back characters expressing Christian values of faith and morality. Chief Creative Officer Pete Doctor, Disney Pixar Corporate Office: 1200 Park Avenue, Oakland, California 94608.

<https://www.dailywire.com/news/disney-animated-series-has-openly-christian-character-for-first-time-in-almost-two-decades>

<https://vision.org.au/news/disneys-first-christian-role-in-18-years/>

### **UPCOMING LECTURE: Dr. Robert Malone**

**TOPIC: Psywar, Propaganda, MAHA, and MAGA**

**DATE:** April 21 | **TIME:** 5:45PM PST | 8:45PM EST

**REGISTER:** <https://www.saltandlightcouncil.org/upcoming-lecture-series/>

### **SALT & LIGHT MINISTRY MOMENT:**

NOTE: Ministry Moment is for educational purposes only. The information offered by organizations is from their websites and should not be used as a substitute for your research.

#### **Tim Tebow Foundation | Tim Tebow, Founder**

Utilizing the public platform with which God has blessed Tim Tebow, the Tim Tebow Foundation seeks to inspire and make a difference in people's lives throughout the world by fighting for the world's most vulnerable people (MVPs). The ministry accomplishes this through four main focuses: anti-human trafficking and child exploitation, orphan care and prevention, profound medical needs, and special needs ministry. Since 2010, the Foundation has impacted lives in 90 nations and counting. During his address to Congress introducing the Renewed Hope Act of 2024 to safeguard children from child sexual abuse material (CSAM), Tim Tebow stated that Christians are called to be "[a] Voice for the Voiceless." Tebow continued, "For too long, hundreds of thousands of girls and boys have endured horrific abuse—often at the hands of adults who are supposed to protect them." The Foundation pursues the vision of finding, reaching, and fighting for the MVPs in every country worldwide while sharing with them about the God who created them in His own image and who loves them with a perfect and lasting love.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 82:3; Ephesians 2:10.

**PRAY:** God magnifies the impacts of this ministry worldwide.

**ACTION:** For a Prayer and Action Meeting, review the four areas of ministry through the Tim Tebow Foundation and how Christians can volunteer to help MVPs.

<https://timtebowfoundation.org/>