

Crushing Cancer With These God-Given Foods

Of the countless diseases that ravage the body, cancer may be one of the most devastating.

But what if there was a way to not merely avoid cancer—but reverse it?

Dr. Don Colbert recalls a time when he had numerous cancer patients come into his office. He shares on *The Jim Bakker Show* that he was at a loss as to how to help these cases of advanced cancer.

“And so the Lord had me go to a fellowship, an advanced nutritional fellowship for integrative medicine for how to treat cancer,” Dr. Colbert says. “So I studied under a lot of M.D., under some doctors, speakers, people from cancer institutes down in Mexico. And He kind of showed me a plan.”

Dr. Colbert says this God-given plan has everything to do with food.

“Cancers love sugars,” he says. “They’re sugar-feeders.”

Watch the video to find out which superfoods Dr. Colbert says are the most important aspect to cancer therapy.

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Is It Right for a Minister to Drink Wine or Liquor?

The Bible is saturated with wholesome and positive statements about sex, food and wine. But the Bible also contains warnings about all three.

Here's an example of the balance of these three sensory delights.

Food is a necessity. Gluttony is sin.

Sex is a gift from God within marriage. Fornication, adultery and homosexuality are sin.

Wine is a pleasant drink. Drunkenness is sin.

Among these three delights of the senses, food is the only necessity. Although some sex addicts may disagree, sex is only a necessity to populate the earth, but not for the survival of the body. Wine, of course, is neither.

We must understand that the abuse of any of these delights does not do away with the enjoyment that these things can bring to our lives.

Although all three of these delights are permissible and even celebrated in Scripture within God's boundaries, they are also warned about in Scripture, and can become addictions that bring death and destruction.

I'm sure you'll agree with me that the most controversial of these delights among sincere believers is wine. We know sex outside marriage is forbidden. We know food is a necessity, but excessive eating can make us gluttonous. But what about wine?

Most will say, as I've already stated, it is pleasant and

permissible, but you shouldn't abuse it and get drunk. Then there are those professing believers who will go as far to adamantly say that it is Gnostic, pagan and religious to avoid it altogether. Hmmm ... Could this sort of licentious attitude be the beginning of the abuse of Christian liberties—in this case, concerning the drinking of wine?

Notice what the apostle Paul said concerning Christian liberties, specifically the eating of meat offered to idols.

But take heed, lest by any means this liberty of yours becomes a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you, who have knowledge, eating in the idol's temple, shall the conscience of him who is weak not be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols, and by your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? When you thus sin against the brothers, wounding their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to stumble (1 Cor. 8:9-13).

Could the same principle be applied to drinking wine?

The Main Reason I Don't Drink Wine

In Bible school many years ago, one of my most-respected teachers gave an example of the abuse of Christian liberties that I never forgot. He said during lunch hour one day, several pastors were in a restaurant drinking wine with their meal, which by the way, I find no fault in alone, for it is even a part of many cultures today.

It is actually a part of my European/ Portuguese culture and my own upbringing. From an early age, I drank a glass of wine with family meals. Anyway, into the restaurant walks a woman, a young convert and former alcoholic, and observes these pastors drinking wine with their meal. So she thinks it's OK and begins to drink again, and that alcoholic devil got a hold

of her life once more. Think about that. I'd hate to have that on my conscience on Judgment Day.

Here's what the Bible says about that: "But whoever misleads one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for him to have a millstone hung about his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matt. 18:6).

That, my friends, is the reason, in good conscience, I can no longer drink wine. I learned this lesson again years later when I was ministering in Italy with some of my Bible school students. Our gracious Italian hosts offered me a delightful drink that contained some alcohol, which I understood to be a part of their culture. Well, one of my students was greatly offended when I drank it. He understood the culture, but he did not understand his teacher drinking the alcohol-mixed drink. Here's the bottom line:

"It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine, nor do anything whereby your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak" (Rom. 14:21).

Love, and not knowledge, must be the basic principle by which Christians live.

Being a stumbling block involves more than upsetting or offending another. It is a serious and deliberate offense that wounds and weakens another's conscience and can ruin a relationship with Christ. Christian liberty must always be exercised in love with a view to strengthening others.

In the above Scripture, Paul was dealing with eating meat. Eating meat is essentially an ethically neutral act (1 Cor. 8:8), but not all people in Paul's day had that same level of knowledge. Some new converts are uncertain about the power of their former sins and pagan gods. Yet others may know that former gods and idols hold no more power over them.

Knowledge puffs up because it has two basic defects: 1. It has

a tendency to focus on self; 2. And it is inadequate to create a bond in personal relationships. The principle of love is the determining factor in questions of moral insignificance. Love, according to the *Spirit Bible*, places limitations on the liberty of conscience.

In and of themselves, alcoholic beverages, which include wine, are neutral in the Bible, but applied to our lives, can bring trouble and destruction more than they do pleasure.

One glaring definitive verse about the bad effects of wine and alcohol is found in Proverbs: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise" (Prov. 20:1).

It would seem by this verse alone that the closer one gets to the Lord the wiser he will be in his relation to wine and alcohol. Additionally, there are certain biblical restrictions to wine that apply to Nazarites, prophets and priests in the Old Covenant (Ezek. 44:21, Amos 2:11-12, Luke 1:15), and ministers of the New Covenant (1 Tim. 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7, 2:3). Furthermore, all believers are called to be vigilant, alert, and sober (1 Thess. 5:5-8)). Wine and strong drink has a tendency to cloud these qualities.

Following are some more verses that speak of the bad effects of wine and strong drink.

1. People in positions of authority such as kings and princes were warned against the use of it.

"It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink" (Prov. 31:4).

2. Wine and strong drink lead to error and poor judgment.

"But they also have erred through wine and stagger from strong drink; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are confused by wine, they stagger from strong

drink; they err while having visions, they stumble when rendering judgment” (Is. 28:7).

3. Wine is linked to defilement.

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s food, nor with the wine which he drank. Therefore he requested of the master of the officials that he might not defile himself” (Dan. 1:8).

4. Wine enslaves the heart.

“Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart” (Hos. 4:11).

There are 226 verses in the Bible that talk about alcohol. More of them have to do with its bad effects than good. Why then do many Christians defend their right to drink?

Perhaps it is because they are not enjoying a Spirit-filled life. When you’re filled with the wine of the Spirit, you will not seek to gratify yourself with the wine of the flesh. If you’re not enjoying the Spirit-filled life, you don’t yet have what God wants you to have.

There’s no doubt God has richly given us earthly delights to enjoy (1 Tim. 6:17), but when you maintain a Spirit-filled life, you’ll find that Jesus is enough for you. {eoa}

President Trump: ‘No Child of God Should Ever Suffer Such

Horror'

At approximately 8:40 p.m. EDT Thursday night, and at the direction of President Donald Trump, two U.S. Navy destroyers launched nearly 60 cruise missiles at the Syrian Air Force base from which it is believed to have launched its chemical weapons attack against the people of the Idlib province.

According to the Pentagon, the strike targeted Shayrat Airfield in the Homs province, and was conducted using 59 Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles launched from the destroyers U.S.S. Porter and U.S.S. Ross stationed in the Mediterranean Sea. Targets included "aircraft, hardened aircraft shelters, oil and logistical storage, ammunition supply bunkers, air defense systems and radars."

"As always, the U.S. took extraordinary measures to avoid civilian casualties and to comply with the Law of Armed Conflict," Department of Defense spokesman Navy Capt. Jeff Davis said. "Every precaution was taken to execute this strike with minimal risk to personnel at the airfield.

"The strike was a proportional response to [Syrian President Bashar al-Assad]'s heinous act. Shayrat Airfield was used to store chemical weapons and Syrian air forces. The U.S. intelligence community assesses that aircraft from Shayrat conducted the chemical weapons attack on April 4. The strike was intended to deter the regime from using chemical weapons again."

The strike also had the potential of inflicting casualties upon Russian forces also stationed at the base. Using the "deconfliction line" established following earlier "close calls" during U.S. operations directed at ISIS in Syria, the Russians were notified in advance of the incoming attack.

Davis said the cruise missiles were targeted in such a way as to minimize the risk to personnel located at the base. Initial

indications, he added, were that the strike “severely damaged or destroyed” Syrian aircraft and support infrastructure and equipment.

The Syrian government is claiming that six of its military personnel were killed in the attack. Russia objected to the attack, calling it an “aggression,” and in response cut the deconfliction line and suspended coordination of ongoing airstrikes against ISIS. Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to hold a meeting with his military advisers later Friday to discuss a response.

The president was having dinner with his Chinese counterpart as the strikes were underway. About an hour after they occurred, he emerged from his meeting with Xi Jinping to issue a brief statement to the press pool on hand at Mar-a-Lago.

“My fellow Americans, on Tuesday Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad launched a horrible chemical weapons attack on innocent civilians using a deadly nerve agent,” he said. “Assad choked out the lives of helpless men women and children. It was a slow and brutal death for so many, even beautiful babies were cruelly murdered in this very barbaric attack.

“No child of God should ever suffer such horror.”

The president said he ordered the targeted military strike on the airfield from which the chemical attack was launched because of the “vital national security interest” of the United States to prevent and deter the spread and use of chemical weapons. U.S. military units are also stationed in Syria, working in coordination with rebel groups, and could have found themselves targeted by those deadly weapons.

“There can be no dispute that Syria used banned chemical weapons, violated its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention, and ignored the urging of the U.N. Security Council,” he added. “Years of previous attempts at changing Assad’s behavior have all failed and failed very dramatically.

As a result, the refugee crisis continues to deepen and the region continues to destabilize, threatening the United States and its allies.”

The president called for “all civilized nations” to join the U.S. in ending the Syrian civil war, and rooting out the terrorists who have taken refuge there. He also made a very public request for the Lord’s intervention.

“We ask for God’s wisdom as we face the challenge of our very troubled world,” he said. “We pray for the lives of the wounded and for the souls of those who have passed, and we hope that as long as America stands for justice, then peace and harmony will in the end prevail. Good night and God bless America and the entire world.”

You can watch his entire speech in the video above. The videos below show the launches of missiles from the U.S.S. Porter and U.S.S. Ross, respectively.

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Kicking Out the Ishmaels That Distract You From Your Prophetic Destiny

Many people today fall for Ishmaels in their walk with the Lord and they don’t even realize it until it gets really complicated. You can read the story of Ishmael in Genesis 16-21, but I’ll give you my abbreviated version. Basically, God told Abraham that even though he was really old, and his wife Sarah was long past her child-bearing years, they were

going to have more descendants than one could count.

They couldn't understand how this was going to happen given that their physical bodies were too old to bear children. So Sarah hatched what she thought was a well-thought-out plan. She was just going to help God along with this prophetic destiny and make it happen herself. In that time period, it was a semi-common practice to give one's maid to one's husband in order for the duo to procreate, because that would be considered the same as the wife and husband having a child. So Sarah gave her maid Hagar to her husband so they could produce a son.

I'd like to add here that in no way do we read in the Bible that Abraham protested this decision. So Hagar and Abraham produced a son. I am sure at this point they were all satisfied with themselves. They thought they were helping God along here. Fast forward a few years, and God again told Abraham that He was going to give them a son. Sarah laughed at this idea. But eventually, Isaac was born.

Isaac was the promised child. Ishmael was the one they produced in their own ability. They tried to force what God said was going to happen before its time. Eventually, Abraham had to tell Hagar and Ishmael to leave the camp because Ishmael and Isaac couldn't be raised together.

It was a horrible situation if you think about it. Ishmael was Abraham's son. Abraham had to decide that He couldn't keep the two boys together, and one of his children had to go. I'm not suggesting anyone put a child away from them, but this story has spiritual implications.

I have seen this scenario play out in many people's lives, including mine. My story with Ishmael and Isaac was about the man I knew God wanted me to marry. God spoke to me early about praying for my future spouse. I had received prophetic word after prophetic word regarding this man, but I was getting

tired of waiting. When I met and dated a man in college, I tried to force this dating situation to fit what I thought God was saying. Honestly, I think I was lying to myself. I was willing to be deceived because I was sure I was going to help God. But really, I was like a little kid banging the wrong puzzle piece into a puzzle, pretending it would work.

Here is a list of things you need to remember when dealing with life situations and discerning if something is an Ishmael or an Isaac:

- Ishmaels will take you away from God. Isaacs will draw you closer.
- Getting to the Isaacs—those things that seem impossible—in your life will require patience. I have often joked that there is a reason patience is listed in the Bible as part of the fruit of the Spirit. It's because it is only by God's Spirit one can truly be patient.
- The circumstances around Ishmaels do not have genuine fruit of the Spirit. Where is love, joy, gentleness and self-control?
- You don't have to force Isaac situations to happen. They happen because they are God-ordained.
- Ishmael situations will start to get ugly, complicated and snarky. You cannot let emotions be your guide in life, especially in Ishmael situations. You have to come back to God and discern what God is saying.
- Ishmaels will try to derail your destiny.

My Ishmael and Isaac story has a happy supernatural ending. Despite this speed bump, I found myself in a place coming back to God and desperately seeking His will for my life. Walking away from the Ishmael situation I had created was excruciating, but I'm so thankful to God that I have my Isaac. While it is true I do not know how I would have ever met my husband had it not been for the Ishmael in the story, it's what I tried to make happen with the Ishmael relationship is

where it was an issue. I didn't need to make it happen. God knew best.

Perhaps by listening to my own story you saw yourself. Ishmaels aren't always obvious, but you must pray to God and let Him shed light onto your situations. The truth is, Ishmaels will often appear in your life before Isaacs do. Don't fall for the Ishmael. Trust God. When He is bringing about this new step in your journey, it's going to be awesome and fruitful. Stop trying to bang that puzzle piece in place and wrestle with the divine. Take it from me, wrestling with God is exhausting, and He always has a better plan.

Let God be God. When you do that, you'll see your life transformed. {eoa}

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The Only Way to Step Into the Bounty God Has in Store for You

I think it's healthy to stop periodically and take inventory of our lives. It's important to ask, "Am I really living the life Christ died for me to have? Or am I settling for something less?"

Regardless of what's happened in the past or what obstacles seem to be in our way, God has a big, full life in store for each one of us. But it's up to us whether we're going to get the best out of life and make the most of our time, talents, relationships and opportunities.

The book of Genesis contains a great lesson in this area. It shares the story of Abraham's father, Terah, who gathered his family, packed up everything and set out for his ultimate destination—Canaan.

However, Genesis 11:31 tells us, "... They went forth together to go from Ur of the Chaldees into the land of Canaan; but when they came to Haran, they settled there" (AMPC).

Wow! I wonder how many people start out to do one thing in life but settle somewhere along the way because they get tired or because it's convenient. It's not really what they want, but it's something they think they can "settle for."

Are there areas in your life where you have settled, or maybe just haven't made as much progress as you had hoped?

The Lord has called us to excellence, and we don't have to settle for mediocrity. The word mediocre literally means "to live halfway between success and failure." And that's where so many people live; they haven't completely failed, but they're also not where they really want to be.

This applies to every area of our lives. Maybe you've begun studying the Bible, and you have a goal to really know God's Word and develop an intimate, close relationship with Him. If that's the case, don't settle for just reading a chapter a day to "put your time in"—stay determined to make it a priority and reap the benefits of truly knowing God.

Or maybe you have a goal to lose 20 pounds. If so, make a decision that you're not going to give up when it gets difficult. Even if you have a bad day and actually gain

weight, be determined to bounce back the next day!

Sometimes we get used to the place where we are and forget there's something better. Life gets busy, complicated, or even comfortable, and we lose sight of the dreams and goals we used to have. That's when we need to stir ourselves up and become determined to attain every single part of God's plan for our lives.

Let's take a few moments to play the "What If?" game:

- What if you decided to give God your all and seek Him with your whole heart?
- What if you demanded the best from yourself instead of settling for "just average"?
- What if you stopped making excuses why you can't accomplish your dreams and goals?
- What if you changed the way you speak and refused to say anything negative?
- What if you started confronting problems instead of running away from them?
- What if you decided to stop procrastinating?

Can you imagine where you would be this time next year if you followed through with just one or two of these things?

The Bible is full of Scriptures that encourage us to do our best. 2 Timothy 2:15a says, "Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed..." (AMPC).

I love that phrase, "Do your utmost." It may be easier to go halfway, but just imagine what could happen if you decided to give your "utmost" in your marriage, at your job or any other area of your life.

Some of the greatest blessings in my life now are things that have required the most effort. Today, my husband, Dave, and I have the awesome privilege of sharing God's Word with millions

of people through Joyce Meyer Ministries. Many times over the years it required tremendous sacrifice and the decision to keep moving forward when we felt like giving up.

Yes, it required time and effort to do everything God placed in our hearts to do—but it was worth it in the end! Today, I am so glad we didn't stop halfway when things got tough. I thank God that I didn't get discouraged and quit during the days when only 50 people were attending my conferences.

The truth is if you will give your best and do what you can do, God will do His part and do what you can't do!

So, don't settle for average, mediocre or halfway. God has an incredible, fulfilling and exciting life just waiting for you. Yes, it's going to require effort and determination, and in many cases, it may require you to push past fear so you can enjoy greater freedom and success. But I promise you this: Whatever it takes, it's always worth it. {eoa}

University of Valley Forge Announces 10th President

Since its founding, the University of Valley Forge (UVF) has spoken of God's provision, guidance and faithfulness as it has focused on preparing individuals for a life of service and leadership in the church and in the world. This past year, the university experienced God's faithfulness and guidance once again as the search for a new university president began. After nearly a year of searching, interviewing and fervent prayer, the university is pleased to announce Rev. David S. Kim as the 10th president of UVF.

UVF conducted an extensive nationwide search, seeking a president with a strong spiritual journey, unique qualifications and a God-given desire to serve as president. The search began in April 2016 after Don Meyer, Ph.D., president from 1997 to 2016, presented his intent to retire. Then, Byron Klaus, D.Min., was invited to serve as the interim president, starting July 1, 2016, while UVF continued a nationwide presidential search. During that time, a presidential search committee and a presidential selection committee were formed. Due to a family situation, Klaus requested to step down from his position at UVF. Ron McManus, D.Min., stepped in as his replacement in January 2017 while the presidential search continued.

By forming two committees as part of the presidential search, UVF created a process that would ensure the best candidate for presidency by drawing from those who know and love the university. The search committee was a nine-person committee that consisted of three district superintendents, three influential faculty members, one staff representative, the student government president and an alumni co-president. The selection committee consisted of seven district superintendents of the Northeast Region, Assemblies of God. UVF Board of Trustees Chairman Rev. Carl Colletti led both committees.

The Search Committee's objective was to vet all of the applicants for the position and select three top candidates. The three candidates were then put before the selection committee. The selection committee's objective was to study and interview the selected candidates and nominate one final candidate. That one candidate was presented to the board of trustees for election. During the board of trustees' 2017 spring meeting on April 5, the board unanimously affirmed Kim as the 10th president of the University of Valley Forge. The board additionally affirmed McManus as the university's first chancellor.

Prior to joining the UVF administration, Kim served in a variety of international and entrepreneurial leadership positions. He is a 1997 UVF alumnus and holds a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. He was ordained by the Assemblies of God in 2004. He has been a church planter and led several Christian schools in the U.S. and abroad. Kim, along with his wife Rebekah and four children—Lauren, Taylor, Nichole and Elijah—moved to Ecuador where he served as the CEO of Terrayork Cacao, a successful cacao exportation company. After a life-altering accident in 2013, Kim and his family returned to the U.S., and he became a church consultant and staff pastor before coming back to UVF in 2015 as chair of the department of intercultural studies. During UVF's recent season of organizational restructuring, Kim was asked by the board of trustees' executive committee to serve as chief operating officer, a role he began in December of 2016.

At the request of the president-elect, the position of chancellor of the University of Valley Forge was created, and the Board of Trustees unanimously appointed McManus to this role. McManus is a well-known and respected leader in the Assemblies of God. Prior to joining the UVF administration, McManus served in various leadership roles. He is a graduate of Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, and holds a Master of Arts degree from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri. Additionally, McManus earned a Doctorate of Ministry from Erskine Seminary in Due West, South Carolina. McManus served as President of EQUIP (Encouraging Qualities Undeveloped in People), a not-for-profit Christian organization, from 1997-2000. He is the former president of the Center for Church Leadership and serves as a consultant to the Church Transformation Initiative of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

As UVF's first chancellor, McManus will be an ambassador for UVF and will serve in the president's cabinet by representing

the university to donors, government leaders and other people of influence, and will be a resource for networking and fundraising. He will also serve to advise the president regarding vision for the university and help to equip the leadership of the university.

UVF is excited to see the university flourish under the leadership of this new administration. Kim has a passion for discipleship and church planting and for helping churches and organizations thrive. He is a student of leadership, and his drive for excellence and collaboration influences everyone around him. His gifts have already been witnessed by the university as systems and processes are restructured, and his passion to serve Jesus in all things has been continually evident.

Kim expressed his deep honor to be able to serve as the next president, saying, "It is my firm conviction that UVF must be devoted to equipping the next generation of leaders to be completely in love with Jesus, fully devoted to following Him and empowered by the Holy Spirit. This must be our direction as the University of Valley Forge. As we offer excellence in our academic programs, we must be fully Christ-centered and deeply Spirit-filled." {eoa}

Target CEO Admits Bathroom Policy Announcement Was Huge Mistake

A very damaging article just out from the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) clearly shows that Target CEO Brian Cornell regrets his company's policy announcement welcoming men to use women's

restrooms and fitting rooms.

WSJ interviewed a representative from the American Family Association (AFA), who launched the immensely successful [#BoycottTarget](#) initiative nearly a year ago. The 1.5 million-signature boycott has sent the strong message to the retailer that its misguided and potentially dangerous bathroom policy is the reason millions of families are no longer shopping there.

According to the article, Cornell expressed frustration about how the bathroom policy was publicized without his permission or knowledge, and told colleagues he wouldn't have approved the decision to flaunt it with a public statement that is still on Target's website today.

WSJ reported that Cornell told staff that "Target didn't adequately assess the risk, and the ensuing backlash [AFA boycott] was self-inflicted." (Read the entire [WSJ article here](#); subscription required.)

The WSJ article also explained that Target headquarters sent an internal memo to store managers reiterating its official stance on men using women's facilities. On April 15, 2016, a group Target calls its "risk committee" emailed executives informing them of a plan to post that message publicly. Cornell wasn't among the recipients of that email, but at least two Target executives approved the post.

"The American Family Association Target boycott has wreaked internal havoc at Target," said AFA President Tim Wildmon. "Out-of-touch executives incorrectly assumed that the backlash would die down, but we can see today—with plummeting stock prices and decreased traffic in stores—that it certainly has not.

"Together we are making an unprecedented financial impact on a corporation whose policy is to allow men to use women's restrooms and dressing rooms," Wildmon added. "Target's

decision is unacceptable for families, and its dangerous and misguided policy continues to put women and children in harm's way."

AFA is urging those concerned to the sign #BoycottTarget pledge by the end of April in order to reach an important threshold of 1.5 million signatures.

"At that point," Wildmon said, "I will personally return to Target headquarters in Minneapolis with an additional 500,000 names. I will then discuss how Target can invite 1.5 million AFA supporters back to its stores by having a common-sense bathroom and dressing room policy that links use of these rooms to a person's biological sex so that predators no longer have a method to prey on innocent victims."

AFA is offering several ways to reach 1.5 million #BoycottTarget signatures:

- Sign—[#BoycottTarget pledge](#)
- Share—Ask family, friends and church members to sign the pledge. One effective strategy is to voice concerns politely but firmly on [Target's Facebook page](#) and other social media sites using #BoycottTarget.
- Voice concerns on [Target's Facebook page](#) or call Target to politely let its executives know you've signed the #BoycottTarget pledge—Guest Relations, [\(800\) 440-0680](#), option 1, then 1 again.

"As AFA has stated many times, our worries do not stem from fear of the transgender community," added Wildmon, "but rather, from both the real and potential threat that predators and voyeurs would take advantage of the Target bathroom policy to harm women and children—and there are plenty of incidents to show that they have." {eoa}

100 Years Ago Today, World War I Changed America and the World

One hundred years ago today, April 6, 1917, the United States entered World War I.

The Great War's centennial is especially poignant because of the massive sacrifice America made in both blood and treasure, mostly forgotten and faded now as so much mist over the ocean.

More than 53,000 Americans lost their lives on the battlefields in that horrific European conflagration. Disease alone added another 60,000 wartime deaths. More than 204,000 others were wounded, many of them maimed with terrible disfigurements.

Some 15 million people lost their lives in World War I.

The late entry of the United States into the war—it had been raging since 1914—was a major inflection point in 20th-century history.

While America's involvement in the war indisputably assured the Allied victory over Imperial Germany by November 1918, it left a road of ruination, blood and destruction that even today is difficult to internalize.

Not only did those bloody battlefields soak up American lives en masse, but also they reminded a restive America that President Woodrow Wilson, who had been first elected in 1912, was not infallible.

Wilson's Push for War

Despite an almost obsessive zeal, Wilson was unable to gain passage in the United States Senate of the Treaty of Versailles even as he was being lionized across Europe as a colossus of victory.

That failure in the Senate prevented the United States from entering the League of Nations, which the president viewed as his own legacy of international diplomacy and a fitting close to the war.

Wilson said he wanted "peace without victory," and just as the war came to its close that November, congressional elections were underway.

The president appealed to the American people to support his global efforts and to return a Democratic Congress to the Hill. Republicans made up the new majority in both houses and Wilson soon found himself eager to lead with few willing to follow.

Despite his dour congressional prospects, and against the best counsel of his closest advisers, Wilson traveled to the interminable Paris peace conference anyway, taking with him not a single Republican.

Everywhere he went he was the subject of standing ovations and sizeable crowds, an utter disjunction from how he was viewed at home. That discordant gap between military victory abroad and political despair at home was palpable.

Wilson returned to Washington and lobbied hard for the Versailles Treaty, which contained his vaunted idea of a League of Nations.

Almost all aspects of the treaty reflecting what became known as "Wilsonism" were eviscerated and the Senate twice rejected the act that would have formally ratified the treaty.

Just two days after his powerful speech to a joint session of

Congress, in the early morning hours of Good Friday, 1917, the House of Representatives passed the resolution 373 to 50. Wilson signed the resolution, which would direct 50,000 Americans to their demise.

America on the World Stage

Wilson had supreme confidence that America needed to get into the European conflict and leverage the country's strength to bring it all to a decisive and victorious close.

The United States' population had reached 100 million people, much larger than any nation in Europe with the exception of Russia, which had surpassed 170 million.

Just as America entered the war, the Russians withdrew amid revolution and revolt.

While the overwhelming majority of the American people believed that European wars were not the business of America, the United States retained its right to trade with any nation at war.

But when Germany violated the neutrality of Belgium and propelled itself into unrestricted submarine warfare, it was broadly viewed as a violation of international law.

In March 1917, Wilson was inaugurated for a second term, and less than a month later, he came to Capitol Hill on a drizzly night asking for the war resolution. He said, in essence, the war had already come to America because of Germany's intransigence.

On June 26, 1917, the 1st Division landed on French soil and began fighting four months later on Oct. 23, 1917. Maj. Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing had been named the commander in chief of the now-famous American Expeditionary Forces in May.

Pershing issued a stark and stunning challenge: that America should have 1 million men in France no later than May 1918,

and that the American Expeditionary Forces should grow as large as 4 million troops.

Wilson strongly supported a draft, and by the end of the war, nearly 5 million men had been taken into the service under the Selective Service Act.

All told, there were 93 American combat divisions, 42 of which ultimately reached Europe; 30 actually saw combat there. They were known as the doughboys.

One of the most important benchmarks was reached in Aug. 1918, when plans were firmly in place to use the American First Army as a single unit.

This was important because, until that time, American troops were essentially used to fill yawning gaps when Allied armies broke down or were decimated as the Germans advanced.

Turning the Tide

The most important and famous battles of World War I with American participation soon followed: Cantigny in May of 1918; Chateau-Thierry shortly thereafter; and Belleau Wood, which raged across the entire month of June, rapidly becoming a household name everywhere in the country.

The Marine Brigade and the Army regiments of the 2nd Division made among the most heroic stands of the entire war.

By September, Pershing made the strategically important decision to use the American First Army as a single unit in a major offensive. Supported by French artillery, the Americans took Saint-Mihiel from the Germans who had held that salient since their very first drive into France four years earlier in 1914.

What followed was the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne, commencing in late September and lasting until Nov. 11, 1918. In those 47 days of fierce fighting, 29 American combat divisions had been

used, pressing hard against the entire length of the German line from Verdun all the way to the English Channel.

It was a stellar American effort in which more than 1,200,000 Americans took part.

Not only was the human toll astonishing, but so was the financial cost. The American government allocated more money for World War I than it had for all government expenses combined from the late 1790s until 1914.

At 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the Great War ended. The American air ace Eddie Rickenbacker flew his Spad over the American lines to see what was happening.

Fifty years later, he recalled the silence was deafening and of a sudden. What the historian Barbara Tuchman called "the guns of August" had gone silent.

'Never Such Innocence Again'

Armistice Day was considered a near-holy day for much of the 20th century, with a flourish of parades and tolling of church bells. It was considered a near-religious duty to decorate the graves of veterans.

The historian Paul Fussell observed that the Great War "reversed the idea of progress." An entire generation of men were irrevocably lost.

This centennial underscores that fraught relationship. Wilson and the Great War into which he led America are indelibly and ineluctably linked in time and memory. "Never such innocence again," wrote the poet Philip Larkin.

In 1913, Wilson told a friend from Princeton that it would be a real irony if his administration had to deal in any significant manner with foreign affairs.

But during the Wilson presidency, the Great War had in part

propelled and codified the upward trajectory of the United States of America as the most powerful and dominant nation in the world.

This is why the centennial we mark today matters. {eoa}

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Is Jeremiah 31:5 Coming to Fruition This Passover Season?

The prophet Jeremiah foresaw blossoms flourishing on the mountains of Samaria. Modern farmers are seeing this prophecy come to pass before their very eyes.

“You will yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria; the planters will plant and will enjoy them,” Jeremiah prophesied.

HaYovel, a vineyard in the region, recognizes this importance:

Judea and Samaria are the historical and spiritual heartland of Israel, and the heart of where we work. The majority of the biblical history unfolded in this area! Here, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob each received the promise that this land would belong to their descendants forever.

This region is often called “the West Bank” in the media. It

is possibly the most contested piece of real estate in the world. Many Jewish people live here because they believe the promise given to Abraham and believe in the restoration of Israel as prophesied in the Bible. Farmers inspired by the words of the prophets have planted vineyards and olive groves. Some planted in faith, not knowing where they would find laborers to bring in the harvest. Many farmers we serve depend on HaYovel volunteers to keep afloat, year after year.

But that's not the only biblical prophecy vineyard HaYovel has their eyes on.

Volunteer farmers and organization leaders also cling to Ezekiel's words:

They shall say, "This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden. And the waste and desolate and ruined cities have become fenced and inhabited." Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I the Lord have built the ruined places and planted that which was desolate. I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it (Ezek. 36:35-36).

They recruit Christian volunteers to come work Israeli land to see prophecies come to pass.

Almost 2,000 Christians have journeyed to the vineyard since its inception in 2005, according to [reports](#).

This harvest, 78 volunteers pruned 303 *dunams* (75 acres), planted 7 *dunams* of new grapevines and worked 4,000 man hours.

"Seeing and feeling the God of Israel's strong emotion towards His people and land inspires our own hearts to beat with the same passion. It is this passion that compelled us to establish HaYovel. We, as a multi-generational and family oriented organization strive to unite Jews and Christians to work together towards one common goal—the restoration of

Israel through tending the land,” the organization says in a [statement](#).

Watch the video to see more.

{eoa}

Has God Divorced Israel?

Has God divorced Israel, cutting the nation off from His former promises?

Author, filmmaker and teacher Joel Richardson tackles the question in a sermon at Grace Church.

“The debate, the question concerns whether or not He has, in fact, divorced Israel and stopped working with Israel and shifted to a new plan or if His original plans and promises that surround Israel, that surround the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,” Richardson says. “Are they still ongoing? ... Half the church says yes. Half the church says no. What we believe about this issue has profound implications in terms of how we relate to one of the most significant unfolding controversies in the earth right now.”

Richardson points out the dangerous—and sometimes deadly—ramifications of false theology regarding this topic. And it will only get worse.

“Before Jesus returns, this issue will come to a crescendo,” he says.

Watch the video to learn more.

{eoa}