

POTTS NEWS

Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is within you.

1 Peter 3:15

Our New Life in Dayton, Ohio.

Jim was transferred to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in March and after several weeks of administrative difficulties he's finally settling in to his new job. We moved into our new house a month ago and had some serious plumbing issues to work out so I apologize for this letter not coming sooner. We had a main drainage line blockage that caused our sewer to back up a little and water to go all over half the basement. Our home warranty company and home insurance company covered all the work and gave us money to repair the basement. Praise the Lord! Despite all this, we hit the ground running when we arrived in Dayton and immediately started working with the [Ratio Christi](#) chapter at Wright State University (WSU). Stephanie also participated in two Ratio Christi webcasts.

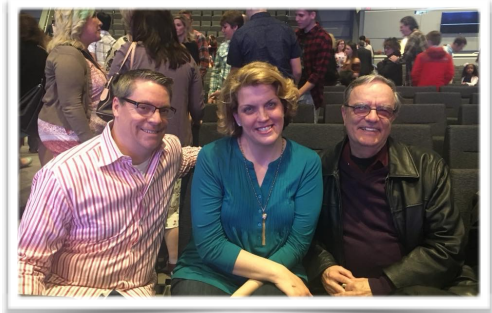
Ratio Christi at Wright State University

The Ratio Christi chapter director, David Nedostup, and Stephanie will be spending each Thursday afternoon over the summer talking to students on campus about Christ and inviting as many as possible to come to our club meetings on Tuesdays during the regular school year. Stephanie put the attached personal philosophy survey together to help break the ice and to help students understand what it is they believe and why. Feel free to plagiarize it or make any changes to it that you think would be beneficial. It covers world views like Islam, Hindu/ Buddhism/New Age, pluralism, post-modernism, and atheism.

Over the past couple of Thursdays we have had several great conversations. Here are just a few.

- Melissa is an engineering student who moved to America from South Africa when she was a kid. She grew up Catholic, but clearly doesn't have the essentials of the faith. She has a lot of beliefs that would also fall under Buddhism and post-modernism.
- We also met with another engineering student named Lukas who is in town on an internship. Lukas believes that aliens created Earth and the human race.
- Rittu, an international student from Bombay, India who is studying pharmacology, is a member of the Indian orthodox church and said she was a follower of Christ. However, she was a bit nervous talking to us so we didn't press her with too many questions.

Please keep these folks in your prayers and hopefully they and/or their friends will be able to come to our meetings in the fall.



Appearances on Ratio Christi's Truth Matters and Colliding Worldviews Webcasts

In April and May Stephanie participated in two webcasts hosted by Tony Gurule of Ratio Christi's Trinity Channel on the Aramaic Broadcasting Network (abnsat.com). In April Stephanie discussed "What Motivated Mao to Commit Genocide?" on the Truth Matters webcast and in May she discussed "Why the New Age is Radicalizing Native American Spirituality" on their Colliding Worldviews webcast. To watch these and other webcasts Stephanie has participated in and to read all the articles she has written please check out her TUMBLR page at <https://rainbowapologetics.tumblr.com>.

Please Pray for Religious Freedom

Victory for Jack Phillips and Religious Freedom in America!

On 4 June, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Jack Phillips, a Colorado baker who refused to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex wedding ceremony. Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, Colo., would not bake a cake for the wedding celebration of two homosexual men in 2012. Phillips told the couple that he would make a birthday cake but could not make a cake that would promote same-sex marriage due to his religious beliefs.

Justice Clarence Thomas argued that...

'These justifications are completely foreign to our free-speech jurisprudence. States cannot punish protected speech because some group finds it offensive, hurtful, stigmatic, unreasonable, or undignified. "If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable." A contrary rule would allow the government to stamp out virtually any speech at will.'

The Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in favor of Phillips and more importantly the First Amendment. The high court specifically rebuked the Colorado Commission for its demonstrable venomous hostility toward Phillips' Christian beliefs in handing down their decision. This is an important decision for all who value liberty in general and religious liberty in particular.

What happens in the UK may not stay in the UK.

Although the risks of the significant importation of Islamic Sharia law into the U.S. legal system are exceedingly small, because of the nature of our system, the effect of the Religion Clauses of the First Amendment, and the way the US Supreme Court has interpreted other portions of the Constitution, we still must stay vigilant. Some states like Texas have passed legislation such as "American Laws for American Courts"/[House Bill 45](#) to counter this problem of creeping Sharia. However, bills like this are tricky to enforce and may actually take our rights away from us.

Our legal system is based on the common law of England, and bills like that of Texas House Bill 45 may make it illegal for US courts to rely on English common law or cases from countries that follow English common law, such as Canada and Australia. It could even be illegal to rely on the Magna Carta! There are also other problems with this bill. For example, orthodox Jewish couples sometimes opt to celebrate their marriage based on traditional Jewish covenant obligations, but the bill may effectively make it illegal to do so.

So how do we protect our religious rights without opening ourselves up to Sharia law? The politically incorrect answer is a strong immigration policy. If we allow for continuous amnesty for people who moved here illegally simply because we think it's



Christ-like to embrace them, then we may open ourselves up to the same tragedies that Europe and the United Kingdom (U.K.) is dealing with today.

The recent arrest of Tommy Robinson in the U.K. is the most notorious example of the country's cultural and judicial suicide as a result of political correctness, and radical Islamic appeasement. Mr. Robinson has spoken out against Islamic rape gangs in areas of the UK such as Rotherham, South Yorkshire, where 19 Pakistani men and 2 women were convicted in 2016 and 2017 of sexually abusing over 1,400 children as young as 11 years old. And this is just one example of many such rape gangs across the U.K. I must caveat this with the fact that Mr. Robinson himself has had some significant and legitimate issues with the law; thereby, contributing to his most recent incarcerations. However, he still has the right under English common law to express his concerns openly.

Unfortunately, the U.K went from a nation which gave the world the Magna Carta, John Locke, and the liberation of Europe from Nazi tyranny, to a nation which jails its own citizens for speaking freely. This should serve as a stark warning for all Americans of what can happen when a nation forgets the judicial system it was founded upon and focuses rather on placating to the multicultural agenda. I urge all of you to gently and respectfully discuss these matters with your left leaning friends who are open to productive conversations.

[California Assembly Bill 2943](#)

In an [April 2018 article in the Washington Examiner](#), Jenna Ellis, a constitutional lawyer and professor at Colorado Christian University, made a stark warning about California's [Assembly Bill 2943](#), saying that it is "one of the most serious attacks against freedom of speech ever contemplated in U.S. history... Assembly Bill 2943 is legislation that would place that state in an Orwellian society by banning books, speech, and commercial services that would (in the state's subjective view) help or encourage any willing consumer to overcome same-sex desires or gender confusion."

Ellis argues that "... counselors, authors, consumers, and every other person that lives in or does any form of commerce within California has a fundamental right to try to convince you of his or her sincerely held beliefs and encourage you to adopt them as your own. They especially have the right to give you their opinion if you are actually seeking it. The LGBTQ community and its proponents likewise have that fundamental right to promote their message. The problem here is that the LGBTQ agenda does not want freedom in exchanging ideas, but rather they want to use the government as a propaganda tool to silence dissenters and banish any content that does not bow to their message."

California Assembly Bill 2943, like the case against Colorado cakeshop owner Jack Phillips, is just another example of the radical LGBTQ agenda. Organizations such as the Alliance Defending Freedom has gone as far as saying "As a result (of the legislation), it would be a violation if a pastor encourages a congregant to visit the church book store to purchase books that help people address sexual issues, perhaps including the Bible itself, which teaches about the importance of sexual purity within the confines of marriage between a man and a woman." The concern over California possibly using this bill as a jumping off point to banning the Bible is debatable, but still a legitimate concern. For where California goes there the country will go. Please pray that law makers will realize that this too is a violation of our constitutional rights.

God bless and thank you for your continuing prayers and support!

Stephanie and Jim