

## From Our Pastor

### March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

In the Soviet Union leaders often said the children belonged to them. When giving tours of elementary schools to US Television programs in the 1980's, Premier Gorbachav would open the door of the classroom and proudly announce, "These are the children of the Soviet Union." He was lying of course, children belong to their parents. But he was continuing the philosophy of Vladimir Lenin that "youth (are) the promise of the socialist future; in order for the international Marxist Revolution to succeed, the youth had to be treated well and educated politically... the Communist Party fostered a cult of childhood, much like Stalin's cult of personality, which idealized Soviet childhood. The Communist Party formalized this cult through youth organizations such as the Komsomol, Young Pioneers, and Little Octobrists." (quoted from [guidedhistory.com](http://guidedhistory.com)).

Of course, in the USA things are different, aren't they? After all, the Fourth Amendment to the US Constitution states, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath."

As reported by The Arizona Republic, "This past month, Chandler, Arizona police broke through the door of a family's home in the middle of the night, stormed in, pointed their guns, handcuffed the father, and watched as the state's Department of Child Safety (DCS) took custody of the parents' three kids—all because mom had decided her toddler's fever was not serious enough to merit a trip to the hospital. It was dinnertime on February 25 when the pregnant mother took her 2-year-old to the doctor with a fever of over 100. The doctor told her to take him to the emergency room, ...But by the time the mother and child left his office, the boy was "laughing and playing with his siblings... Mom took his temperature again, and it was almost normal. So instead of going to the emergency room, the family went home. ...That's when the madness began." It was after 1 a.m. when officers kicked down the family's door. One officer carried a shield, while another was described as having "lethal coverage." Officers pointing guns yelled, "Chandler Police Department, and entered the house. The rest of the story is equally nuts. The kids were all placed in separate foster homes. When the case got to juvenile court 10 days later, DCS requested it be closed to the public. The judge refused."

This example is just one more of borderline criminal behavior by government officials "in the interest of children" that are becoming all too frequent. Instead of following the precepts of liberty in our governing documents, there are indications that Lenin's ideas may be growing in influence. Rep. Kelly Townsend (R-Mesa), who had helped write the law requiring DCS to get a warrant before removing a child, asked, "What about the parents' rights to decide what's best for their child? Parents felt the child was fine. Next thing we know, the Gestapo is at their door."

Whom do our children belong to? Not the state. In truth, God says they are his. In Ezekiel 16:21 He says, "you hast slain my children." Parents have temporary custody and responsibility to raise, teach, protect, and prepare their children to be responsible and productive adults, but eventually every person will have to give account of themselves to their creator. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. " (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Growing up and reaching adulthood in a society that is quickly forgetting the Ten Commandments and other instructions from our Creator is a tremendous challenge for parents. The evil in society is arrayed against our youth from seemingly every angle. The only answer is for parents to "... teach them diligently unto thy children and talk of them when you sit in your house, and when thou walk by the way, and when thou lie down, and when thou rise up. " (Deuteronomy 6:7)

We should also follow the Apostle Paul's instruction to "pray for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1 Timothy 2:2)

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