

# Today's Christian

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Issue #2  
Sept 2008

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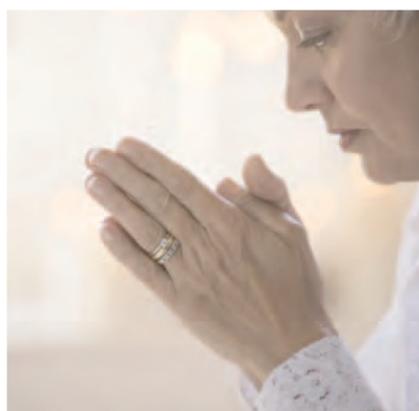
## Bible has lots to say about immigration

BY ANTHONY B. ROBINSON

How many religious leaders have you heard address the topic of immigrant rights? How many sermons have you heard on immigration reform? If there were a scripture-to-sermon ratio test, one would expect to hear about 50 sermons on immigrants for every one sermon on homosexuality. That's roughly the ratio of biblical utterances on the two topics.

That may be a silly way to evaluate your pastor's sermons or your priest's homilies. Still the larger point remains: The scriptures of Christians and Jews, the Bible, have a lot to say about "resident aliens," "foreigners in your midst," "sojourners and strangers among you." How a society treats strangers, foreigners and resident aliens is arguably a major focus, even preoccupation, of the Bible.

The overall theme of the Bible's teaching is summed up in Exodus 22:21, "You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you



were aliens in the land of Egypt." Reminding the people of biblical Israel that they had been slaves in Egypt, the Hebrews are enjoined to treat aliens, foreigners and sojourners in their midst fairly and with respect. Leviticus 19:34 echoes and expands upon the Exodus teaching. "The alien who resides among you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall

love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God." From the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews we hear, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels unawares."

Why is the matter of the immigrant or the "foreigner who resides among you" such a concern of the Jewish and Christian faiths and what bearing does it have on the current immigration debate in our country? As for the first question, the answer is that God didn't want the ancient Hebrews to forget where they had come from, or how they had gotten where they were, namely, the Promised Land. They had come from slavery in Egypt. They knew what it was like to be exploited and taken advantage of. Now that they had land and wealth they shouldn't forget that hadn't always been the case. Ring any bells? It should. Most Americans are the descendents of immigrants.

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## Obama on Immigration



Barack Obama, residential nominee for the Democratic party has said that "immigration will not be used as a football in his administration." In this issue, and every other issue, we shall highlight the Senator's views on the issue of immigration.

### Undocumented workers come here to work, not to drive

When I was a state senator in Illinois, I voted to require that illegal aliens get trained, get a license, get insurance to protect public safety. That was my intention. The problem we have here is not drivers' licenses. Undocumented workers do not come here to drive. They're here to work. Instead of being distracting by what has now become a wedge issue, let's focus on actually solving the problem that this administration, the Bush administration, had done nothing about it.

Source: 2007 Democratic debate in Las Vegas, Nevada Nov 15, 2007

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## What Adventists believe

As a Christian church, Seventh-day Adventists are a faith community rooted in the beliefs described by the Holy Scriptures. Adventists describe these beliefs in the following ways:

God's greatest desire is for you to see a clear picture of His character. When you see Him clearly, you will find His love irresistible.

For many, "seeing God clearly" requires that they see God's face.

However, how He looks is not the issue. Seeing and understanding His character is what's most important. The more clearly we understand Him, the more we will find His love irresistible. As we begin to experience His love, our own lives will begin to make more sense.

God most clearly reveals His character in three great events. The first is His creation of man and woman--and His giving them the freedom of choice. He created humans with the ability to choose to love

Him or to hate Him! The death of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, on the cross as our substitute is the second great event. In that act He paid the penalty we deserve for our hateful choices toward God and His ways. Jesus' death guarantees forgiveness for those choices and allows us to spend eternity with Him. The third event confirms the first two and fills every heart with hope: Christ's tomb is empty! He is alive, living to fill

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**Inside: Looking for a Career Change or Unemployed ... see page 6**  
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## EDITORIAL & THE WORD

# McCain chooses a pitbull with lipstick

BY COLIN A. MOORE

The choice of a Vice Presidential candidate is the most crucial decision that any Presidential aspirant is likely to make. John McCain's choice of Sarah Palin tells us more about John McCain than it does about Sarah Palin.

After John McCain had publicly stated that a Vice Presidential candidate should have the qualification to be president, he chooses someone who is uniquely unqualified to be the president of the United States.

Sarah Palin's compelling qualification to be the Chief Executive of the leading superpower of the World is the fact that she was once Mayor of

a municipality of 9,000 persons, and the governor of the 47th least populous state in the Union. Her only international experience is the fact that she took out a passport only a year ago and, except for a brief visit to the Middle East, she has never ventured outside of the borders of the United States. Her only claim to foreign affairs experience is that Alaska is the closest state to Russia. Her only claim to national security credentials is the fact that she was the Commander-in-Chief of the Alaska National Guard, whose only experience in conflict is their ecological struggle against the Alaska cold.

One of the aspects of Sarah Palin's background that has helped to influence her political perspective is her theological outlook. For several years she had been a member of the Assembly of God Pentecostal Church in Mussola, Alaska. She subscribes to the traditional pentecostal doctrines such as personal belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, faith healing, baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. The problem with Sarah Palin is not her theology but her ideology. She does not believe that there should be a "wall of separation" between Church and State.

She believes that as a Christian policy maker, she has a moral obligation to impose her Christian views on the nation, even though a large section of the nation may not in fact be Christian believers. As the governor of Alaska, she subscribed to the doctrine of Creationism, namely that God created humanity in the Garden of Eden and that we are the direct lineal descendants of Adam and Eve. She used her authority as governor of Alaska to ban from the public library and the public schools all books on human evolution. She also sub-

scribes to the belief that life begins at conception, and that abortion is not only a violation of God's law but a violation of the criminal law. She supports the appointment of judges who would overturn the landmark case of *Roe v. Wade*, which has asserted that, on matters of abortion, women enjoy a constitutional right to privacy.



"What is the difference between a hockey mom and a pitbull? Lipstick."  
—Sarah Palin

Sarah Palin's views on theological matters are in stark contrast to that of Joe Biden. Biden like Palin is also a true believer. He is a devoted Roman Catholic, while she is a devoted Pentecostal. Biden also believes that human life begins at conception, a view that was first articulated by the Catholic theologian Saint Thomas Aquinas in his epic work "Summa Theologica." Biden, however

respects "the wall of separation" between church and state which was first articulated by the Founding Fathers. He has stated that even though as a Roman Catholic, he subscribes to the doctrine that human life begins at conception, he recognizes that under the Constitution of the United States, women enjoy a constitutional right to privacy, and that his theological views should not be permitted to intrude upon a constitutional right.

One of the problems with the Evangelical Christians who support Sarah Palin is not their theological beliefs, but the fact that they fail to recognize that the Founding Fathers of this nation recognized that if this nation were to remain a democratic polity there should be a "wall of separation" between the Church and the Public Square. This "wall of separation" means the political institutions should not be made to dominate the institutions of the church, and that no religious doctrine should not be permitted to dominate public policy. This principle is particularly relevant in a multi-cultural and multi-religious society and prevents any religious minority from imposing its will on the nation.

The views of Sarah Palin and the Evangelical minority that dominates the Republican Party represent a threat to the democratic principles that undergird our multi-religious, multicultural democracy.

Senator Obama who is both a Christian believer and a constitutional lawyer should remind Sarah Palin and the Evangelical Right of the First Amendment which states, in pertinent part, that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." ♦

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## MY FAVORITE INSPIRATIONAL VERSE



Come unto to me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

—Matthew 11:28-30

### Christ invites us to depend on him

It's comforting to know that our Lord and Savior Jesus is always ready and able to be involved in every aspect of the Christian's life. Many times we struggle on our own trying to solve the problems that we face, seeking help from every available source, forgetting that Jesus is just a prayer away. He is the one that has invited us to come to him when life's burdens are too much for us. Too often we wait until our problems have overwhelmed us before we turn to God for help. Remember, take your problems to the Lord first and you will be surprised to see that He has the power to solve them. ♦

Reverend Michael Clarke  
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# ELECTION 2008

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## Obama on Immigration

Solve the driver's license issue with immigration reform

On the driver's license issue, I don't believe that we're going to have to deal with this if we have comprehensive immigration reform, because people don't come here to drive. They come here to work. If we have registered them, if they have paid a fine, if they are learning English and going to the back of the line, if we fix our legal immigration system, then we will not have this problem of undocumented workers in this country, because people will be able to actually go on a pathway to citizenship.

Source: 2008 Democratic debate in Los Angeles before Super Tuesday Jan 31, 2008

### Immigration raids are ineffective

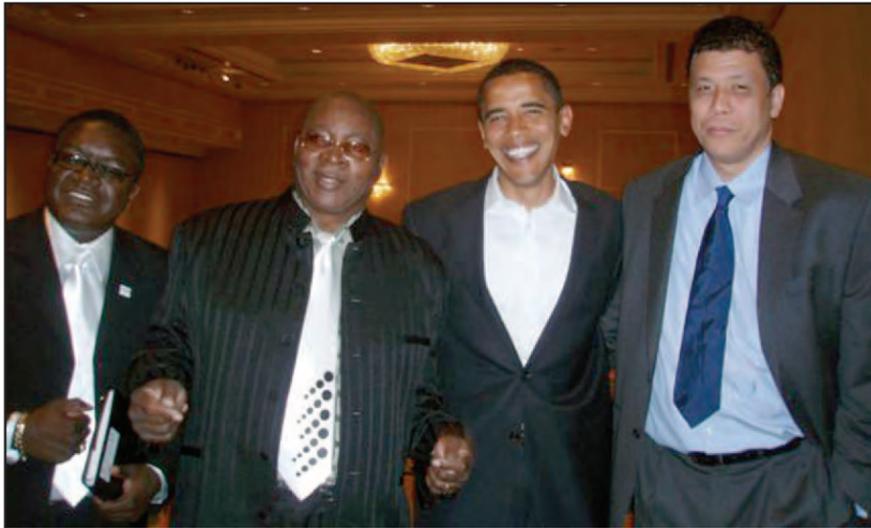
#### THE PROBLEM

Immigration Bureaucracy is Broken: The immigration bureaucracy is broken and overwhelmed, forcing legal immigrants to wait years for applications.

Immigration Raids are Ineffective: Despite a sevenfold increase in recent years, immigration raids only netted 3,600 arrests in 2006 and have placed all the burdens of a broken system onto immigrant families.

#### OBAMA'S PLAN

Improve Our Immigration System: We must



Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama with community leaders, left, Gerry Hopkins, far right, Brian Figeroux and the Mighty Sparrow (second left) who presented a cd with a song written especially for the charismatic Senator.

fix the dysfunctional immigration bureaucracy and increase the number of legal immigrants to keep families together and meet the demand for jobs that employers cannot fill.

Bring People Out of the Shadows: Allow undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, learn English, and go to the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens.

Work with Mexico: We need to do more to promote economic development in Mexico to decrease illegal immigration.

Source: Campaign booklet, "Blueprint for Change", pgs. 38-39 Feb 2, 2008

### Immigrants are scapegoats for high unemployment rates

Q: How do you address high unemployment & declining wages in the African-American community related to the flood of immigrant labor?

A: Before the latest round of immigrants showed up, you had huge unemployment rates among African-American youth. So to suggest somehow that the problem that we're seeing in inner-city unemployment, for example, is attributable to immigrants is a case of scapegoating that I do not believe in, I do not subscribe to. There is no doubt that we have to get control of our borders. We can't have hundreds of thousands of people coming over to the US without us having any

idea who they are. We have to crack down on those employers that are taking advantage of the situation, hiring folks who cannot complain about worker conditions, who aren't getting the minimum wage sometimes, or aren't getting overtime. There are a whole host of reasons why we have not been generating the kinds of jobs that we are generating. We should not use immigration as a tactic to divide.

Source: 2008 Democratic debate in Los Angeles before Super Tuesday Jan 31, 2008

### Deporting 12 million people is ridiculous and impractical

The American people want fairness, want justice. They recognize that the idea that you're going to deport 12 million people is ridiculous, that we're not going to be devoting all our law enforcement resources to sending people back. But what they do also want is some order to the process. We're not going to be able to do these things in isolation. We're not going to be able to deal with the 12 million people who are living in the shadows and give them a way of getting out of the shadows if we don't also deal with the problem of this constant influx of undocumented workers. That's why comprehensive reform is so important. Something that we can do immediately that is very important is to pass the Dream Act, which allows children who through no fault of their own are here but have essentially grown up as Americans, allow them the opportunity for higher education. I do not want two classes of citizens in this country. I want everybody to prosper. That's going to be a top priority.

Source: 2008 Democratic debate at University of Texas in Austin Feb 21, 2008

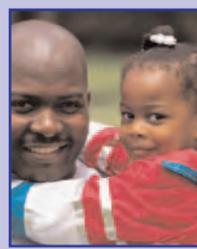
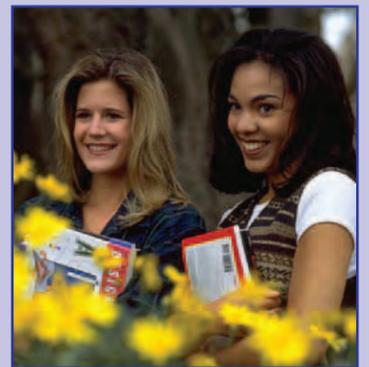
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# BELIEFS

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## What Adventists believe

us with His love!

Jesus' disciple John wrote that if everyone wrote all the stories they knew about Jesus, the whole world could not contain them. Our knowledge of God helps us understand His love, character, and grace. Experiencing that love begins a lifelong adventure in growth and service. This knowledge and experience powers our mission to tell the world about His love and His offer of salvation.

Scripture is a road map. The Bible is God's voice, speaking His love personally to you today.

The Bible speaks the Creator's directions to us, like a detailed road map that clearly shows the exit ramp directly into heaven. It is also much like an owner's manual for a life ready to be lived on the cutting edge of liberty.

Sometimes His voice speaks through stories, such as those of David and Goliath, Ruth and Boaz, Naaman's little servant girl, Christ on the cross, and fisherman Peter learning how to tend sheep. Some of these stories teach us how to handle the troubles we face each day. Others fill us with hope and peace. Each of them is like a personal letter from God to you.

Portions of Scripture are direct instructions and laws from God such as the Ten Commandments, recorded in Exodus 20. These tell us more about God and His expectations for us. When people asked Jesus to summarize these commands, He focused on the way God's love affects the way we live. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul," He said. "And love your neighbor as you love yourself."

On other pages the Bible gives God's practical advice and encouragement through parables, lists, promises, and warnings. Amazingly, though many different writers throughout thousands of years wrote the Bible, each page describes the same God in ways we can understand and apply in our lives today. This book is always His voice talking personally to anyone who is willing to read and hear.

God loves us even when we choose to reject His love. In those times He allows us to walk away into the life of our own choices. Yet He is still there, always ready to redeem us from the results of our decisions.

Jesus is the one who never changes in a universe that always does. Jesus is Creator, Sustainer, Saviour, Friend, God's Son, and God Himself!

Everything in this world is always changing, even our desires, interests, skills, and body shapes. But Jesus? He's consistent. He's always the same. Sure, He's always surprising us and touching our lives in thousands of new and different ways, but His character is unchanging. He's God's Son, the Creator, our Saviour, and Friend.

Jesus has promised to be all of that, and more, for each of us. We can trust His promises because He is God. When the words of Colossians say "in Him all things hold together" (1:17, NIV) that includes everything in our lives. He keeps

us whole when the enemy is trying to make us fall apart.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that Jesus is one of the three persons, called the Trinity, who make up our one God. The Bible describes Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit as each being committed to our growth as Christians and to our salvation as their children. They made this salvation possible when Jesus came to Bethlehem as a human baby. He lived a life perfectly in accord with God's will and then died innocently for all of our sins. He was placed in a borrowed tomb, but He came back to life three days later. Now he is in heaven interceding with the Father for us, preparing for our deliverance from sin and death.

When everything may be falling apart, when you feel totally alone in the universe, Jesus is right there in the center of it all, offering personal peace and hope. Allow Him into your life. He immediately begins "remodeling" who you are and how you live. Jesus, in fact, is busily transforming His followers into accurate representatives of God's character.

Look to Jesus, and you'll be looking into the understanding and loving face of God.

God's vision for you is life as He lives it! God loves you, and wants to give you the highest quality of life imaginable.

No, not a second-rate existence somewhere on earth, but the highest quality of life imaginable, here and in eternity with Him! That's what God wants us to have. The best!

This is why He provides church families where we can belong. This is why He gives each of us special gifts and talents, so we can live life fully. Amazingly, this is why He's concerned about what you're doing, when you're doing it, and how you relate to Him. God doesn't want anything to get in the way of our friendship. He especially doesn't want us to get involved in anything damaging or hurtful. He's like a loving father or a good big brother. He's someone who loves you so much that He's always looking out for you.

When God designed you, He included special talents and skills that will help you become a uniquely valuable individual. These may be your ability to teach, your love for others, or your leadership skills. Still, whatever special gifts you have received, God has also provided all of the energy and wisdom necessary for you to use them well.

By the way, how God feels about death is part of the quality life He offers. For followers of Christ, death holds no fear. Remember, Jesus defeated death on Calvary and has given us freedom from death. Cemeteries, then, are filled with followers of God who are in the "peaceful pause before the resurrection." Yes, they are dead, but that death holds no power over their future. Jesus is coming to take them (and those of us who are still living) HOME! Death is almost like a wintery promise of spring.

The Seventh-day Adventist faith in today and in the future comes from seeing this life "overflowing" with hope!

Because love is the key aspect of His character, God is also deeply into gratitude. Before we even finish saying thank you, He's already busy sending more blessings.

In the heart of God is a place you can



Scripture is a road map. The Bible is God's voice, speaking His love personally to you today.

experience as home. God loves you, and wants to spend time with you personally, one on one, as two close friends.

Because you and God are friends, you will spend time together as friends do. Each morning you'll share a hello and a hug and discuss how you can face the day's events together. Throughout the day you'll talk with Him about how you feel. You'll laugh with Him at funny things and ache with Him over sadness and hurts. It's pleasant being God's friend, able to snuggle comfortably into the safety of your relationship. You can always trust Him to treat you well, because He loves you.

The seventh day (Saturday) is an extra-special part of the relationship. The Bible, from Genesis through Revelation, describes the seventh day as the one day God has set aside for focused fellowship with His people. God has named that day "Sabbath" and asked us to spend it with Him. "Remember the sabbath day," He says, "to keep it holy." The Sabbath is a whole day to deepen our friendship with the Creator of the universe! A day when we're together, Jesus with us and us with Jesus.

There's another great truth about friendship with God. It doesn't end in a cemetery, for God is planning a homecoming better than anything we can dream. A homecoming filled with angels, trumpets, Jesus, and resurrections! He's promised to bring His followers, those who have accepted the offer of His life-changing love, from this earth to His home, a place He calls heaven. A place where our friendship can go on growing forever, endlessly, joyfully!

God keeps a family album—and your picture is in it. God loves you and has a plan for your life.

God's love is about you. Personally.

God made you and has a very special plan for your life. It's a plan that will fill you with hope, love, peace, and activity. In fact, when Christ paid the penalty for sin on the cross, that gave Him the right to claim you as His own. As a result, you can experience His love and priceless salvation freely and fully without limit.

By the way, pictures of everyone fill that album: Nepalese, Brazilians, Nigerians,

Yupiks, Germans, people of every nation, culture, background, gender, hair color, and foot size. In God's eyes all are equally "children of the King!"

Salvation? God cleans away all our sins and replaces them with His goodness. We don't have to be "good" for Him to accept us. Nevertheless, we must accept His promise and allow Him to clean out everything the enemy has left in us. Then we begin to experience the transforming power of His love. It's like a giant war: one side pulling us toward empty pleasure and destruction, and God urging us to accept His offer of peace and purpose.

Remember, Jesus has already won the war. He is victorious! We celebrate His victory in our lives when we participate in the Lord's Supper. This meal includes three symbols:

-Foot washing (which symbolizes our commitment to love others as Jesus loves us),

-bread ("This bread is my flesh," Jesus said, "which I will give for the life of the world," John 6:51, NIV), and

- wine or grape juice ("Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life." John 6:54, NIV)

To help us understand how God can transform us into His children, Jesus modeled the process of baptism for us. Baptism symbolized dying to self and coming alive in Jesus. Seventh-day Adventists practice full immersion baptism because by being fully buried beneath the water we symbolize that God's grace fully fills us with His new life for the future. Through baptism we are truly born again in Jesus.

Eternal life, peace, purpose, forgiveness, transforming grace, hope: Everything He promises is ours, because He's offering it and He's shown we can trust Him to do exactly as He promises. Accept His gifts, and you immediately become an active part of His family, and He joyfully becomes part of yours. ♦

Source: [www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org)

## IMMIGRANT CONCERNS

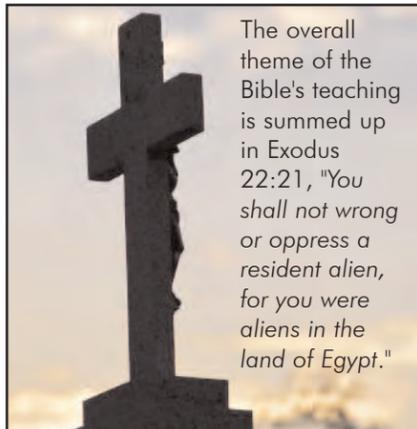
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### Bible has a lot to say about immigration

A second reason that the scriptures of Judaism and Christianity press their adherents to respect and not exploit the alien in their midst is especially pertinent to the contemporary American scene. Injustice anywhere leads inexorably to injustice everywhere. If there is a class of people without rights, without voice, without legal recourse and protection, it puts not just that group at risk. It puts an entire society at risk. It becomes a cancer that eats away at the whole social body. If a certain group can be exploited, then exploitation begins to infect the whole society. Its overall standards of justice and fair play are lowered and distorted.

Another way to put this, and to bring it forward to the contemporary situation in the United States, is that we ought to want immigrants to have legal rights and to be treated fairly because it is in the best long-term interest of our own society and its health. It is bad for all of us to have a group that lacks legal protection and is vulnerable to exploitation.

This concern to avoid the development of an exploited group or class points, however, to another factor in the immigration debate, one that I have not heard mentioned or acknowledged. The United States has become a very affluent society, and the wealthy among us have become very wealthy. In the past 25 years, largely due to the taxation and social policies (or lack of same) of the Republican Party, the rich have become far richer. We have become a society of private wealth and public poverty. (If you don't



The overall theme of the Bible's teaching is summed up in Exodus 22:21, "You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt."

believe me, check out the opulence and sheer size of new homes in Seattle and on the Eastside and the state of public school buildings in the city). Such private wealth allows and requires a servant class.

While the state of the economy in Mexico and Central America is certainly a driver, in many ways the immigration conundrum is a consequence of growing private wealth here. The question that merits serious reflection is this: Do we want to be a society of the rich and the rest, where a servant class is tolerated and required? The Scriptures of Christians and Jews argue for legal protection and respect for "resident aliens" because these faiths see the danger to the whole society in an unprotected servant class. Do we? ♦

Reprinted with the kind permission of the author, Anthony B. Robinson. Article originally appeared in the Seattle Post Intelligencer in May 2006.

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## COMMUNITY WORK

# CM First Step Training: A Minority Owned, Community Business

**C**M First Step Training Center Inc first opened first its doors in 2001. Although under new management the philosophy of the school remains the same. It embodies a quote from Frederick Douglas: "We must lift as we climb, each one teach one."

According to Director Clerisa McKenzie, the school is more than a business opportunity. It started to meet a need in the community, especially in the neighborhood of Bedford Stuyvesant. She said: "We feel that educational opportunities should be available in an atmosphere of free inquiry and intellectual stimulation to all qualified applicants of diverse ages and backgrounds. As a community of people, we should join together with a deep desire and strong determination to grow in knowledge and maturity."

"The school offers more than an education for students. It also serves as guidance and a counselling resource of sorts for members of the community. Indeed, the completion of a program of instruction as a Nurse's Aide is the first step in the process of life learning in the health care continuum," she added.

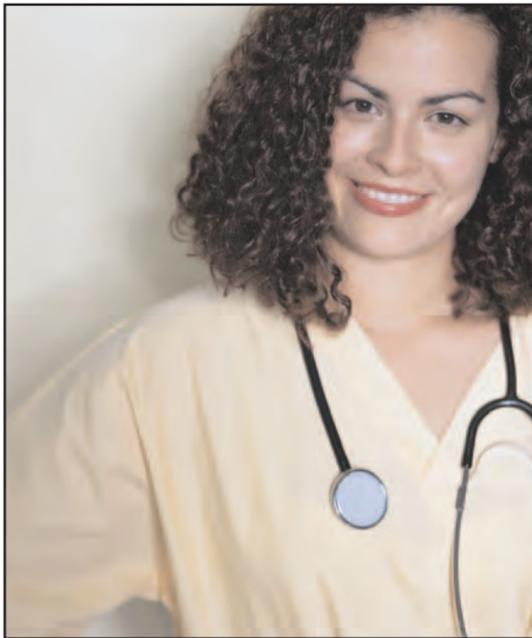
Clearly, the goal of CM First Step

Training Center is not only to teach, but to counsel and assist individuals in acquiring self-confidence in order to reach their full potential. That's why free legal and career consultations are offered to all students. Plus, students are directed to agencies which will help them secure job placements.

In today's hospitals and extended care facilities a nurse assistant is an important part of a healthcare team that includes many personnel outside of nurses. Nurse assistants are needed to provide routine care so that nurses can provide care that only they can perform.

The nurse assistant must not only be very skilled in the actual procedures being performed but must also be able to observe a patient's condition and report that information back to the nurse.

Due to other responsibilities, the nurse cannot spend large amounts of time in the room with the patient so the nurse assistant is often referred to as the nurse's "eyes and ears".



This is a very important career and the certified nursing assistant course offered by CM First Step Training is really laying a foundation for career that's both personally and financially rewarding and offers job security.

Students can learn in a comfortable environment. Classrooms have central air conditioning and heating. There is a

24-hour private security force and modern elevator service. Class sizes are small enough to encourage individual attention, and teachers uses up-to-date teaching methods and equipment to encourage student participation, motivation and curiosity.

Going a step further, CM First Step Training has partnered with the Law Firm of Figeroux & Associates to offer free tax and legal consultations to the businesses in the Restoration Plaza/Bedford Stuyvesant area. Brian Figeroux, Legal advisor for CM First Step Training believes in giving back to the community.

He said: "At Figeroux & Associates, we believe in giving back to the community which supports us. That's why we offer pro bono consultations on tax and business issues to the business community. At a minimum, there is the free consultation and extended recommendations depending on the client's economic situation."

For more information on the certified nursing assistant program or to schedule an appointment for a free consultation, please call 718-789-7122/718-622-1800.

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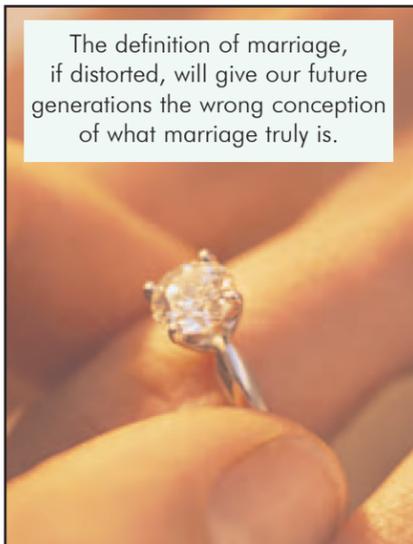
## SPEAKING OUT

# Marriage & Civil Unions: Are they the same?

BY KEZIA THOMAS

In the United States of America there is an enduring clash between the government and its citizens' civil rights to choose their marital partners.

Many Americans are open to gay couples and their civil right to choose, but some still say marriage is to be reserved for male-female relationships. Massachusetts is allowing same sex couples to legally marry, while 37 other states have approved laws barring these marriages. Three states (AK, NE, NV) have amended their state constitutions to ban same sex marriage, four states (MD, OR, WI, WY) have marriage laws that specifically reject same-sex marriage and five states (CT, NJ, NM, NY, RI) have no explicit ban of same-sex marriage. Even though the majority of states oppose same sex marriages, this troublesome subject continues to have many wondering if a time will come when the government will require churches to perform marriages against their faith. With these added benefits of marriage, what will the future economy of the U.S. look like, or will George Bush's "one man, one woman" policy snatch away these couples' civil rights. There are principal laws that carry society



The definition of marriage, if distorted, will give our future generations the wrong conception of what marriage truly is.

in an orderly and constructive manner, such as the law of gravity—what goes up must come down. Holding marriage in its God-given way is a preventative law, that must be advocated to keep stability in society.

The definition of marriage, if distorted, will give our future generations the wrong conception of what marriage truly is. Dr. Brian C. Stiller, president of Tyndale University College & Seminary in Toronto says, "Without the law to teach the critical nature of marriage, the

enormous benefits that have come to us by our understanding of marriage will be lost." The passage of Genesis 19, on Sodom and Gomorrah, is the well-known chapter that plainly discusses homosexuality. Biblical passages strictly forbid all homosexual conduct whether it is a part of committed or casual relationships. All sin will keep you from heaven, "Do you not know, the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexual offenders?" (1 Corinthians 6:9 (N.I.V.)).

I propose that different sins have their distinct consequences, but all sin leads to spiritual death. Even though there aren't any direct statements in the Bible on same-sex marriage, we witness the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah due to their sin and the many Old Testament laws that defy homosexual practices. Romans 6:23 also states, "The wage of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life." What does this mean for us? Though many Christians and evangelicals are sometimes scorned and placed in a negative light, we see the need for forgiveness—all have sinned. There is hope in Christ our Lord but diseases and sexual confusion are the results of sin. ♦

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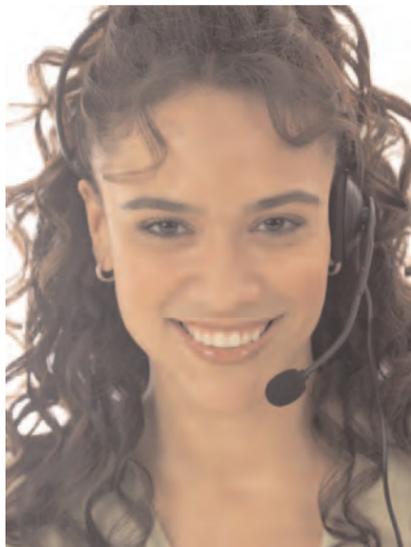
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The Immigrant's Journal Legal & Educational Fund, Inc in partnership with its legal advisor, Brian Figeroux of the Law Firm of Figeroux & Associates offers free consultations on any legal matter during the 2-hour radio program, ICE (Immigration & Cultural Expose). ICE is aired on WPAT 930 AM and [www.allblackradio.com](http://www.allblackradio.com) on Saturdays from 6pm-8pm.

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