On May 15–17, leaders and activists from Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia gathered in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi for World Congress of Families X – *Civilization at the Crossroads: The Natural Family as the Bulwark of Human Values.*

At the opening session at Tbilisi’s Philharmonic Hall, more than 2,200 saw the WCF banner transferred from Stan Swim (Chairman of WCF IX/2015 in Salt Lake City) to Levan Vasadze, WCF X Chairman. Levan gave an impassioned speech titled “Georgia is Family.”

Speakers at the first plenary session included WCF Founder Dr. Allan C. Carlson (“The Natural Family in a Sensate World”), WCF President Brian Brown (“Uniting Liberalism’s Discontents: Thoughts on the Emerging International Conservative Movement”), Fr. Josiah Trenham (“Holding the Line Against the LGBT Ideology”), Elder Larry S. Kacher – Member of the Europe East Area Presidency, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (“Acting in Love with Boldness and Speed”), Antoni Szymanski, Member of the Polish Senate (“Return to Family Values”), Igor Dodon, member of the Party of Socialists of Moldova (“Attacks on the Natural Family, a Christian Response”), Christine de Marcellus de Vollmer, President of the Latin American Alliance for the Family (“Raising the Next Generation for Virtue and Honor – An Urgent Need”), Alexey Komov, WCF Representative in Russia and the CIS (“The World’s Elites, Neo-Marxism and Gender

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World Congress of Families X - A Success by Any Measure

Ideology”), Luca Volonte, President Novae Terra Foundation (“Georgia: The Golden Crossroads”), Natalia Yakunami, Chairman, Sanctity of Motherhood (“Different Approaches to Sexuality Education”), and Ignacio Arsuaga, founder, CitizenGo (“How to Win the Culture War”).

Without a doubt, the highpoint of the day was a blessing and keynote speech by His Holiness and Beatitude Ilia II, Patriarch of All Georgia.

Among the speakers on the second day of the Congress were WCF Managing Director Larry Jacobs, Rev. Gregory C.V. Johnson (at large board member, National Association of Evangelicals), James Kushner (the Fellowship of St. James), Tea Gogotishvili (psychologist, Georgian St. James University), Paul Diamond (Standing Counsel to the Christian Legal Centre, UK), Father Thomas J. Loya (Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church), Dr. Candi Finch (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary), Friedrich Hansen (physician and writer, Germany), Lech Kowalewski (Organizer of WCF IV, Warsaw 2007), Stephen Phelan (Director of Mission Communications, Human Life International), Steve Weber (Regional Director, Chri-stian Broadcasting Network), Douglas H. Napier (Executive Director, Alliance Defending Freedom, International), Don Feder (WCF Coordinator of Regional Conferences), Igor Belobordov (Head of Department of Demography, Russian Institute for Strategic Studies), Dr. Ligaya Acosta (Regional Director of Asia and Oceania, HLI), Marina Kacharava (Georgia), Fabrice Sorlin (France), Toni Brandi (Pro Vita Italy), Ewa Kowalewska (HLI Poland), Vladimir Mischenko (Asst. Dir, Sanctity of Motherhood), Vernika Siardzuik (Chairman, Center for Support of Family and Motherhood, Belarus), Susan Roylance (International Policy Coordinator, Howard Center for Family, Religion & Society), Mauro Properzi (Asst. Professor, Brigham Young University), Nicholeen Peck (Worldwide Organization for Women), William Thorn (Professor, Marquette University), Evan Lenow (Professor, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary), Babette Francis (Endeavour Forum, Australia), and Vicki Thorn (Pontifical Academy for Life).

Participants at WCF X joined tens of thousands in a march on the Day to Strengthen The Family (May 17), so designated by Patriarch Ilia.

The Congress concluded with a spectacular concert of Georgian song and dance performed at the Rustaveli Theater. Awards were presented to Levan Vasadze, Tinatin Khorbaladze, Senator Antoni Szymanski and Hungarian Secretary of State for Families and Youth Katalin Novak (accepted on her behalf by Hungary’s Ambassador to Georgia).

Delegates left Tbilisi reenergized, with a renewed determination to fight for the natural family, grateful for the warmth and hospitality of the Georgian people and thankful for the organization skills of Levan Vasadze and Tinatin Khorbaladze of the organizing committee and their team.

Our special thanks to the Co-Covenors who helped to make WCF X possible – CitizenGo, HazteOir.org, Alliance Defending Freedom and the Howard Center for Family, Religion & Society.

Click here for more news on World Congress of Families X
May 2016.
Office of George W. Bush

"I send greetings to those gathered for the World Congress of Families X in Tbilisi, Georgia.

As the first sitting U.S. President to visit Georgia, I was honored and humbled by the appreciation and enthusiasm expressed to me by the Georgian people gathered in Tbilisi’s Freedom Square in 2005. I repeat the words that I spoke to them then, ‘Georgia is a beacon of liberty for this region and the world. The path of freedom you have chosen is not easy, but you will not travel it alone … the American people will stand with you.’

Around the world, families provide that beacon of freedom and the source of help, hope, and stability for individuals and nations. As one of the pillars of civilization and the bulwark of liberty, families must remain strong and we must defend them.

To ensure that future generations are prepared to face new opportunities and challenges, as President, I took steps to promote strong families, preserve the sanctity of marriage and protect the well-being of children. Laura and I have always believed in encouraging adoption and supporting the crisis pregnancy center programs to help us continue to build a culture of life."

I commend your efforts to recognize the importance of families in building nations. Your work improves many lives and makes the world better.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes."

George W. Bush, 43rd.
President of the United States
Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 14–15 – World Congress of Families Regional Conference in Salta, Argentina, click here for more information

June 25 – March For Marriage, Washington, D.C.

September 9–11 – Values Voter Summit www.valuesvotersummit.org

September 29 – Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Summit, Houston www.eventbrite.com

September 2016 – World Congress of Families Regional Conference in Belgrade nemanjazoric@gmail.com

September 23-25 – WCF Regional Conference in Nairobi annmatave@yahoo.com

November 2016 – WCF Regional Conference in Guyana r.aligouveia@gmail.com

Quotes from WCF X Speeches

“Our theme for this Congress, ‘Civilization at the Crossroads: The Natural Family as the Bulwark of Freedom and Human Values’ is inspired by the words of the British author, G.K. Chesterton who said:

‘The ideal for which [marriage] stands in the state is liberty. It stands for liberty for the very simple reason ... [that] it is the only ... institution that is at once necessary and voluntary. It is the only check on the state that is bound to renew itself as eternally as the state, and more naturally than the state.... This is the only way in which truth can ever find refuge from public persecution, and the good man survive the bad government’.”
– Larry Jacobs

“For thousands of years home education was the main route of transmission of traditional family values to the next generation. Nowadays, thanks to modern information technologies, it is much more accessible and almost every family is able to perform it, in order to secure the future of its children” – Irina Shamolina

“Don’t wait until your political leaders have been seduced, your religious leaders marginalized and your children turned against you. Be vigilant today. Hold your political leaders accountable today. Build communities now.” – Stephen Phelan

“Surrogacy and trade of female/male gametes produce billions of dollars and reduce mothers to breeders and babies to commercial products. This immoral practice causes serious health risks and even death.” – Toni Brandi

“The storm raging in our world today because of social movements like Cultural Marxism or the Sexual Revolution must be stopped, especially since those movements actively seek to eradicate the family.” – Candi Finch

“Christians around the world face a globalist assault aimed at the destruction of family values. Those promoting globalization seek to create a world government, to weaken the sovereignty of the nation–states and reduce their indigenous population. Global citizens are not interested in anything but themselves and their own selfish instincts.” – Igor Dodon.

“The mystical ‘why’ behind man and woman leads us to the ‘how.’ This is stamped in the very language and theology of our bodies as male and female.” – Fr. Thomas J. Loya

“As a nation, we are dying — 50,000 or more people die than are born in Georgia annually. Additionally, there are 40,000 to 100,000 abortions each year, mostly among ethnic Georgians.

As a result, in

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accordance with the forecast of the UN, by 2050, our country’s population will be reduced by 28%, primarily at the cost of ethnic Georgians, whose numbers will be halved in the same period. Our beautiful, ancient nation is currently dying in a defunct, hellishly urbanized environment, in front of idiotic TV shows, while singing and dancing along to this death through thousands of casinos, night clubs and bars.” – Levan Vasadze

“To reduce the risk of breast cancer, it is important to avoid abortion and have your babies early in life, in your twenties rather than thirties. Have many babies and breast-feed for as long as the baby will nurse. The World Health Organization recommends breast-feeding for two years. Cherish your babies and their mothers, and don’t forget the fathers who also may go through emotional turmoil when the first baby arrives.” – Babette Francis

“The greatest crisis humanity will confront in the 21st century won’t be global warming, or a super–virus that ravages the planet, or over–population. We won’t run out of oil or other natural resources anytime soon.

However, if things continue on course, sometime in this century, we will start running out of people. The problem – and it’s very real, and very ominous — is declining fertility, sometimes called Demographic Winter.” – Don Feder

“Defend your children!!! The family must have at least 3 children for natural replacement so that the nation will not die out. The smaller the nation, the faster it disappears.” – Lech Kowalewski

“We must recognize that there is a global culture war going on. We, the pro–family people, didn’t start it. But we suffer from it.

It is a war with no weapons that kill the body... It is a war where the weapons are the microphones, the pen and the computer.

We will keep of fighting... and through the struggle, thanks to the battles that we fight, we become stronger...” – Ignacio Arsuaga

“We have become weak and careless with our patrimony if we think that being called a few names is something we cannot afford. Let us ‘be not afraid’ and joyfully move forward together in our labors.” – Brian Brown

“There is no distinction regarding the person in the womb and the adult into which he will develop. Therefore, the principle of personhood applies at all stages of development.” – Dr. Evan Lenow

“This is a wonderful time to be alive. For history has NOT come to an end in the moral cesspool of the early 21st Century West. The future will NOT lie with the child–denying partisans of the late sensate order. Rather, we may expect a great turn— or, better put, a return—to a family–centered culture.” – Dr. Allan C. Carlson, Ph.D.

“If the state claims the authority to revise the meanings of words like marriage, male, and female, where will it stop? The meanings of words are given to us from previous generations. Any nation must resist such gender fascism if it is to have a healthy future. A nation’s future lies in its families.” – James Kushiner

“Mobilization is a key factor to political victory. We already have lost many battles for lack of mobilization. If we want to win, we will have to mobilize public opinion”. – Silvio Della Valle

“People justify the use of contraception as lesser evil to prevent abortion. Contrary to this popular belief though, let me emphasize that contraception is the gateway to abortion. It treats the child as an enemy and thus when it fails and a child is conceived, the child is easily aborted. More importantly, contraception will not prevent abortion because most contraception like pills, IUD, and the injectable depo–provera act as abortifacients. – Ligaya Acosta

“Despite all the alarming and disturbing trends, there is hope! If after 70 years of severe persecution, Russia and countries of the former Soviet bloc have emerged as defenders of Christianity and common sense, Western civilization can return to its roots and be saved.” – Alexey Komov

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The mainstream media isn’t widely known for its accuracy or objectivity when it comes to coverage of the international pro–family movement. So a story in The New York Times of May 18 came as a pleasant surprise. Regarding a letter from President George W. Bush (on page 3) welcoming delegates to World Congress of Families X in Tbilisi, the Times noted that the Congress “is classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.”

Most media coverage would stop there. However, the story goes on to explain: “But the liberal–leaning center has been criticized for including groups that fall within the conservative mainstream, like the Family Research Council, based on their stances on gay issues.”

It further notes that World Congress of Families “has strongly disputed the designation and the implication that it supports violence against the L.G.B.T. community.” It went on to quote a 2014 publication wherein the Congress declared: “Nothing could be further from the truth, as W.C.F. strongly opposes violence and would never advocate violence or hatred toward any group of people, regardless of differences.”

The Times continues, “Larry Jacobs, the group’s managing director, said in a statement that it seeks to fight ‘the sexual revolution and the harm that it has brought millions of victims worldwide.”

Click here for “Bush Praises World Congress of Families, a Hate Group to Some.”
Tbilisi Declaration – 2016 – adopted by acclamation at the closing session of WCF X

We delegates to the World Congress of Families X, have gathered in the ancient and honorable land of Georgia, in the venerable and beautiful city of Tbilisi, at a time of great historic import. During the last several decades, a titanic global contest over the nature of society and the fate of children has been taking form. It has now come to a head.

On the one side are gathered the forces combining revolution with retrogression, novelty with depravity, and cries of liberation with a new slavery. This movement elevates sexual desire and atomistic individualism to the highest of human values. It denies any natural order to human life. And it degrades children into nuisances or tools to serve adult ends.

On the other side are those who defend the natural family. We affirm the wisdom embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, entitled to protection by society and the state.” We hold that human beings are by nature social, conjugal, and procreative. We see in the Creation a divine moral order that seeks to protect and nurture children.

In this context, it is distressing to find many Western nations, transnational bodies such as the European Union, and large corporations joining the cause of the sexual revolution. Yet it is hopeful to see the younger nations of Africa and Asia and many of the lands recently freed from the yoke of Communism rallying behind the natural family.

Today, the Republic of Georgia is a pivot point in the great contest over the human future. Accordingly, we delegates to this Congress affirm the following truths:

Human sexuality exists to bind men and women together in love and cooperation in the begetting and rearing of children.

Marriage is a social institution ordained of God, designed to protect the procreative couple and their children.

Wise public policy seeks to maximize the number of children born into stable, married-couple homes. Men and women are equal in dignity and rights, yet complementary within marriage and childrearing, a distinction that government must respect.

The home is the first polity, the primary source of sovereignty, and also the first economy, where private property serves to protect liberty.

Relative to events in the year 2016, such truths point to specific propositions:

Governments and transnational entities should end efforts that redefine marriage, returning to the conventional and natural understanding of one man in a voluntary union with one woman for life.

Governments and transnational entities should cease all propaganda in favor of “gender theory” and “sexual orientation” which has no basis in biological reality.

To counter the perils of sub-replacement fertility, tax and other public policies should favor the married couple, child-rich home.

Governments should acknowledge and respect the role of parents in determining their children’s education, guarding childhood innocence, and raising the next generation with the ability to differentiate between vice and virtue and to follow the path of Beauty, Goodness, and Truth.

Governments and international bodies should abolish the practice of surrogacy, which reduces a woman’s biological function to a business transaction and treats children as commercial products, subject to quality control.
Brian Brown, president of the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), has been elected president of the World Congress of Families, the second in our history. Brown was elected at the recent World Congress of Families X in Tbilisi, Georgia. He will continue to serve as president of NOM.

“I am honored that the Board of the World Congress of Families has elected me to serve as its president, and I look forward to continuing to work to advance the pro-family movement in the US and around the world,” Brown said. “Preserving and promoting the natural family as the core institution of society is an essential task if we are to build strong, stable, healthy communities.”

“In recent years, secular leaders around the world have become obsessed with advancing so-called ‘alternative’ family structures. But there is no family structure more valuable and important to children and civilization as a whole than that of a married father and mother raising the children born of their union in an intact and loving family,” Brown said. “The natural family produces the best outcomes for society – promoting child health and well-being, encouraging marital happiness, enhancing economic prosperity, reducing delinquency and criminality, enhancing educational attainment, promoting spiritual growth, and securing liberty and human dignity. I look forward to contributing to WCF’s work to develop and advance pro-family policies around the world.”

WCF Managing Director Larry Jacobs observed: “World Congress of Families is indeed fortunate to have a leader of the effort to preserve marriage in the United States and abroad as our new president. Brian Brown’s mettle has been tested in the fires of referenda campaigns from Maine to California. He has the perfect credentials to lead WCF into the 21st century.”

Jacobs continued: “We wish to express our gratitude to Douglas Clark, another long-time WCF leader, for serving as interim president over the past 10 months. Brian Brown follows in the tradition of our founder, Dr. Allan C. Carlson, Ph.D. who was an inspiring leader and a steady hand at the helm for our first 20 years.”
Douglas Napier

Douglas Napier has a passion for law and ministry, so it was a perfect fit when he left his private law practice after 16 years to join Alliance Defending Freedom – a Christian legal ministry dedicated to defending life, religious liberty and marriage and a World Congress of Families Partner.

For Napier, law is not simply a profession, but a calling. Desiring to serve God with the gifts entrusted to him, he first decided to attend seminary before pursuing a law degree. After attending a session of the Alliance Defending Freedom Academy, Napier realized he could merge his love for ministry and law in one noble profession. His first role at ADF was to work with the network of allied attorneys which now numbers over 3,000 globally. He then went on to lead the U.S. legal team and later served as Chief Alliance Officer serving, strengthening and expanding ADF’s network of allies.

Napier currently serves as Executive Director of ADF International at its headquarters in Scottsdale, Ariz., where he oversees an international team of over 20 attorneys and advocates in Vienna, Geneva, Brussels, Strasbourg, India, Mexico, New York (at the United Nations), and Washington, DC (Organization of American States) who are focused on defending the right of people to freely live out their faith. ADF International is strategically focused on reclaiming the influential international institutions of governance to defend religious liberty, protect life, and promote human flourishing.

Napier observed: “The law

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Nemanja Zarić

Nemanja Zarić, MD was born in March 1980 in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia. He currently works as a surgical resident in the Clinical center of Serbia.

As a student, he founded a society of orthodox doctors and medical students, the first pro–life organization at the University of Belgrade. The Society held many lectures on bioethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia, cloning, new reproductive technologies and published a magazine called Vidar (the ancient Serbian word for doctor).

Along with the Serbian movement Dveri, the Society founded the Pro–life movement of Serbia, which was the first pro–life and pro–family organization in the country. As a member of the movement, Dr. Zarić has lectured in high schools, faculties, churches, and culture facilities all over Serbia, Montenegro and the Republic of Srpska about prenatal life and the stark truth about abortion.

He also regularly speaks on radio and television. He was one of the principal authors of a Dveri publication titled Family in Serbia in 2010, and a

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Our third World Congress of Families’ Caribbean Conference in Barbados was a milestone, due in large part to the diligent work of local organizer, Dr. Veronica Evelyn, Ph.D. (Proteqt Inc.) and WCF Caribbean Representative Rebekah Ali–Gouveia (the Elpis Centre), who organized the first two WCF Regional Conferences in Trinidad in 2013 and 2014.

A week out, there were only 70 registrations. Ultimately, more than 150 attended from Barbados, Trinidad/Tobago, Jamaica, Anguilla, Guyana, St. Kits/Nevis, St. Lucia and Belize. Also present was a representative of the Barbados Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development (represented by the Director of Gender Affairs), and Barbadian Senator David Durant.

International speakers included a number of World Congress of Families Partners and leaders, among them Brian Brown (NOM and the new WCF President), Theresa Okafor (Foundation for African Cultural Heritage), Tracy Klicka (Home School Foundation), Joel Bockrath (Population Research Institute), Josh and Caroline Craddock (CitizenGo), and Don Feder (WCF Director of Coalitions and Coordinator of Regional Conferences).

Among the outstanding Caribbean speakers were Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard (speaking on Demographic Trends in the Caribbean), Leah Vierra (marital relationships), Dr. Michael Combs (Fatherhood), Rebekah Ali–Gouveia (Motherhood), Denise Koylass (Attachment & Sexual Behavior), Adrian Alexander (Human Trafficking in the Caribbean), and Pastor Paul Leacok (Domestic Violence).

Attendees were also shown a 10–minute version of a new documentary from Family Watch International exposing the perils of so–called Comprehensive Sexuality Education. View either version at www.comprehensivesexualityeducation.org/

Rounding out the program on Day 1 were Professor William Wagner of Salt and Light Global (on The Importance of Worldview), Phil Lees (Intimacy Education in Schools), Dr. Nanci Coppola, M.D. (Pornography) Healthy Respect Program and Stephanie Luck (The Case Against Decriminalizing Marijuana).

On Day 2, there were workshops on post–abortion trauma, establishing a crisis pregnancy center, the need to defend the family at the Organization of American States, effective media techniques, and influencing the CARICOM voting bloc. There were also reports on the Jamaican and Belize experiences.

The closing speaker was Glenn Stanton of Focus on the Family, who spoke on Addressing the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Issue.

In the closing ceremony, WCF Natural Family (Familia Naturalis) Awards were presented to Veronica and Rebekah for their outstanding work in organizing this conference. The next WCF Caribbean Conference – the second this year – will be in Guyana in November.

Access the World Congress of Families Caribbean website at http://wcfcaribbean.org/
Douglas Napier

provides an effective vehicle to stop the expansion of destructive social policies and to advance positive ones, but ultimately we have to link arms with other allies, like the church, journalists, educators, business leaders, and many other influencers to change the mindset of the culture. Only then can we achieve long-term solutions. That’s why ‘alliance’ is our first name.”

ADF International’s legal advocacy efforts have been effective in creating the space for the positive cultural forces to impact the world. ADF International has won 13 cases at the European Court of Human Rights which provide greater religious liberty protections, defend life and preserve the right of countries to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. It has played a major role in influencing “soft law” at the United Nations in its core areas and protecting national sovereignty where international institutions have been tempted to meddle in local policy matters.

Napier observed, “What ADF International has witnessed is that fighting these legal battles in one part of the world can send a loud and influential message around the world thereby promoting the positive values that contribute to true freedom and prosperity for all.”

Napier received an undergraduate degree in Business (BBA in Finance) from the University of Iowa (1985) and a Masters in Biblical Studies (MABS) from Dallas Theological Seminary (1988), and JD from University of Iowa (1990).

He was admitted to practice in 1990 before the Iowa Supreme Court. He was also admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court and Arizona Supreme Court.

He’s worked on many ADF cases before the U.S. Supreme Court as SVP of the U.S. Legal Advocacy, including Galloway v Town of Greece, Hobby Lobby/Conestoga Wood Specialties and others. He did not personally argue those cases as ADF enlisted outside Supreme Court appellate counsel to present them.

Doug Napier and wife, Christi, have been married 28 years and have a 21-year-old son that just entered the Army (at basic training at Ft. Benning) and an 18 year-old daughter who will enter college this fall in a nursing program.

Click here for Alliance Defending Freedom

Nemanja Zarić

book titled “Global Gay Threat” in 2012. This was the first book in the Serbian language that revealed the truth behind the global menace of sexual radicalism. He is the author of a critical analysis of comprehensive sexuality education programs in Serbia, as well as a critical analysis of proposals to legalize surrogacy, euthanasia, and same-sex “marriage” in Serbia’s new civil code.

He is a member of the governing body of Dveri, the World Congress of Families Partner in Serbia and the only pro-life and pro-family political organization represented in the Serbian National Assembly.

He is also a co-founder and President of the Family Defense Center, a Serbian pro-family NGO dedicated to protection and reaffirmation of natural family, the rights of parents and children, promotion of various measures against demographic winter and implementation of a family-friendly model of society.

Nemanja is married to Ivana, and has one son.

Click here for Dveri, in Serbian
Thank you to all World Congress of Families Partners for your support.

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