

FOREWORD BY MICHAEL REAGAN
NATIONAL TALK SHOW HOST AND SON OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

RECLAIMING A NATION AT RISK



**T H E B A T T L E F O R
Y O U R F A I T H , F A M I L Y
A N D F R E E D O M S
B R A N N O N H O W S E**

Reclaiming a Nation at Risk

*The Battle for Your
Faith, Family, and Freedoms*

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Faith, Family, and Freedoms*

By Brannon S. Howse



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About the Author

As president of the American Family Policy Institute, Brannon Howse spends countless hours each year reading legislation and writing issue briefs in an effort to inform the American people about policies that affect the family — either positively or negatively. Some of his extensive research and knowledge on family and educational issues has been compiled in this and his first book, *Cradle to College: An Educational Abduction*.

Brannon also hosts his own national radio show, "The American Family Policy Update," which is now heard on over 125 stations each weekend. In addition, Brannon has been a featured speaker at Dr. D. James Kennedy's "Reclaiming America Conference," along with such notables as Alan Keyes, Cal Thomas, and Dr. Kennedy. He has also addressed the ACSI conference, which is the world's largest private school association, and spoken at numerous colleges and universities.

Due to his expertise in family issues, Brannon has been a guest on over 200 radio and television programs, including "Truths That Transform" with Dr. D. James Kennedy; "The G. Gordon Liddy Show," "The Michael Reagan Show," "Action Sixties," "Point of View," "Crosstalk," "Family News and Focus," "U.S.A. Radio News," "Standard News," and "The Phyllis Schlafly Show," to name a few.

As the Education Reporter for "The Michael Reagan Show," Brannon takes to the airwaves many times each year to

inform Mr. Reagan's listeners of the latest attacks on educational freedom and parental authority and to give them proactive ways to be involved in the battle for faith, family, and freedoms.

In April and August, 1995, Brannon was asked to act as substitute host of Michael Reagan's program, which is the nation's third largest syndicated radio talk show. True to form, Brannon alerted Americans to the dangers of government education reform.

Acknowledgements

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my father George Howse and to the thousands of other men like him in America who are committed to faith, family, and freedoms.

If only all men in America would instill into their children the values of hard work, leadership, perseverance, honesty, responsibility, and individualism that my father instilled into me by word and example — then we could, without a doubt, reclaim America.

I would also like to dedicate this book to a few other men who have and continue to be an example to me by their faithfulness and passion to reclaim America.

To Michael Reagan, host of America's third largest national radio program and the largest nationally syndicated nighttime show. Michael Reagan continues to lead the Reagan Revolution started by his father, President Ronald Reagan.

Michael believed me, my message, and my research enough to ask me to serve as his education reporter. I am honored to be a guest on his show many times each year to report to his listeners the latest government attack on educational freedom.

Michael also has bestowed on me the honor of hosting his national radio program on more than one occasion. The first time I hosted the Michael Reagan show was also my very first

time to host any radio program. Thanks to Michael, who gave me my start, today I host my own national weekend radio program that can be heard on more than 100 stations.

To Steve Holly, a former history teacher turned pastor who has been a good and faithful friend for many years. His frequent long-distance phone calls — which he makes to check on me, encourage, and challenge me — are a shot in the arm each and every time.

To Dr. D. James Kennedy, author of countless books, pastor of a 6,000 member church, host of a national radio and television program, and, in my opinion, the greatest Christian statesman alive today.

Dr. Kennedy's commitment to the family, traditional values, and quality education has stood the test of time. He was politically incorrect long before most of today's conservative authors and talk show hosts were even born. It has been an honor and privilege to share the platform with him and to be a guest on his radio program several times.

To Geoffrey Botkin, one of America's most articulate journalists, who has been successful wearing many different hats in the nation's capital — business executive, political consultant, filmmaker, and author. But Geoffrey's greatest accomplishment by far has been at home, where he and his wife have created for their seven children the kind of culture our nation needs to recover. I have been in their home and can testify to their parenting and teaching success.

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Foreword

by Michael Reagan

In February of 1994, I invited Brannon Howse to be a guest on my national radio program. Very rarely do we keep a guest on for a full hour, but Brannon's knowledge of his subject and the interest by my listeners led me to interview Brannon for a few minutes and then open up the phone lines for callers to ask him questions.

Shortly after this first encounter with Brannon, I asked my producer to invite him back on the program to give my listeners an update on certain educational bills he had read and was tracking through Congress. Brannon's passion and commitment to inform and equip Americans with the truth caused me to ask him to serve as the education reporter and consultant for "The Michael Reagan Show."

Brannon can be heard several times each year on my show reporting to my listeners the government's latest attempts to undermine parental authority and traditional education. In April and August of 1995 Brannon sat in for me as a guest host of "The Michael Reagan Show," reporting to my listeners much of what is in this book.

Many of you have become increasingly frustrated with our unresponsive, unwieldy government. More and more Americans want to do something to help save the dream of our Founding Fathers. In this book, Brannon provides information you need to affect your government's decision-making

process — a process that is today being controlled too often by the desires and goals of the cultural elite.

Our Founding Fathers declared that it was a right of the people — not a small group of elitist — to exercise control over their own government. That ideal was expressed in 1774 by the Continental Congress. “The first grand right is that of the people having a share in their own government by their representatives chosen by themselves, and . . . being ruled by laws which they themselves approve, not edicts of men over whom they have no control.”

The Founding Fathers left us with a system of government based upon the notion that the authority and the rights come from the people. Thomas Jefferson believed that all men are born with not only the right, but the responsibility to make sure his government is not becoming “destructive to these ends.”

In the words of my father, Ronald Reagan, “Government does not solve problems; it subsidizes them.” We cannot allow our governments to do what no government can morally or effectively do — become a substitute for individual responsibility, hard work, strong families, quality education, and personal convictions.

America is still a great nation, but it is imperative that informed, thoughtful, and noble citizens take hold of the rudder and navigate this nation out of the swirling waters of collectivism and rushing current of moral relativism.

We can reclaim this at-risk nation by reclaiming and defending our faith, family, and freedoms.

This book by Brannon Howse is well-researched and documented and can be trusted and used to help you reclaim America in a positive, pro-active way. Begin reading and then begin defending.

Michael Reagan,
Host of the Nationally syndicated radio program,
“The Michael Reagan Show”

Introduction

Many in our nation today believe and proclaim that we need to “re-invent America.”

Does our country really need more change away from the traditions and moral absolutes that made it so great? Is change the answer, or does our nation just need restoration?

Many agents of change have for generations committed themselves to bringing about irreversible social, political, economic, and moral change. This is alarming when you realize that our nation is going down a path completely contradictory to what our founding fathers intended and what most Americans want.

The November 1994 elections indicated that many Americans are not happy with where we are headed as a nation. A large number of Americans want change — a change back to what made America great — individual responsibility and freedom. The American people in November 1994 were calling for a *smaller* federal government — not more government.

Much of what is being forced on this once great nation of ours is in complete and total violation of our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Regardless of what the liberals say, our country was established and based on Judeo-Christian principals and standards. Today, over 200 years later, we are faced with a government who wants absolute control, a political system that is amuck with impropriety, and an educational system that has decided

it no longer wants to teach, but rather wants to tell us how best to raise our children. No wonder we live in such troubling times. All that our founding fathers established for our great nation is slowly being chiseled away.

Someone has said, "If you don't learn from history, you are doomed to repeat it." We can certainly learn from history that great nations do fail and some even fall. America should take heed before history repeats itself.

The Greatest Nation on Earth

At one time, there was a great nation. In fact, it was the greatest nation on the face of the earth. Its power and influence were felt throughout the entire world.

Several key factors contributed to this nation's greatness: strong families, quality education, religious freedom, personal accountability, and small government.

What made this nation's families strong? History reveals it was the absolute respect given to the father as the head of the home. The culture imposed tremendous responsibility upon the father to be the leader of his household. In fact, fathers had the legal authority to discipline rebellious children.

Men who shrugged their responsibilities and leadership positions were despised and ridiculed by their peers. This kind of cultural respect and high expectation placed upon the fathers resulted in a nation comprised of strong family units.

Parents — not the government — were responsible for the education of their children. Home education greatly strengthened the relationships between parents and children by allowing the family to know each other on more than a casual basis. Parental control over education allowed parents to instill into their children personal accountability and religious values. The nation's heritage and culture were also emphasized. Home education and private schools controlled by parents were the only institutions of education this nation knew for more than 150 years.

Strong families combined with family-centered, religious education led to a strong nation. The strength of any nation rests in the strength of its families.

A Once Great Nation

The same factors that contributed to the rise of this great nation ultimately affected its downfall when strong families, quality education, and small government were compromised.

Due to pressure from some of the nation's cultural elite, day schools were started. These schools were free to all and funded by taxing all citizens, whether their children were educated in the schools of the cultural elite or not.

Years later the schools were taken over by the government, which created a centralized bureaucracy in its capitol. As conservatives had predicted years before, the schools of the cultural elite were a dismal failure - both academically and morally. From the standpoint of the schools' founders, however, they were accomplishing their objective — to create a citizenry that could be easily controlled.

The government schools also undermined traditional values and parental authority. As a result, respect for the father as the head of the home lessened as did the strength of the family. Eventually the father lost his legal authority, and the nation's families began to fall apart. The authority that once belonged to the father was taken by the city, state, and, eventually, the nation's oversized government.

Before long, the size, power, and control of government ballooned. To finance all the government's new responsibilities, which once belonged to the fathers, mothers, and local communities, taxes were greatly increased. This high tax burden placed upon the citizens led to declining national prosperity.

While the government allowed all forms of humanistic religion, one form of worship was despised by many government officials and the nation's court judges. They made it their goal to rid the nation of this religion's symbols and books in an effort to squelch the teachings of its Leader — who advocated personal freedom, individual opinion, creative expression, and true spiritual worship.

In the end, due to the lack of strong families, quality education, and religious freedom, and the increase in big government and high taxation, this weakened nation began to crum-

ble from within.

What is the name of the once great nation? The United States of America. The facts are clear and the evidence is abundant.

To those who doubt my analysis of America's decline, I suggest you read this book from cover to cover.

Questions for a Nation At Risk

There is still time to reclaim America, but we must act now.

Many governmental programs being promoted and implemented by America's social engineers have resulted in the long arm of Washington subtly taking control and forcing societal change. This change includes the loss of many freedoms, a bigger government, the increase in taxes, the decline in quality education, and the weakening of the American family.

Is America on the verge of falling?

Newsweek magazine reported, in July 1995, that nearly half of America's citizens believe the United States won't exist in a hundred years. Unless there is a great revolution based on the mandate to roll back and downsize big government, unless we demand personal responsibility and integrity from everyone and every elected official, unless America returns to using its original moral compass, our days as a free and great nation are numbered.

Let me ask you:

- Were the November 1994 elections the beginning of a revolution?
- Can we stop the liberal agents of change and see a rebirth of America?
- Have the agents of change simply done too much damage?
- Do America's liberal elite have so much power and control outside of and over Congress that even a new Congress is no real long-term threat?

These are questions we will examine in an effort to stop

America's agents of change, preserve faith, family, and freedoms — and reclaim a nation at risk.