

February/March 2009 (with some edits added in Feb. 2010)

Friends of RTP,

A core group of dedicated Christian home-school advocates, who have appreciated Michael Farris' work at Home School Legal Defense Assoc. (HSLDA) to secure home school liberty in past years, are now raising serious questions about the direction Farris is leading home-school families. Newer, younger home-school families are easily persuaded by Farris' legal and political views. They should know there are other, more Biblically and constitutionally faithful men, who see serious error in his leadership. One of them is Kerry Morgan.

Home-school attorney Kerry Morgan challenged Michael Farris on the Steve Deace Show, WHO Radio, Des Moines, IA. More on that below.

Farris's recent Parental Rights Constitutional Amendment effort is another of his legal maneuvers fraught with error. This time the "boogey man" is the United Nations. Am I unjustly belittling him when I write this way? I don't believe so. He exploits legal naïveté and fans human fear, to coalesce people around him and his organizations. Consider Farris's irresponsible and arrogant comments in his "Leader to Leader" session at the NICHE (Network of Iowa Christian Home Educators) annual conference of 2007.

### **Why Support Parental Rights? Because There's No One As Smart As Mike Farris!**

"If the left knew as much about . . . the combination of international law and constitutional law as I do now, it [sic. 'the left'] would be more dangerous. In fact, I told some of my friends, if I flip on the other side, I know way too much and just take a 50 caliber sniper rifle and make a hole about this big--give me no warning, take me down, because, I say this obviously tongue in cheek, but what I'm concerned about . . ." He also stated, "I'm not running for President. I wanted to at one point in my life, but not now." Consider his terminology for legislative pressuring: "We have to beat their brains in until they get it."

Notice the not-so-subtle arrogance here? There can be no one whom home school families can trust to know as much about international law as well as Mike Farris. He as much as says so himself. Second, is he trying to frighten homeschoolers into joining him, by hinting at "flipping to the other side"? Even tongue in cheek fear can subtly play a role at manipulating fear. He employs a violent illustration to enshrine the perceived danger of his "flipping" and the great value of the legal knowledge he now possesses on this, most pressing, issue. Above all else, his "wisdom" can't fall into the hands of those on the left.

### **Homeschoolers are being played with this kind of talk.**

More so, Farris went further and explained he was taking a distance learning class from a lawyer for Amnesty International. This instructor from Amnesty International helped write the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Farris reported. **Wait a minute!** Didn't he just say, "If the left knew as much about... international law...as I do now?" - and then proceed to inform the homeschoolers that he was being taught about international law from a paragon of the left - an author of the UN Convention on the

Rights of the Child? Clearly, there is no risk of the left finding out what he knows - as they are the ones teaching him.

Therefore, what he knows isn't inclusive to himself and he isn't of incalculable value to homeschoolers. In addition, his fictitious assassin can save his ammo.

**In Fact, Even A Constitutional Law School Professor  
Who Disagrees With Farris Is Not As Smart As Farris!**

I've seen this tack first-hand from Farris before. I called Mike Farris in the mid 1990s in the midst of his effort to pass his Parental Rights and Restoration Act. This was one of his first efforts to usurp God's definitional role by trying to get the Federal government into the definition business, via federal legislation. I advised him that a pro-life, Constitutional law professor, Dr. Charles Rice, disagreed with his interpretation of the need for such Federal definitions. Farris' reply was, "I've litigated before the U.S. Supreme Court and he hasn't. He doesn't know as much about this Constitutional principle as I do." Sound familiar? Farris' legal arrogance has been around for at least 15 years.

Homeschoolers across America organized and stopped Farris' dangerous legislative proposal. Iowa's Mrs. Lynn Leslie, the matriarch of a pioneering Iowa home school family was at the center of this opposition, publishing their [\*Christian Conscience\*](#) magazine. Farris will not accept that home-school families, scholars like Dr. Allen Carlsen and Constitutional scholars like Dr. Charles Rice saw the failed premise in his federal legislation fifteen years ago and helped kill it. See one of several [accounts here](#).

During the controversy, Dr. Rice issued a letter spelling out how Farris' legislation **would invite "an indeterminate expansion of state control over parental rights."** It was circulated throughout Congress and among home-school families nationwide. Farris' response? He stated on a California talk show that Dr. Rice had later withdrawn his objections to Farris' PRRA bill. Rice, in a follow up public letter said,

"...neither in the February 20<sup>th</sup> letter nor in any other way have I withdrawn my objection to the PRRA. It is absolutely untrue that I have 'withdrawn that [February 5th] letter. Despite the improvements over the first draft, the latest version of the PRRA, dated February 14th, 1996, is still, in my opinion, imprudent and dangerous."

I saw a copy of Dr. Rice's letters at the time. Farris lied on the radio program.

Tens of thousands of new home-schoolers, who aren't aware of the active resistance home-school families provided Farris back then, are vulnerable to his newest turbo-charged boogey man – the United Nations! Now we don't need federal legislation, we need an amendment to the Constitution. Rubbish!

Look at SECTION 2 of Farris' [proposed Constitutional Amendment](#). It reads,

**"Neither the United States nor any state shall infringe upon this [sic. parental..prd] right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served."**

The very preamble of the Constitution which he wants to amend already says that it was ordained and established "...to establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for

the common defence...and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." Fully one third of the pre-born babies in America heading for the abortion chambers receive no justice, enjoy no tranquility, enjoy no civil defense of their lives and have no Liberty. They die bloody deaths under the current application of our constitution.

Yet Farris wants us to believe that this same constitution will somehow defend Christian parent's rights to train their children after it is amended by language emanating from his extremely unique and gifted legal mind. Bunk!

It will invite international treaty writers, international courts and federal courts to begin the process of defining what a parent is, what the highest order is, why their interest is not otherwise being served, etc. By supporting this we will have opened the door to this new jurisdiction. Dr. Rice's criticism still stands. Michael Farris' poor understanding of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment allows him the grand scope of bringing family court issues all the way up to international tribunals.

### **How Should We Respond To Civil Tyranny Into Family Life?**

The real response to such tyranny is Christ-honoring resistance to the tyrants. But that kind of resistance is nurtured in the life of the local church, one that hasn't made Erastian cult-like absolute obedience to the state the only "true" understanding of Romans 13. Meanwhile, such tactics of local resistance does little to build the mailing list and coffers of Michael Farris. Here are some examples of such resistance -

In 1965, Iowa authorities attempted to round up Amish children and force them into public schools. The children vanished into cornfields as their parents called, "Springet, kinna!" (English translation: "Run, children!") Photographs of the episode were carried across the nation in newspapers, and the scene of children fleeing in terror from authorities prompted public sympathy. Within days, the governor of Iowa issued a moratorium against further actions involving Amish children. Anyone else remember the picture of the brutish state-patrol officer waving his night-stick chasing a bib-overhauled 12 yr. old boy who was jumping over the soybean rows?

In the 1980s my former Pastor's (Rev. Phil Schmidt) wife and several other mothers of their church in Louisville, NE, had to flee the state as social service agents were on the way to take their children. The court was so angry at their flight, that it threw the fathers of the church into jail. At one point, the Nebraska National Guard was deployed to "secure" the church and Christian school from the members. These Christians simply wanted to educate their children apart from the state's wicked mandates. The matter made nightly news in the Midwest and then appeared a couple of times on a then-new ABC program called "Nightline". Before it was done, God granted the Christians of Louisville a complete victory and the attorney general of Nebraska backed down.

These same Biblical principles of recognizing the God-given limitations of all authorities (including civil authority) were later taught to me by the same Rev. Schmidt and then, when applied in my own 1995 Iowa truancy case, God granted my family complete victory in the Iowa courts.

We've been avoiding the true response long enough! Pursuing dangerous, ensnaring, Federal scapegoats (which profit the likes of Farris) will not substitute for Christ-honoring

resistance to unjust, unbiblical, and unconstitutional civil authority.

Kerry Morgan, Esq., himself a home school Dad, has been successfully fighting for home-school families in court in Michigan for years. He too, believes Farris is leading the home school movement in the wrong direction. See this summary of his difference [here](#). His book [Real Choice, Real Freedom in American Education](#) is must reading for all home school fathers, to better understand the path to real home-school freedom!

If your reading schedule is booked full, most of you can hear Morgan's constitutional response to Farris on the Steve Deace show, WHO Radio, Des Moines (1040 AM). He was on with Deace, Tuesday, March 3, 2009. Check [this site](#) and as this podcast list includes programs back to 2006, and most of them are not date indexed, you may use your browser's search function, searching for 'Kerry Morgan'.

*"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:38*

Let us cease to be ashamed of God's words on the proper role of parents and the civil magistrates – especially when it comes to the rearing of our children.

*Christos Kurios,*  
Paul Dorr

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"Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord, and teach out of Your law,...For the Lord will not cast off His people, Nor will He forsake His inheritance. But judgment will return to righteousness, And all the upright in heart will follow it. Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? Unless the Lord had been my help, My soul would soon have settled in silence." **Psalms 94:12,14-17**