

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM TORCH

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TEF's Patriotic Banquet Is a Resounding Success!

On May 12, 2016, over 550 people attended TEF's Patriotic Banquet at Eddie Deen's Ranch in Dallas, the first day of the Texas Republican Party's state convention. Our theme was "A Time to Stand."

A VIP reception honoring former Governor Rick Perry was held prior to the dinner, to thank him for his long service as Texas' 47th Governor. He said being Governor was an "extraordinary experience," highlighting that during his tenure in office, Texas had more Republicans in office than at any time since 1870. "We are a Red State, and we aim to keep it that way!"

The banquet opened with prayer by Atty. Gen. Ken Paxton, followed by pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags by former Texas House candidate Thomas McNutt and Rep. Jeff Leach, respectively. Rep. Van Taylor introduced the many state and local officials in the audience, as well as our Lieutenant Governor.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick talked about the battle

going on in Fort Worth ISD and vowed to fight the Obama executive order instructing all public schools to allow transgender students access to the restroom that aligns with their gender identity. Patrick called the prospect of losing federal education funds over this issue "blackmail" and said, "Texas will not give in to President Obama's attack on our values." His words were met with resounding cheers.

New Texas Eagle Forum President Trayce Bradford presented the mission and vision for TEF and introduced Jared Woodfill and former TEF president Cathie Adams, who were running for State Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas. They were followed by our headliners, David and Jason Benham, and Alabama Chief Justice Judge Roy Moore; all three men challenged the audience to take a stand for our conservative Christian beliefs. (See pages 2 and 3 for excerpts of their speeches.)

The uplifting evening closed with final remarks and a powerful prayer from Rep. Scott Turner.

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Progress Through Preservation of Traditional Values

Whatever the Cost

Excerpts from a speech by David and Jason Benham at TEF's Patriotic Banquet, 5/12/16

We grew up in Texas and now live in North Carolina with our wives and children. So we feel right at home here in Texas.

The first and last thought on our minds as we begin and end each day is: have we shined Christ's light today? Our faith is the fundamental calling in our lives, and the centerpiece of who we are.

We grew up in church. Imagine a candle burning—*[remember the song]* “This Little Light of Mine.” God ignites the fire and as the devil blows harder to distinguish the light, the flame gets brighter. Dad always told us, “If your theology is not your biography, then your theology is worthless.”

Our Dad, Flip Benham *[head of Operation Rescue in Dallas in the '70's]*, baptized Jane Roe, the infamous “Roe” in Roe vs Wade, the lawsuit that legalized abortion in the U.S. In fact, Dad had us go out and buy a plastic swimming pool so he could baptize her in our backyard. Later, Dad baptized Jane's lesbian partner.

We went to Liberty University, where Jerry Falwell taught us, “If it is Christian, it ought to be better.” We graduated with business degrees, but our dreams were to play professional baseball. After college, both of us were drafted into the minor leagues...different teams...but we never made the major leagues. God gave us that dream, but we held that dream with an open hand.

Out of baseball, we moved to Charlotte in 2002 and got our real estate licenses. We opened our office on Biblical principles, and by 2010, we had 100 offices. For us to take credit for building a successful business would be like a shovel taking credit for digging a hole. We're simply the tools God chose to use to build a successful business.

We were at the top of our business success when the Democratic National Convention came to Charlotte in 2012. When the Democrats removed God from their party platform, we called pastors to lead a prayer rally, but no one wanted to do it. So we invited the public to meet in an arena outside the Democratic Convention and pray. Nine thousand people showed up. *[During the Charlotte prayer rally, David talked to a talk show host about “homosexuality and its agenda that is attacking the nation...” He was also seen protesting outside of an abortion clinic.]*

From that time on, we were hassled and called anti-gay, anti-Muslim, anti-women.

Our real estate business caught the eye of networks TLC and HGTV and a three month bidding war began to give us our own TV show. After months of negotiating, HGTV won and “Flip It Forward” was slated to go on in 2014.

Then HGTV was alerted to a story *[by Right Wing Watch, an arm of the ACLU]* which looked into our background and found us to be anti-gay, anti-choice extremists. Social media took over and GLAAD *[Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders]* mobilized their base. HGTV had one question for us: “Are you guys anti-gay?”

Jason was out of town and the fear of God came over me. Would we lose our platform to advance the cause of Jesus Christ?



David and Jason Benham

I told HGTV that we were pro-Bible and loved all people. When we didn't hear from the production company for days, I thought we had lost the show.

After praying, we decided to send an email to HGTV saying that we will never back down from our Biblical principles, but that we would not talk about Jesus on our show. Before sending it, we ran it by several of our mentors who are pastors to get their opinion.

Within minutes we got back the message: “How dare you!!!” We were operating out of fear and not faith. Both of us repented in that moment. Boldness apart from brokenness makes a bully. God had to break us first.

Three months later the show was canceled. If our faith costs us a television show then so be it.

The problem today is the absence of light--there is darkness all around. Obama's executive orders and Fort Worth ISD demanding that boys who think they are girls can use the girls' bathrooms and locker rooms—where are the pastors? Where are the Christians? Are we afraid of losing our businesses? Are we going to take a stand or not? Ronald Reagan once said, “Freedom is just one generation away from extinction.”

Whatever the cost, now is the time to stand up to push back the darkness!

NOTE: The Benham brothers' book, *Whatever the Cost* is available from their website and on Amazon. Through the publicity of the canceled show on HGTV, God has given the brothers a platform to advance His agenda. The twins are bold and fearless and willing to stand for righteousness in the public square. Are you?

Taking a Stand for Christ

Excerpts from a speech by Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore at TEF's Patriotic Banquet, 5/12/16

Texas Eagle Forum's President Trayce Bradford is impressive and making a difference in her state. In Alabama, I saw how a young girl of 23, along with my wife, let people know what they were doing to help pass pro-life bills. They changed the legislature.

I came from a poor family. We had a double-seater outhouse, and I thought we were special! I was in the 2nd grade when "In God We Trust" became our national motto.

I am fervent in what I believe. In 2003, I was removed from my position as Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court because I refused to remove a Ten Commandments monument that I installed in the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building to acknowledge the sovereignty of God.

The problem today is a lack of God in this nation. Ronald Reagan said, "If we ever forget that we are a nation under God, we will be a nation gone under." They wanted me out because I acknowledge God and stand for God's truth.

People don't know the Constitution or history. James Madison, the chief architect of the Constitution, thought that the Constitution had been divinely inspired. Likewise, our first president, George Washington, in his Inaugural Address, proclaimed that America was the object of God's divine favor.

Government is not controlling itself—it is out of control. Without God there is no hope. I don't care who is president.

Government is not controlling itself—it is out of control. Without God there is no hope. I don't care who is president. We have to believe in the Constitution and the sovereignty of God.

What is the Supreme Law of the Land? It is defined in the U.S. Constitution, Article 6, which says that the United States Constitution is the highest law of the country and that all state and federal officers and judges have to uphold the Constitution and all of its rules.

Twenty-two states caved in to the U.S. Supreme Court's unconstitutional ruling on same-sex marriage. I decided to take a stand and ordered probate judges in the state not to



Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore

issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples because of Alabama's law and constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages. Even the Governor turned his back on me. And now I have been suspended.

God's law is higher. We have to take a stand. There will be no peace until we do. What are you going to do? Are you going to take a stand?

NOTE: From 2003 until 2012, Judge Moore served as president of the Foundation for Moral Law, speaking throughout the country and filing amicus curiae briefs regarding the U.S. Constitution. He was overwhelmingly re-elected by a vote of the people of Alabama as Chief Justice in 2012.

In May of 2016, Judge Moore was suspended by the Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission over his attempts to block gay marriage in Alabama following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriages. In a statement to the press, he said, "The JIC has chosen to listen to people like... a professed transvestite and other gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals, as well as organizations that support their agenda. We intend to fight this agenda vigorously and expect to prevail." And with God's help and your prayers, he will!

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Texas Eagle Forum
P.O. Box 795354 • Dallas, Texas 75379
torch@texaseagle.org • texaseagle.org

TEF Patriotic Banquet

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