

## SPECIAL EDITION

### Senate and Assembly Convene for Legislative Session LEAD campers display their skills at the Captol

By the LEAD Tribune Editorial Staff

Today, the hard work of all the Representatives and Senators culminated in a legislative session at the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison, Wis. At 9 a.m. the LEAD Wisconsin Assembly and Senate convened simultaneously. The LEAD Senate convened in the Wisconsin Assembly

Chamber and the LEAD Assembly met in the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hearing Room. Each caucus was given the opportunity to present arguments for the bill they supported and arguments against the bill they opposed. The Senators had the added privilege of presenting and

debating amendments. Throughout the sessions, the legislators demonstrated the critical thinking and public speaking skills they have developed and honed throughout the course of this week.

### Children in Chaos Staying bold in a broken world

By Anna Schmid

On Thursday afternoon, LEAD Wisconsin camp held a panel style Q&A with worldview speaker Carl Kerby, Wisconsin Family Council President Julaine Appling, and Pastor Matt Friese. The campers demonstrated their insight and critical thinking skills by asking deep and thoughtful questions. Camper Elias Matiash posed one such question when he asked whether or not it is a good idea to bring children into the broken, messed up world in which we live. Kerby responded by encouraging us to bring up children to honor God and be lights in this broken world. Then Julaine Appling pointed out that Genesis very clearly commands us to be fruitful and multiply and that

we need to have children because fewer people are being born than are dying. These comments reminded me of a question I heard a few months ago about this, “What better time to raise dragon slayers than in a time with actual dragons?” The point of this question is, the world is full of brokenness, depression, depravity, violence, and lies but even so, why would we as Christians stop filling the earth with Christ followers because evil seems so overwhelming? Why should we allow the world to go to utter ruin when we could be the difference or change even a single life for the better? To say that we should stop having children just because the world is dangerous, is

to say that we should make decisions out of fear. Was there a martyr in our history that died because they were afraid to say something? No! They stood up for truth and for righteousness. They paid the ultimate price because they said no to fear when it tried to control them. So what excuse do we have? Are we afraid of being mocked, losing friends, being called mean names, or losing a job for our faith? If that is all we have to fear, then why should we stop raising future generations of bold Christ followers? Kerby always urges us to stay bold. Staying bold means remaining unmoved by fear and choosing to follow Christ no matter what the earthly consequences.

# Light in the Darkness

## Christians are called to stand on biblical principles

By Elayna Uhl

Ever since the beginning of time, there have been battles between the light and the darkness, between righteousness and evil. Throughout history, the Lord has raised up people to stand up against the prince of this world. God called them to “stand in the gap.” He called them to exercise the faith they spoke of and sacrifice for Him and for the love of their fellow man. Men and women that God has raised up to walk the higher path of righteousness have been used to lead revivals, dismantle tyrants and perpetuate freedom.

We are in a battle over good and evil once again. And we must choose which side we will fight on.

First, we need to be willing to let the Holy Spirit breathe through our lives, instead of letting apathy toward the things of Christ rule our spiritual lives. In Matthew 5, the Lord told us, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.” Christ has called us to be candles that are on a candlestick, to give light unto all that cross our path. We can no longer keep this light within our own circles. Carl Kerby encouraged us to shine our light by “[wording] questions and answers in such a way that it causes... people to want to dig deeper.” He encouraged us, “Living the biblical principles that we’re called to live will open the door to have those opportunities go deeper.” He says that we need to know what we believe, which in turn will make us live what we believe, which will finally open up doors to share what we believe. We live in a fallen world that desperately needs its wounds healed by the love of Christ and the

testimony of His followers.

Secondly, we need to be willing to stand up for our freedoms in our nation instead of waiting for others to fight the battles for us. The shadows around us threaten to extinguish what light we have left. During the American War for Independence, Thomas Paine wrote, “These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”

Pastor Matt Friese said that “the most grassroots impact is to change hearts. And history clearly shows humanity’s inability to change the human heart themselves.” The battle for our nation starts with the church. Pastor Friese further stated, “If they don’t know why they believe what they believe, they will not be able to stand upon their beliefs.” Once hearts are being changed, the next step is to gain knowledge. If we are to change the direction our country is going, we must reach the individual hearts. Lastly, we need to be willing to develop relationships contrary to the manner in which the world perpetrates them. Mrs. Diefenbaugh says to “have good counsel, advisors, and friends that are strong in the Lord, so that iron can sharpen iron.” We must be careful of who we choose as our close friends for the effects they can have on us are profound. Proverbs 12:15 says, “He that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.” Our friends and other relationships can directly affect the future of our families, our church and our community. Ecclesiastes 4:12

states, “And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” What would happen if Satan’s diabolical attacks against our churches and our nation were met with “cords” of friends and families who were unwilling to compromise on the standards set up by God’s Word? Mrs. Diefenbaugh says, “If you’re loving the Lord with all your heart, all your mind, all your mind, and all your strength... there will be nothing you can do to hide that light and keep it from spreading.”

## Life after LEAD

### Campers talk about implementing what they learned

By Eleanor Sell

“I was always scared of talking in front of big crowds,” explains Noah Hege, “and now I feel like I can do that a lot better. I feel like now I can share Christ with people and strangers better.”

This is just one example of many campers who were inspired to make a change to their lives back home. For many people, the energy and excitement of the idea of change lights a quick burning fire of interest that once exposed to the real world, sputters out. The campers of LEAD Wisconsin 2023 are no such people. From brand new representatives, to senior senators, the desire to make a change is undeniable.

“I was really inspired to get more personal in my walk with the Lord,” said Kleirhon Hege, “because of something Carl Kerby said; that you have to have your own faith, and that you can’t just profess Jesus with your lips and not with your life.”

*Continued on page 3...*

*Continued from page 2...*

Carl Kerby was an inspiration to many, with his down-to-earth topics and honest expression of how things really are. It was an honor to have him a part of LEAD this year, especially considering how much of an impact he made.

“After hearing Carl Kerby’s session on evangelism, I felt inspired to be more active in sharing my faith.” said Kaylee Oetken, who was particularly impacted by the video in which an atheist asked, “How much do you have to hate someone to not tell them that there is eternal life available?” Messages like this, as well as that of our other speakers, and even the time spent with caucasus, has given many campers a new outlook on how they want to live their lives. The inspiration found from sound reasoning and Christian support is going to make a big difference.

“Looking at all of the things that our speakers have had to say, I’m really looking at the Bible from a new perspective.” stated John Loest, “My denomination doesn’t really talk about reasons for creation or evolution, it’s just ‘this is wrong, this right’, and we don’t look at how to defend our Biblical knowledge. [Upon returning home] I definitely want to be thinking over what the Word says; just going back to that standard reference, studying it, understanding it, looking at it from what the truth is, rather than our personal biases.

While there is always an aspect of bitter-sweet when the crazy week comes to an end, this year there is also a strong joy looking forward to the difference and change the youth of this camp are going to make in their communities, and in the world.

## Worship Always On types of worship

By Madeline Muscanero

When we have a relationship with Christ, our heart longs to grow closer to Him and to learn more about Him. Worship can take many different forms. One form of worship is prayer. Prayer is the way we communicate with God when we are worn down, mourning a loss, struggling with unknown futures, or longing for companionship. Although it might sometimes feel like God isn’t listening, He is always there and listening to us. Prayer is such an important part of growing our bonds with Christ, but we have to listen for His answers too. God speaks to us through His holy inspired word. Hebrews 4:12a says, “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword...”. No matter how many times we read a passage, it speaks to us. Another way we can praise and worship our Father is through music. When we sing or play instruments for the glory of God, even when we make mistakes, it is glorious to Him! Psalms 104:33 says, “I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.” Music is a wonderful way of praising our Father in Heaven. Additionally, we need to worship with other believers! Praying, reading God’s word, singing songs of praise, and supporting each other as the body of Christ are part of corporate worship. Having the support of a church family is vital. We can honor and exalt our God and glorify His name in all situations. 1 Corinthians 14:15 says, “So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.”

## Praise for the Josés LEAD Security

By Keegan Terpstra

Two of LEAD campers’ favorite individuals are our security guards who work hard to keep camp safe. Ironically, both security guards share the same first name, José. Each day these men, often referred to as “the Josés,” work around the clock protecting the campers. From their cars’ flashing lights and their official uniforms to their simple actions like holding doors and friendly smiles they give all campers a sense of security. Each time LEAD campers have gone to the Capitol building, the Josés came with the campers. During Feats of Strength the campers applauded and cheered these men for their service in our camp. The campers and crew repeatedly seek to express their appreciation to the security guards by thanking them whenever possible.

These men have shown that being a security guard doesn’t mean being a cold tough guy. Instead, they demonstrated that a constant presence accompanied with kind smiles creates an atmosphere of safety. At camp their warm personalities have brightened each camper personally. One camper commented, “They are very kind, always hold the door open in a gentleman like way, and at every turn have a ready smile for each camper. As a camper, I greatly appreciate them in protecting us from physical harm.” Camper Noah Friberg mentioned that he hopes to see them again next year. The Josés are probably the most popular people at camp, and we wish to express our gratitude to them for keeping us all safe this week.

# A Leading Role in Friendship

## LEAD as a platform for unforgettable friendship

By Elisabeth Lazzell

“Friendship is born at the moment when one person says to another, ‘What! You too? I thought I was the only one.’” C.S. Lewis’s words perfectly illustrate the relationships created during the week of LEAD Wisconsin, not just this year, but for three years now. The crew members at LEAD all have the goal to help campers fulfill God’s command to us in 1 Thessalonians to “encourage one another and build each other up.” Crew member Josh Howard shares that “the people at this camp always remind me that it’s not our ways but God’s ways that really matter.” Additionally, several campers this week testified that God placed campers into each other’s paths,

which prompted conversations that grew into friendships. In the words of camper Isaac Westendorf, “When you are given a very hard job to do with a group of people you just met, it creates a bonding friendship.” The Holy Spirit works powerfully through these friendships. LEAD alumnus and current crew member Josiah Scott shared his testimony regarding friendships from his freshman year at college. Scott shared his college friends “are people God placed in [his] life for [a] specific reason,” to share struggles with and to rely on. He remembered wise advice from Pastor Bob Loggans, when he said that Christianity is a team sport that can’t be played alone. Camper Cole

Knauf expanded on this idea when he testified, “I was definitely impacted by Carl Kerby’s message, especially when he talked about having to care enough to share the gospel with others.” Along the same lines, another camper shared, “One of the greatest things that happened to me because of coming to this camp was how I decided to start following the Lord and getting on the right track like a Christian again.” Senator Vincenzo Jensen describes LEAD as a wonderful experience “because there are many other Christians here who are like-minded regarding politics and Christ-likeness.” It is clear to see that, here at LEAD Wisconsin, many unforgettable friendships have been not only made and nourished in God’s Word, and it is an experience each and every LEAD camper will always remember.

## Final Bill Votes

### Assembly

Washington Blue - SB 414  
Final Vote: 36-36  
Result: Fail

Washington Gold - AB 69  
Final Vote: 41-32  
Result: Pass

Adams Blue - AB 703  
Final Vote: 25-48  
Result: Fail

Adams Gold - SB 201  
Final Vote: 51-22  
Result: Pass

Jefferson Blue - AB 246  
Final Vote: 12-61  
Result: Fail

Jefferson Gold - SB 330  
Final Vote: 61-12  
Result: Pass

Madison Blue - SB 236  
Final Vote: 57-15  
Result: Pass

Madison Gold - AB 616  
Final Vote: 55-16  
Result: Pass

Monroe Blue - SJR 57  
Final Vote: 53-18  
Result: Pass

Monroe Gold - SB 749  
Final Vote: 38-33  
Result: Pass

### Senate

Saratoga Blue - AB 936  
Final Vote: 24-19  
Result: Pass

Saratoga Gold - SJR 2  
Final Vote: 19-24  
Result: Fail

Lexington Blue - AB 26  
Final Vote: 25-17  
Result: Pass

Lexington Gold - AB 48  
Final Vote: 23-18  
Result: Pass

Yorktown Blue - AB 1  
Final Vote: 25-17  
Result: Pass

Yorktown Gold - SB 314  
Final Vote: 12-31  
Result: Fail

Ticonderoga Blue - AB 515  
Final Vote: 27-16  
Result: Pass

Ticonderoga Gold - SB 42  
Final Vote: 23-21  
Result: Pass