Why We Are Against the IAF in 100 Words or Less.

We have been asked the following question by someone who looked through the website: “Can you briefly describe what you think the real outcome is going to be once congregations are organized and taking action?” Of course the premise of the question is wrong, in that it is not a given that they will get organized and take action. Wow, 100 words or less!?! OK, start counting …….NOW!

We believe the OSC will accomplish a number of the initial actions they select. If fact, it is standard IAF practice to only select initial actions which are almost certain to succeed. The early object being to succeed, thus showing people they can gain and use power – political power. As Ernesto Cortes, Jr., founder of COPS in San Antonio, TX, and a member of the Executive Team of the National IAF said in a speech, “Power before Program.”

So, once this power exists, what will be done with it? To cut to the chase, it will be used to channel government resources to the represented groups. This might be a legitimate political purpose in the modern framework, but hardly a religious one. So how do our churches fit in? At the end of the day involvement with this organization will politicize our Church. If one has a “Progressive” view of the world, and doesn’t mind taking the donations of others against their will for one’s own political purposes, then I suppose it looks pretty attractive.

However, despite the continual repetition of the claim that the agenda will be set by the member churches, we put ourselves at risk that we will be used to support, directly or indirectly, immoral activities such as contraception or abortion. It has happened before with IAF affiliates from Ohio to California to Texas. The belief that it can never happen in Oklahoma is, at best, naive.

It has been said of the opponents of the OSC that our opposition is based on fear. I do not feel any fear, nor do I want to play on the fears of others. My opposition is based on a lack of trust. I do not trust what I am being told. This lack of trust is based first on countless hours of research into the IAF and its affiliates. Read the material with an open heart and mind. The most damning material is that written by supporters of the IAF. This lack of trust is based second on the lack of openness, and the (what seemed to me) blatant intellectual dishonesty that we were confronted with in our early questioning of these efforts.

I hope that this gives the beginnings of an answer to the question. My humble apologies for going over 100 words.

Ricky Joyce

Our thanks for this question to Matt Krodel. He is a 2007 JustFaith graduate and is currently involved with OSC organizing activities at St. Charles Borromeo. See page three of the St Charles Bulletin insert.