

The March Against Mandates

by Michelle Hazekamp - January 31, 2022

On January 23, 2022, I had the privilege of attending the March Against Mandates in Washington D.C. I joined the group Michigan for Vaccine Choice and ventured on a long, uncomfortable bus ride with 101 amazing patriots. With all these freedom fighters crammed into two buses, there was no doubt it would be a fun filled adventure.

Many of us had never been to D.C. before, myself included, so this was especially exciting for us first-timers even though we knew we would not be able to enter restaurants, shops and the historical landmarks that are the embodiment of the "freedoms" they represent. Vaccine mandates were in full force, and we were there to let Washington know, "We Will Not Comply!"

Our journey began as we set out with two bus loads of freedom loving people from all over the state. We would drive all day and arrive at a destined hotel in Virginia, where we would settle in for the night. The bus ride began with enthusiastic energy and many conversations, but after an hour we acquired an issue and had to pull over. The people who were riding on our other bus was uncomfortable with their driver, who was driving erratically. It was suspected the reason may have been due to lack of sleep, however, the driver swore he was fully rested. No signs of him being drunk were present.

We pulled over at a welcome center in Monroe for our 3 hour long wait for a replacement driver. As we poured off the buses, we stampeded the welcome center for bathrooms and a chance to walk around. To our astonishment, there were signs posted through out the welcome stating that Covid testing was required to enter, and was available outside in the parking lot. Most had already infiltrated the building and restrooms, privius to the signs, however, we all enjoyed a good laugh while taking pictures of the signs. The janitors did not seem to mind our humor in the matter, laughing with us, but, the lady behind the brochure counter did not look very welcoming. Who would have thought you would have to take a covid test to use a restroom?!

On the day of the march, we stepped off the buses to a gorgeous view of Capitol Building in front of us, and the Washington Monument behind, where the march would begin. The temperature was 35 degrees, but the bright sunshine made it feel much warmer. We arrived early and crowds had begun to convene. Republicans, Democrats, vaccinated and unvaccinated from all over the U.S. joined in unison for one cause; FREEDOM! Many adorned humorous costumes that made

a huge statement, like a man dressed as a sheep with a giant needle sticking out of his arm, Uncle Sam also with a needle in his arm and others along with many great signs messaging to the world that we will not give up our freedoms. It is estimated 30,000 to 35,000 people attended and it was truly a breath taking sight.

The mile long march concluded at the Lincoln Memorial, where we were greeted with music and the many scheduled speakers of the day. J.C. Sears was the MC for the event. He is the long haired, red-headed comedian you may have seen in YouTube videos making fun of all the Covid mandates. Del Bigtree and famous front-line doctors such as Dr. Cole, Dr. McCullough, Dr. Malone and our very own Dr. Christina Parks from Holland, MI, gave amazing speeches on the dangers of the experimental Covid vaccines and the unethical infringement to our rights these mandates embark on. Robert Kennedy Jr. spoke of his shock to churches nationwide that complied with restrictions even though the mandates had no legal authority behind them. He stated, "It is no accident that we have the First Amendment because our founding fathers wanted us to remain free both from a political standpoint and with our faith. We all watched as churches complied and it has set a very dangerous precedent." He ended his statement to a loud roar of the crowd, "Every time we comply, we show weakness."

The tear-jerker of the whole event was when several Covid vaccine injured people bravely lined the stage and told of their many ongoing struggles. No longer able to work, not eligible for unemployment and their insurance companies refusing to pay their medical bills, these victims have become a casualty of the deep state power grab and the pharmaceutical profit gains. They explained to us how doctors will not diagnose them, because by doing so, their medical licenses are being threatened. Insurance companies will not cover their medical bills due to no diagnosis. They brought tears to our eyes as we imagined the multitudes of others like them. Many of you may remember a video that went viral on social media of a woman whose whole body shook uncontrollably after receiving the Covid vaccine. She was on that stage, and is still shaking a year later.

Firefighters from New York, California and all over the nation lined the stage to join the movement against the mandates and take a stand for freedom, as each were fired for noncompliance to the vaccine.

Dr. Christina Parks gave a powerful speech highlighting how the African American

community have been disproportionately affected by the virus and the vaccine. African American covid deaths are a third higher than the Latino community and more than double that over the white population. Lack of proper treatment and poor care, if any, also aid in higher mortality rates amongst the black population. Dr. Parks recently experienced this firsthand, as her father died from Covid the day before the March due to lack of proper care and life-saving treatments that are being banned by the medical establishment. Her anger radiated through her speech which made it all the more powerful and emotional. We are all very proud of her bravery and dedication to this fight for our freedoms.

Del Bigtree finished the list of headliners as he rallied the crowd by saying, "We are on the right side of history. God created us in His image. Let us get back to our only master, and that is God." Earlier in the day, we had the excitement of walking past him on the sidewalk. He said "Hi" to me and my fellow companions as I eagerly grabbed for my phone to quickly get a picture.

Someone once asked me if I believed these rallies and protests were making a difference. I replied, "Yes. While it may seem to have no impact on Washington or our elected officials as they ignore and censor us, these events reveal how many people are awake to the deception and how big the movement for freedom is. And not only here in the U.S., but what we are witnessing worldwide. They validate the corruption and evil our leaders have succumbed to for the sake of power and money, and their lack of action on 'We the People's' behalf only reinforces our stance as righteous, while they continue to be inhumane and unethical for the purpose of their agenda. For those who know the truth, yet remain silent due to fear of resentment and alienation, being able to see the huge numbers that gather give hope and validation that they are not alone. This hopefully encourages them to stand up and join the movement. There is power in numbers."

The March Against Mandates displayed a strong stance against the tyrannical powers at play. With the media downplaying the event, as they usually do, we were strong in numbers. We have hundreds of thousands of doctors and experts standing beside us worldwide and more are stepping up every day. The tyrannical leaders of the world may not show it, but they are afraid. They have awoken a sleeping giant of which I believe they had no clue as to how big. We will not give up until our freedoms have been restored and justice has been served. January 23, 2022 was a proud day to be an American.

Equip Kids to Face Difficult News with Weekly Family Time

submitted by Torrey Keith Owens

The stream of tough topics for parents to explain can feel unending: social unrest, hate crimes, natural disasters ... the pandemic. Many children and teens have struggled to process what they see at school, in their neighborhoods and on the news.

This challenge hit home for the Monroe family in December 2021, when threats of violence led to school closings in Fruitport. "A lot of kids were fearful and didn't want to go back to school the next day," said 15-year-old Aiden.

Aiden's father, Nick, explains how his family tries to avoid being overwhelmed by fear and negative thoughts. "We spend quality time as a family focusing on positive news," he said.

Nick and Wendy Monroe, along with Aiden, 15, and Zachary, 13, are active in the Fruitport community, where they have lived for almost a decade. "We stay busy with cleaning and maintenance at our place of worship which enabled us to safely return to in-person meetings after two years of meeting virtually," Nick said with excitement. All in the family agree that preparing for their Bible-based meetings together has helped

them develop good, open communication and deal with the challenges Aiden and Zachary face.

In an ever-changing and challenging world, experts recommend regular family discussions to help young ones build resilience.

"Good communication is essential for a child's survival in this world," said James Wright, a California-based family counselor and conflict resolution mediator. "Why not have a family discussion once a week and talk about what's going on in your lives?"

The Monroes are not alone in holding to a set time to have family discussions. For nearly two decades, families of Jehovah's Witnesses like theirs around the world have been encouraged to make "family worship" an uninterrupted weekly routine.

"For many of our families, their weekly discussions are among the most important hours of the week," said Robert Hendriks, U.S. spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses. "It has brought thousands of our families closer together and helped children feel safe and loved."

In hurricane-pummeled New Orleans, the Andrades address safety concerns with their two sons during their regular family worship night.

"On one of our family nights, we were able to put our emergency go bags together and practice what we would do if we were to get separated

during a natural disaster," said mom Ashley Andrade, who safely evacuated with her family before Hurricane Ida uprooted trees and downed power lines on their street.

Her family strengthened this routine in 2009 when Jehovah's Witnesses reduced their midweek meetings from two to one, freeing up an evening each week for families to enjoy such time together.

"Meeting in large groups for worship is a Bible command, but the Bible also tells parents to make time to talk with their kids," said Hendriks. "The change to our weekly meetings helped families to prioritize unhurried Bible discussions tailored to their needs."

For the Cariagas of Lomita, California, their weekly discussion provided a time to promptly address racism when their three girls saw news reports about hate crimes targeting their Asian community.

"The articles on jw.org about prejudice and the video about anxiety were really helpful," said mom Lorrie Cariaga, referencing free resources on the official website of Jehovah's Witnesses, where they often turn for practical and scriptural solutions to family concerns.

Along with serious topics, the Cariagas mix in singing, dramatic performances, and hiking in their family worship together. "Family time is like an open space; it's relaxed, and it's always fun," said Sophie, 14.

Family time is special for the Monroe family too. "Fruitport is a very family-oriented town," Wendy said, "which is one of the things we like most about it."

