

**Letter to the Editor:  
Hobby Lobby may close its doors**

When my family and I started our company 40 years ago, we were working out of a garage on a \$600 bank loan, assembling miniature picture frames. Our first retail store wasn't much bigger than most people's living rooms, but we had faith that we would succeed if we lived and worked according to God's Word.

From there, Hobby Lobby and Mardel Christian Stores has become one of the nation's largest arts and crafts retailers, with more than 900 locations in 41 states. Our children grew up into fine business leaders, and today we run Hobby Lobby together, as a family.

We're Christians, and we run our business on Christian principles. I've always said that the first two goals of our business are (1) to run our business in harmony with God's laws, and (2) to focus on people more than money. And that's what we've tried to do. We close early so our employees can see their families at night. We keep our stores closed on Sundays, one of the week's biggest shopping days, so that our workers and their families can enjoy a day of rest. We believe that it is by God's grace that Hobby Lobby has endured, and He has blessed us and our employees. We've not only added jobs in a weak economy, we've raised wages for the past four years in a row. Our full-time employees start at 80 percent above minimum wage.

But now, our government threatens to change all of that. A new government healthcare mandate says that our family business MUST provide what I believe are abortion-causing drugs as part of our health insurance. Being Christians, we don't pay for drugs that might cause abortions, which means that we don't cover emergency contraception, the morning-after pill or the week-after pill. We believe doing so might end a life after the moment of conception, something that is contrary to our most important beliefs. It goes against the Biblical principals on which we have run this company since day one. If we refuse to comply, we could face \$1.3 million PER DAY in government fines.

Our government threatens to fine job creators in a bad economy. Our government threatens to fine a company that's raised wages four years running. Our government threatens to fine a family for running its business according to its beliefs. I know people will say we ought to follow the rules; that it's the same for everybody. But that's not true.

The government has exempted thousands of companies from this mandate, for reasons of convenience or cost. But it won't exempt them for reasons of religious belief.

So, Hobby Lobby and my family are forced to make a choice. With great reluctance, we filed a lawsuit, represented by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, asking a federal court to stop this mandate before it hurts our business. We don't like to go running into court, but we no longer have a choice. We believe people are more important than the bottom line and that honoring God is more important than turning a profit.

My family has lived the American dream. We want to continue growing our company and providing great jobs for thousands of employees, but the government is going to make that much more difficult. The government is forcing us to choose between following our faith and following the law. I say that's a choice no American and no American business should have to make.

The government cannot force you to follow laws that go against your fundamental religious belief. They have exempted thousands of companies but will not exempt Christian organizations, including the Catholic Church.

Since you will not see this in the liberal media, please pass this on to all your contacts.

David Green founder and CEO, Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. •

**Helpful hint from Reader's Digest**

**Mistakes:** Running out of ingredients and crying while you cut an onion.

**Instead:** when baking, if you're short an egg, replace it with 2 tablespoons of lemon juice mixed well with 1 teaspoon of baking soda. And if you used up the last drop of milk, mix 1 cup of water with 1½ teaspoons of melted butter.

To slice an onion without sobbing, chill it in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes before you start chopping. Why? The cells of the cold onion react slowly when cut, buying you more time to slice before the burning effect begins. Then turn on the stove's ventilation fan. It will prevent the vegetable's sulfenic acid from wafting in your direction and stinging your eyes. •




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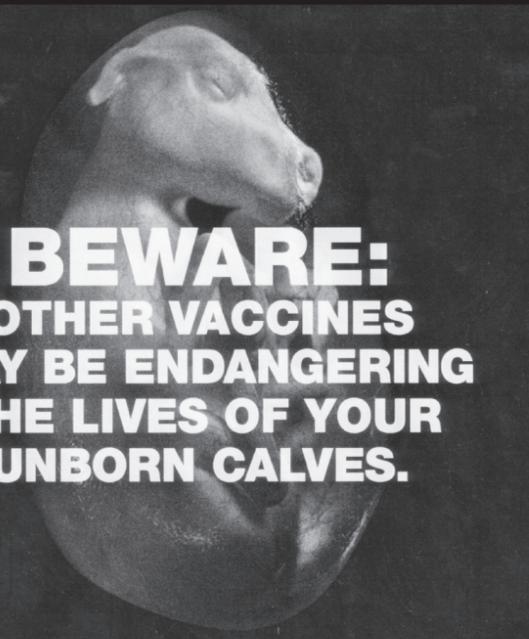
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**Bid opening after the Parade**  
**May 27, 2013**  
**5:00 PM at the Bandshell.**



**Many of the lifelong mental and physical problems children have today are directly traceable to what their mothers consumed before her baby was born.**



**BEWARE:  
OTHER VACCINES  
MAY BE ENDANGERING  
THE LIVES OF YOUR  
UNBORN CALVES.**

This picture is from a Bovi-Shield Gold ad in a farm magazine, warning farmers to be careful what medication they give their cows so that the unborn calves are not endangered.

Shouldn't we be as concerned about negative effects on our unborn babies as farmers are about their unborn calves?

**STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF AN UNBORN CHILD**

**CAUTION:**  
*The first three months of a child's development are the most critical. Many things the mother intakes can have a negative effect on her child for its entire lifetime!*

- Day 18 after conception - Heart begins beating
- 5 weeks - Tiny arms and leg buds have formed
- 6 weeks - Face has two eyes
- 7 weeks - Pain sensors appear
- 2 months - Brain begins to form

This information provided by: **First Congregational Church of Fruitport**, 3212 Pontaluna Road  
Worship & Sunday School at 1030 a.m.