

# Faithful Citizenship

June 29, 2008

With summer here and graduation party season upon us, kids will do what kids have done for many years. They will relax, hang out with friends, get in one last, long lazy time before heading off to work or college, and quite possibly DRINK. This is a decision that every teenager has to make. If your child or grandchild isn't drinking, you can be assured that they know someone who is. When they are with their friends, they have choices to make. Some of these choices can be life or death decisions. One big one, of course, is whether or not to get in the car with someone who's had the classic "two beers" or maybe even "just one."

What are their friends' parents' attitudes about drinking? I saw a slogan once that read, "The best place for your kids to find beer is in your refrigerator." Would you notice if one or two or three were missing? Have you heard people say, "I'd rather have them drinking at home than at someone else's house." Huh? You have control at home. Why would you let them drink? Twenty-one is twenty-one...at your house or somewhere else. Can you even grasp the heartache if one of those kids drove off and got in an accident? Either side of a drunk-driving accident is horrific. Assuming that they will just fall asleep at your house after you've gone to bed is naïve. Kids do stupid things. These are the stories that you get told about after they've grown and left the house...if you're lucky.

Let's keep our kids safe by providing a good example. Do they see us having "one for the road?" What attitude are they getting about alcohol from us? Do we need it to relax or have a good time? Is it the center of our party life? Do they see us as positive role models, or are we hypocritical? Kids can tell. Let's have a safe summer.

Gotta go boot up my hard drive! *Aloha Mary B.*