

Biography – Alan C. Carlson



Born 1949 in Des Moines, Iowa, Carlson received his B.A., magna cum laude, from Augustana College (1971) and his Ph.D. in Modern European History from The Ohio University (1978). He is married and has four children.

From 1975-78, Carlson served as Assistant Director, Governmental Affairs Office, Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. In 1977, he was a Visiting Scholar at the Labor Movement Archive in Stockholm and, in 1979, an NEH Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (Washington, DC). Later that year, he became Assistant to the President and Lecturer in History at Gettysburg College (Pennsylvania). In 1981, Carlson became Executive Vice President of The Rockford Institute (Illinois) and editor of *Persuasion at Work*. In 1986, he became Institute President and Publisher of *Chronicles*, *The Family in America*, and *The Religion & Society Report*. In 1988, President Reagan appointed him to the National Commission on Children ("The Rockefeller Commission"), where he played a key role in crafting its 1991 "Final Report," *Beyond Rhetoric*. Carlson served as General Secretary of The World Congress of Families (WCF), held March, 1997, in Prague, The Czech Republic. In October, 1997, he created and became President of The Howard Center for Family, Religion & Society. He served as General Secretary of WCF II, held November, 1999, in Geneva, Switzerland, with 1600 delegates. During 2001-03, he was a History Team Member of The Pew Foundation/Woodrow Wilson Center project on "the nature of the human person." In 2002-05, Carlson held the additional post of Distinguished Fellow for Family Policy Studies at the Family Research Council (Washington, DC). In 2003 he served on the Intercollegiate Studies Institute Honors Faculty at Oriel College, Oxford University. In March, 2004, he was International Secretary for the WCF III, held in Mexico City, with 3300 delegates; he held the same position for the WCF IV, held May 2007 in Warsaw, Poland, with 3900 participants. He has received research grants from Ohio University, The American Scandinavian Foundation, The National Endowment for the Humanities, The Institute for Educational Affairs, Earhart Foundation, and Fieldstead and Company.

Carlson is the author of ten books. *Family Questions: Reflections on the American Social Crisis*, was published in 1988 by Transaction Press (Rutgers University). *The University Bookman* called it "genuinely profound." *The Swedish Experiment in Family Politics: The Myrdals and the Interwar Population Crisis*, came from Transaction in 1990. *Reason* magazine declared it "the social policy book of the year." *From Cottage to Work Station: The Family's Search for Social Harmony in the Industrial Age*, appeared from Ignatius Press in 1993. Critic Bill Kauffman labeled it "a brave and powerful book: a gimlet-eyed analysis with the force of a jeremiad" (a New Edition entitled *The Family in America* came from Transaction in 2003). *The New Agrarian Mind: The Movement Toward Decentralist Thought in 20th Century America*, appeared from Transaction in 2000. Barry Alan Shain of Colgate University called it "an important book...deeply learned and finely researched...an excellent piece of intellectual history." A collection of Carlson's essays appeared in Russian translation in 2003, entitled *Society, Family, & Person* and published at Moscow Lomonosov State University. *The 'American Way':*

Family and Community in the Shaping of the American Identity, came from ISI Books in 2003. James Schall of Georgetown University deemed it “the most countercultural book of the year.” *Fractured Generations: Crafting a Family Policy for 21st Century America*, appeared from Transaction in 2005; “insightful and provocative...required reading for academics, journalists and policymakers,” concluded W. Bradford Wilcox of the University of Virginia. *Conjugal America: On the Public Purposes of Marriage* came from Transaction in 2006. *The Midwest Book Review* called it “an absolute ‘must read’...Highly recommended.” Spence published *The Natural Family: A Manifesto* (co-authored by Paul Mero) in May 2007. Rabbi Daniel Lapin of Toward Tradition called it “nothing short of a blueprint for Western survival.” *Third Ways: How Bulgarian Greens, Swedish Housewives, and Beer-Swilling Englishmen Crafted Family-Centered Economies...And Why They Disappeared* appears from ISI Books in Autumn 2007.

Carlson is a Contributing Editor of *Touchstone* and serves on the editorial board of *The Intercollegiate Review*. His longer essays are included in over thirty anthologies and in *The Washington Post (Outlook Section)*, *Journal of Social Issues*, *Society*, *Journal of Law, Ethics, and Public Policy*, *New Oxford Review*, *The Public Interest*, *Regulation*, *The American Enterprise*, *The Weekly Standard*, *National Review*, *The Cresset*, *Family Policy Review*, *The Human Life Review*, *Policy Review*, *This World*, *The University Bookman*, *Continuity: A Journal of History*, *Dialogue: A Journal of Theology*, *Small Farmers' Journal*, *Marknads Ekonomisk Tidskrift* (Sweden), *The Family in Russia*, *Communio*, *The Chesterton Review*, *Modern Age*, *Caelum Et Terra*, and other periodicals. He has also written for the *Wall Street Journal*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *USA Today*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Los Angeles Times*, *International Herald-Tribune*, *Detroit News*, *Atlanta Journal*, and *Chicago Tribune*. He has appeared on the PBS News Hour, NPR (“*Morning Edition*,” “*All Things Considered*,” “*Talk of the Nation*”), Voice of America, ABC, CBS, and NBC News, MSNBC, CNN, C-SPAN (“*Booknotes*” and “*Book TV*”), Family Channel, CBC, BBC World Service, Korean, Australian, Czech and Polish TV, eight PBS productions on family issues, and over 500 regional radio and television outlets. He is profiled in *Contemporary Authors* (2002) and *American Conservatism: An Encyclopedia* (2006).

Carlson has testified as an expert witness before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Family and Human Services, the U.S. Attorney General's Taskforce on Family Violence, The Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces, the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, Swedish and Mexican Parliamentarians, and in State and Federal Court. He has lectured for Colgate University, Moscow Lomonosov University, City-University (Sweden), Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Grove City College, University of Wisconsin, The North American College (the Vatican), Wabash College, Hastings College, Brigham Young University, Georgetown University, The Swedish Employers Federation, The Children's Defense Fund, The Kellogg Foundation, the North American Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, The Australian Family Association, The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, and The Civic Institute (Czech Republic). He has prepared commissioned research papers for the Institute of Medicine--National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Department of Education, and has consulted for the U.S. Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services.

