



N E W S L E T T E R

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January

2014



ADMINISTRATOR AGENDA

Pastor Dennis D. Campbell

D. Min., M. Div., Central Baptist
Theological Seminary
B.S., South Dakota State Univ.
Bob Jones University 2 years

Granite City Baptist Academy has a 2-week vacation over Christmas and New Years, as we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The Academy resumes Jan 6th, and 2nd quarter ends Jan. 17th. This would be a great time to ENROLL your children for 2nd semester. GCBA emphasizes the BIBLE, Patriotism, Competition, Social Interaction, Work Ethics, Academic Skills, and Christian Morals.

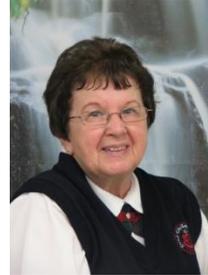
The students will have incentive reward activities of ice skating, tubing, skiing, and sledding. Parent Orientation will be at 7pm on Mon., Jan. 20th. Those interested in the Academy are invited to attend. The **PATRIOTIC PROGRAM** will be at 6pm on Sunday Feb. 16th. I trust you will plan to join us.

The theme for the year is **SUBMISSION**, which is a military term meaning, "be subject to authority," to fall in rank or to simply obey authority, and a willingness to yield to leadership. God expects all citizens, Christians, church members, husbands, wives, children, and servants to exhibit a submissive spirit.

The Theme Song for this year is, "Give Me Thy Heart." The theme verse is Eph. 5:21, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God", and the Academy Hymn is "Break New Ground."

Pray for the wrestling outreach with Tech High School. The Lord has given me an opportunity to give a short challenge and pray before each meet. We hosted a dual between Tech and Fergus Falls in our gym, which provided an opportunity for all in attendance to receive the gospel. It brought a couple hundred people into our church. Our folk were hospitable and a good example. Tech has agreed not to use rock music, plus we pass out tracts and get to counsel with wrestlers, coaches, and parents. Pray that it will be a fruitful outreach.

In the next couple of weeks we will be competing with Willmar, Mora, Sauk Rapids, and Little Falls. Hammond Baptist from Schererville IN will be competing at the Kiffmeyer Duals and staying in our church.



Mrs. Mary Tischner
ABC Class & Reading Monitor

Salvation Testimony

I was born in St. Cloud MN, but I was not raised here. As a lumber-yard manager, my father's job took

us to many smaller towns. I did not enjoy all of these moves, because I had to leave friends behind to start all over again at a new school. This went on through eighth grade, with my parents enrolling my brother and me in a Catholic school with each move.

When I was in the 8th grade we moved to South Dakota, where I enrolled in a public high school. We moved again to a smaller town where I graduated from high school.

After graduation, I moved to Pierre SD where I worked in a hospital. Later I moved to Minneapolis, and finally back to St. Cloud, where I met Wally Tischner. We were married and have two children, Scott and Lisa. We moved to Florida for 2-1/2 years, and then back to St. Cloud.

In 1999 three ladies from Granite City Baptist visited my home, and I trusted the Lord as my Savior. I was baptized and joined Granite City Baptist Church.

In the fall of each year there would be a request for monitor help in the Academy. Though I very much wanted to volunteer, I was unable to do so. However, two years ago the desire of my heart was granted, as the time came when I could finally help!

Oh, how great this Academy is – it is the BEST! I see the students receiving instruction and direction from the principles of God's Holy Word. Students also receive individual attention. Oh, what a great and wonderful school – praise the Lord!

The Bible promise on which I stand is Phil. 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Thank the Lord for His Holy Word, which gives me encouragement and strength every day!

Can you Afford Christian Education?

Minnesota Association of Christian Schools, Nov. 2013

A. Hodak

Maybe the better question is: "Can you afford not to have your kids in a Christian school?"

Fourth Baptist Christian School was founded in 1966, in part, in response to three major Supreme Court decisions that changed the direction of public education forever. Prior to this time, schools by and large accepted the Bible as authoritative. Students prayed, memorized Bible verses, and some districts even held Bible classes. American culture believed in Bible basics even though many were not Bible-believers or Christ-followers.

In 1962, *Engel v. Vitale* (1962) took a simple New York public school prayer and made it unconstitutional. The prayer was recited to start each school day and it simply said, "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our community." For the previous 170 years, students in New York public schools could pray, but no more. Not only was the prayer thrown out, but also how



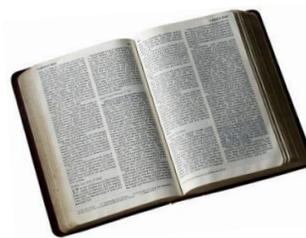
a court case would be decided. Previously, a court case was decided according to historical precedent, however, in *Engel v. Vitale*, there was no precedent that could be cited by which to make this decision. American culture was all for prayer in schools, but the court set a path

forward which gave itself power that it was never intended to have. Gone was the simple prayer invoking God's blessing upon our nation.

Murray v. Curlett (1963) abolished public school prayer and Bible reading from the public school classroom in America entirely. Self-proclaimed atheist Madeline Murray O'Hare took her boys to school one day and as she observed Bible reading and prayer in her boys' classrooms, she decided to take on the public school system to abolish both. One of the two sons with her that day, William, became a Christian later in life and has been a vocal proponent of school prayer and Bible reading in schools ever since.



The third Supreme Court case which changed the face of education was *Abington Township School District v. Schempp* (1963). The state of Pennsylvania had mandated that ten verses from the Bible be read daily in the public



school classroom. This had been followed for many years. Parents brought the case to court citing that their child was being forced to take part in that exercise, and the result was that

secularism became the normal belief system in our public schools.

American students were no longer allowed to hear the Bible read, recite a prayer, or discuss anything that had to do with a Biblical worldview during the six or seven hours that they spent each day in their public schools. As a result of these cases and other local laws, the Christian school movement began and grew in the subsequent two decades. Fourth Baptist Christian School grew tremendously in those early years. What began as a small K5 - 4th grade school with 45 students increased in size to 633 students in 1985. Today, Fourth Baptist Christian School hovers in the low 200's with a beautiful facility that could easily house double that number of students.

Traditionally, public schools were community-based and parent controlled, but in recent decades we have seen a movement away from local control toward federal control. Schools that used to be community-based have moved away from a traditional definition of community. City districts have experienced the largest transformation due to population shifts and cultural changes. The federal government has responded with over 150 federal programs that pour millions of dollars into local school districts. Slowly disappearing is the ability of school districts to control their own curriculum and for states to manage their own educational budgets.

What is most disturbing, however, is what the National Educational Association (NEA) is pushing our public schools to teach. Resolutions from the 2012-2013 NEA Convention push education programs which promote the homosexual lifestyle, regardless of the parents' belief. They operate on the premise that all students should have direct and confidential access to comprehensive health, social, and psychological programs and services. This would include family planning counseling and access to birth control. Parents would not be able to restrict obscene and offensive books on the shelf in school libraries and taught in classrooms. In the state of MN, laws exempt schools and teachers from any liability when it comes to obscene materials in schools.

According to Mohler, "public school classrooms are being transformed into laboratories for ideological experimentation and indoctrination. The great engines for Americanization are now forces for the radicalization of everything from human sexuality to postmodern understanding of truth and the meaning of texts. Compulsory sex

(Continued on page 3)

education, the creation of ‘comprehensive health clinics,’ revisionist understandings of American history, Darwinian understandings of science and humanity, and a host of other ideological developments now shape the norm in the public school experience. If these developments have not come to your local school, they almost surely will soon.

Added to these worries is the general breakdown of discipline within the schools and the fact that the public schools are now seen as social service centers. Many schools are asked to do social work as much as education, and the very idea of what such an education should be is up for debate. Standards have fallen, discipline has evaporated, armed guards roam many hallways, and teachers feel increasingly unable to teach or to maintain order” (Mohler, p. 64-67).



I often tell our new parents that what makes us different from any other school, public or private, is not that we have high academics, small teacher to student ratios, Bible class and prayer, high test scores, excellent music programs, or championship soccer and volleyball teams, but that our primary goal is to teach our students how to think Biblically. **While that is the key philosophical component in our Christian educational system I hope our parents and other Christian families come to understand, I often wonder what it is going to take for Christian education to become a conviction in the lives of our Christian families. The minds of our children are at stake.** Postmodernism is the prevailing worldview taught in our government-run schools, and it appears that we are never going back to the way things once were. I believe that this is one of the chief reasons why we are losing our young people from our churches in their teens and twenties.

FBCS has not changed, and will not change, and as far as I can tell, neither will any of the schools that belong to the Minnesota Association of Christian Schools (MACS). MACS is fighting to maintain our schools’ religious rights. We will not retreat from our standards or our doctrinal positions. Our prayer is that Christian parents in Bible-believing churches will come to the realization of what is happening to our government-run schools. Lord willing, our own parents will stay firm in their own convictions regarding Christian education. What results from conviction is action. In the case of our children’s education, my prayer is that in their personal lives, believing parents will make the financial adjustments necessary to live out their conviction for a Biblical education for their children.

In a recent chapel, I told our secondary students that I believe God is preparing an army of young people to go out into the world and preach the Gospel. The Gospel is the only hope for change in a culture that has taken God out of

everything. The only way the younger generation is ever going to see God is through us. We must prepare our students to be salt and light. We must prepare our students academically with truth from God’s Word and truth about our history. We must instill in our students a strong work ethic and sense of personal responsibility. In addition, we must teach our students what is right and offer them a way to live and function that is far superior to what the world has to offer. Our students must understand and believe that God’s Word is the only source of absolute truth. We must mentor and model for them lives dependent upon the grace of God and show our students what a transformed life looks like. There is hope for this generation, but not as products of a godless educational system that is becoming controlled by one centralized governmental power.



We, as parents, must reevaluate and give our children the gift of a Christian education. Pastors, we must preach and teach and impress upon our people a Biblical philosophical mindset regarding education. Students, you must understand the importance of learning how to think, not from the world’s post modernistic indoctrination, but from a mindset centered around God’s Word as absolute truth.

Can change occur? Absolutely it can, but culturally, it will not occur until our convictions regarding education result in action. The other alternative is no longer an option for the Christian. —A. Hodak

Mohler Jr., Dr. R. Albert. “Is Public School an Option?” Answers in Genesis (2013), pp. 64-67.

COMING EVENTS	
Academy resumes, Monday, 8:30am	Jan 6
Pee-wee & Patch Club Concerts, 6pm Sun	Jan 12
Academy Reward Activity: Ice Skating	Jan 10
2 nd Quarter Ends	Jan 17
2 nd Qtr Reward Act: Eagle Mountain	Jan 20
Parent Orientation	Jan 20
Acad Reward Activ: Sledding, Riverside	Feb 7
Patriotic Program, Sun 6pm	Feb 16
No School GCBA	Feb 17
SLC Reward Activ: Skiing, Powder Ridge	Feb 20
Preacher Boys, Wed 7pm	Feb 26
MACS State Basketball Tourn (Plymouth)	2-27/ 3-1
JLC Reward Activ: Film & Popcorn	Feb 28

