

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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## It's Coming Back AND It Is Our Constitutional Right!

By  
Marion Clegg

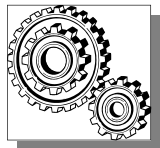
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### In the Works

#### Bible in the Schools

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)

**D**id you know that there are 37 States presently teaching the Bible as an elective in high schools across America? Yes, over 175,000 students have already completed the course.

Are you thinking, "But there is this separation of Church and State thing, so anything about the Bible is not allowed in schools and in the public arena"? If you are one of these people, let me set you straight. This is a phrase that has been taken out of context and used to belittle the people in this country that profess to be Christians. That phrase is not in our Constitution or any of our country's founding documents.

Now, to get to the exciting part! Elizabeth Ridenour, founder and president of National Council on Bible Curriculum in the Public Schools, along with members of her Board of Directors, superintendents with a PhD in Curriculum Development, and attorneys have developed a Bible Curriculum acceptable to be used in public high schools. Let me quote to you from their guidelines the objectives of this program:

1. *To equip the student with a fundamental understanding of important literary forms contained in the Bible as well as people and symbols often referred to in literature, art and music.*
2. *To equip the student with a fundamental understanding of important Biblical contributions to history, law, American community life and culture.*
3. *To give insight into the world views of America's founding fathers and to understand the Biblical influences on their views of human rights.*
4. *To provide a greater knowl-*

*edge of Middle-Eastern history, geography, religion and politics.*

5. *To inform the students of the importance of religion in the world and national history, without imposing the doctrine of any particular religious sect.*

*This fully complies with the U.S. Constitution and provides a unique and valuable service to communities.*

There has been a great social regression since the Bible was removed from our schools. We need to refer to the original documents that inspired Americanism and our religious heritage. Historians say that religion has been the major motivating force in all human history.

When some people are trying to completely remove the Bible from schools, students' rights are being **violated**. Textbook publishers are censoring history when they give us misrepresented versions, empty of religion. For example, to explain why the Pilgrims came to America without discussing the issue of religious freedom is withholding information: **CENSORSHIP**. Our Founding Fathers never intended for this to happen to our nation. When found reading the Bible, Patrick Henry said, "The Bible is a book worth more than all the other books that were ever printed." It is a known fact that Thomas Jefferson was the first President of the Washington, D.C. School Board, which decided to use the Bible and Warts Hymnal as their primary books.

Chief Justice Warren Berger said that the Constitution does not

require complete separation of church and state. It mandates accommodation, not merely tolerance of all religions, and forbids hostility toward any.

While there are principals, teachers, and school boards who serve their communities in truth and fairness; many, due to misunderstanding and misinterpretations, have assisted in the denial of the Constitutional rights of students and teachers. We must know and acclaim our rights, and we must do this responsibly. As Woodrow Wilson said, "A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about."

The Board and Advisory Committee for the National Council On Bible Curriculum In Public Schools is made up of 30 legislators and attorneys from around the country who want to see the Bible being taught again in the public schools. Seeing this Bible Curriculum in public schools nationwide is being accomplished through a state-by-state network of key citizens.

The purpose of this article is to inform you and to ask your help in making Vermont one of those states where the Bible is being taught. I am asking for your help. Each church, each resident, of voting age, within their school district, each student in high school, can circulate a petition that will be presented to your school board, by someone in your school district, requesting the Bible Curriculum be taught in your high school by a certified teacher. If

(Continued from page 1)

you would like to be one of these people that will say, "Yes, I would like to help," please contact me, Marion F. Clegg, 158 Oakwood Drive, Hyde Park, Vermont 05655, or call (802) 888-2071 or you can email me at:

[impactvt@adelphia.net](mailto:impactvt@adelphia.net).

Another way you can help is by supporting this worthy cause with a donation. NCBCPS is a non-profit organization, and if you would like, as a church or an individual, to support what they are doing, you can mail your donation to NCBCPS, P.O. Box 9743, Greensboro, N.C. 27429 or contact them through their website: [www.bibleinschools.net](http://www.bibleinschools.net). They

have made all of this possible so let them know you support what they are doing with either a monthly or one-time donation. This is a way you can be blessed and be a blessing.

One other note ~ during the 1995-96 school year President Bill Clinton had Richard W. Riley, then Secretary of Education for the United States, distribute the guidelines the President set forth for religious tolerance in the public schools to every public school superintendent in the country. Those freedoms included freedom to meet with other students for Prayer, Bible Study and Worship, freedom to wear clothing depicting religious messages and symbols,

freedom to express religious beliefs on campus, freedom to share religious tracts on campus, freedom to pray voluntarily, freedom to carry a Bible or other religious literature, freedom to prepare school assignments and projects from and expressing a religious perspective, freedom to observe religious holidays on campus, freedom to organize religious clubs, and freedom to live according to their religious beliefs while on campus. So you see, the groundwork has already been laid for us. Now, the ball is in our court. The rest is up to us. To quote Pastor Rod Parsley of World Harvest Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, "I will keep silent no more!"

Will you join me in this march to take back Vermont, which rightfully belongs to us? Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven". This is that time. This is that season. Let us march forth and reclaim our inheritance!! God bless each and every one reading this article.

*Marion Clegg is the Vermont State Director for National Council On Bible Curriculum in Public Schools and a member of Open Doors Church and World Outreach in Essex Jct.*

## FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

*By Glenn Taylor*

"**Bound4LIFE**" is a grassroots movement joining together across America to pray, vote life, and practice acts of God's justice and compassion in helping to see the healing of our Nation! We are calling for all whose hearts burn for mercy and justice to help us raise up a massive grassroots movement that will plead the Blood of Jesus over the sins of our nation and mobilize people to action with us in Silent Prayer Sieges at courts and abortion clinics and at strategic justice flashpoints. We call to account through voting, all elected officials who refuse to acknowledge and protect the sanctity of LIFE. We also join the ranks of those who are already offering compassion services to women in crisis pregnancies and also believe to release the Spirit of adoption (take in unwed mothers and adopt children saved from abortion). It's not too late for America! Together we can be the History Makers who pay the price and become the hinge that closes the door on this Holocaust which has ended the lives of 50,000,000 unborn Americans since 1973. Your prayers can make the difference!

As Dr. Seuss' Horton found out, the whole world can be saved by the smallest of all! Every voice does count! A 22 word prayer is now being prayed by over 85,000 people across America! The significance of this length is that it was a 22 word prayer that was taken out of our public schools in 1962. You can pray this prayer and help reverse the Hamen decree of '73 (Roe v. Wade) which brought about this Holocaust.

**"Jesus, I plead your blood over my sins and the sins of my nation. God, end abortion and send revival to America."**

Eventually there will be thousands of us joining together at Courthouses and Abortion Centers across Vermont! This is not a protest, but a non-violent prayer movement! The Red LIFE Tape across our mouths will be identifying with the silent screams of those who cannot speak for themselves! Our appeal to the Highest Court of Heaven will be identifying with the sins of our nation and pleading for mercy with a better blood than the blood of our guilt. We will also be breaking the Church's silence in becoming the prophetic voice that God has called us to be in a society filled with decadence.

The Church will become free from the shame of our past and communion will cleanse the Land all across America. Could this prayer movement usher in the revival we have been praying for? We will see the end of the government sanctioned "Great American Holocaust!" The future prophets and leaders of our churches and nation, (our children and grandchildren) are in the balance- the enemy wants to destroy them! Is there not a cause? If we do our part, we can see the things in God's heart manifested and justice will flow like a river and righteousness will spring forth! God promises He will restore our judges as at the first!

Rosa Parks was one person who changed history in the 60's. Her actions of remaining seated on that bus began to end the injustice towards our black brothers and sisters. Her voice and actions helped launch a whole Civil Rights Movement. Your voice and actions can end an injustice too!

If you would like to be a part in the formation of this ministry, we could use your help in getting the word out and distributing LIFE bands throughout our region! We want to raise up teams to participate and become History Makers in this hour! We will be having prayer meetings and training sessions in the near future! A **bound4life** weekend is tentatively planned for Sept. 22-25 to be held in the Burlington area.

Please contact us to let us know how you can help. If You would like LIFE bands, more information, or if you would like someone to share at your church or small group, please contact Glenn Taylor by E-mail at [bound4LIFEvt@gmail.com](mailto:bound4LIFEvt@gmail.com).

I encourage you to go to these websites for more information and updates for this prayer movement!

[www.bound4life.com](http://www.bound4life.com)

[www.thecauseusa.com](http://www.thecauseusa.com)

[www.justicehouseofprayer.com](http://www.justicehouseofprayer.com)

*Glenn Taylor attends Maranatha Christian Church in Williston*

## Interview with a Legislator

David Sunderland, Representative for Rutland Town, serves on the Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee and as assistant minority leader in the Vermont House of Representatives.

### What goes into the decision to seek public office?

A lot of things go into the decision. I think everyone should be involved in serving the community in some way. There are volunteer jobs, working with kids or seniors, for example, as well as local elected positions such as planning commission, school board, selectman or alderman. Some jobs you won't be suited for; you need to find something you enjoy. I enjoy serving in the legislature. It probably isn't for you if you would experience a lot of frustration working where there are strong disagreements. If you're familiar with Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, one of the questions there is, "What could you stay up to two in the morning talking about?" For me, this is it.

There are practical aspects that have to be considered: do you have the occupational flexibility and can you afford it? What about the time away from home and family? You definitely have to talk with your spouse about it. If you are employed, is your employer supportive; if you own your business, can you be away from it that much? At the time the representative position became open, I was serving on a church board. I talked with my pastor and received a lot of good counsel as well as the recognition that this is what I should be doing.

### What are the costs involved in serving in Montpelier?

You are basically gone from your job for five months of the year. That can translate into a loss of career advancement. There are no health care benefits for those serving in the legislature. The pay is something like \$536 per week plus a room and meals allowance. For most legislators, it will cost you money to serve. For

those of us that live too far away to commute everyday, you normally spend Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights in Montpelier. I usually talk with my family three times a day by phone while in the capital and try to get home once during the week, but there are snow storms and things that come up at home that need immediate attention.

### Can you give a brief description of the normal required steps in standing for public office?

You have to obtain signatures to get your name on the ballot. That is not too difficult for the office of representative. You file with the town clerk and they forward a copy to the secretary of state. If you raise more than \$500 for an election, there are periodic financial statements you have to file with the secretary of state. I have to file one this month. [Ed. note: July]

Besides the legal requirements, campaigning will be a normal, required step. Before I ran, I had only worked on other people's campaigns in areas such as phone work and stuffing envelopes. My education in campaigning came thru reading and coaching from more experienced people. **That's probably the norm for most. There are campaign expenses, of course: lawn signs, brochures, etc.**

It was more like four or five thousand. The most important thing is to talk with people, knocking on doors, that sort of thing.

### Jesus spoke of those who were faithful over little being put in charge of much. How does that relate to public service?

There is rightness to it from the perspective of the public that is served, but it is also good for the one who pursues public service. Someone like a barber or a school teacher might be well known in the community, but if you serve your town, say, on the school board, you will be learning about public service and people will get to know you before you are trusted to help make laws for the entire state.

### What are common misunder-

### standings about public service?

I would say all those in Montpelier work very hard at their jobs and this is true across the political spectrum. There is a great deal of research and reading that has to be done. Vermont legislators do not have staff to do a lot of that for them. I respect the effort everyone puts into working for his or her view of good government, even if we strongly disagree.

Lobbyists in Montpelier do not do all the wining and dining of legislators that people associate with lobbyists in Washington. They actually serve an important role because they have access to a great deal of research on at least one side of an issue. Ideally, there will be lobbyists or advocates on both sides of an issue.

Floor debates are not as significant as one on one conversations. Probably 90 per cent of a legislator's effect on another's view comes through individual conversations.

When you see leaders of the minority party assigned to what are considered less important committees, it can be punishment, but normally party leaders on both sides serve on less demanding committees. This frees them up to keep tabs on progress in other committees and in the other house.

In my experience, the press has been decent in their reporting.

### Can you briefly describe a typical week in Montpelier?

Early in the session, most of the time is spent in committee. That is where bills take shape. A committee chairperson wants to bring out bills that will fly. If a bill comes out of committee with a straight party-line vote, that's when you can get a four or five hour floor debate. By law, all meetings are open to the public, including committee meetings, though space is limited. Discussion is usually informal in committee. There are no secret votes except electing the speaker, retaining judges, things like that. Later in the session, more time will be spent on the floor. A day in committee usually starts at 9:00; a day

on the floor, not until 9:30.

### When does the sense of accomplishment come?

I find a sense of accomplishment in affecting the substance of a bill and in helping to persuade the view of others on an issue.

### What would you like Christian people to know about serving in public office and how should we pray for our public servants?

The legislators are a strong group of people, but you should know that you have a voice in the legislature. Don't be afraid to call or contact your representative. Phone calls, e-mails, cards are highly valued and are acted on. You shouldn't think that your representative wouldn't listen to you because their view differs from yours and you shouldn't assume that they have already heard what you have to say.

We hear all the time from people who don't like something. Encouragement and thanks for a good job are much appreciated. That can be a phone call, e-mail, card or letter.

There is a legislators' prayer meeting, usually at 8 A.M. on Wednesdays when the legislature is in session. This is open to the public and usually runs 40 to 45 minutes. If you can't come to pray with your legislators, you can pray for the challenges of the job, the separation from family, the financial sacrifice that many make and for strength in adversity.

### Thank you. We trust our readers will now pray with more understanding and that this will be helpful to those that are considering joining you.

Thank you.

*Rep. Sunderland was interviewed by Lauston Stephens of the Christian Action Ministry. Lauston attends Roadside Assembly of God in Rutland*

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead  
James 2:17

e-mail : [camnet@surfglobal.net](mailto:camnet@surfglobal.net)

[www.christianactionministry.com](http://www.christianactionministry.com)

**In this issue we are introducing two new projects that should be of interest to our readers.**

**The first is a program to bring the Bible back into our public schools, using a curriculum that has passed legal challenges in other states. This will depend on interested parents willing to petition their school boards for the inclusion of this course in their schools.**

**The second project is Bound4Life which uses silent witness to bring the abortion issue back to the forefront.**

**Don't miss our interview with a Vermont Christian legislator and his perspective on public service in Montpelier.**

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**Next Meetings**  
*September 12, 7:00 pm*  
*Maranatha Christian Church*  
*Williston, Vt.*  
*October 10, 7:00 pm*  
*St. Marks Catholic Church*  
*Burlington, Vt.*

**Making A Difference in Vermont!**



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