

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

November-December, 2006 ☆ Vol. 16, Number 6

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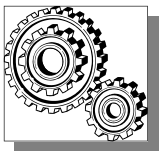
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### In the Works

#### ***Bible Curriculum in the Public 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 removed from our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website

## Candidate Survey 2006

By  
Dick Trudell

This is the 8th General Election for which the Christian Action Ministry has provided a survey of the candidates' positions on issues of interest to Christians. To enable you to understand the survey and appreciate the information contained in it, we will provide some insight about the thought process that went into the survey and how we obtained the information that it contains.

The first step in developing a survey is to determine the questions. The members of CAM met to formulate the questions. We wanted them to represent those issues that should be of interest to Christians. Many of the questions would not be asked of the candidates in the normal forums sponsored by various groups. The questions we asked were also geared to determining a candidate's character. How someone stands on an issue, even if it may not come to a vote, can tell you a lot about how they might react to other issues not yet introduced.

Once a first draft of the questions was formulated, we re-

grouped several times to review them again. We started questions with a key word, usually SUPPORT or OPPOSE, to clarify the intent of each question and allow a "yes" or "no" answer.

The next step in the survey was to determine who to contact. The 2004 questionnaire polled candidates for the Vermont House and Senate from Chittenden, Franklin, Rutland, and Grand Isle Counties. This year we have expanded the survey to Caledonia, Lamoille, and Washington Counties.

We obtained the candidate list for the primaries from the Secretary of State and prepared letters and questionnaires for them all. A couple of days after the primary election, the winners of the primaries, as well as those whose seats were uncontested, were mailed the questionnaire. Unfortunately independent candidates, those not associated with a recognized party, register later and there is not sufficient time to include them in our survey.

Not all candidates answered. Some never answer questionnaires. Others don't wish you

to know their positions (particularly if they are not favorably inclined to a Christian perspective). Many of the uncontested races saw no need to reply. We have seen a decline over the years in the number of candidates who respond, and feel this is a regrettable trend. We attempt to make up for this by repeated calls to ask candidates to complete the survey or to give us the information over the telephone. We got some interesting responses, such as, "This conflicts with the separation of church and state", or "Keep religion out of politics". Since morals and values are a part of politics, and there is no constitutional separation of church and state, such candidates are uninformed and shouldn't be running for office.

The final step is setting up a format to display the answers and entering the information as it is received. We hope you will closely review the survey and make an informed decision on November 7th.

*Dick Trudell is a Board member of CAM and attends Community Bible Church.*

**"Always vote for principle and, though you may vote alone, you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost." -  
John Quincy Adams (6th U.S. President)**

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead  
James 2:17

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**This newsletter contains an expanded Candidate Survey that includes Franklin, Grand Isle, Chittenden, Rutland, Lamoille, Caledonia, and Washington Counties as well as Federal and State-wide offices.**

**We urge all our readers to exercise their right to vote and note there is also a duty to vote as a Christian. That duty is found in Deut. 16:18,**

***“You shall appoint for yourselves judges and officers in all your towns which the Lord Your God is giving you according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.”***

**and expanded in Deut . 17:15.**

***“You shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.”***

**If your candidate did not respond to our survey, you can call them directly as ask them how they stand on the issues.**

**The survey is also found on our website [www.christianactionministry.com](http://www.christianactionministry.com)**

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**Next Meetings**

*November 13, 7:00 pm  
No. Avenue Alliance Church  
Burlington, Vt.  
December 11, 7:00 pm  
Maranatha Christian Church  
Williston, Vt.*

**Making A Difference  
in  
Vermont!**



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