

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

November-December, 2010 ☆ Vol. 20, Number 06

# Inside

## 2010 Candidate Survey

By  
Dick Trudell

### Candidate Scorecard

Answers to our CAM Survey

Page 2-6

### Violation of the First Commandment

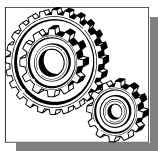
Political Correctness run  
amuck

Page 7

### Christian Voter Moral Issues

Five moral issues that should  
be non-negotiable

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



**In the  
Works**

### 2010 Legislative issues

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.

This is the 10th 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 ques-

tions was formulated, we re-grouped several times to re-view 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 2008 questionnaire polled candidates for the Vermont House and Senate from Chittenden, Franklin, Rutland, Lamoille, and Grand Isle Counties. This year we have excluded Lamoille County due to low response, and added Statewide candidates.

We obtained the candidate list for the primaries from the Secretary of State and prepared letters and questionnaires for them all. The survey was mailed to the candidates registered in the primary. Independent candidates and those not associated with a recognized party that were on the Secretary of State's website, were also contacted.

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). Some 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 2th.

*Dick Trudell is President of CAM and attends Community Bible Church.*



**"A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have."**

*Thomas Jefferson*

## Violation of the First Commandment

by  
Dick Trudell

As the controversy over the proposed mosque at “Ground Zero” in New York City unfolds and the pastor in Gainesville, Florida abandoned his plan to burn the Quran, political correctness in Vermont sprang to life. Three Unitarian church pastors from Barre, Montpelier, and Strafford/Washington, declared their intent to read parts of the Quran from the pulpit. They defended their decision in statements to the Burlington Free Press.

*“It seems to be easier to find what we don’t like in someone else’s religion than what we do. We need to look at the areas of commonality and build on them.”*

*“Some revered religious readers pick and choose what they’re going to quote—and it’s often not one of the more recent, tolerant scriptures. We’ll pick the peaceful ones because we want peace.”*

*“As a person of faith, I think it is important that we stand with our Muslim brothers and sisters in solidarity these days ... as a member of the clergy, I think I have a sacred duty to be a counterweight in the public against those who claim the authority of our office.”*

This may all sound warm and cuddly, but what is missing is that the god of the Quran is not the God of the Bible. It is

important to note, according to the teachings of Islam, Allah has no son. The God of the Christian Bible sent Jesus Christ as His Son, clearly not the same deity.

In Exodus 20:2-3, we find the first commandment:

***“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”***

When questioned what was the greatest commandment, Jesus answered in Matt 22:37-38:

***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”***

Muslims state that the Quran is the word of Allah through the prophet Mohammed. When teachings from the Quran are read from the pulpit by the leaders of those assemblies as holy scripture, they have placed a false god before the Creator God and violated the first commandment.

*Note: Unitarian Universalists have historic roots in the Jewish and Christian traditions, but today individual Unitarian Universalists may identify with Atheism, Agnosticism, Buddhism, Humanism, Paganism, or with other philosophical or religious traditions.*

*Dick Trudell is President of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Community Bible Church*

## Christian Voter Moral Issues

### 1. Same-Sex (Homosexual) “Marriage”

God designed family as the fundamental building block of society. Marriage has throughout history been defined as the union of one man and one woman. Any other proposed form of “marriage” or “family,” including same-sex “marriage,” is clearly contrary to the laws of Nature and Nature’s God (*as stated in the Declaration of Independence*).

### 2. Abortion

Our Declaration of Independence gives the protection of life priority when it states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are **created** equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are **Life**, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” (emphasis added). Because the Bible teaches that life begins at conception, the preborn should be legally recognized as persons and have full protection of the law, including the right to life.

### 3. Embryonic Stem-Cell Research

Because a society is measured by how it treats the weak and vulnerable, we must strive to build a culture of life. To do so, we must ensure that scientific advances always serve human dignity and do not end the lives of some for the benefit of others. All serious Christians should be able to agree on clear standards for the protection of innocent life. Human embryos should not be created for the purpose of experimentation or grown for body parts, and human life should never be bought and sold as a commodity.

### 4. Euthanasia (“Mercy” Killing)

Human beings who are seriously ill or who are elderly have been killed, either by the withholding of food and water or by purposeful actions taken to abruptly end their lives. Those who promote euthanasia argue that they are acting out of compassion for the sick and elderly. However, the Bible is adamant that no one has the right to take the life of another (*an innocent victim*).

### 5. Human Cloning

What gives human beings value is not where they live, what they can do, or how they can function, but the fact that they are intrinsically human. The Bible states that we are created in God’s image, and that we are made up of physical bodies and immaterial souls that bear His divine imprint. This idea that human beings are made in the image of God is what guides all our responsibilities towards other people, responsibilities which are different from our ethical responsibilities toward other living creatures. *The real question, then, is whether it is morally and Biblically acceptable to create a new person from the genetic makeup of another.*

**As you go to the polls this November 2nd, you should heed these five non-negotiable moral issues. The five items are taken from a pamphlet entitled “Voter’s Guide for the Serious Christian” published by the Western Center for Law and Policy.**

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead James 2:17

e-mail : camnet@surfglobal.net

www.christianactionministry.com

# Now more than ever! Israel Needs US

An interesting and lively presentation reinforcing American/Israeli solidarity. Rabbi Yossi Jacobson, one of the most sought after Jewish speakers in the USA, will be featured.

*Presented with a touch of Jewish humor*

**WHERE:** UVM Ira Allen Lecture Hall  
**WHEN:** 7:30 PM Thursday November 11, 2010  
**COST:** \$15/PERSON

*Make checks payable to Israel Center of Vermont*

*Mail to Building Bridges, PO Box 1067, Williston, VT 05495*

**Contact:** Dick Trudell, 18 Sunrise Lane, Grand Isle, VT 05458  
802-372-6442  
Email: dick.trudell@myfairpoint.net

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**Next Meetings**  
*November 9, 7:00 pm  
Community Bible Church  
So. Burlington, Vt.  
December 14, 7:00 pm  
Parkinson home  
Hinesburg, Vt.*

**Making A Difference  
in  
Vermont!**



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