

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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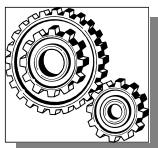
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If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)



In the Works

Healthcare

KrisAnne Hall visit

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.

True or false: Vermont rejected federal aid after the 1927 flood? Initially, Governor John Weeks declared, "Vermont will take care of its own," but ultimately the state accepted \$2.6 million in aid at a time when the annual state budget was about \$7 million. This urban legend about Vermont independence is false. How does Vermont "take care of its own" today? One example: after tropical storm Irene, the current administration asked for \$25 million more than what the federal government offered. No "Go it alone" attitude there.

Last February, State Senate Bill 249 became law: *An Act Relating to Vermont Strong Commemorative Motor Vehicle Plates*. "It is the intent of

this act to recognize all of those who have suffered losses because of the destruction brought by Tropical Storm Irene and the flooding of 2011, and to commemorate the contributions of the many who are helping to rebuild Vermont and to make it stronger."



The law may be well-intended, but my unscientific survey shows that people buying these plates aren't giving them to others who suffered greater loss than themselves, to "recognize them" and encourage them and show them support. They are putting this "I am Vermont

Strong" boast on their own vehicles. Some funds from the sale of these plates goes to aid for Irene and flood victims, so "Vermont Strong" can mean you contribute a little to help your neighbors. Fine, but is that something to boast about? "But when you do merciful deeds, don't let your left hand know what your right hand does." (Matthew 6:3 WEB)

If we do "commemorate the contributions of the many that are helping to rebuild Vermont," we can see the need to be "Vermont humble," or simply humble Vermonters, because "the many" includes a great number of people, and a lot of money "from away."



"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well armed lamb contesting the vote."

"When the people find they can vote themselves money, that will herald the end of the Republic."

Benjamin Franklin

National Guard units from New Hampshire, Ohio and Maine assisted in rebuilding our roads. Line repair crews came from as far as Illinois, well beyond the normal mutual aid arrangements among utility companies.

Then there is tourism, our regular interdependence with others. UVM figures report over 11 per cent of all Vermont jobs are directly or indirectly supported by tourism and nearly \$200 million comes into the state coffers annually from taxes and fees on visitor spending. So, we have to ask, “How does a ‘Vermont Strong’ boast play with tourists from, oh, say, Florida or North Carolina?” Florida was affected by 55 tropical storms or hurricanes in the first decade of this century, including four Category 2 or higher hits in 2004. Has anyone seen a “Florida Strong” vanity plate? A little humility could be good for business.

Also, when they recover from “superstorm” Sandy, we trust tourists from New York and New Jersey will want to visit Vermont again. Do you want to compare notes with them? Lost homes and property damage from Sandy dwarf Irene’s effect here. Sandy took out power for more people than live in Vermont for longer and at a colder time of year than our encounter with Irene. There is a call in New Jersey to “stay strong,” but there is less attempt to “brand” strength by state. The tone is more to encourage one another than to boast.

Both from government and NGO (non-governmental organization) sources, there are second-hand, anecdotal reports that Vermont is different. With 16 homes signed on for cleanup after Irene, a Samaritan’s Purse representative told one pastor that normally at that point they would have 100 signed up. Also, a FEMA representative was surprised by Vermonters that just wanted

the okay to begin their own cleanup. He was accustomed to people wanting to know when and what the government was going to do for them.

Yes, there are Vermonters who embrace “rugged individualism,” but we are a small state with a lot of local government. It is almost impossible for an adult to not personally know or be related to someone who serves in some kind of public office. That’s not an atmosphere of independence, but of community.

Whether everyone doing their part is a case of “rugged individualism” or a case of community is a matter of perspective and attitude. Boasting may be the refuge of those who don’t know God’s love in their hour of need.

It was on the 200th anniversary of the Mayflower Compact that Daniel Webster observed, “Whatever makes men good Christians makes them good citizens.” The Compact was drawn up by mostly Christian men to form a “body politic.”

Christians have dual citizenship, one below and one above; we have a dual role. In loving God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, we must witness with humility the power displayed in nature. “Tho’ the natural causes of the thunder are known unto us, yet there are those notable voices of the almighty God, often sensible in the directing thereof, which it becomes good men to observe.” – Cotton Mather. In loving our neighbor as ourselves, we must be quick to respond to need, without show or boast. When disaster comes, the question “Where is God?” can be answered with a modest, “Here are His children.”

He has shown you, O man, what is good. What does Yahweh require of you, but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8 WEB)

Lauston Stephens is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Assembly of God in Rutland

“The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.”

I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.”

Thomas Jefferson

The 2012 Election and What We Learned From It

by
Dick Trudell

The Christian Action Ministry ran its eleventh Candidate Survey in our Nov-Dec 2012 issue. There were several things we learned from the survey, the most depressing one was the reluctance of the candidates to answer the survey itself. We sent the original survey with a postage paid return envelope to 146 candidates throughout Chittenden, Grand Isle, Franklin, Rutland and Lamoille Counties before the primary elections. Only 19 candidates responded (13%) and 3 of those lost their primary race. Of those 19 who responded 16 were Republicans, 2 were Independents, and 1 was a Democrat.

After the primary had whittled the list down to 115, we began to make personal contacts with the candidates who had not replied and were able to get completed responses by phone from an additional 18 candidates giv-

ing us replies from 30 % of those surveyed. The replies included 22 Republicans, 7 Democrats, 3 Independents, 1 Progressive and 1 Tea Party candidate.

From those who declined to answer the surveys, we were told either:

- a. We don't answer any surveys (*how are voters supposed to know what you stand for?*)
- b. My positions are well known (*if they were, we wouldn't be asking you questions*)
- c. I answered a comprehensive survey that should be published sometime, (*and who is going to see that and where?*) or
- d. Send me another copy and I'll try to get to it. (*which they never do*)

Our last step was to research voting records, campaign literature, previous surveys, and other surveys (Vermont Right to Life has an extensive history on the life issues

of abortion and physician assisted suicide). The end result was that of the 115 candidates surveyed, we were able to get partial or full answers for 85 candidates (74% response).

This election presented clear choices between the candidates, both on the Statewide and National levels. Voters could decide between those who supported bigger government with more programs and higher taxes, or a limited government with more emphasis on individual responsibility, and lower taxes.

The Democratic campaign was better funded and had a better ground game than the Republican campaign and voters responded by opting for more government programs and less personal-control over their lives. The election was termed as being between the "makers" and the "takers" and the "takers" won.

Interestingly enough, the control of purse strings on the national level (*money issues have to originate in the House of Representatives*) remained in Republican hands.

On the State level one of the most important items was, "What would single payer healthcare cost?" This was conveniently put off until 2015 (two elections later), but the implementation is going full steam ahead. The result will likely be a crippling or elimination of the private insurance industry, leaving the State as the single payer by default. If you remember, before the State mandated community rating and guaranteed coverage, insurance was affordable and there was a myriad of companies to choose from. Sometimes we just don't learn.

Dick Trudell is President of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Community Bible Church in South Burlington.

"To achieve world government, it is necessary to remove from the minds of men their individualism, loyalty to family, tradition, national patriotism, and religious dogmas."

Dr. George Brock Chisholm, 1959 Humanist of the Year

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead James 2:17

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Save the Date - Friday, September 13, 2013

CAM is delighted to bring KrisAnne Hall to Vermont for an evening on the U.S. Constitution.

KrisAnne Hall is an attorney and former prosecutor, fired after teaching the Constitution to TEA Party groups. She would not sacrifice liberty for a paycheck. She is a disabled veteran of the US Army, a Russian linguist, a mother, a pastor's wife and a patriot. She now travels the country and teaches the Constitution and the history that gave us our founding documents.



KrisAnne Hall does not just teach the Constitution, she lays the foundations that show how reliable and relevant our founding documents are today. She presents the "genealogy" of the Constitution – the 700 year history and five foundational documents that are the very roots of American Liberty. One cannot properly understand or interpret the Constitution without a firm grasp of its very foundation.

KrisAnne will also be the keynote speaker at Constitution Day on Saturday, Sept 14 in Taylor Park, St. Albans. Constitution Day is sponsored by American Conservative Women in Action (AWCA).

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Next Meetings

January 8, 7:00 pm
No. Ave. Alliance Church
Burlington, Vt.
February 19, 7:00 pm
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**



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