

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

September—October, 2014 ☆ Vol. 24 Number 05

# Inside

## Choosing Candidates for Public Office

What to look for in a candidate (a Christian view)

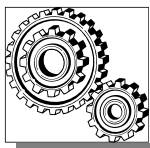
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## Who is KrisAnne Hall?

Find out about our guest speaker for the upcoming September program on the Constitution

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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

## Candidate Survey

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.

## Unalienable

By  
Lauston Stephens

Some regard Thomas Jefferson as among the most secular of the Founding Fathers, yet he penned these words in the Declaration of Independence, “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.”

Modern eyes may glaze over when people encounter the concept of “self-evident truth,” but modern ears will perk up again at the phrase, “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” As a result, Jefferson’s words before “Life...,” have, to a large extent, passed out of modern thinking. Let’s think about them.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident,” Jefferson did not delve into the reasoning behind the proposition of self-evident truth for any lack of understanding of philosophy. He later served as president of the American Philosophical Society. The Declaration is a political document with specif-

ic purpose. It needed to be short and to the point. Learned people of the day would have been familiar with the reasoning process whereby a proposition was shown to be “self-evident.” “We hold these truths...” elegantly lays the foundation on which to stand when the 13 United States “declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

“All men are created equal.” The truth of this is not as “self-evident” to secular man today because Darwin’s attempt to explain the “how” of creation has become a refuge for those that want to avoid answering to a Creator. Jefferson and the other Founders may have been focusing on the equality before God of subject and king, but recognition of the equality of all stems a flood of evil. History has shown that embracing evolution has allowed some to condone eugenics, genocide and other crimes against humanity. The equality of all before our Creator is self-evident where we live:

“Therefore whatever you desire for men to do to you, you shall also do to them;” (Matt. 7:12 WEB)

“They are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.” If you discard the self-evident truth that we have a Creator, your only law is the law of the jungle or “survival of the fittest.” If you are not the fittest, government becomes your savior and the source of your rights. What government gives, government can take away. On the other hand, any right given to you by your Creator is “unalienable,” that is to say; the right cannot be taken away from you.

If God has given you a right to something, anyone who takes it from you will ultimately answer to Him. For example, you have a God-given right to life. That does not mean no one can take your life. It means anyone who does take your life will have to answer to the one who gave you the right to life. It also means you will ultimately answer to God as to how you exercise that right.

For over 20 years, this ministry has sought to educate fellow Christians on where candidates for the Vermont legislature stand on a wide range of issues. The list of questions

“Much of the social history of the Western world, over the past three decades, has been a history of replacing what worked with what sounded good.”

Thomas Sowell

American economist, social theorist, political philosopher and author

put to candidates has changed over time as various issues have arisen. Candidates expect us to raise the “social conservative” questions and are sometimes surprised at a fiscal policy question, perhaps unaware of biblical teaching on stewardship.

This year we are bringing back to Vermont constitutional attorney KrisAnne Hall for four days of education on the “genealogy” of the U.S constitution and the roots of liberty. So we took a fresh look at the questions we put before candi-

dates in terms of the founding documents of this Republic. Framing the issues in terms of unalienable rights, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness shows how much modern Americans have substituted government for God in their lives.

For example, fiscal policy questions show wanton taxation as impinging on our unalienable right to the pursuit of happiness. If you believe your right to the pursuit of happiness flows from government, then you may want government to “fix” health care. If you know

your rights come from your Creator, then you will not place your faith in government to solve life’s problems.

Some will be surprised to see support for a voter ID law grouped under “Liberty.” The mantra is that voter ID laws intimidate minority voters. This might be true in some parts of the country where ethnic votes determine results, but that is an absurd charge in Vermont that is so ethnically homogenous. The threat to liberty here is in stuffing the ballot box, not in keeping it empty.

The final surprise may be that, for the first time, a Second Amendment question has been included. There is a long and honorable history of Christian pacifism in America. Some may think that no Christian would be interested in bearing arms. Yet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment shows that the Founders regarded self-defense as a right given by God, not government. Isn’t this a self-evident truth?

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

**Editor’s Note:**

*Our next Nov– Dec issue will contain our 2014 Candidate Survey using the format described above. If you are interested in helping with this survey by calling candidates to ascertain their position on the issues, please give me a call at 802-372-6442.*

**CHOOSING CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE** by John C. Talcott, Jr

- Don't select a candidate by party affiliation, for all parties have both good and corrupt individuals within the organization.
- Don't select a candidate by his appearance, good looks, etc.
- Don't select a candidate by what he says or promises he will do, for this is often meaningless when he gets into office.
- Don't select a candidate just because you know him, or some friend of yours knows him.
- Don't pick a candidate because he is the smartest person or has had the most experience in politics.
- Don't select a candidate because he says he is a Christian ~ most all will profess to be Christian since they live in a so-called Christian nation.

Of course, the best candidate is the committed, qualified, God-fearing Christian who is seeking office not to further his own interests, but to please God and to serve his community, state or nation justly and honestly. In many cases, the electorate may not have the choice of a qualified, born again Christian candidate!

What do we look for then? First, we have to inquire more about the candidates, learn their qualifications: Does the person have an affiliation with a church or Christian organization? But, more importantly, does he or she have a sterling character? Is he a person of high principles? Is he seeking to serve his electorate as a statesman, not seeking the rewards accorded to politicians? Finally, is he honest? Is he humble? Is he willing to stand up for the right even though he may lose?

When you have a comparison of the qualifications of the candidate, pray to God about the matter, asking Him to give you His wisdom; particularly if two or more candidates seem to be equal in their qualifications. Once you feel sure of the answer in your heart, promote and endorse the person of God's choice and be sure you cast your vote in the election.

Lastly, by praying and fasting with God's people for our nation, we present a channel through which God can work.

*John C. Talcott, Jr. served as the founding president of Intercrossors For America*

**"This nation was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the principle—among others—that honest men may honestly disagree, that if they all say what they think, a majority of the people will be able to distinguish truth from error, that in the competition of the marketplace of ideas, the sounder ideas in the long run win out."**

*Elmer Davis—American writer and commentator*





What can I do?



*Faith without  
works is dead  
James 2:17*

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

### **The Foundations of the American Constitution (1-1/2 hours )**

**Wednesday Sept 3rd 7:00 pm at Community Bible Church, South Burlington, VT**

**Thursday Sept 4th 7:00 pm at Church of the Rock. St. Albans, VT**

**Friday Sept 5th 7:00 pm at Lamoille Valley Church of the Nazarene, Johnson, VT**

### **The Roots of Liberty (5 hour seminar)**

**On September 6th, from 9am to 3pm at St. John Vianney parish hall, we are hosting Kris-Anne for an informative seminar on the Constitution called The Roots of Liberty. She will discuss in detail the Constitution and the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments to the Constitution), using the Founders' own words, explaining the true meaning and purpose of each amendment.**



**We are planning on a box lunch meal at noontime. Cost is \$25/each and includes lunch. Limited to 250 people. Contact us for advance reservations. (802) 655-0280 or send in the reservation slip found inside.**

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#### **Next Meetings**

*September 14, 7:00 pm  
No. Ave. Alliance Church  
Burlington, Vt.  
October 2, 7:00 pm  
St. Marks Catholic Church  
Burlington, Vt.*

**Making A Difference  
in  
Vermont!**