

We *Still* Have a Mission

Joe Haas, Ed.D.



A few years ago, I wrote an article for the *Update* entitled "We Have a Mission." The article reiterated the primary purpose of the North Carolina Christian School Association, which is "...to protect and preserve the freedom of Christian schools to exist and flourish." It also stated that even though all of the other NCCSA services and programs are important, none of these would be possible without the continued religious freedom that all of us enjoy and often take for granted. I am glad to say that the NCCSA has provided the leadership and resources for most of the religious freedom legislation that is currently in place to provide this protection.

I am writing again to state that our mission has **not** changed. In fact, I believe it is imperative that we must work harder than ever before. Now is not a time to be discouraged because the economy is in decline or dismayed because of the new administration. As is clear in the scriptures, we still have a Biblical mandate to pray for our new president. We need to pray that he will be successful in the areas that honor God, and we need to pray that he will fail in the areas that go against Biblical

principles and values. We need to pray that we will be strengthened as we stand in the gap, as we are salt and light in our generation. Yes, the Bible instructs us to be subject to higher powers and to pray for those in authority; however, nowhere does the Bible instruct us to obey evil rulers. In fact, the Bible is clear and leaves no doubt about where and how we should stand when those that are in authority over us govern in ways that violate the commands of God. Now is the time for principled Biblical resistance to wrong and not a time for some kind of phony appeasement in the name of peace and cooperation.

In the most recent edition of the *Journal for Christian Educators*, AACCS president Keith Wiebe issued a challenge to remain steady in unsteady times. In his comments, he reminded us that God is still on the throne and in control. I agree completely with Dr. Wiebe's challenge. God has ordained it that we have a responsibility to fill. This responsibility does not change when administrations change. We must all fulfill our place in the battle for freedom and liberty. I believe this battle will not cease until the Lord returns; therefore, it behooves us to be vigilant, alert, watchful, and well prepared for the issues we will face. This is not a passive activity, but rather proactive activity. I am reminded of the words of Edmund Burke who once said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." The protection of our liberties cannot be a spectator sport.

One of the first events that was held when the NCCSA was formed was a conference in Raleigh that also included a legislative breakfast. There was a firm belief in the minds of those that began the NCCSA that one of the association's goals was to have an effective voice in Raleigh and in Washington, D.C. The bi-annual legislative breakfast has proved to be one of the best tools to help support and accomplish this goal. This event, more than anything else, exponentially expands the voice and influence of the NCCSA. The breakfast builds on the lobbying efforts by building bridges of influence with legislators. It is not tenable to believe that legislators will vote with us on every issue; however, when there is a bridge established, it provides access and helps gain influence when needs arise. The goal is to maintain an ongoing process of knowing and influencing legislators for righteousness. This is not a one-time event or one-time effort. This must never end regardless of which administration is in power.

One of the ways that the NCCSA has expanded its influence was to initiate the formation of Return America. We could not have a better man to lead this organization as president than NCCSA board member, Dr. Ron Baity. In 2007, the Return America rally was one of the largest rallies ever held in Raleigh. This year, Return America is hosting another marriage rally and will be held at 11:00 AM on March 3, immediately after the NCCSA legislative breakfast. David Barton and David Gibbs, III,

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

California Court Rules in Favor of Parochial School

The California 4th District Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of California Lutheran High School, determining that the State's anti-discrimination laws do not prohibit the school from making discipline and admission decisions using religious criteria. In the case dating back to 2005, the parents of two students sued the school after their girls were expelled for "conducting themselves in a manner consistent with being lesbians." Once the girls' behavior had been brought into question at school, the school found information on the girls' MySpace pages where the girls themselves brought their sexual orientation into question.

The appeals court cited a 1998 California Supreme Court decision which was also based on a complaint of sexual orientation discrimination. In that case, the court ruled in favor of The Boy Scouts of America, determining that because they were a social organization and not a business, they were not bound by the anti-discrimination guidelines enumerated in the Unruh Civil Rights Act. The appeals court determined that the anti-discrimination law, designed for businesses, did not apply to the private religious school. Justice Betty A. Richli wrote for the appeals court: "The school's religious message is inextricably intertwined with its secular functions. The whole purpose of sending one's child to a religious school is to ensure that he or she learns even secular subjects within a religious framework; otherwise, merely supplementing the child's secular education with Sunday school or a religion class would suffice."

"Christian schools should be able to make admission and discipline decisions consistent with their religious beliefs. The Court of Appeal's decision preserves that right for Christian schools in California," said CLS Center for Law and Religious Freedom representative Timothy J. Tracey. "The court understood that this right would be violated if Christian schools were subjected to liability under California anti-discrimination laws for expelling students who engage in homosexual conduct."

Sponsor Intends to Re-Introduce "Bullying Bill"

The sponsor of a controversial bill that would have forced all North Carolina school districts to adopt pro-homosexual "anti-bullying" policies has said he intends to reintroduce the legislation this session. Representative Rick Glazier (D-Cumberland), who sponsored HB 1366—School Violence Prevention Act, writes in the November/December 2008 issue of the North Carolina Medical Journal that the legislation will be "vigorously pursued" this year. He also credits its demise, in part, to "the harshly prejudicial arguments of a narrow ideological group."

HB 1366, the so-called "Bullying Bill," sought to require local school systems across North Carolina to adopt policies to prohibit bullying and harassment in public schools, despite the fact that the State Board of Education enacted a similar policy in 2004. The primary difference between HB 1366 and the State Board policy is that HB 1366 would have required every local school system in the state to add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression" as protected classifications in these local policies. As a result, HB 1366 would affirm and legally legitimize homosexuality, bisexuality, cross dressing and other "alternative" sexual behaviors in our public schools and would assure these topics would be discussed with school children on a regular basis.

Similar to the arguments that proponents of the bill made last session, Rep. Glazier argues in the article that the statewide anti-bullying policy adopted by the State Board of Education in 2004 is "insufficient and ineffective" because it neglects to include enumerated categories of victims, particularly the categories of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression." He also contends that, "The fact that such vociferous opposition to inclusion of perceived or actual LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender] students in the ambit of the anti-bullying policy existed from ideological extremists opposed to its passage in itself made the case for the necessity of their inclusion in the enumerated policy better than any argument supporters could have articulated."

John Rustin, director of government relations for the North Carolina Family Policy Council responded, "The Council fully supported the Senate version of House Bill 1366 that would apply to all children in all circumstances, but we did not agree that our public schools should be turned into advocacy organizations for homosexuality, bisexuality, and similar sexual behaviors, which would be the ultimate result, if the original version of HB 1366 had passed. To characterize this concern as the position of 'ideological extremists' is to alienate the vast majority of North Carolinians who oppose the promotion of 'alternative' sexual behaviors in our public schools."

N.C. Schools 2008 Public School Report Card Released

According to the North Carolina School Report Cards released Thursday, N.C. public schools did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and only 50.9 percent of students passed both reading and math scores on the state's ABC end-of-grade tests for the 2007–2008 school year. The 50.9 percent passage rate on end-of-grade tests is down 13 percent from the 2006–2007 school year. Of the students tested, white and Asian/Pacific Islander students performed best, though both scores were well below the 2006–2007 school year's levels. Economically-disadvantaged and limited-English-proficient students earned the lowest scores for the year.

Additionally, North Carolina did not meet its AYP graduation target under NCLB. Only 70.3 percent of students "graduated with a diploma in four years or less." While the AYP target was not met, the number of students graduating in four years or less was up .08 percent from the 2006–2007 school year.

Students performed better across the board on the state's ABC end-of-course tests, with 68.4 percent of students passing—a two percent increase from the previous school year. North Carolina schools also met their AYP attendance target, with more than 95 percent of students attending school. This attendance rate is up .3 percent from the 2006–2007 school year.

North Carolina schools have a high rate of fully licensed teachers (92.9 percent) as well as a high percentage of classes taught by highly qualified teachers (97.8 percent—up .6 percent from the 2006–2007 school year).

2009 Return America Marriage Amendment Rally

- Stand up for Traditional Marriage in Raleigh with thousands of other supporters
- Date—March 3, 2009
- Meeting Place—Halifax Mall—located behind the Legislative Building
- Time—11:00AM (after NCCSA Pastor/Admin conference)
- Speakers—David Barton and David Gibbs, III

2009 Pastors'/Administrators' Conference with Legislative Breakfast

March 2-3, 2009—Clarion Hotel-State Capital, Raleigh, NC



The annual NCCSA Pastors' and Administrators' Conference will be on **March 2-3, 2009, at the Clarion Hotel—State Capital in Raleigh. We will also have our NCCSA Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday morning, March 3, at 7:00 a.m.** Each NCCSA school is asked to invite your N.C. State representatives and senators to be our guests at this fellowship breakfast. You will be receiving information from the NCCSA office that will aid you in ensuring that this breakfast is a continuing success. This will be a very important Legislative Breakfast, and you will be able to meet your newly elected officials as well as continue the relationships you have made in the past with other legislators. A good majority of our legislators have attended this conference in the past, so please do not hesitate to contact your state representatives and personally ask them to be with you at this breakfast.



These conferences have proved to be a tremendous time of great challenge and fellowship. This year, your hearts will be especially blessed by our speakers: David Barton and David C. Gibbs, III. We will also join the Return America Marriage Amendment Rally at 11:00 at the Halifax Mall behind the Legislative Building. This conference does not require you to be away from your ministry very long, so please plan now to attend the 2009 Pastors'/Administrators' Conference in Raleigh, N.C.

2009 NCCSA Student Leadership Conference



The **2009 NCCSA Student Leadership Conference** will be October 7-8, 2009. The 2008 conference was attended by almost 500 students that gathered for intensive sessions on Biblical Leadership and what it means to be a true leader. Dr. Matt Williams and Keven Brownfield presented challenging information in an exciting way on a level the students could understand.

We are privileged that **Steve Roberson** is scheduled for the 2009 Conference. You will not want to miss the way Brother Steve injects humor and practical application in his powerful principles and messages.



Make a note of this fall's
2009 NCCSA Educators'
Convention on September
23-25 at the Myrtle Beach
Convention Center in
Myrtle Beach, SC.

AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference Washington, DC — July 14-18, 2009



The Youth Legislative Training Conference is designed for AACS high school upperclassmen who are serious-minded about political involvement. It will inform the students about the political system, give them knowledge that has been tested by political experts, and challenge and inspire them about grassroots activism and getting involved in politics. Sightseeing trips have been planned to visit the area monuments and memorials in Washington D.C. Students will also visit the Capitol and various Congressional offices.

Last year, North Carolina had several students who received these scholarships and represented the NCCSA. Many of them expressed this opportunity as a “trip of a lifetime.” These limited number of scholarships will cover the costs of the conference, lodging, meals, and sightseeing trips. The NCCSA State Office will be responsible for providing transportation for the students to the conference and back. The students’ only expenses are for a couple of meals and souvenirs. North Carolina is normally allotted 5-6 scholarships but may be awarded extra ones if other states are not able to fill their state’s quota.

You will receive information in the near future about this legislative training conference, and we trust you are already considering which students you would recommend to attend this annual event. If you have any questions concerning the AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference, you can email Maureen Wiebe, Legislative Director of AACS, at mwiebe@acs.org, or you can contact the NCCSA State Office.

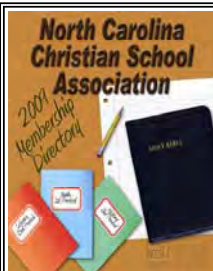
2009 NCCSA Fine Arts Festival

The NCCSA Fine Arts Festival for the 2009 year is undergoing a major “renovation.” A new format, a new location, and many other changes are in the works. There will be one group competition this year hosted by Raleigh Christian Academy on March 19-20, 2009. It is possible that the opening rounds of Bible Quizzing will be on Wednesday afternoon, March 18. (*We will notify the Bible Quizzing Teams of the details after we receive the February 15 “Bible Quizzing” information sheets.*) The move to a Thursday/Friday competition was done for several reasons. One main reason was that it allows the competition to go a little later in the final day of competition since it is a Friday night. Secondly, the split competition format is not advantageous anymore because of the current economy, extra travel, etc. Thirdly, we want to improve the awards ceremony, and this was impossible the last few years because of the split competition. Fourthly, we want to create a more exciting, enjoyable environment for the students.

The competition schedules, motel listings, maps, and other details will be posted on the NCCSA website prior to the competition. The state office will email each administrator and fine arts coordinator when each document is posted online.

As we have already mentioned by email, please be reminded of any remaining deadline dates for information sheets, the master registration form, and other fine arts deadlines. We anticipate a large number of students at each competition, and we are thankful for this increased participation. Below are the dates and locations of this year’s remaining Fine Arts events.

- February 9—Sr. High Solo/Small Group Competition—Piedmont Baptist College*
- February 9-13—NCCSA Academic Testing Week*
- February 15—Master Registration Form postmark deadline date*
- February 15—All remaining information sheets sent to divisional chairmen*
- February 23—Jr. High Solo/Small Group Competition—Friendship Christian School*
- March 19-20—NCCSA Fine Arts Festival*
- April 14-16—AACS National Fine Arts Competition*
- April 22-24—NCCSA Elementary Fine Arts Competitions*



The 2009 NCCSA Membership Directory has been mailed to each NCCSA Pastor and Administrator. Many athletic directors, fine arts coordinators, secretaries, or other personnel may need a duplicate copy. Feel free to order extra directories by downloading and filling out the order form located [here](#). Extra directories are \$10 each.

ATHLETIC NEWS

2009 State Basketball Tournaments

The NCCSA State Basketball Tournaments are just around the corner. Listed below are the dates for each division as well as locations for the tournaments. We look forward to seeing you at the various tournaments. All 2008-2009 NCCSA Faculty/Staff Passes will be accepted at the events listed below. If you have any questions, please contact your divisional chairman, Bob LaTour, or you may contact the NCCSA State Office.



February

12-14 STATE REGIONAL PLAY-OFFS

19-21 STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS

(A) - Heritage (Zebulon)

(AA) - Oak Level (using Gospel Light's gym)

(AAA) - Friendship

****Please make sure to read the [2009 Basketball Letter](#) and [2009 Golf Letter](#) that will be emailed to each NCCSA administrator, athletic director, and secretary in a few days.**

2009 NCCSA Staff Development Seminar

Mark your calendars for the week of July 27-30, 2009

The 2009 NCCSA Staff Development Seminar has been scheduled for the week of July 27-30, 2009. With so many positive comments, we will follow the two-day, two-location format we used in July 2008. Information will be provided at a later date, but please mark your calendar now, and let your staff know of this opportunity. With the new certification standards in effect, this is a simple way to pick up CEU's in a very short period. Without fail, those that have attended in the past have spoken well of the format, speakers invited, and material gained in these few days each summer.



NCCSA UPDATE

January-February

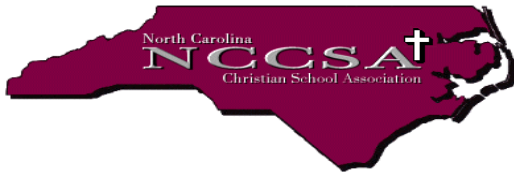
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Articles pertaining to education may be submitted to NCCSA, P.O. Box 231, Goldsboro, NC 27533. The staff reserves the right to correct grammar and spelling, clarify and modify content, adapt to style, and adjust to fit available space.

www.nccsa.org



will be speaking at this event. I cannot think of anything more important for a Christian to be involved in than fighting to protect Biblical marriage. ***We are counting on NCCSA schools and churches across the state to bring van loads and bus loads to this rally.*** Encourage your parents and church members to attend. Dismiss school for your junior and senior high students and work out a way for them to attend. The goal is to let members of the NC General Assembly see how important this issue is to us and to give NC citizens the opportunity to vote on protecting Biblical marriage. ***Legislators vote with us only when they agree with us or if they fear our large numbers.*** That's why we are asking you to do all you can to help us in this effort as it will honestly take **all** of us in order to be successful in this effort!

I earnestly ask you to make every effort to be present at the upcoming Pastors' and Administrators' Conference and Legislative Breakfast on March 2-3, 2009. Every NCCSA member school should be represented if possible. If you have not been involved before, there is absolutely no greater need than the present. Will you take your place in the battle?

Please accept my personal invitation to attend this conference, the breakfast, and to attend the Return America marriage rally. Can we count on you to stand with us in the fight for liberty and freedom? **We still have a mission, and you are needed more than ever before.**



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