

LET FREEDOM RING

Joe Haas, Ed.D.



Down through the ages, there has been a clarion call for freedom in our great country. Freedom is what drove the early settlers to our shores to carve out a new existence for their faith and for their families. Freedom is a beautiful word that brings various thoughts to different people. For the Christian, freedom from sin is the greatest freedom of all. To the prisoner of war, freedom makes all the efforts of war and conflict worthwhile.

Unfortunately, freedom is challenged on every front today. The very foundations of our country are shaking from the attacks on the institutions, the morals, and beliefs that have made America the greatest country in the world. These attacks are requiring a call to action like never before to protect and preserve the values held so dearly. One of the primary targets receiving threats of government intervention today is the early childhood area. There is a concerted effort to increase government oversight and involvement at this level. The new economic stimulus plan offers government dollars for many early childhood programs. It should never be forgotten that "*government shekels always bring government shackles*"!

Freedom to Learn (FTL) was started to address attacks on Christian schools, religious childcare, and Christian colleges. FTL is a subsidiary or an organization that has been spun off of the NCCSA just like Return America. Some years ago, the NCCSA board thought it wise to begin a 501(c)(4) grassroots organization to help churches and pastors be informed of the many moral issues of the age and thus began the formation of Return America. The board members of Return America are the pastors from the NCCSA board. FTL is a 501(c)(4) grassroots organization whose board members are the administrators from the NCCSA board. The purpose of FTL is to provide an avenue to join together as a large and strong voice to protect and preserve the freedoms to exist and flourish. The need for FTL is growing more every day.

All NCCSA member schools are also members of FTL. FTL is an opportunity for other non-NCCSA Christian schools, religious childcares, and Christian colleges to be part of a legal grassroots organization. Therefore, FTL is a way to have a much larger voice when needed on legislative or political issues that threaten freedom. FTL also provides a broader umbrella to offer early childhood training, credentialing, and accreditation services to religious childcare centers.

The First Annual **Freedom To Learn Early Childhood Super Conference**

will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009, at Gospel Light Christian School in Walkertown, NC. This unique, one-day Conference is sponsored by Freedom to Learn and the North Carolina Christian School Association. We are excited to be able to offer this service to the early childhood employees in our ministries. This event is designed to meet the growing needs of daycares, preschools, kindergartens, and early childhood providers across our state. All NCCSA member schools are encouraged to make every effort to ensure that **all** of your early childhood directors, teachers, and workers are able to attend the special Conference that has been planned especially for them.

Delegate registration and check-in will be from 9:00-10:00 AM. The Conference begins at 10:00 AM and will include 5 exciting breakout workshop sessions, vendors, skits, door prizes, and much more. The Conference will conclude at 4:30 PM. **Lunch is also included in the registration fee.** All delegates will receive a CEU certificate for the contact hours earned from attending the Conference. Special conference pricing has been arranged for those needing overnight lodging. Gospel Light Christian School is located at 890 Walkertown-Guthrie Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27101. To download more information on registration, conference schedule, and workshop synopsis, please go to the Freedom to Learn website (www.freedomtolearn.com).

2009 NCCSA EDUCATORS' CONVENTION

On September 23-25, the 2009 NCCSA Educators' Convention will be held in Myrtle Beach, SC, at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. The convention theme this year is "*Preparing Today for Tomorrow's Challenges*" based on Deuteronomy 31:6.

General Session Speakers this year include: **Dr. Ron Baity** — Pastor of Berean Baptist Church, **Dr. Jim Berg** — Dean of Students at Bob Jones University, and **Dr. Mike Norris** — Pastor of Franklin Road Baptist Church. Workshops are already being confirmed and scheduled. Again this year, we will be dismissing around 1:00 on Thursday to give everyone time to enjoy various activities. Please contact us if you have any questions. We are praying that the Lord will bless this convention and give sound academic instruction and encouragement to those who we feel are some of the greatest Christian servants on earth—our Christian school teachers.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Lottery Increases Presence

The North Carolina "Education Lottery" Commission, which met on March 24 in Raleigh, has approved guidelines for printing some games and promotional materials in Spanish. At a December 2008 meeting, the commission had previously discussed the issue of how to tap into North Carolina's large and growing Spanish-speaking community to increase lottery ticket sales. To ensure the materials comply with a 2005 law that prohibits lottery advertising from intentionally targeting "specific groups or economic classes," the promotional materials for Spanish-speaking consumers will not include TV or radio ads, only print materials in the stores where tickets are sold. Tom Shaheen, executive director of the state lottery, also told the lottery commission that sales of lottery tickets in North Carolina are up, despite bad economic times, although he noted that sales of instant tickets are "wobbling." He reported that the lottery is "on track" to meet its year-end goal of transferring \$386.5 million into the Education Fund.

In related news, a company that offers check cashing, pre-paid debit cards and utility bill payment services, will begin offering lottery tickets to its customers in 14 of its 31 stores in North Carolina, according to the *Greensboro News and Record*. Mr. Shaheen told the *News and Record* that the Texas-based Ace Cash Express is one of a few similar businesses in the state that sell lottery tickets. "Anyone in North Carolina who runs a business and can pass a background check is eligible" to sell lottery tickets, Shaheen told the newspaper.

"It is shameful that during these tough economic times, the State continues to peddle gambling to those who are the least able to afford to play the lottery," said Bill Brooks, president of the North Carolina Family Policy Council. *"These recent initiatives represent yet another way for the State to entice people to hand over their hard-earned dollars, and will only serve as a catalyst for creating more problem gamblers in our state."*

UPDATE on Legislative Bills HB 361 and SB 272

There has been little to no movement on several bills of interest, including:

HB 361 and SB 272-Defense of Marriage, which would give North Carolina citizens the opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment defining marriage as only the union of one man and one woman. HB 88 and SB 221-Healthy Youth Act, which would change the standard for sexuality education in public schools from abstinence until marriage to comprehensive sexuality education and require teaching respect for "committed relationships" as equivalent to "mutually faithful monogamous heterosexual relationships in the context of marriage."

Several pro-life bills including HB 168 and SB 210-"Choose Life" Special Plate, HB 397-Conscience Protection/Contraceptive Coverage, HB 432-Conscience Protection/Health Care Providers, and HB 431 and SB 236-Abortion-Parental Consent Notarized also received no attention.

The pace of the General Assembly is picking up, and more bills can expect to be heard each week in committee. The pro-homosexual lobby is pushing its agenda hard in the areas of nondiscrimination and education. The question remains how much fair debate will be allowed on such controversial bills.

"Elon" Poll Supports Passing a Marriage Amendment

NC4Marriage—Elon University released a poll that was widely reported as indicating that support for a Marriage Amendment is waning. But, that characterization is untrue. Careful analysis of the Elon Poll proves that it actually shows an overwhelming support for passing a Marriage Amendment in North Carolina.

For the first time in a poll on marriage in North Carolina, respondents were offered the opportunity to pick a middle ground between traditional marriage and homosexual marriage. Twenty-eight percent (28%) said they support civil unions or domestic partnerships, but not marriage. An overwhelming 46.9% said they oppose any legal recognition for same-sex couples, so that is a total of 74.9% of respondents who said they do not support marriage for same-sex couples. Only 21% support full marriage rights for same-sex couples. These results

probably reflect the tendency of some American voters to go toward the middle, if offered an option that has the appearance of being less harsh. Most people don't even understand that civil unions and domestic partnerships give homosexuals all the rights and benefits of marriage without calling it "marriage." But it is important to note, that the vast majority (almost 75%) do not support same-sex marriage in the Elon Poll results.

Another flaw in the Elon Poll is the fact that it asks the question in negative terms. In questioning respondents about their support/opposition to a Marriage Amendment, the poll characterizes the Amendment as "preventing same-sex marriage" rather than "defining marriage as the union between a man and a woman." Phrasing a question in negative terms will elicit a more negative response.

Finally, Elon's polling method involves asking a leading question. One of its questions starts with a statement that, "State law recognizes marriage to be by the consent of a male and female and makes it illegal for two individuals of the same sex to be married or have their marriage recognized by the state of North Carolina..." The question then follows: "Knowing that there is already a law that prevents same sex marriages in North Carolina, would you oppose or support an amendment to the North Carolina constitution that would prevent same sex marriages?" Any good attorney knows that this is a leading question. The question implies the answer—that the Amendment is unnecessary. Had the question also explained that the law preventing same sex marriage in North Carolina could be overturned by a court (and such laws have been overturned by courts in nine (9) states already), perhaps the question would have been fairly stated. But it does not explain the threat to our marriage laws, just that we already have laws preventing same-sex marriage.

The methodology of the poll is also problematic. It polled only 620 households, and didn't even focus on likely voters. Nor does the methodology reflect that there was any attempt to reflect the actual ratio of registered democrat to registered republican voters in the state (45% to 34% respectively).

The Elon Poll is in line with a poll conducted in February by the Civitas Institute in Raleigh. It found that 76% of likely voters support a Constitutional Amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman, only .5% higher than the Elon Poll results of those who do not support marriage rights for same-sex couples. In both the Elon and Civitas Polls, 21% of likely voters are opposed to a Marriage Amendment. Even the undecided vote is almost identical: 4.5% in the Elon Poll; 4% in the Civitas Poll.

The next time a poll is released, the press needs to analyze it, not just make uninformed assumptions that feed their biases.

2009 Pastors'/Administrators' Conference/Return America Rally

We want to thank each Pastor, Administrator, and other guests who attended the 2009 Pastor/Admin Conference. Although some could not come because of the inclement weather, we still had a great meeting with those that attended. We were privileged to hear David Gibbs III and David Barton. We enjoyed one of the largest ever breakfast meetings and have received many great comments from legislators about this breakfast and the kindness of the NCCSA members at the breakfast.

We also want to thank each school and church that traveled and braved the elements Tuesday to attend the Return America Rally. The fight is still on, and if you have not signed up to be included on the mailing lists of Return America or NC4Marriage, please do so today.

Below is a note from the Director of Non-Public Education, Rod Helder. He was recognized and given the recently named "Kent Kelly Christian Liberty Award."



A quick note of thanks again to you and your association membership for recently selecting me as a recipient of the "Kent Kelly Christian Liberty Award." As I mentioned in my acceptance comments a few nights ago, I was greatly surprised and deeply honored to be chosen.

Those of us who knew Kent remember him most as a faithful, dedicated, and effective servant of the Lord; a gifted researcher; writer; and an ardent and articulate defender of the Christian faith and the cause of Christian education in this state. In a dramatic way, the Lord used him, along with others involved in the effort at that time, to free Christian schools from North Carolina's formerly unreasonable statutory demands of them. Today's North Carolina non-public school statutes are a testament to Kent's and many of your schools' diligence in helping bring about this change.

I am humbled by and very much appreciate this recognition which helps honor and preserve the memory of his efforts and leadership. I am pleased to be a friend of each of you, your cause, and the schools you represent. North Carolina's Christian schools have had and continue to have a tremendous positive impact on education in this state. Keep up your wonderful work!

*Many thanks for your thoughtfulness and support,
Rod*

Other pictures of the Conference or Return America Rally are available by [clicking here](#).

Is Your Website A True Reflection of Your Ministry?

In today's society, the number one resource that a potential church visitor or a prospective school parent checks for information is the internet and the ministry's website. Studies show that many of these people are quickly "turned off" by a lack of excellence in a ministry's "web presence." If you were new to your own area and came across your ministry's website, would that website provide all the information needed to make a visit or schedule a meeting with the administrator? Would that website be sharp, professional, and succinct in the information given? If it is not, most people will never make a follow-up phone call or visit your ministry. The NCCSA has teamed up with Encompass Web Systems, based in Burlington, N.C. Andy Lynch, with Encompass Systems, is a graduate of Alamance Christian School. Thoughtfully consider what you want your community to think of your ministry and what first impression you want to give to visitors. Your website is truly the one presence many individuals will ever see or know about your ministry. Let's make sure that we all give a good first impression. You may contact the NCCSA State Office for more information, or you may contact Andy directly at 336.229.6610 or email—acl@northstar.ac



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



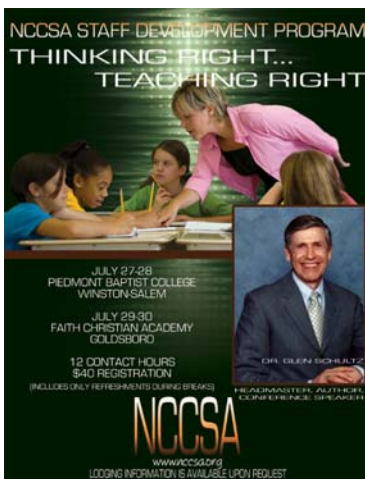
The Youth Legislative Training Conference is designed for AACS high school upperclassmen who are serious-minded about political involvement. It will inform the students about the political system, give them knowledge that has been tested by political experts, and challenge and inspire them about grassroots 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, several North Carolina students received 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 3-4 scholarships but may be awarded extra ones if other states are not able to fill their quotas.

If you have any questions concerning the AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference, you can email Maureen Wiebe, Legislative Director of AACS, at mwiebe@aac.org, or you can contact the NCCSA State Office.

2009 NCCSA Staff Development Seminar

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



We are very excited and fortunate to announce that **Dr. Glen Schultz**, Headmaster of Sherwood Christian Academy in Albany, Georgia, will be the speaker for the NCCSA Staff Development Program this summer. Dr. Schultz has had a life-long passion for educating young people according to biblical standards. His message is that parents and Christian educators must link arms with the local church to provide a strong foundation for every boy and girl, based on a God-centered world view. Dr. Schultz has led seminars and training sessions on Christian education throughout the U.S., Canada, and several foreign countries. He has authored many articles and books, including, *The ABC's of Selecting a School for Your Child*, *A Parent's Greatest Joy*, and *Kingdom Education*.

His session this summer will deal with "Thinking Right...Teaching Right." It will cover the development of a Biblical worldview, importance of a Biblical philosophy of education, today's culture war, and many other topics.

We will be following the two-day, two-location format much like we did last year. **Monday-Tuesday/July 27-28 will be at Piedmont for the Central/Western schools. Wednesday-Thursday/July 29-30 will be at Faith Christian Academy in Goldsboro.**

This is a great opportunity for our state and for our NCCSA Staff Development Seminar. We had the largest attendance ever last year, and we are hoping to double that this year. **Make plans NOW for your faculty to attend. Official NCCSA CEU credits will be available and will count toward the "official NCCSA CEU" credit that is needed for NCCSA Teacher Certification—2008 Edition v1.5.**

Registration information will be available after May 1. Flyers will be sent to schools in the next few days. To download this year's 2009 NCCSA Staff Development Seminar flyer, please click [here](#).

ATHLETIC NEWS

2009 State Basketball Tournaments

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 29—Seeding meetings
10:00 a.m. (check locations)

May 4—NCCSA State Golf Tournament (*The Challenge*)

May 8-9 — (A) NCCSA State Softball/Baseball Tournament at Fayetteville St.

May 8-9— (AA) NCCSA State Softball/Baseball/Girls' Soccer Tournament at Cramerton

May 8-9— (AAA) NCCSA State Softball/Baseball Tournament at Wake

May 8-9— (AAA) NCCSA State Girls' Soccer Tournament at Vandalia

Congratulations to all the tournament winners, and thanks goes to the tournament hosts for a job well done. A special thanks also to Mr. Bob LaTour, our State Athletic Commissioner, and our assistant commissioners for all their hard work — Malcolm Deans (AAA), David Gilmore (AA), and David Tucker (A).

The information below has been available on the NCCSA website since the tournament; however, we wanted to list the results here as well. We also had a very successful All-Star event hosted by Friendship Christian and supervised by Jerry Bailey. The All-Star Roster list is available [here](#).

(A) BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Girls:

1st Place—Heritage Christian (Zebulon)
2nd Place—Shining Light (Greensboro)
3rd Place—Hilltop Christian

Boys:

1st Place—Shining Light (Monroe)
2nd Place—Shining Light (Greensboro)
3rd Place—Mt. Calvary (Archdale)

(AA) BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Girls:

1st Place—Tabernacle Christian (Hickory)
2nd Place—Cramerton Christian
3rd Place—Woodland Baptist

Boys:

1st Place—Fellowship Christian (Durham)
2nd Place—Neuse Baptist
3rd Place—Bethel Christian

(AAA) BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Girls:

1st Place—Wake Christian
2nd Place—Grace Christian
3rd Place—Raleigh Christian

Boys:

1st Place—Gospel Light
2nd Place—Alamance Christian
3rd Place—Lee Christian

2009 NCCSA Student Leadership Conference



The *2009 NCCSA Student Leadership Conference* will be October 7-8, 2009. Wednesday, October 7, will be at Faith Christian Academy in Goldsboro, and Thursday, October 8, will be at Piedmont Baptist College. 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. (Rand Hummel is scheduled for 2010.) You will not want to miss the way Brother Steve injects humor and practical application in his powerful principles and messages.

NCCSA UPDATE

March-April

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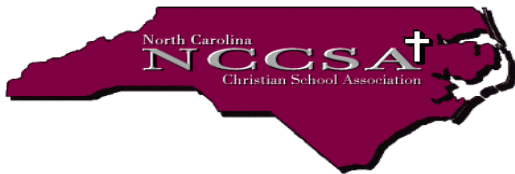
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Articles pertaining to education may be submitted to NCCSA, P.O. Box 231, Goldsboro, NC 27533. The staff reserves the right to correct grammar and spelling, clarify and modify content, adapt to style, and adjust to fit available space.

www.nccsa.org



DID YOU KNOW that government regulations require your Christian School and Church bus drivers to be involved in a random drug and alcohol testing program?

DID YOU KNOW that failure to comply with the regulations can carry up to \$1,000 per day penalty?

WHAT CAN YOU DO to insure that your ministry is protected?

The National Drug and Alcohol Testing Program has joined hands with NTA, Inc., which is a reputable corporation dedicated to the substance abuse and alcohol testing program needs of Christian schools and churches all over America. Through the National Drug and Alcohol Testing Program, NTA, Inc. can provide your ministry with all necessary materials needed for compliance with government regulations.

For more information, please [contact Dr. Joe Haas](#).

2009 NCCSA Fine Arts Competition

After 2,500 + entries, participation from 47 NCCSA schools, several days and locations for competition, the 2009 NCCSA JH/SH Fine Arts Competition is now complete. First of all, many thanks goes to our host locations this year: Piedmont Baptist College, Friendship Christian School, and Raleigh Christian Academy. Raleigh Christian was a first-time host of the newly re-formatted group competition and did a superb job. Secondly, we want to thank each of our NCCSA Fine Arts Chairmen. Many of them annually serve the NCCSA by working many hours supervising their division. Fine Arts competition involves thousands of students, and it takes this team effort to pull this competition off.

All of the results, pictures, and other information have been online since the competition. You can view all information by [clicking here](#).

The overall format will remain the same next year. We have already made a few tweaks to the Awards Assembly and other format changes to make next year's group competition even smoother. Other changes to the 2009-2010 Fine Arts Competitions will be given at a later date.

Special Thanks to the Fine Arts Divisional Chairmen

Julie Rickard—Academic Testing

Margaret Nelson—Art

Brian Parrish—Bible

William Hales—Bible Quizzing

Joyce Corbett—Journalism

Kevin Elston—Music

Elizabeth Stephens—Science Fair

Duane Manning—Speech

Donna Sparks—Spelling Bee

