

2009 NCCSA Educators' Convention

By Joe Haas, Ed.D.



The NCCSA Educators' Convention held on September 23-25, 2009, was a great success and blessing to everyone! We give God all the praise because we knew ahead that there would be several challenges, and we needed God's help. Again this year, because of astronomical costs at facilities in NC, we moved our convention to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center in Myrtle Beach, SC. This convention was also unique because convention coordinator Jason Haas was not able to attend due to the pending arrival of his first child. In other words, the one who directed the bulk of the convention planning for over two years would not be on site and would be available only by Nextel. Be-

cause of the economy, we also anticipated that the delegate count and vendor booths would be less than the convention in 2007. In spite of everything, God answered our prayers and blessed us with a great convention. God met our every need!

The preaching of Dr. Ron Baity, Dr. Jim Berg, and Dr. Mike Norris during the general sessions was right on target. All of the messages uniquely emphasized different aspects of the convention theme, "*Preparing Today for Tomorrow's Challenges.*" The presenters that provided training in 87 workshops received great comments from the delegates on their evaluation forms. We are so appreciative to everyone who worked together to make the convention successful. *Thank you* to each presenter for taking the time to prepare a quality workshop for the convention. *Thank you* to the vendors that filled 56 booths to promote their products and services for our member schools. *Thank you* to High Ground Solutions for providing a *Cyber Café* that kept delegates connected "to the real world." *Thank you* to our convention music coordinator, the accompanists, and the orchestra for providing uplifting and worshipful music for the General Sessions. *Thank you* again to Jason Haas who did an outstanding job as convention coordinator, to the NCCSA office staff who served as the convention staff, and to the NCCSA convention committee for assistance during the convention.

I am thankful for the Convention Center and Sheraton staff members who worked closely with the NCCSA staff to assure that everything ran very smoothly. The Pastors' and Administrators' breakfast on Friday morning provided a great time of fellowship for the attendees. *Thank you* to Encompass Web Systems and FACTS Tuition Management for providing sponsorship for this event. Congratulations are in order for those who won special prizes that were given away by vendors at the conclusion of the convention. It was also exciting to draw the names of the winners of the GPS units and Dell laptop computers and witness the excitement of all those gathered in our final session.

Congratulations are also in order to 36 teachers and/or administrators who received Heritage Awards for serving at least 10 years in the Christian school ministry. The average tenure of those who won awards was almost 23 years of service. Congratulations to *Elaine Gregory* from Trinity Christian School in Greenville, NC, who was named *Elementary Teacher of the Year*. *Tony Keel* from Calvary Christian School in King, NC, and *Jane Delph* from White Plains Christian School in Mt. Airy, NC, were named *Secondary Teachers of the Year*. These worthy servants were honored for their faithful service to the Lord and the ministries where they serve.

[continued on page 5]

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Laws That Protect NC Marriages Diminish

Last week, a new law went into effect that significantly weakens two different, centuries-old, North Carolina civil actions, or torts, that are designed to protect marriages from third party interference and/or adultery. HB 1110—Clarify/Alienation of Affection/Criminal Conversation, which was enacted by the General Assembly this summer, limits the ability of spouses to sue a third party who interferes with a marriage under the state's alienation of affections and criminal conversation laws. Under alienation of affections, an aggrieved spouse can sue a third party whose wrongful and malicious acts alienate the love and affection of their spouse. Under criminal conversation, an aggrieved spouse can sue a third party who commits adultery with their husband or wife. Under the new law, which took effect October 1, these legal actions can only be based on acts that occur prior to the separation of the married couple.

Over the years, numerous North Carolina courts have awarded damages in alienation of affections/criminal conversation lawsuits. An average of 245 lawsuits were filed each year on this issue between 2000 and 2005, according to the Greensboro *News and Record*. The North Carolina Family Policy Council (NCFPC) has worked for many years to preserve these torts and has resisted the efforts to abolish them.

“These laws create a protective buffer around marriages and establish liability if a third party interferes in someone else's marriage or commits adultery with someone's husband or wife,” said Jere Royall, counsel for the NCFPC. “Our state should do all it can to protect, preserve, and strengthen marriages. Limiting these torts exposes marriages to interference and adultery, partially eliminating the legal consequences for a wrongdoing third party.”

Letter from Rep. Louie Gomert

Last week I sent out an urgent message alerting you to a backdoor attempt by some in Congress to pass sweeping and dangerous hate crimes legislation through unrelated legislation, the FY10 Defense Authorization bill. Movement on this bill has taken place very rapidly, as Defense Authorization conferees will meet Wednesday morning to sign the conference report that **STILL INCLUDES HATE CRIMES**. The Defense Authorization bill to which Hate Crimes is attached is what is called a “must pass” because it is intended to support our troops. Attaching something so unrelated is a blatant slap in the face to all who understand the dangers of federal hate crime legislation.

Your help along with all those you reach is **URGENTLY** needed to prevent this egregious affront to the freedoms we hold so dear. Please tell your supporters to contact their representatives and senators and demand that the liberal majority quit playing political games at the expense of our brave military members and remove hate crimes legislation from the Defense Authorization Conference Report.

Our Representatives and Senators must be made to understand that with the Hate Crimes bill in it, the Defense Authorization must be defeated with a message to send Congress a “CLEAN” Defense Authorization. They must also know in close districts that a “Yes” vote will be considered a vote against freedom of speech and freedom of religion and will not be forgotten next year. There is currently a liberal opposition movement against funding any war, which means that normally the Administration and the Democratic leadership need conservatives to vote for the bill in order for it to pass. If conservatives and moderates from both parties make their voices heard, this bill can be brought down and a clean Defense Authorization can be passed that provides the vital funding our troops need without the liberty-endangering consequences of hate crimes legislation. However, action is needed immediately.

There has been no crime that Hate Crime advocates can point to whose outcome would have been changed by this bill, including all of the brutal murder cases that have become so-called ‘poster’ cases for passing Hate Crime legislation. It is not about new punishments. It is about controlling speech against sexual immorality. Advocates for granting heightened protection to crime victims based on their sexual orientation and other lifestyles know that Americans will not support their bill if they know the truth about Hate Crimes legislation. That is why the Senate added it to an unrelated bill that must pass this year – the FY10 Defense Authorization. As a result, the bill that authorizes funding to equip the men and women who guard our freedoms now contains language that will eviscerate personal freedom.

People who commit crimes out of hate deserve to be punished harshly as do those who select their victims randomly. Both are punished under our existing criminal laws. However, Hate Crime laws send a message that random, senseless acts of violence are far more preferable in society than violence with a motive. Every state has laws against violence of any kind, making Hate Crimes legislation completely unnecessary. Existing federal law in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 2(a) states that if anyone “induces” a crime's commission, that person is as guilty as the one who actually committed the crime.

During debate, I have asked about this hypothetical: Suppose a nut hears a religious leader teach that homosexuality is wrong and then commits a crime of violence. When arrested, he says the religious leader's teaching induced him into committing the crime. The answer is now clear that the tapes, notes, videos of the leader may all be subject to seizure and the leader subject to arrest and conviction just as if he committed the heinous act.

We have already seen cases in the U.S. of Christians being arrested for displaying a peaceful message. On the House floor during debate, Congressman Frank pointed out that those arrested eventually had the charges dropped. However, the power to arrest someone in their home, in front of family, and hold such leader in jail is plenty to create a “chilling effect” on religious teaching. It has in every country that adopted such a federal law.

Dr. James Dobson mentioned to me that after the tragic Matthew Shepherd murders, a nationally known news anchor said it does make one wonder if the perpetrators may have been “induced” by the teaching of people like Dr. Dobson. This is not so hypothetical any more. It is real.

It is imperative that all Americans become aware of this backdoor attempt to rewrite the nation's criminal law and put religious teaching at risk. This is not simply the teaching of the Bible either. It is teaching found in the Bible, the Koran, and the Tanakh. Please do all you can to encourage those who value liberty to persuade their U.S. Senators and Representatives to remove the Hate Crimes bill from the Defense Authorization and vote against it if Hate Crimes is not removed.

Chuck Colson has noted this lesson from history earlier this year: When morality in a nation is lost, it creates economic chaos. When there is economic chaos, people have ALWAYS been willing to give up liberty to regain economic stability. We cannot afford to go down this road.

Thank you for your help. Please contact Scott Lively or Laura Mszar in my office at 202-225-3035 if you want to coordinate efforts to bring awareness to this pernicious attempt to subvert the First Amendment and do damage to our nation.

A Generation Immersed in Media



An educator cites dangers of heavy media exposure for America's youth.

A new report indicates that the average child in America spends 45 hours a week immersed in the media—a multiple of the hours spent with parents or in the classroom.

Commonsense Media, a group that advocates for better programming in the media, commissioned and released the report. Researchers looked at 173 studies done on media and its effects on children and adolescents. The results are sobering. Taken together, these reports strongly suggest that significant exposure to the media is related, among other concerns, to behaviors such as smoking and early sexual activity, as well as low academic achievement and obesity.

As USA Today reports: *"Parents and policymakers need to take action to protect children from being harmed by TV, the Internet, and other types of media.."*

Researchers have done individual studies for years to learn how media affects children. A review released today, which analyzed 173 of the strongest papers over 28 years, finds that 80% agree that heavy media exposure increases the risk of harm, including obesity, smoking, sex, drug and alcohol use, attention problems, and poor grades.

Media Push Boundaries

In one sense, this report should not shock any informed parent or observer. The report does offer something new, how-

ever, in its analysis of so many published scientific reports and studies. The sheer quantity of the data is impressive. One obvious point comes to the fore—there has already been sufficient concern to prompt the development of the 173 separate studies considered in this report.

Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel of the National Institutes of Health commented, *"The idea that this is having a really measurable adverse impact on health makes it important to take this seriously."* What isn't measured in these studies, of course, is the adverse spiritual effects of so much media exposure.

Beyond the question of quantity—45 hours of media immersion on average—there is the question of media content. Anyone with the slightest awareness of media content knows the problems. All forms of media are saturated with violence, sexuality, morally troubling themes, alcohol and tobacco use, and the use of drugs.

Furthermore, the boundaries of acceptable content are being pressed back season after season. What was once limited to adult theaters soon makes its appearance in the mainstream media. Themes once off-limits to media in any form are now common on mainstream television. The emergence of the Internet, modern video games, MP3 players, and sophisticated cell phones offers yet more opportunities for increased media immersion and exposure to troubling programming and content.

The 'Solitary' Transformation

Another relatively new phenomenon is the digital revolution and the transformation of media consumption from a largely communal activity to one that is more and more solitary. The television set used to be located in a family gathering place and families watched television together. No longer. Now, televisions are distributed throughout various rooms

in most houses, and viewing is increasingly solitary. Millions of American children and adolescents have televisions in their bedrooms—many combined with digital recorders, video games, and other components.

Add to this picture a virtual explosion in the number of children and teenagers with computers and Internet access in bedrooms. Today's children, equipped with iPods, cell phones, laptops, and portable video players, are seldom more than a few feet (if not inches) separated from media technologies.

Parents should look to this new report with interest and concern. The adverse effects of immersion in the media are now beyond refutation. Does anyone really believe that all this media exposure has no ill effects on children and adolescents?

Seven Suggestions for Parents

Christian parents come to this issue with deeper concerns. Like other parents, we are rightly concerned about the dangers of obesity and other effects related to physical health and well being. Beyond this, however, we must be concerned with the effects of media exposure on the soul. Though perhaps impossible to measure by scientific study, we have good reason to be concerned that media immersion of this sort leads to a deadening of the soul and hinders the development of spiritual health and maturity.

- **Limit Media Exposure.** Limit the total media exposure experienced by your children. The statistic that the average child and adolescent is immersed in the media for 45 hours a week should be sufficient motivation for parents to hit the brakes and gain control of media exposure. Access to entertainment media should be a privilege earned, not a right assumed by the child.

[continued on page 6]

2009 AACS National Legislative Conference

By AACS Washington Office



“Repair the Breach” provided an appropriate theme for the 2009 AACS National Legislative Conference, as attendees were challenged and encouraged to stand strong in the current partisan political climate. Administrators, pastors, teachers, and students from various parts of the country traveled to the Nation’s Capitol to hear updates on current issues of concern to Christian education and to lobby Members of Congress on these issues, as well as the family and religious freedom. Highlights of the Conference included a Congressional briefing in the U.S. Capitol, the annual Legislative Banquet where Dr. Charles Walker was recognized and honored for his years of service to AACS, as well as a special after-hours tour of the Capitol with Representative Randy Forbes (VA).

One of the primary goals of this conference is to educate administrators, pastors, teachers, and students on current legislation that is important to Christian schools and the families they represent. This year, attendees heard from experts on the issues of federal involvement in early education, ENDA, Hate Crimes, and Health Care Reform. To further explain these issues, a Congressional Briefing was held inside the Capitol Visitors Center. The Congressional Briefing began with Rep. Paul Broun from Georgia, who spoke on the importance of knowing the will of God and the importance of carrying the cause of Christ throughout the political sphere. Rep. Jim Jordan (OH), Rep. Tom McClintock (CA), Rep. Virginia Foxx (VA), Rep. Steve King (IA), Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX), and Sen. Jim DeMint (SC) also spoke at the briefing, each addressing specifically the issues of health care, the economy, and our religious liberty that is hanging in the balance. While these Members honestly recognized the difficult climate that they serve in, they also inspired the attendees not to give up but continue the fight even when it gets unbearably hard. Rep. Michelle Bachmann (MN) closed the briefing by praying for those who attended and the work that they do. She praised the Lord for the Christian schools that were represented and asked God to hear our prayers and concerns as the legislative year moves forward. The briefing was a great opportunity for the attendees to hear from and meet with strong Biblical leaders who are fighting for righteousness each day in our government, as well as pray for them as we are commanded to do in Scripture.

Following the Congressional briefing, the attendees had the opportunity to meet with their own Representatives and Senators to discuss issues of concern to Christian education. These meetings gave the attendees the opportunity to discuss the harmful effects of federally funded pre-k, as well as the dangers that ENDA poses on religious liberty and the concerns with a government controlled health care system. The meetings were beneficial for not only the attendees to meet face to face with their elected Representatives, but also for the Congressmen themselves to be educated on the concerns of Christian schools nationwide regarding certain legislation.

Tuesday evening provided an opportunity for fellowship as attendees participated in the annual AACS Legislative Banquet. This year, AACS recognized one of its own as Dr. Charles Walker retires this year from the position of AACS Executive Director. Many testimonies and kind words were spoken of Dr. Walker and his humble service and tremendous contribution to the Christian education movement. While Representative Zach Wamp was not able to attend the banquet as originally planned, attendees were able to hear from him as Dr. Keith Wiebe, President of AACS, presented the “American Freedom Award” on the steps of the Capitol later in the evening. Following the presentation of the award, a special tour of the U.S. Capitol was given by Representative Randy Forbes (VA) who pointed out the rich religious heritage of the nation displayed in the Capitol.

Other important events conducted during the conference included a special briefing from the Department of Education’s Office of Non-Public Education in which Maureen Dowling, Acting Director for the Office of Non-Public Education, presented resources available for private schools. An additional highlight was a Heritage Briefing in which Lindsey Burke, an expert researcher in early education, was able to present a clear and concise case against universal and federally funded pre-k programs. Diane Davis, also from the Heritage Foundation, spoke on social justice and the need to reach out to the younger generation as they are essential to the defense of religious liberty and conservatism. The conference wrapped up with Tim Goeglein, former Special Assistant to President George W. Bush, and current Vice President of External Affairs for Focus on the Family Action, speaking on the importance of faith in the public sphere as well as encouraging those surrounded by young students to instruct them in faith and conservative Biblical values.

Perhaps one of the greatest aspects of the AACS National Legislative Conference was the opportunity to hear from strong men of God as they preached on our theme from the passage in Isaiah. Dr. Troy Calvert, Pastor Brad Lapiska, and Dr. Don Forrester all delivered strong messages of God’s righteousness and blessings for those who stand strong in defending the Bible and the principles recorded within, as well as the need to “Repair the Breach” as it is essential and urgent that Christian leaders stand for what is right. Their encouragement throughout the time of the conference was a delight and a blessing.

ATHLETIC NEWS

The 2009 NCCSA fall athletic tournaments and 2nd annual NCCSA Cross Country Championship State Meet are just a couple of weeks away. The 2009 NCCSA Cross Country State Meet Information has been sent to each administrator and athletic director. ***The fall athletic meeting is on November 11 at 10:30 a.m. at Beacon Baptist Church in Burlington, NC.*** Additional details will be emailed to each athletic participating school very soon. **Each NCCSA school participating in athletics MUST have at least one representative present at the meeting.** Also, it is very important to turn in yellow card infractions to your divisional chairman. Those infraction forms are found in the current NCCSA Athletic Handbook (2007 Edition). Also, please follow the faculty pass recommendations that were sent to your office.

2010 Pastors'/Administrators' Conference March 2, 2010—More Details Coming Soon

Is Your School Taking Advantage of SchoolCast™?



As you might know, each NCCSA school has been given a copy of [SchoolCast™](#) as part of the membership dues for the 2009-2010 school year. This instant notification system is being used by most NCCSA schools; however, if you have not set up your account, please call the state office today. The comments have been overwhelmingly positive as schools are beginning to use this system to alert parents of any school-related closings. Athletic directors and coaches are using this on ballgame nights to alert parents if there is a time change, administrators are using SchoolCast™ to alert parents of various events, and the scenarios of how this program can be used are virtually limitless. Don't miss out on this opportunity, especially since the NCCSA is providing a copy of this program to each school for this school year.

[continued from page 1] As with any convention or event of this nature, there are always obstacles to overcome and adjustments that must be made. Thankfully, there were not many this year, and God blessed with the entire convention going very smoothly. I am thankful for the numerous “thank you” remarks, phone calls, and emails from those in attendance who expressed how much the convention was a blessing to them. Some said this was the best convention they had ever attended, and they are already looking forward to the next convention. I am praying that God will use all that was done at our convention this year to make our schools stronger and better equipped to meet the needs that exist at each ministry. Next year, we will participate in the regional Southeast Christian School Convention that will be held September 29-October 1, 2010, at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. We will join the associations from Georgia and South Carolina for this convention.

I should also report that Jan and I made it back safely (and quickly) to Goldsboro in anticipation of the arrival of our first granddaughter. I am happy to announce that Landrey Elizabeth Haas discovered America at 7:58 AM on Tuesday, September 29. She made her appearance at 7 lbs. 12 oz, 21 inches long, with a head full of dark hair. Mom (Ashly), baby Landrey, and grandparents are doing great. I think Jason is going to make it too! If Jason doesn't send you a picture of Landrey, please let me know because Jan and I have plenty we can share with you! *[To view pictures of the 2009 NCCSA Convention, please click [here.](#)]*

Testpoint™

A Breakthrough in
Student Testing

NCCSA UPDATE

September/October

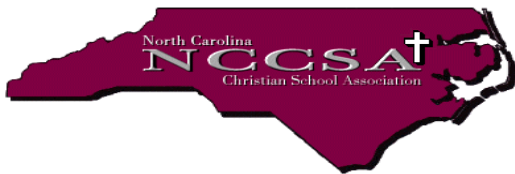
Vol. 19, Issue 2

Joe Haas, Ed.D.—Executive Director
Jason Haas—Editor

The NCCSA UPDATE is published bi-monthly by the North Carolina Christian School Association. The NCCSA UPDATE is designed for Christian Educators, pastors, and parents. All published material included in the NCCSA UPDATE is Copyright © 2009 by NCCSA UPDATE and is subject to U.S. copyright laws. Permission to reproduce may be requested by contacting the NCCSA State Office.

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



Upcoming 2009 Events

October 15—NCCSA Annual Fine Arts Meeting—10:00
October 23-24—NCCSA State Soccer/Volleyball Tournaments
November 7—2nd Annual NCCSA State Cross Country Meet
November 11—NCCSA Fall Athletic Meeting—10:30
November 12-14—NCCSA Band Festival—Wake/Meymandi
(Additional items are available on the NCCSA website)



For the first time ever, the NCCSA All-State Band Clinic will be performing at Raleigh's Meymandi Concert Hall. Even if your students are not participating in this year's All-State Band Clinic, you do not want to miss this rare occasion of NCCSA students performing at the Meymandi Concert Hall.

For more information, please click [here](#).

- **Stop Unsupervised Media.** Do not allow children and teenagers to have televisions and Internet-connected computers in the bedroom. There is simply too much danger in unsupervised media exposure, and too much temptation in terms of both quantity and content. No child needs a television in the bedroom, and a computer connected to the Internet is an invitation to disaster.
- **Create Family Experience.** Make entertainment media a family experience. There is a massive difference in the experience of a child watching programming alone and that same child watching with a parent. Parents should be in unquestioned control of media decisions. Parents should also be eager to discuss what is seen with teenagers and children, helping them to grow in discernment and judgment.
- **Know What Children Experience.** Parents have to do the hard work of actually knowing what their children and teenagers are watching, playing, hearing, and experiencing through media exposure. No one said parenting was supposed to be easy.
- **Take Media Break.** Realize that a revolution has taken place in the lives of children and adolescents. The emergence of social media technologies means that children (and adolescents especially) now expect to be in constant communication with their peers. This is not healthy, sane, or helpful. All of us—children and teenagers included—need a break from this immersion. Put a charging dock in the kitchen and confiscate cell phones as the kids come in the door. That will send a message the old fashioned way—in person.
- **Do Detective Work.** Take a regular look at what your child is posting and what others are posting on his or her social media sites. Look at the instant messaging exchanges and emails. You are the parent, after all, and your child's access to these technologies should come with the open and non-negotiable requirement that parents see it all.
- **Push the No Button.** Remember that saying "no" is a legitimate option. I do not believe that saying "no" is always the right response. The media bring opportunities for good as well as for evil. Children and teenagers who are never allowed access to media technologies and entertainment will emerge into adulthood with no powers of discernment. But "no" is sometimes the best and only appropriate answer, and parents should always be ready to use it when needed.

Today's generation of children and adolescents is, by all accounts, a generation immersed in media. This new report reminds us that this exposure cannot come without real costs. Let's hope America's parents are paying attention.

By Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr—copied by permission from www.albertmohler.com