



Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

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Rights of Students and Teachers

by *Dave and Mary Jo Nutting*

Americans have been buffaloed into thinking that they cannot bring anything into the school that is Christian. This FALSE notion has certainly been propagated by the actions of the ACLU and others. You have heard of suits being filed over teaching creation, having a Bible on a desk, posting the Ten Commandments on the wall, having a cross visible from the highway, sharing faith with coworkers, etc. As you may recall, even Alpha Omega Institute was threatened with a lawsuit by the ACLU as a result of one of our programs to students from a public school. Even though they announced their intent to sue us on national television, (people called to encourage us from all over the country -- thank you!), we have not heard from the ACLU since. Some school districts withdrew their invitation to us after receiving letters threatening lawsuit by the ACLU. It seems this tactic of intimidation by threatening law suits is often sufficient to accomplish their purposes.

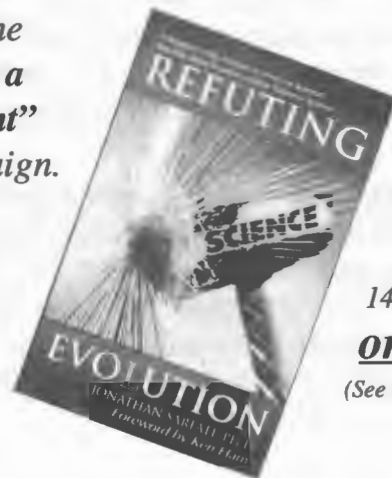
We need to stand up in the public arena and not back down from idle threats. Unfortunately many of us do not know what we are legally able to stand on. **Notes & Quotes, gives a list of freedoms students and teachers have. Please study them, apply them, and encourage others to do so!** The phrase, "use it or lose it," usually refers to muscles and exercise, or our brain and thinking, but it also applies to using or losing our rights and freedoms. Unless Americans stand up and act on the freedoms we still have in this country, those freedoms will be slowly taken away by default without any change in law. There is no room for apathy in the public arena for us today!

What happens, though, when man's rules contradict the truth of God's Word? Do we have the courage to "obey God rather than man?" We are blessed in this country to

have a godly heritage. Our founding fathers recognized God as Creator set up a system of government based on Biblical truth. They recognized that "rights" come from God, not the State. Over the years, this godly heritage has been eroded, resulting in belief that the State is the one that grants "rights." With this shift in viewpoint, Christians have allowed the government to dictate what they can and can't do in public schools. In essence, we have let godless judges determine our "rights," instead of asking God, "What are our responsibilities?" We have even bowed to the Baal of Religious Humanism and have let the teaching of evolution replace a clear presentation of the truth of God's Word and the clear proclamation that God is our Creator. Consequently, our children have grown to believe they are merely glorified slime.

The Apostle Paul knew and exercised his rights as a Roman citizen -- he asked the soldiers if it was legal to beat a Roman citizen, appealed to Caesar, etc. -- but he didn't ask permission from the government to teach the truth. He knew Who his Lord was, and he was ready to pay the price of obedience. Are we willing to exercise our legal "rights" and then go beyond to fulfill our God given responsibilities to teach children the truth in public schools even if it costs us our status or jobs? **Will we fear God more than man?**

Join the
"Help a
Student"
campaign.



New

144 pg. book for
only \$1??

(See pg. 3 for details)

Notes & Quotes

■ **Christian students and teachers are often unaware of the rights still available to them in this country.** The following section is intended to give you ideas of some of things you can do to make a positive influence in your school. It is based on information published by the Christian Law Association in their publications, *Do Christian Students Have Rights in the Public Schools?* and *Witnessing: The New Frontiers*. We highly recommend that you contact CLA to order these publications or discuss specifics (813-399-8399). (Please note that this article is not intended to be, and does not constitute, legal advice.)

□ **May school teachers use the Bible in their instruction?** YES! (Does that surprise you?) They may use it as literature, history, in comparative religions classes, and ethics. However, formal, structured, devotional use of the Bible in public schools is forbidden under the First Amendment's "establishment of religion" clause.

□ **The First Amendment also guarantees that individuals have the right to the "free exercise" of their religion** (or non-religion) and free speech rights. Therefore, even public schools must accommodate public school children's rights to their free religious expression in those schools. This would include their views on the subject of origins.

□ **May a student give out creation literature** (like **Think & Believe**), or even religious literature (including Gospel tracts) to his classmates? Yes! In the same manner as it is permitted students to distribute non-religious material, they may distribute other non-obscene or non-lewd material including religious literature during non-instructional times. This is true unless this activity can be proven to materially or substantially disrupt school discipline.

□ **May a student talk to his classmates about creation verses evolution issues**, witness to them about Jesus, or even pray with other students on the school campus? Yes! This can be done before or after school, at lunch or during other times when students are permitted to interact with other students. They may not harass particular students or groups of students, however.

□ **May students organize Bible clubs in public school?** Yes! Public secondary schools must allow Bible clubs the same privileges as any other school club. (In spite of this, we have heard of school officials telling their students they couldn't have a creation club even though they had many other clubs meeting on the school property. This is a clear violation of their rights.)

□ **May students write book reports, English papers or do oral assignments based on religious subjects?** Yes! Such work must be judged by teachers using ordinary academic standards, and religious topics may *not* be discriminated against or singled out for specific restrictions. (We know of one teacher that told their students they can write on any topic except creation vs. evolution. Not so legal?? Not only can they discuss the scientific aspects, they can even include religious issues as well.)

□ **Would it be constitutional for a teacher to allow students to share their personal religious viewpoints in the classroom?** Yes -- at appropriate times and in appropriate assignments. The teacher may constitutionally allow their religious students to share their views if the views of all other students are also permitted to be shared.

□ **Valedictorian or salutatorians can include material from a religious perspective.** They cannot be censored except for lewd or obscene speech if they are allowed to compose their own speeches. This might be a great time to tell their classmates they have self worth because God created them and they believe they are not just some evolved blob of protoplasm.

□ **A public school teacher can permit student-led discussions in the classroom.** This could be a good forum to discuss creation vs evolution issues.

□ **The sidewalk which abuts a public school is a public forum** if it is open to public traffic. Witnessing and literature distribution may not be prevented in such areas (subject to limited controls in the interest of public safety and order). This would be a great place to distribute copies of our Grand Canyon Quiz pamphlet or books dealing with creation.

□ **"Release time"** is when students are excused to go off campus for learning experiences including religious instruction. It would be a great time for a creation class!

□ **School libraries** can't discriminate against Creation/Christian books on the basis of ideology, so how about donating some of the excellent books on creation and Christian apologetics. (Contact us for suggestions.)

■ **So, students and teachers, we encourage you to get involved and make a difference.** Do your homework and get informed. Then go out and use whatever opportunities you have to share the truth about the Creation, the Bible, and your faith in Jesus Christ. Just remember to do it in a Christ-like way. (Memorize and apply II Timothy 2:24-26!)

Spotlight On Science

“Help a Student” Campaign

by Dave Nutting

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) recently distributed a book to public schools and teachers throughout the country called, **Teaching about Evolution and the Nature of Science**. The book is intended to encourage teachers to include more evolution in their teaching, provide them with up-to-date evidence, and assist them in countering arguments by anti-evolutionist students. As you might guess, it takes a very one-sided pro-evolutionary approach. In response, Australian scientist, Dr. Jonathan Sarfati, has written **Refuting Evolution**, a 144 page book as a creationist answer to this extremely biased NAS publication. **Refuting Evolution** is a great resource for students, teachers, parents, and anyone else wanting a clear, concise alternative to the “evidences” of evolution usually presented in classrooms, texts, and museums.

Topics in *Refuting Evolution* include:

- * Evolution & Creation, Science & Religion, Facts & Bias
- * Variation and Natural Selection Versus Evolution
- * The Links Are Missing
- * Bird Evolution?
- * Whale Evolution?
- * Humans: Images of God or Advanced Apes?
- * Astronomy
- * How Old Is the Earth?
- * Is the Design Explanation Legitimate?

Sarfati not only includes scientific answers with references to the evolutionary “facts” with which students are being beaten to death, but also clearly shows the bias that pervades in the evolutionary camp. Consider this quote:

“We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal

world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. **Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.** (Richard Lewontin, “Billions and Billions of Demons,” The New York Review, January 9, 1997, p. 31 in *Refuting Evolution*, pp. 17-18., Emphasis Added)

We frequently hear that Creationists have an agenda. Do the NAS members have an agenda? Consider:

“A recent survey published in the leading science journal *Nature* conclusively showed that the National Academy of Sciences, the producers of *Teaching about Evolution*, is heavily biased against God, rather than religiously unbiased. A survey of all 517 NAS members in biological and physical sciences resulted in just over half responding: **72.2% were overtly atheistic, 20.8% agnostic, and only 7.0% believed in a personal God. ... The percentage of unbelief is far higher than the percentage among U.S. scientists in general, or in the whole U.S. population.**” (*Refuting Evolution*, pp. 23-24)



“HELP A STUDENT” CAMPAIGN!

Students and teachers **need** *Refuting Evolution* to combat the agenda of the NAS. Alpha Omega Institute is teaming up with Answers in Genesis and with Master Books (publisher of **Refuting Evolution**) to get this book into as many student and teacher hands as possible. Will you team up with us, too?

Only **\$1???**

YES! Even though the bookstore price on this book is \$9.95, you or your church can purchase this from us for as little as \$1 each (**plus Shipping/Handling**) if given to public school students, teachers, school boards etc. Will you take part in this vital “Help a Student” Campaign? (Call or see enclosed order form for full details.)

The Back Page...

****Upcoming Events****

(N=Nutting, J=Johnson, S=Stepanek, K=Korow, M=Sonmor)

Please pray for these events!

Sept 24-26 Lost Timber, Chandler MN: Jr High Bible Camp

Contact: Rich 970-523-9943 (S)

Oct 1-3 Somerset, CO: Id-Ra-Ha-Je West Family Camp

Contact Scott McIntyre 970-929-5221 (J,S)

Oct 4-8 Jackson, WY: Jackson Hole Bible College

Contact Dale 307-733-3094 (N)

Oct 5-7 Branson, CO: Branson Community Church

Contact Pastor Troy Willey 719-946-5559 (J,S)

Oct 9-17 Phoenix, AZ: Location TBA

Contact us 970-523-9943 (N,M)

Oct 10-11 Ulysses, KS: First Southern Baptist

Dave Caroway 316-356-4950 (J,S)

Oct 12-14 Dodge City, KS: First Southern Baptist

Linda Fergerson 316-225-1126 (J,S)

Oct 15-16 Garden City, KS: Area Seminar

John Zoshehke 316-275-6701 (J,S)

Oct 24-27 Meridian, ID: Ten Mile Community Church (N,K)

Contact Church 208-362-2620

Nov 3-6 Jackson Hole Bible College Field Study Trip

Contact Dave 970-523-9943 (N)

Nov 7- 8 Morganton, GA - Morganton Baptist

Contact Pastor Tim Miller 706-374-5100 (N,K)

Nov 9-22 Ohio seminars TBA

Contact AOI (970) 523-9943

Nov 16-17 Grand Jct, CO: Think & Believe Stuffing Party

Volunteers needed. Contact us 970-523-9943

We still have some openings in the coming year.

Call ASAP if you would like to have an AOI program in your area. 970-523-9943

Russia!

An opportunity for creation ministry has opened up for Rich Stepanek and Lanny Johnson (Eugene) to teach and train in Russia. We also hope to provide creation teaching slides, and a projector for those trained to carry forth the ministry in their own Russian language. Total cost is expected to be about \$4,000. Please pray & help!

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Training Center Update

(with Dave Harper)



This has been a great summer at Elk Creek with more yet to come! We have completed the water well at a depth of 69 feet. In June, a youth group helped build a shower house, install picnic tables, clear trees, construct an outdoor chapel, improve the irrigation system, and add a new campsite. Everyone was challenged to examine Biblical truth and God's design through daily creation sessions, and a field trip to the Colorado National Monument.

Current Needs:

- \$50,000 to build the first residence
- Two 16 foot metal gates
- Backhoe & operator, pipeline supplies
- Foot bridge across creek
- Pump & pressure tank for well
- Continued prayer for safety of workers

**** Prayer and Praise ****

Praise God for a great summer. Hundreds of kids and youth heard the gospel and evidence of creation. Many seeds were planted. Pray for others to water and for God to cause the growth.

Praise God for the opportunities He is opening for seminars this fall. Pray for diligence of local groups in getting the word out and for God to prepare the hearts of those who need to hear.

Praise God for the health, safety, and stamina He has given our staff this summer. Pray for our continued well-being. Also pray for our spiritual growth as individuals and as a team.

Praise God for financial provision through the summer months. Pray for continued and increased provision for the projects at hand. Pray specifically about your part in helping.



ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE

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