

THE SOVEREIGN SENTINEL



Newsletter of Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

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Another New Year

Jim Collins, Editor

Fellow members and friends of Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, I welcome you to another new year and another attempt to start our church newsletter, *The Sovereign Sentinel*. Seems like I let too many other things interfere with getting this newsletter out. In the spirit of the times, I have resolved to produce this at least bi-monthly. Please pray that I will be able to make this commitment.

In the past, I knew I could count on Don VanTuyl's input for at least a few well-written and pointed articles to keep us abreast of what's happening in Washington DC and Sacramento and to encourage us to stay involved. Don is happily with our Lord now, but that leaves us without his experience and zeal. I have taken up his mantle to share with you and inspire you patriotically and politically but if anyone else feels a need in this ministry, I would welcome your help and support.

If you have not been attending the adult bible study on Wednesday evenings, let me encourage you to change your habits and make every effort to attend. I just started attending myself and I find them fun, informative, and spiritually enlightening. Both Pastors take turns instructing and leading discussion on a variety of subjects. For example, at a recent meeting, Pastor Sloan discussed spiritual gifts. Do you know what your gift is? Do you ever consider why we have spiritual gifts? If you don't know what your gift is or how it should be used, why weren't you at the bible study? I know it's difficult after working all day, but I tell you truthfully, taking the time to attend is exceptionally rewarding. Perhaps you could make a New Year's resolution to start attending regularly. Trust me, you will not regret it.

Not to beat a dead horse, but one other thing that came out at the discussion is that if you are waiting for a direct revelation from God as to what your spiritual gift is, you will be waiting till you meet Him face-to-face – and that's a little too late. As Pastor Johnnie discussed, you will never discover your gift if you don't start doing something. Get involved and it will be revealed eventually.

So if you don't know, and you don't have a ministry at Sovereign Grace, start volunteering to help somewhere. Two ministries I can think of immediately are the mission committee and ushering, but there are many more – ask either of the Pastors.

The great commission (Matthew 28:19-20) calls us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them. This is the call to evangelize. It is an area we should ALL be involved with as Christ didn't speak only to those with this gift. But it is an area that you may be especially gifted. Again, you'll never find this out sitting at home. We have monthly evangelizing on the first Saturday of the month. I *strongly* encourage you to take a couple hours and join us. Steve Bell, Pastor Heinrich, and Pastor Johnnie are always there and will take you by the hand and guide you if you are feeling shy about joining. Trust me, I felt that way but had no problem once I went out with Steve. (Actually, that's usually the biggest problem: overcoming the initial fear. Once you step out and start doing something, you'll find that it's very easy.)

I have a particular burn for creation evangelism. You'll note that there's always a creation related article and cartoon on the bulletin board every Sunday. I copy these from the weekly newsletter that comes out from Answers In Genesis. There are many excellent creation ministries in the world but I like AIG the best and that is why you will find information from them on the bulletin board and in articles in this newsletter.

Last but not least. As I write this, Pastor Heinrich's sermon this morning on Seeking Christ, not being a "seeker" is prominent in my thoughts. If you truly seek Him, you will wish to worship Him more and more. I can think of no better way to do this than to put aside the TV or family things or dinner or whatever else it is you do on Sunday evenings and come worship the Lord with us starting at 5:30 pm. Pastor Johnnie's preaching is every bit as good, instructional, and inspirational as Pastor Heinrich's; but even if it wasn't, it is important to worship God on His day. We live in a country of incredible comfort and bounty. Won't you please join with us to thank and worship the

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Another New Year, continued

sovereign God who has given us this great country and allowed us to live here? Won't you join us to praise and glorify our Creator? Won't you join us to humbly thank a God who could have easily condemned us all but instead gave us the gift of grace and salvation? Please pray about this and then I hope you will decide to come.

For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Stop the NAU and SPP

Jim Collins, Editor

Virgil Goode, a House Representative from Virginia, introduced H.C.R. 40 earlier this week. Goode's resolution carries six cosponsors: Reps. John Duncan, Walter B. Jones, Cliff Stearns, Virginia Foxx, Ron Paul and Zach Wamp.

The resolution would express "the sense of Congress that the United States should not engage in the construction of a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Superhighway System or enter into a North American Union with Mexico and Canada."

If you don't know what the North American Union (NAU) or Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP) are, please see me or go to the Internet – there is plenty of information out there about these incredibly dangerous plans that will eventually destroy our nation's sovereignty.

The Bush administration, as well as most members of Congress, are denying that there is a working agenda to merge the United States, Mexico, and Canada into one European-like nation. Goode's resolution brings awareness to this threat by admitting that the NAU is a reality that is threatening our country's sovereignty and security. H.C.R. 40 has been referred to the House Committee on Transportation and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Unless enough support is generated, the resolution may never make it to the Congressional floor for a debate or vote.

Contact your Congressmen (see page 4 for contact information for most of our area's reps and senators) now and urge them to support Virgil Goode's resolution.

We also need to contact our California state representatives and urge them to introduce and approve a resolution against the SPP and NAU. Congress does listen to such state resolutions.

Excluding God from Government

Don Van Tuyl

Dear Editor,

Recently there has been much furor about the philosophy of Supreme Court Justices. A look at the past may be revealing.

"Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon the teachings of the Redeemer of Mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent, our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian."

U.S. Supreme Court, 1892

"If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

Daniel Webster, 1821

These quotes do not seem to me to indicate that our Founding Fathers intended for God to be excluded from government.

Spare the rod...

Jim Collins, Editor

Democrat Sally Lieber of San Jose dropped a bombshell a couple weeks back when she announced plans to introduce a bill that would make it a criminal offense for parents to spank their young (3 years old and younger) children. Once again, it will be the state saying that they own your children, not you. This particular assemblywoman doesn't even have children of her own, yet she thinks she knows best.

As Pastor remarked at a recent sermon, children are not perfect and the bible is quite clear that to spare the rod will lead to spoiled, poorly behaved children.

Luckily, it appears that there was such an outcry against this ridiculous bill that Ms. Lieber has not yet formally submitted it. However, since she has till Feb. 23 to do so, I urge you to write her informing her of your opposition to this un-American intrusion on your rights as a parent or grandparent. You can call her office at: 916-319-2022 or email her at: Assemblywoman.lieber@assembly.ca.gov.

The Question: To Ban or Not To Ban?

Reprinted from *Answers in Genesis* newsletter 2/3/07

Let your voice be heard

Last week on this site, AiG reported on a renewed book-banning attempt being directed at a controversial text that is found on the shelves of gift stores in Grand Canyon National Park.

The effort to ban creationist Tom Vail's beautifully photographed picture book *Grand Canyon: A Different View*—which includes text by some of AiG's staff—once again is promising to become an international controversy. This has even been further provoked by Pulitzer prize-winning cartoonist Gary Trudeau, who published a *Doonesbury* strip on January 13 (careful—it contains objectionable language), in which he bashed creationists and President George W. Bush over the book.

Grand Canyon: A Different View offers the explanation that the Canyon's formation came about through rapid processes associated with the Flood of Noah, just a few thousand years ago—rather than by slow erosion over millions of years, which is the standard story presented at the Canyon. In 2004, the first attempt to ban the book in Canyon stores received major media coverage, especially after 7,000 letters/emails were sent to the National Park Service (NPS) headquarters in Washington, DC. The book has since remained in Park gift stores, and for a while was a best-seller there. Now, recent attempts to get *Grand Canyon: A Different View* removed will probably propel the book right back to its best-selling status at the Park.

The controversy has re-surfaced because an environmental activist group called PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) distributed a news release last month that contained a false claim: "Grand Canyon National Park is not permitted to give an official estimate of the geologic age of its principal feature, due to pressure from Bush administration appointees." Later in the news release (which has been altered on PEER's website), PEER urged the relatively new NPS director to order the removal of Tom Vail's book and to "allow park interpretive rangers to honestly answer questions from the public about the geologic age of the Grand Canyon" (more in a moment about that false charge).

Because the Park Service has yet to make a determination on whether *Grand Canyon: A Different View* will remain in the Canyon stores, PEER was attempting, yet again, to bring the book's controversial contents to the public's attention, and perhaps force the Park Service to make a decision on the book's status.

One of PEER's most bizarre assertions is that the book's presence in the bookstore is akin to an establishment of religion by the U.S. government (i.e., its availability for sale somehow violates the First Amendment, according to PEER's logic).

If you haven't yet, please read our article from last week that summarizes the investigative work conducted by a leading evolutionist (no, he's not a booster of the book by any means), which revealed that PEER's charges that the Bush administration and the National Park Service were catering to creationists were contrived.

"So much baloney"

An attorney representing Mr. Vail sent a letter last week to the Park Service to encourage officials not to ban the book, and to reject the misleading claims about the book made by PEER. This letter (from the Alliance Defense Fund) declared that any accusation by PEER (or anyone else) that the Park Service has not been forthright in giving an evolutionary explanation of the Canyon's formation is "so much baloney." It also praised the Park Service for acting in "complete propriety" over the years as it rejected efforts by evolutionists to have the book removed.

Of course, AiG argues that visitors to the Grand Canyon should be exposed to an alternative view of how the Canyon formed. You see, because rangers, park museums, and rim signage will not tell the Flood story, we think it's reasonable that, at the very least, a bookstore should be able to carry a well-written book (with more than a dozen of its contributors holding doctorate degrees) and let the public decide what to purchase. No one is forced to buy the book, or to read/hear about Tom's views at the Canyon.

Because evolutionist activists are putting increasing pressure right now on the new director of the National Park Service to remove *Grand Canyon: A Different View*, you may want to share your respectfully written opinion about this with the director of the NPS. Here is her contact information:

Ms. Mary A. Bomar, Director
National Park Service

Email: mary_bomar@nps.gov (note that there is an underscore—not a space—between the first and last name in the email address).

Or reach her by "snail mail":

Ms. Mary A. Bomar, Director
National Park Service
1849 "C" Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

Or by phone: (202) 208-4621

Thank you.

Contact Information for our National Leaders

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NOTE:

If you are planning to write a letter to one of our national leaders, please remember that due to security concerns, all their mail is rerouted to processing centers in Ohio and New Jersey for inspection and irradiation. This delays the mail (according to some of their websites) by two to five months. They recommend you contact them via email, fax or the telephone. However, it should also be noted that a letter still counts for more than email so writing to their local addresses is highly recommended.