

Statement at the Capitol

April 29th 2013

Welcome to our Rally this morning. Many are here from churches. Other concerned citizens are present. Some have come a long way. We appreciate Georgia government representatives among us as well.

We are here taking a stand for God in our culture. The disrespect and discrediting of our Creator has risen in past decades and seems to have escalated. The Bible says that “Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people”. Prov 14:34

One area of our concern is education. What are our children learning in our schools concerning respect and honor for our Maker? Are the school systems of our great state being used to dishonor and diminish the influence of Christian principles? The answer to that question is yes.

Morality, respect for authority, self-discipline and parental authority are a few areas where evidence of this is manifested. There are others that are less transparent. One, in particular, has gone on for some time, having severe negative consequences. This issue is at the heart of undermining our Creator and causes confusion and chaos in our culture.

That would be the teaching of evolution in the science classroom. This single effort has done more damage to our children and the culture than we may care to admit. This has happened under our watch and is happening right now as we speak.

Evolution is the religion of the secular humanist. It is their *worldview* or how they understand everyday life. This viewpoint has been imposed on the minds of our children. Little has been done and few have spoken up about it. This conversation must change.

Let us be clear about this concept. Darwinian evolution can be expressed as “goo to you via the zoo”. It is origin science and does not belong in the science classroom.

Prior to 2006, teachers were not required to talk about evolution. Due to the efforts of Dr. Steven Pruitt, the then program director for science education in our State, evolution was inserted during a reform effort on science standards. Others were involved in that reform, including our then State Superintendent. In 2011, Christians4Science began an effort to challenge the teaching of evolution in our schools. We addressed the Carroll County Board of Education and were told that we had to change things at the State level. We were struck by how mild and complicit our County leadership acted but directed our energies to the State level anyway. From that, we learned Georgia, along with 25 other states, is involved in another and new reform effort. A complete overhaul in science education was begun at the national level. It affects kindergarten through 12th grade and is hailed as the great vehicle to transform our generation. This reform is the result of the labors of the Carnegie Foundation and the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

Previously, the endeavor called Common Core, had made progress in developing standards in English and Mathematics. That multi-state effort was led by key people and groups in the educational bureaucracy. Organizations and people wanted to see a national curriculum developed and many had their own interests and agendas. Some were noble, but others were more latent. The current science reform effort that brings us here today is called the Next Generation Science Standards, and it follows a procedure inspired by Common Core. When the Next Generation process began two years ago, the present program director, Juan Carlos Aguilar, organized a science team to work with writers and other developers. One of the key developers was Dr. Steven Pruitt, who now holds a leadership position at Achieve Inc. This organization out of Washington has been involved in Common Core and gave primary direction for the Next Generation endeavor.

The Next Generation standards effort is based on a document titled *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*. Many good people were involved in this effort and many noble improvements are included to enable science education to move forward in our nation. However, there are problems and the public is not aware of these. One problem is a lack of communication. Why the public generally does not know about this reform should be a primary concern to all citizens. Secondly, this effort is advertised as a state-led effort and not a national curriculum dictated to states. Thirdly, this effort has been co-opted or taken over by influential people seeking to have evolution encoded as a fact of science and the only worldview of origins given to students from kindergarten through 12th grade. This will result in state sponsored philosophical *indoctrination*.

On behalf of concerned Christians and citizens of Georgia, I served on the science team for our State, and represented our interests in quality science education. A report to the public of efforts to combat the inclusion of evolution as fact in the new standards and my experience serving on that team is in order.

When Georgia applied to be part of this effort it was understood in writing that the expectation was to adopt the new standards. At first the team was told we would have the option to *adopt* but later were told we needed to follow the Framework and had no choice. The states gave feedback to Achieve on two separate, three-week periods. I presented and read a letter to Georgia's science team expressing concerns over the coercive attempts to push evolution into the new science standards. Key leaders involved in the Next Generation process were contacted, including Dr. Ralph Cicerone, the President of the National Research Council and head signer of the Framework document. A writer for Achieve who works with Carroll County Schools was invited to a meeting. We never heard from her. We spoke at various local school board meetings. The Governor's office and the State Superintendent were contacted multiple times. Our requests for conversations were unanswered. The State Board of Education was contacted. People who signed onto this project have been made aware of our concerns multiple times during this two year period. An effort was made through a variety of outlets to let the public know what is happening. This includes a Channel 2 News broadcast. A website was developed and promoted called Christians4Science.com. Evolution content is challenged and refuted in our research. It is exposed for the lie and

misrepresentation of science it has always been. People need to know that. If we do nothing this lie will be *enshrined* in every science classroom and *imprinted* into each young child's mind as an irrefutable fact. You need to know that also.

Two weeks ago the final release of the Next Generation Science Standards was published. Evolution content has not been removed despite opposition here in Georgia and in Kentucky, as well. Evolution will be a fundamental and unifying theme in all life science teaching. In a conversation with our Director, Mr. Aguilar, we were told, "You have a good idea of teaching evolution in a philosophy class but you need to know it is going to stay in science. There are people smarter than both of us working in this area." So much for state-led improvements. So much for transparency.

You may be standing here now or learning about this later and wondering why this even matters in our busy lives. You may be asking what I can do about this. The teaching of evolution is the foundational worldview of naturalism. This is directly tied with atheism and materialism. It is *religious* in nature and has pre-commitments to what is real including the *origin* and purpose of man. The opposing viewpoint is Creation which is rational, makes sense of human experience, supports marriage and the family and based upon both the foundations of a cogent philosophy and plain Biblical truths.

Darwinists want people to accept and adopt their beliefs and have no problems using the schools, lobbyists in government, and bully tactics to influence mainstream opinion. Periods of reform movements in education are the vulnerable moments to exploit the uninformed public.

The implications of evolution should be clear. Abortion, homosexuality, moral relativism, disrespect for authority, crime, domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, the break up of the home and suicide stem from the basis of evolutionary teaching. In *Roe v Wade*, for example, the main argument for abortion presented in the opinion of the court appealed to evolutionary concepts in order to *justify* that ruling.

The solution to the problem we face is simple. Georgia is beginning the process of using the released Next Generation document to rewrite science standards for all grade levels. Now is the time to *remove* and not adopt any references to Darwinian evolution. What are our reasons? First, it is *not science*. Second, it is a set of beliefs imposed by authority figures. Third, it is based on a vain, arbitrary, inconsistent system of thought. Does your dentist or mechanic use evolution to do their job? No. Fourth, it is lying. Teaching something that is unproven or not true is lying and we should not be *lying* to children.

Taxpayer money is going into this effort. Every citizen of our state needs to know that! What justification can be made to fund this? There is none. Rather, evolution should be presented in a course on origins to high school seniors who should be ready for critical examination of the issue. Let them hear all sides and decide for themselves. That would make *sense*. It would also eliminate the controversy. This incorporates good educational practice and critical thinking skills. Some people, it seems, thrive on generating controversy, and then *fund* efforts based on their agendas to solve it. Remove evolution

from the science classroom. Leave science for the science classroom. Then we can move ahead unhindered and with clear purpose.

Right now we have an opportunity to stop this deliberate effort. Join us in getting the word out. The media is encouraged to help. The public may have been intimidated and Christian people driven back by bully tactics. These tactics are employed because they work--or they have worked until today. *Take a stand starting this day.* Challenge yourself and do your own homework. Do not allow this *bullying* in education. Contact your local officials: local school board member, county superintendent, state representative, state board and superintendent, the Governor's office and others.

We offer an open challenge to Darwinists promoting evolution in our schools. Let us have a written dialogue in the pages of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Let people see for themselves the lack of evidence for evolution. Provide the evidence that can be repeated in the lab, and thinking that is rational and verified by everyday human experiences. Using the paper can eliminate sound-bite criticisms so common in our day which gets *nothing* accomplished. That would make for a teachable *moment*.

If Darwinists cannot make a clear case to the public and gain their support then the following should happen. Public funds should *not go* to this effort, public teachers should *not* have to teach it, our children should not have to *listen* to evolution and parents will not have to get upset over *hearing* about it taught in school. This can be accomplished if we work together and follow through with the political process. Get involved and stay involved until the job is *done*. Real *courage* is needed and available.

Now is the time. Take the needed action steps. Do your homework. Visit our webpage. Contact your officials. Demand *transparency* in the reform efforts in Georgia science education. Request time to speak at local meetings. Your children are depending on your concerted efforts.

The Bible states in Second Chronicles chapter seven, "...if my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Shall we pray.

Bob Staples
Christians4Science.com