

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Dear Superintendent and honorable board members:

My name is Bob Staples, a resident of Temple and a member of the Villa Rica Church of Christ. You may remember we addressed the board last July 22nd concerning the teaching of evolution in our schools. Tonight, on behalf of the voting members of Carroll County present this evening, I want to update you with additional information. By creating awareness about this topic, it is our hope we can work together to improve instruction for each child.

At my last opportunity to speak with you, I stated that we have been either created by God or are the result of naturalistic evolution. We have been made in the image of God and are responsible to him or are the result of chemical processes answering to no one. Eleven points were made which led to the rational conclusion evolution should not be taught as a fact of science and must be challenged. At this point, we are seeking clarity about whether Carroll County Schools endorse or promote the teaching of biological evolution and sanctions the beliefs of secular humanism.

I want to address some ideas that have surfaced since that occasion.

- Some believe we are making an issue of and bringing the wrong kind of attention to this matter. However it needs to be pointed out that the teaching of materialistic evolution can affect the thinking of good people and lead to behaviors that are harmful. This thinking, along with associated secular humanism, has permeated the colleges of education, the humanities, the government, policy making, the criminal justice system, personal ethics, and the members of our community. Has respect for authority, the strength of the home, honesty in business, and the moral integrity of our culture improved? No, they continue to decline and we must question if generations of evolutionary teaching may be a root cause.
- An expectation among educators is not to question evolution. According to science standards and local board policies of instruction students are to gather facts, use critical thinking, and draw conclusions based upon sound scientific inquiry. Our progress as a nation depends on careful thinking and critical judgment. Evolution and secular humanism are detrimental to this effort, especially during the impressionable moments students begin to develop in this area. Evolution has no place here and must be eliminated or countered, if we want to safeguard our future.
- It has been put forth that local boards have no power over curriculum. According to statements from the state regarding standards, local counties can supplement content standards. For example the Georgia Performance Standards Web page under FAQ item one reads, the state "...does not prohibit systems, schools, or teachers from adding material" to the curriculum. According to board policy, Academic Freedom is provided to teachers so they can properly express opinions in the classroom.
- Many argue we can not teach creation as an alternative theory of origins because it is religious in nature, and there is separation of church and state. In response, from a scientific standpoint, more faith is needed to believe in evolution than creation. Evolutionists even state their beliefs are a religion. For example Michael Ruse, stated "Evolution is a religion". This shows inconsistent thinking. More importantly there is no separation of church and state in the constitution. A seminar entitled "The Silencing of God" was conducted last fall at the Murphy Campus of West Georgia Tech College where evidence was given proving beyond doubt the framers and founders of our great nation believed Christianity should permeate all of society including government and education. Have we been bullied by lawyers and academics? Have we over time compromised our convictions about this matter? This bullying must stop!

- Others say that there are more important things that demand our attention. While we all are very busy, what can be more important than the future happiness and moral integrity of our citizens? Is that not an essential part of the business of this good board? Building and development projects are important and needed. However, what is more important than our students' development of a worldview built on solid educational practices? Let us seek the blessing of the God of Heaven and work together on this issue.
- Weeks after the last statement was made, one former board member stated that negative attention from the State Board was not desired. Whatever the needed attention is brought to bear on this issue prior to its resolution, we must keep in mind as members of this county, we probably got where we are today due to a lack of manly courage in facing the matter in the first place.

You may say that this is the responsibility of the home and the church. You are right, and these have failed in their duty. You are not being asked to do what these have failed to do. We all have our place in becoming part of the solution including the educational establishment you serve to represent.

We are distributing materials to you for your personal study. We encourage use of other resources. You need time and accurate information to help sort out the facts.

We are recommending to the board the following:

- Use the materials in your personal study.
- Conduct presentations if needed. People are available to assist you.
- Seek input from the community through the paper and churches. Speak to your constituents. Perhaps conduct a survey of residents and educators.
- Use your God-given freedoms provided by the constitution and state policies to make a written statement on the standing of Carroll County Schools concerning the teaching of evolution. A possible statement may be as follows.

The Position of the Carroll County School System Regarding the Teaching of Darwinian Evolution.

The validity of Darwinian Evolution has been questioned by many in the scientific community. It has dominated educational instruction and should be critically challenged. As a result, we endorse educators in our schools to supplement state standards so that our students can use the facts in reaching their own conclusions. By this we hope to broaden our instruction, show respect for God, and honor our Christian Heritage.

Having brought awareness to this issue we desire to take action by working together in a way that honors the Godly families of Carroll County as well as our sacred Christian Heritage. May God bless each and every one of you.

Respectfully,

Bob Staples