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Note to our readers: Starting with today's issue, The Rick Scarborough Report will be published twice- weekly. Each issue will focus on two or three topics, those I consider the most timely and important. Some readers suggested that the amount of material we were putting out with each issue was a bit overwhelming. We hope our new format and publication schedule will make The Rick Scarborough Report more current and each issue easier to handle. RS

IN TODAY'S REPORT:

1. Californians Defeat "Gender Neutral" Marriage
2. Alliance Defense Fund Files Suit To Stop Schoolyard Censorship Of The Bible
3. Resolution Before Southern Baptist Convention

CALIFORNIANS DEFEAT "GENDER NEUTRAL MARRIAGE"

The good news is a bill to establish something called "gender neutral marriage" was defeated in the California Assembly. The bad news – it lost by just 3 votes. That was too narrow an escape. If two members had voted the other way, California would have been well on its way to becoming the first state to establish gay marriage without a court order.

Such a development would have clearly contravened the will of the people. In 2000, Californians voted 61.4% in favor of Proposition 22, a statute defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

That should have been the end of it. But proponents of homosexual marriage are unbelievably tenacious. In March, San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer decided it was "unconstitutional" to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The ruling is being appealed

Then homosexuals and their political allies in the legislature pushed AB 19, which would have re-defined marriage as a civil contract between "two persons" instead of "a man and a woman." Had it received a majority vote in the California

Assembly, it would have easily passed the Senate.

Pro-family forces aren't sitting back and waiting for the sky to fall.

A group called Voters' Right to Protect Marriage has filed an initiative for a constitutional amendment prohibiting both gay marriage and civil unions (same-sex marriage in all but name). If the petition is approved, and the group collects the requisite signatures this summer, the ballot measure could go before voters in 2006. For more information on the amendment, go to <http://www.voteyesmarriage.com>. Vision America strongly endorses this effort.

When the gender-neutral marriage bill was defeated, its sponsor, Assemblyman Mark Leno (an open homosexual from – where else? – San Francisco) said the matter was far from over. “Gay and lesbian couples are not going to disappear as of tonight,” Leno warned.

Neither are pro-family activists. Now is the time for pastors to rise up and say: “Enough is Enough!”

ALLIANCE DEFENSE FUND FILES SUIT TO STOP SCHOOLYARD CENSORSHIP OF THE BIBLE

The Alliance Defense Fund has filed suit on behalf of a 10-year-old Tennessee student who was told he couldn't discuss or even read the Bible, even if it was in his free time, on the playground.

The Karns Elementary School has an official policy that prohibits students from reading the Bible during their free time, or discussing it quietly with their friends. Presumably, it's a small step from a 10-year-old studying Scriptures on the playground to the establishment of a national church.

The myth of church-state separation keeps metastasizing. First school prayer was eliminated. Then nondenominational prayers at graduations and sports events were out. In some schools, students aren't allowed to sing Christmas carols, or even play instrumental Christmas music. Teachers have been reprimanded for having a Bible on their desk or wearing a cross.

Each new victory emboldens secularist militants to go after other forms of constitutionally protected religious expression. Bad as the courts are here, over-zealous administrators – often driven by fear of costly litigation -- go even further to purge expressions of faith.

In the case of Luke Whitson, the ADF responded with a civil rights suit in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee. Our prayers are with young Luke and his family. To monitor the progress of this case, check the Alliance Defense Fund website – <http://www.telladf.org>.

ACTION ITEM

RESOLUTION BEFORE THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

When it convenes on June 21-22, the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting may consider a "Resolution On Homosexuality In Public Schools."

The resolution calls on churches to determine if homosexual indoctrination in the guise of sex education is going on in schools in their area (as increasingly is the case across the United States). If such brainwashing is in progress, churches are called on to encourage parents to remove their children and put them in Christian schools.

In past issues of The Rick Scarborough Report, we alerted readers to a proposed sex-education curriculum for the Montgomery County, MD public schools, which was a blatant endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle. The material was so one-sided that a federal district court judge issued a restraining order preventing implementation. In the face of this challenge, the school board decided to drop the curricula.

Unfortunately, not every case is thus happily resolved.

I commend the spirit of the resolution. Readers of The Rick Scarborough Report are encouraged to give the resolution whatever support they deem appropriate. The resolution may be read online at <http://www.Exodusmandate.org>.

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