

Georgia insight

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"She hath done what she could."
Mark 14:8a

The Church Phone

Author Unknown

A man in Topeka, Kansas decided to write a book about churches around the country. He started by flying to San Francisco and worked his way eastward from there. Going to a very large church, he began taking photographs and making notes.

He spotted a golden telephone on the vestibule wall and was intrigued with a sign that read, "\$10,000 per minute." Seeking out the pastor, he asked about the phone and the sign. The pastor answered that the golden phone is, in fact, a direct line to Heaven, and if he pays the price, he can talk directly to God. The man thanked the pastor and continued on his way.

As he continued to visit churches in Seattle, Salt Lake City, Denver, Chicago, Milwaukee, and around the United States, he found more such phones, with the same sign, and the same explanation from each pastor.

*Finally, the man arrived in the lovely state of **Georgia**. Upon entering a church, he saw the usual golden telephone. But, this time the sign read: "Calls: 25 cents!"*

Fascinated, the man asked to speak with the pastor. "Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I have found this golden telephone, and have been told it is a direct line to Heaven, and that I could use it to talk to God. But in 20 other churches, the cost was \$10,000 per minute. Your sign says 25 cents per call. Why is that? The pastor, smiling benignly, replied, "Son, you're in the South, now. It's a local call."

Georgia On Their Minds: Bills¹ for 2010 Protect Constitutional Rights

On January 11th the Georgia General Assembly convenes for its annual 40-day session, but legislators began pre-filing bills November 16th. By December 17th they had introduced 39.

Senator Mitch Seabaugh pre-filed **S.R. 793** to protect states' rights as granted by the U.S. Constitution. It would amend the Georgia constitution with this: "All powers not delegated to the state or local governments by this Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the state or local governments, are reserved to the people of this state." That reaffirms the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, giving states control of everything not specified for federal control.

Representative Calvin Hill's **H.R. 1086** and Senator Judson Hill's **S.R. 794** propose that (a) no law or rule or regulation could force any person, employer, or health care provider to participate in a health care system. Their amendments (b) allow individuals and employers to buy health insurance directly from private companies without being fined or penalized by the government.

Representative Bobby Franklin's **H.R. 1085** proposes this amendment: "Any citizen of this state shall have standing to challenge the constitutionality of any law enacted by the General Assembly." You might think that's unnecessary, but it's not. You may be surprised to know that a former state legislator, now in Congress, said, "We pass laws that are unconstitutional all the time." He must've had his fingers crossed when he took his oath of office.

¹ Two other states' rights resolutions introduced in 2009 – H.R. 280 and H.R. 470 – remain in committee for 2010 action.

White House Party Treat: Acorn-Shaped Chocolate Cookies

Imagine attending a White House Christmas party only to find chocolate cookies shaped like acorns among the delicacies. It so astonished Representative Steve King (R-Iowa) that he took several home in his pocket and stashed a few in his freezer for future use. Why acorn cookies at a 2009 White House party? President Obama worked with ACORN in the mid-90s.

S.R. 7, Investigate ACORN¹, introduced by Senator Mullis January 13, 2009, is alive for the 2010 session. It encourages the IRS and Secretary of the Treasury to (a) conduct investigations of multiple voter fraud charges against ACORN and (b) remove its tax-exempt status.

In September, Governor Perdue told state officials to stop contracting with the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, despite the \$104,000 contract between ACORN and the Department of Human Services. “The jig is up for ACORN,” said a Florida legislator, as Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota and New York planned to follow Georgia’s example.

ACORN’s use of federal money to register voters is obviously illegal but may be hard to prove, since ACORN routinely transfers huge sums of money throughout its network. An analyst says, “We don’t know whether the money would be spent on voter registration or other activities.”

After learning of the organization’s significant contributions to Democrats, Representative Issa (R) of California took a different tack and introduced the “Defund ACORN Act.” He, also, said ACORN is changing its name and has already transferred resources to several chapters of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and, possibly, to Data and Field Services, the Working Families Party, Change to Win and the Council for Unity.

While testifying before a U.S. House panel, ACORN employee, turned whistle-blower, Anita Moncrief said the organization consistently receives federal block grants intended as aid to the poor, but uses the money “to fund the political machine.” A House Oversight report confirmed her statement with this: “ACORN’s own training manual reflects a business model in which money is taken from poor people and then funneled into partisan political efforts.”

Louisiana Deputy Attorney General Caldwell wants a coordinated probe by regulatory agency and state and federal law enforcement into 400 ACORN entities and 600-plus bank accounts. He expects a perusal of ACORN hard drives and servers to cost \$3.5 million. A much-needed forensic accounting of 600-plus ACORN affiliate accounts would be an even greater expense.

ACORN Wins in Court

Court decision keeps federal money flowing into ACORN, despite congressional ban. In a December 11, 2009 decision Judge Nina Gershon (Clinton appointee) blocked a congressional ban on federal funding for ACORN. To that, Representative Issa, U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee ranking member, said, “This left-wing activist Judge is setting a dangerous precedent that left-wing political organizations plagued by criminal accusations have a constitutional entitlement to taxpayer dollars. The Obama Administration should immediately move to appeal this injunction.”

¹In response to a Department of Justice ruling in favor of ACORN, Secretary of State Karen Handel said on June 1, 2009, “DOJ has thrown open the door for activist organizations such as ACORN to register non-citizens to vote in Georgia’s elections, and the state has no ability to verify an applicant’s citizenship status or whether the individual even exists.” The ruling prevented the removal of non-citizens and deceased persons from Georgia’s voter registry.

H.B. 882, Anti-Bullying Legislation: Path to Homosexual Indoctrination

LGBT activists that initiated Georgia's anti-bullying movement named it "The Sticks & Stones Project" and gave educators free training workshops. Soon, project leaders were workshop panelists in important venues, such as Georgia Southern University, where the sponsor was the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, and at Atlanta's Creating Change convention. Their goal: incorporate sexual orientation harassment into school curricula in Georgia and elsewhere.

H.B. 882, Anti-Bullying, pre-filed by Representative Mike Jacobs for action in 2010, amends Georgia's anti-bullying law. No doubt, it was prompted by the tragic suicide of 11-year-old Jaheem Herrera, said to have been bullied for "perceived orientation, as well as other factors," including his immigration status. Now, Georgia Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) use the case to promote acceptance and affirmation of homosexuality in schools.

California's anti-bully battle confirms LGBT goals. In a 3 – 2 vote, Alameda County Board of Education approved "LGBT Lesson #9," on May 26th, expanding the anti-bullying program to all students K – 5, who will learn "tolerance" for homosexual lifestyles. Parents disturbed with the tunnel-vision focus on bullying as it relates to homosexuality pointed out another flaw: Lesson #9 does not address harassment based on race or religion. They went to court to stop it.

Also, teachers would be trained to teach that traditional values are bigoted, though most parents, educators and students hold traditional values themselves. Training and implementation of Lesson #9 would cost \$8,000 and the course *would not be reassessed until it's used for a year.*

Capitol Resource Institute's Karen England says Alameda's lack of an opt-out rule violates the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment. She continued, "Alameda's new curriculum requires written and verbal expression of student ideas, with a clear intent to evaluate whether students endorse homosexuality. It is intolerant of traditional views on human sexuality." Consider this:

- ❑ **First graders** explore different types of families, including those comprised of Robin's dad Clifford and his partner Henry. Concerning the appropriateness of same-sex relationships, teachers must: "Remind the students that all family structures are equally important."
- ❑ **Second graders** learn about homosexual penguins – Roy and Silo. They raise a young chick and name her Tango, because it takes two to tango. The book explains, "Tango was the very first penguin in the zoo to have two daddies."
- ❑ **Third graders** will view "That's a Family¹," a video to help them develop "sensitivity to gay and lesbian family structures and teach respect and tolerance for every type of family."
- ❑ **Fourth graders** must read "My School is Accepting – But Things Could be Better," an essay written by 11-year-old Robert who has two lesbian mothers.
- ❑ **Fifth graders** learn to "identify stereotypes about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people," and define the meaning of each letter in LGBT. Lesson #9 defines T as:
"Transgender: A person whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth." Students discuss lists of famous LGBT people and LGBT vocabulary words – bisexual, transgender, gay, LGBT and lesbian.

ACTION – OPPOSE H.B. 882. Contact numbers will be provided when the bill goes to committee in 2010.

¹ Chapter about Gay and Lesbian Parents: Josh lives with his sister and two moms; Breana lives with her two dads; and Dominique, Alma, and Taquisha live with their two moms. The chapter includes other families with gay or lesbian parents.

Parents Lose in Court

The dozen parents that sued the school district and threatened to recall school board members lost their case in court December 1st. Alameda Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch decided the opt-out rule and notification of parents did not apply to LGBT Lesson #9 (outlined herein on page three). The lawsuit charged the school district with discrimination against religious families whose opposition to homosexuality is based on their faith, but parents lost, anyway.

The Pacific Justice Institute, representing the dozen families opposing the curriculum, said school district attorneys grilled parents in depositions about their religious beliefs, asked numerous questions about church attendance and sermons against homosexuality.

A petition with 468 signatures against the course was submitted, but the judge was not swayed. He, repeatedly, insinuated that parents who oppose the curriculum are bigots. Actually, the Alameda Unified School District records reveal a highly non-publicized fact: bullying based on race and gender is far more prevalent than harassment based on sexual orientation.

Despite the school district's victory in court, the curriculum caused extreme division. So, the board replaced it with its supplemental-book-approach that does not satisfy the school trustee who fiercely objected to the gay-focused plan. She says the use of supplemental books will not take into consideration "the strong beliefs" of all in the community. The new curriculum will be developed from books recommended to board members for their approval. Subsequently, the anti-bullying instruction will be developed for the 2010-11 academic year. Lesson plans will address six specific forms of bias, including bias against gays. Parents remain concerned.

God Could Really Use a Few Good Men

This Christmas season I'm reminded of a time the Lord looked down from Heaven, looking for a man to stand in the gap, but He found no one. Thankfully, that wasn't always the case.

Remember King David who ran for his life and hid in caves, because he was on King Saul's "most wanted" list, but he later ruled as Israel's king and commander-in-chief. So, David was a politician, a soldier, man of prayer and a leader who openly declared dependence on his Maker.

Then, there's George Washington, brilliant general and first president of the U.S. He led the colonies to lay the foundation of the greatest country the world has ever seen. A week before Christmas in 1777, his army wintered at Valley Forge, where he and his men could more easily defend themselves against the enemy. Though that barefoot and half-naked army built huts to live in, so they wouldn't freeze, 2,500 of them died that winter, along with some of their horses that starved to death. Despite unbelievable hardships, the spirit of liberty kept the men together. Of their miraculous march in the snow, Washington said, "...you might have tracked the army from White Marsh to Valley Forge by the blood of their feet." Washington was a brave soldier, politician, a man of prayer, a leader who, unabashedly, declared dependence on his Maker.

As we look back to glimpse the providence of God and celebrate the birth of God's Son Jesus Christ, let's remember that He gave His blood to pay for eternal life. As I thank Him for that and much more, I ask Him to send a David or George Washington to lead in this struggle for the very existence of the United States. As Americans who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we must confess our sin, so God *can* bless us again! "Merry Christmas!"