Veritas Classical Academy

News – August 2004

The First Day of School

The gym at Trinity Baptist was buzzing with enthusiasm last Tuesday morning. Teachers, Board Members, parents, and 31 students assembled for the first day of school. As Ryan Brown, Board Member and acting Head Master, opened the day in prayer, everyone seemed excited about this year. So many prayers and years of planning have come together to make this school a reality. To God be the glory and honor!

Prayer Requests

Please pray for our staff and students as the semester continues—for energy, commitment, and a continual desire to work hard and honor God.

The school is also in need of some additional playground equipment. As the weather cools down, we would like to have a portable basketball hoop to use outside. Let us know if you would like to help with this need.

Praise God!

We want to thank Trinity Baptist again for allowing us to rent their facility. The Trinity staff has been extremely helpful as we have set up our classrooms and office space. We are grateful for the support of this church community and the vision they share with the Veritas Board and families to raise up and train covenant children.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are still needed to help with lunch and recess rotation. A volunteer is also needed to help coordinate recess activities. Younger siblings are welcome so long as they do not distract the volunteer from assisting students. If you are interested in helping, please contact Rebecca at 850-5309 or come by her office during school hours.

Getting to Know Your Teachers and Staff

Tiffany Clark is our 2nd – 3rd grade teacher. Tiffany has taught for many years and brings a great deal of enthusiasm and experience to her classroom. She is a native of Oklahoma and attended both The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University. Tiffany has been involved in Bible Study Fellowship for the past 6 years and has been a discussion leader for the past 3 ½ years. Married to Randy for 14 years, they have three children: Courtney, Cooper, and Cash.

We are excited to have Susan Buchanan as our 3rd grade assistant to Tiffany Clark. Susan is the mother of 4; twins Bryce and Blake, Clay, and Carter. Her husband, Kyle, is an attorney and works at The University of Oklahoma Law Center. Susan has taught elementary school for many years and we feel privileged to have her on our staff.

More teacher profiles will appear in our next newsletter.

Upcoming Dates

September 14- Parent Support Meeting
This meeting will be for Veritas parents how are interested in discussing and sharing ideas about strategies for organizing the home component. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm in Room 12 at

Trinity Baptist. Please RSVP to Julie Serven at julieserven@yahoo.com.

In the coming months, the Board will be hosting information sessions for parents interested in enrollment for the Spring 2005 and Fall 2005 semesters. Dates will be posted on our website, www.veritasnorman.org, and published in our next newsletter. Consider inviting a neighbor or friend to attend one of these sessions. Spread the word!

Review of *Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview* by Albert M. Wolters. *Part 1*
(written by Todd Wedel, Veritas 5th-6th grade teacher)

"You shall love the Lord your God with all our heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30).

This is God's command to us. This is what Jesus, the perfect fulfillment of the law, chose to point to as the greatest commandment. It may be easy to comprehend the idea of loving God with our inmost being, with our emotions, with our energy. At least, these are concepts that are often matters for sermons and devotions. But what does it mean to love God with "all your mind?" If we are truly to be remade in the image of Christ, must we not have the same mind as Christ? This must mean a studied knowledge of Scripture, but does it end there?

Albert Wolters argues in *Creation Regained* that a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures is, rather, the beginning of a mind truly reformed in the likeness of Christ[1]. Wolters works to demonstrate that all people have a platform from which they view their surroundings, relationships, connections, indeed, all of life. This platform is formed by certain assumptions about the nature of God, man, and the world. Wolters defines this platform, a worldview, as "the comprehensive framework of one's basic beliefs about things" (2). Thus a worldview, by its nature, is systematic and should be internally consistent.

Wolters goes on to outline, as the subtitle of the book indicates, the "Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview." Wolters builds a case for a view of the world that sees all of what God has created under the headings creation, fall, and redemption. The created order was good, as proclaimed by God in Genesis 1 and 2. This point is readily accepted within orthodox circles. What is perhaps more striking is Wolter's development of the biblical texts dealing with the fall. Man is fallen, but as God placed man as the steward to rule in His name over all of creation, so our fall affected all under our reign. It is not merely our ethics or conduct, nor merely our interpersonal relationships. Indeed, the very creation "groans" (Romans 8:22) awaiting its redemption in ours.

Yet such a worldview points also to a much more vast and extensive nature to the redemptive work of Christ than what we allow ourselves to become accustomed to. Christ came not to just redeem us as individuals, but to redeem *all of creation*. Paul speaks of Christ's work of redemption as "reconciling all things to Himself" (Col 1:20). Thus Christ, as the second Adam, took upon Himself the nature of man not only to redeem *us*, but also to redeem *for us* the rightful rule of the created order. It has been brought back to the one who created it by the one who created it. In Him, we are called to re-make the world according to what His Word indicates it should be.

The implications of this framework for understanding the Christian life are truly radical. This is not a call to a purely intellectual Christianity or academic religiosity. Rather, it is a call for the gospel of our salvation to permeate everything we think and say and do, all of our interactions, all of our work, for all that we do to "speak forth" both the fallen nature of things as they exist and the beauty and hope of what they should be. This is a message that encourages real involvement and engagement with all matters of life. Rather than encouraging a retreat into Christian conclaves or the movement of the gospel into something that is only for nonbelievers or only a spiritual matter, it shatters the false secular/sacred dichotomy and proclaims, as God does, that all is His alone. Thus we become instruments to carry out the will of Him whom God has seated on the throne.

Wolters builds upon the vision that God is author of all creation, one who rejects not the work of His hands (40). Sin has corrupted that work, twisted all aspects physical, mental, and spiritual. Yet these areas remain the work of His hands, marred though they may be. It is our duty as Christians to ask what God would have us make of this world He has created. We must be equipped to understand the nature of sin and redemption, to understand what is as it is because that is how He has created it, and what is as it is because of sin, and therefore in need of the saving power of Christ.

Part 2 will appear in our October newsletter

[1] See Proverbs 1:7