

Veritas Classical Academy

News – October/November 2005

Upcoming Dates

October 6- Information Session at Trinity Baptist in Rm. 12 from 6:30-8:00pm. Families interested in midyear enrollment should plan to attend.

October 15- Admission Testing for midyear applicants grades K-7. Please contact the Veritas Office for more information.

October 22 - Veritas Family Picnic at Rotary Park in Norman. Time TBA.

October 25- Fall Break (for students) and Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 1- Application deadline for midyear enrollment.

November 22-24- Thanksgiving Break

Please visit our website www.veritasnorman.org for more information about all of these events, or call Rebecca at 850-5309.

Frequent Flyer Miles

The summer seems a long way off, but the Board is already planning for next year. Staff development is an important part of this planning. This past June, Ryan Brown and two of our teachers were able to go the ACCS (Association of Classical Christian Schools) national conference. The Board would like to send all of our teachers to this conference next summer. To attend all teachers would need to fly to northern Kentucky, where the conference will be held. If you have frequent flyer miles you would be willing to donate to help reduce

travel expenses, please contact Rebecca at the school office.

Cleaning House

We are in the process of cleaning up the newsletter database. We want to be considerate to all who receive this letter. If for any reason you would like to be removed from our mailing or email list, please contact Rebecca at 850-8503 or veritasnorman@yahoo.com.

God and History

“Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.” I Corinthians 10:11

This is one of my favorite verses, as it calls us to be uniquely historical in our faith, as it binds us in an unbreakable communion with saints past and present, as it cautions with stories of those who fell by not faithfully obeying God and encourages us with the stories of perseverance and preservation of the saints. It is a glorious truth of the Christian message that our faith is not, at its base, an existential experience; our faith is the working of God in the history of His people.

It was not until this year, though, that I really began to see in my own perceptions how I fell short of applying the principle of God’s work beyond the Bible. “These things happened to them as an example” could as easily apply to the realm of more traditionally “secular” events, for a truly Christian worldview tears down the dividing wall between sacred and

secular, just as Christ destroyed the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile.

As an introduction to history, I had the 6th and 7th graders watch the first section of the documentary *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, based on the bestselling book by Jerrod Diamond. It brilliantly introduces the idea that, to a large extent, geography and the concomitant resources determine the rise and advance of civilizations. I used this as a means to talk about how God, author of all things, uses elements in the physical realm to bring about His purposes, contrary to the “accident of geography” that Diamond concludes.

However, it was not until I was in class, watching my students watch the documentary, that I was struck by how unbiblical I was in my views of human history. The documentary presents as accepted and tested fact that civilization developed after a period of thousands of years in which all people groups were hunter-gatherers, that farming and other advances came only after the first mild advances in the genesis of civilization.

It was only then, because we had been discussing the book of Genesis, that I came to see the flaw. The Bible proclaims to us that civilization was the way of human life from the start. The advances proclaimed by all history texts were not the result of thousands of years of advancement; they were the foundation of human existence.

I had believed a lie. The Bible must be our starting point for truth. To be sure, there are realms where the Bible does not speak, and in those realms, we must not attempt to hold a position without biblical basis. However, the Bible does speak of the genesis of human life and human community. I had simply never applied a biblical critique to the claims of historians. Their claim was that hunter-gatherer societies existed long before organized communities. I accepted this, believing that there must be credible evidence.

It was only now that I realized that the “evidence” being offered was none. By

definition, a hunter-gatherer society would leave virtually no trace of itself. What evidence there is has a multitude of *biblical* explanations; two that come to mind are that the dating methods are faulty (and they often are) and that the evidence found points not to a hunter-gatherer society, but a group of people from a civilization as they move or as they leave for a season to hunt.

There is a larger implication. Most history is written from the standpoint of an evolution of society and culture. Thus, in *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, the first farmers are depicted as “unknowingly” selecting the best heads of grain, not really understanding what they were doing apart from seeking their material needs. Yet what we do know about early civilizations is astounding. There are “primitive” cities with air conditioning, means of heating water, advanced sewage systems. Beyond that, there are structures like the pyramids whose construction we cannot fathom.

A worldview that has the evolution of society and culture as its framework must label societies and cultures before ours as “primitive.” No matter how much wonder these historians and other authorities may express towards past peoples, there remains that implication. We, then, must live in a society and culture more advanced, more evolved, more enlightened. Dare I say it—we see our Christian heritage in this light, as well. Is it any wonder that other cultures mock the hubris of the West?

A Christian worldview sees God at work. We have not really improved upon the ancients—our science, our architecture, our means of expression, our art all flow out of what they established. We have, to be sure, advanced, but our advancements are following the track they laid before us. Our society is sinful, fallen, as all societies are, and when we look at ancient societies that protected rights and furthered the freedoms that we claim we value, we should justly feel shame.

-Todd Wedel, 6-7th grade teacher