



The Messenger

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A Few Thoughts About Social Justice

By Alan J. Hodak

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Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

In our culture today, we are hearing more and more about social justice. What is social justice? Is there a real movement in our culture and are we seeing it in our public school system? The answer to both questions is “yes,” but the problem is that the definition of the term is complicated and confusing. I would guess that if we were to ask people on the street to define the term, we would get a number of different answers. So let’s try to define the term based on what we are hearing and reading.

The definition of social justice is as follows: “It is a political and philosophical concept which holds that all people should have equal access to wealth, health, well-being, justice, and opportunity” (Investopedia). Cultural examples of social injustice would include discrimination issues, ageism (prejudice or discrimination based on a person’s age), and homophobia (dislike or prejudice against homosexual people) and could be expanded to include unfair labor practices, racial discrimination, gender discrimination, gender orientation, and ethnicity.

Because so many public school districts are going to a social justice curriculum, elements of the curriculum design for many elementary programs include six basic elements that are intertwined into all aspects of the curriculum. These would include (and are not necessarily limited to) 1. Self-love and Knowledge; 2. Respect for Others; 3. Issues of Social Injustice; 4. Social Movements and Social Change; 5. Awareness Raising; 6. Social Action (Picower, pp. 4-5).

Before I go on, I want to stop for a moment and share something that I recently taught in chapel. Satan is the father of lies. When he

deceived Eve in the Garden, he lied to her – Satan told her that if she ate of the forbidden fruit, she would not die (Genesis 3:4). The truth is that she would physically die as a result of her disobedience to God. She would have lived in an eternal state, from that time forward, in sweet fellowship with God. But because of her sin, and that of her husband, the consequences of the curse of sin directly affected them and all who came after. Adam and Eve did die a physical death (one of a number of consequences to their sin). But there was an element of truth involved which aided Satan in his deception. In many of our world philosophies, there is an element of truth and we must be discerning about it. Is it truth, according to the Word of God, or is it shrouded in deception and lies? But the problem with social justice is how far away from the truth it can be taken, what is taught to be truth, and where it will lead our young people and ultimately our culture.

The Christian culture we have known (as adults) all our lives is no longer the worldview we find in our school systems. In fact, we are hard-pressed to find it anywhere in our government-run institutions. Social change is taking place before our eyes and the social justice ideology is directly being taught to our children from preschool age and up.

If we take only the first of the six elements, “Self-love and knowledge,” just how far does social justice take this idea? One writer defended this element as teaching a child all about his racial or ethnic identity, learning about his historical background, and a desire to develop a pride in his culture. I applaud this activity at face-value. I want my children to be proud of their heritage and ancestry, but I also want them to know that God has created them just the way they are, for a special purpose and

(Continued on page 2)



2018 MACS Band Festival

The MACS Band Festival was hosted by Fourth Baptist on November 2, 2018. Our guest conductor was Mrs. Joni Sutton. The students learned much from her teaching and enjoyed getting to know her throughout the day. The students worked together in four rehearsals throughout the day on four band songs that were chosen by our conductor. The repertoire was as follows: *Joyance* by Bruce Pearson, *A Childhood Hymn* by David Holsinger, *Juno Beach* by John Edmondson, and *Moscow 1941* by Brian Balmages. The students especially enjoyed *Moscow 1941* because of its depiction of the battle between Russian and German forces complete with the sounds of large artillery in the brass and percussion sections. Students also spent time in sectionals with professional musicians from the local area and learned new concepts to apply to the playing of their instrument. The percussionists had an extended sectional time and worked on a percussion ensemble song called *Buckethead* that was played on 5-gallon buckets! I know that song was a big hit with the



students – no pun intended ☺. From my perspective as a director, I know that my students gained much knowledge and experience from this Festival and I am grateful to our conductor, masterclass clinicians, school directors and students for helping to make this day a success! - Mr. Levi Kolwinski, FBCS Music Director

(Social Justice, continued from page 1)

to fulfill His plan for them. The experiences they have gone through and the things that they will learn will shape their future in such a way where God can use them for His purposes and His glory. They find their value not just in their heritage and ethnicity, but in who God made them to be. He loves them and their love is to be centered on Him and others, not on themselves.

So, just how far can we take the concept of self-love and knowledge? When God is not a part of the equation, we can take it pretty far. Consider an article by Michael Novak, entitled, "Social Justice, Not What You Think It Is." In order to equalize fairness, the privileged ones of this world (those who are educated, have degrees, are working, and are making a fair wage) have the advantage over those who do not. In fact, "the privileged of this world have a chance to control births and control the number of children they have, but the poor do not and that's not fair" (Novak, p. 6). So, in the name of the poor, progressive social justice thinkers, who believe in self-love and knowledge, would include the concept of

reproductive rights into the social justice train of thought. Consequently, the underprivileged woman should be able to have an abortion because she does not have access to the same things that the wealthier woman has access to. This is taking self-love way too far!

The truth of the matter, unfortunately, is that social justice is at the heart of socialism. "Is it any wonder that among millennials (young adults between 18-29 years old), 51% are in favor of socialism?"

This is one of the reasons that we are getting so many inquiries into our Christian school. Parents are struggling with what they are beginning to see and hear from their children regarding their education in the public school. Repeatedly, parents say, "We want better for our children!"

We are a culture struggling between multiple ideologies. Families are attempting to cling to the truth of God's Word and are fleeing from a system where God is not welcomed. Social justice ideology is spreading. As it continues to spread, so will the numbers who will attempt to flee from it.

~Alan J. Hodak, Administrator

Definition of social justice - <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/social-justice.asp>

"Millennials May Love Socialism, But Socialism Won't Love Them Back." *Investor's Business Daily*, Investor's Business Daily, 27 August, 2018, <http://www.investors.com/politics/editorials/millennials/socialism/>.

Novak, Michael. "Social Justice: Not What You Think It Is." The Heritage Foundation, 29 December, 2009, <https://www.heritage.org/poverty-and-inequality/report/social-justice-not-what-you-think>.

Picower, Bree. "Using Their Words: Six Elements of Social Justice Curriculum Design for the Elementary Classroom." *International Journal of Multicultural Education*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2012.



The MACS Festival Band directed by Ms. Joni Sutton



Are Private Schools Required to File the IRS Form 5578? (Annual Certification of Racial Nondiscrimination for a Private School Exempt From Federal Income Taxes)

“Every organization that operates, supervises, or controls a private school must file a certification of racial nondiscrimination annually. Form 5578 should be used for this purpose, and it should be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month following the end of the school’s calendar or fiscal year. This filing requirement applies to all private schools, including Christian schools, and schools must file Form 5578 annually even though their sponsoring churches are not required to do so.

Please note, however, that if your ministry files a 990 Form, each year, then it is not required to file Form 5578. The reason for this is that the certification of racial nondiscrimination is addressed in the 990 Form.”

There is a publicity requirement that you sign off on included in the form. Please read the appropriate sections in the General Instructions of the Form. It is up to every

school to make sure that you have a written and published “Racially nondiscriminatory policy” and that the policy is published in handbooks, brochures, programs, and scholarship applications. It is also recommended that if you do any newspaper advertising in your local newspaper, that your policy is printed in your ad. Keep copies of these ads on file along with your proper documentation proving that you are abiding by your nondiscriminatory policy. The required policy wording is found on the General Instructions for Form 5578 on page 2 at the end of Section 4.02 and on page 2 on the bottom of Section 4.03 entitled, “Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy As to Students.”

Mr. Alan J. Hodak

AACS Legal Reports: Forms to File for Internal Revenue Service

Student Leadership Conference

January 18, 2019—Hosted by Fourth Baptist Christian School
(All MACS Schools are Invited to Participate)

This Conference is Prayerfully & Strategically Designed to Help Your Students:

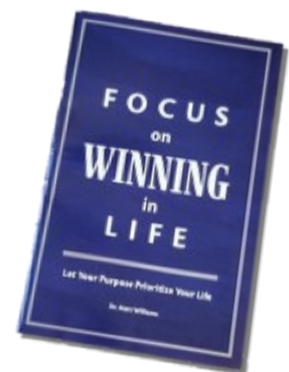
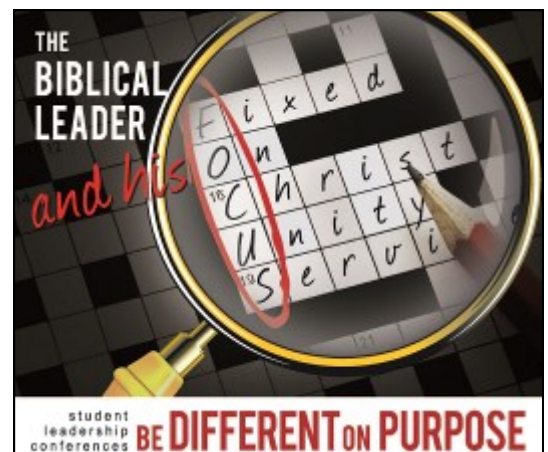
- Engage in Ministry Living
- Be Empowered to Stand for Truth
- Expand Godly Principled Thinking

In Addition:

- Your students will be challenged to fully embrace being biblically different from the ungodly crowd.
- Your students will experience challenging sessions by passionate SLC speakers.
- Your students will explore new vision in bringing biblical truth to life through relevant case studies.
- Your students will extend their training through take home follow up projects.

Your Conference Also Includes:

- Seasoned Speakers Who Specialize in Speaking to Students: Dr. Dan Anderson, *President of Appalachian Bible College*, Pastor Keith Wiebe, Jr., *Pastor of Grace Gospel Church in Huntington, West Virginia*, and Mr. Mark Davis, *Vice-President of Faith Baptist Bible College*, are this year’s speakers.
- A Full Conference Schedule of Themed Preaching / Teaching sessions
- A Fill-in-the-Blank Booklet For Each Student Coinciding with the Sessions
- Small Group Discussion Sessions
- A Session Dedicated to Challenging Students to Consider Christian Higher Education Options
- Sponsor Follow Up Strategy Session on Implementing Leadership Training in Your School
- Student Follow Up Resources
- Special Bonus - Each attendee will receive a copy of Matt Williams new book. "Focus on Winning in Life." (promo information from SLC website—<http://www.slcinfo.org/conference-schedule.html>)
- Please contact Alan Hodak at ahodak@fourthbaptist.org by Friday, Jan. 11 to let us know if you are planning to participate. The cost is \$15/participant which includes lunch.



Granite City Hosts Invitational Volleyball/Soccer Tourney

Pastor Dennis Campbell notes: I want to thank all of you for your participation and assistance in making for a successful event. Thanks to all of the fans who visited in support of the students. Following are the placements and awards.

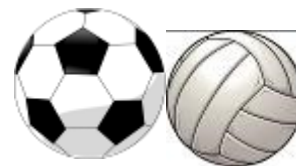
31st Annual Soc./VB Invitational Tourney Results

SOCCER			VOLLEYBALL		
	W	L		W	L
Valley Christian (WI)	3	0	Valley Christian (WI)	3	0
Faith (Foreston)	2	1	Foundation (Taconite)	2	1
Heritage (Karlstad)	1	2	Faith (Foreston)	1	2
GCBA/Grace (Mankato)	0	3	GCBA/Jubilee	0	3
ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM			ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM		
Logan Shakel (Valley) (MVP) Taylor Hugg (GCBA) Daniel Kavanagh (Heritage) Joe Thompson (Faith) Carsen Wright (Faith) Austin Degerstrom (Valley)			Jenna Hankel, Valley C.S. (MVP) Megan Hankel, Valley C.S. Allison Crapser (Faith) Caitlyn Nisly (Foundation) Moriah Alger (Foundation) Anna Kuhn (GCB/Jubilee)		





2018 MACS State Soccer & Volleyball Tourney Results & Awards List



Boys' Soccer

Champions: First Baptist Crusaders,
Rosemount

Second Place: Woodcrest Warriors

Third Place: Owatonna/Oakland Sabres

Consolation: St. Francis Patriots

Girls' Volleyball

Champions: First Baptist Crusaders,
Rosemount

Second Place: Fourth Baptist Warriors

Third Place: Owatonna Sabres

Consolation: Heritage Patriots

Boys Soccer All-Tournament Team:

- Rosemount—Tyler Johnson (MVP)
- Rosemount—Jaris Johnson
- Rosemount—David Fruetel
- Rosemount—Steffan Alikin
- Woodcrest—Mark Ababiy
- Woodcrest—Junior Covarrubias
- Woodcrest—Simon Ababiy
- OCS/Oakland—Ramon Hernandez
- OCS/Oakland—Rylan Boldt
- Fourth—David Groulx
- Fourth—Stanley Luckett

Girls Volleyball All-Tournament Team:

- Rosemount—Callista Weber (Co-MVP)
- Fourth—Claire Peterson (Co-MVP)
- Fourth—Joelle Webster
- Rosemount—Melina Garcia
- Rosemount—Cassie Garcia
- Owatonna—Andrea Long
- Heritage—Krystal Wikstrom
- Lake Region—Emma Hiebert

MACS All-Tournament Volleyball Team: (L to R): Callista Weber and Claire Peterson (Co-MVP's), Joelle Webster, Melina Garcia, Cassie Garcia, Andrea Long, Krystal Wikstrom, and Emma Hiebert



MACS All-Tournament Soccer Team: (L to R): Tyler Johnson, Jaris Johnson, David Fruetel, Steffan Alikin, Simon Ababiy, Junior Covarrubias, Mark Ababiy, Ramon Hernandez, Rylan Boldt, David Groulx and Stanley Luckett.



MACS Soccer Champions:
First Baptist, Rosemount Crusaders



MACS Soccer 2nd place:
Woodcrest Baptist Academy Warriors



MACS Volleyball Champions:
First Baptist School, Rosemount Lady Crusaders



MACS Volleyball 2nd place:
Fourth Baptist Christian School Lady Warriors



All-Conference Soccer

First Team - Soccer

- Rylan Boldt—Owatonna/ Oakland
- Isaac Grab—Lake Region
- David Fruetel—Rosemount
- Mark Ababiy—Woodcrest
- Stanley Lockett—Fourth
- David Groulx—Fourth
- Micah Morrell—Fourth
- Tyler Johnson—Rosemount
- Lucas Barth—St. Francis
- Steffan Alikin—Rosemount
- Joshua Fruetel—Woodcrest

Second Team - Soccer

- Daniel Graves—Rosemount
- Ryker Kloeckener—St. Francis
- Joel Larson—Fourth
- Seth Elliott—Chisago
- Junior Covarrubias—Woodcrest
- Simon Ababiy—Woodcrest
- Jaris Johnson—Rosemount
- Mark Loginov—Woodcrest
- Ramon Hernandez—Owatonna/Oakland
- Jonas Boelter—Lake Region
- Stevan Holiday—Prior Lake

Honorable Mention - Soccer

- Gideon Harrington—Chisago Lakes
- Ben Bruggenthies—Prior Lake

All-Conference Volleyball

First Team – Volleyball

- Melina Garcia—Rosemount
- Claire Peterson—Fourth
- Andrea Long—Owatonna
- Krystal Wikstrom—Heritage
- Haylee Jacobus—Lake Region
- Callista Weber—Rosemount
- Joelle Webster—Fourth

Second Team – Volleyball

- Amanda Larson—Owatonna
- Jordan Horton—Rosemount
- Cassie Garcia—Rosemount
- Emma Hiebert—Lake Region
- Morgan Stephens—Fourth

Honorable Mention – Volleyball

- Maddie Hodak—Fourth
- Sarah Ureke—Woodcrest



Our apologies if a player was left off this awards list. The full awards sheet disappeared after the tournament. Please let us know who we missed.

Thanks.

-Mrs. Alison French, MACS Secretary

All-Conference Awards are awarded to athletes based on their testimony on and off the field, sportsmanship and skill throughout this entire season. Congratulations!



MACS All-Conference First Team (L to R): Joshua Fruetel, Steffan Alikin, Tyler Johnson, Micah Morrell, David Groulx, Mark Ababiy, David Fruetel, Rylan Boldt, Stanley Lockett. (not pictured: Lucas Barth, Isaac Grab).



MACS All-Conference Second Team (L to R): Stevan Holliday, Jaris Johnson, Daniel Graves, Joel Larson, Junior Covarrubias, Simon Ababiy, Mark Loginov, and Ramon Hernandez. (not pictured: Jonas Boelter, Ryker Kloeckner, Seth Elliott).



MACS All-Conference First Team: (L to R): Melina Garcia, Claire Peterson, Andrea Long, Krystal Wikstrom, Haylee Jacobus, Callista Weber, and Joelle Webster



MACS All-Conference Second Team: (L to R): Amanda Larson, Jordan Horton, Cassie Garcia, Emma Hiebert, and Morgan Stephens



Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

2019-20 MACS Events Calendar

- **June 10-14** – Fourth Baptist Christian School Basketball Camp –
All MACS schools are invited to attend
- **August 5-9** – Fourth Baptist Christian School Volleyball and Soccer
Camps – All MACS schools are invited to attend
- **August 12** – First day of Team Practices for Soccer/Volleyball
- **August 23** – Rosemount Jamboree (Soccer & Volleyball) at
First Baptist in Rosemount
- **October 3-4** – AACS Midwest Regional Teacher's Convention in
Kalamazoo, MI
- **October 24-26** – MACS State Volleyball and Soccer Tournament
at First Baptist in Rosemount
- **November 1** – MACS Choir Festival at Fourth Baptist
- **November 11** – First day of Team Practices for Basketball
- **January 17** – AACS Student Leadership Conference at Fourth Baptist
- **February 13** – MACS Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest
Baptist Academy
- **February 26-29** – MACS Basketball Tournament at Fourth Baptist
and Woodcrest Baptist Academy
- **March 6** – MACS JH Fine Arts Festival at First Baptist at Rosemount
- **TBD** – MACS Legislative Breakfast at the MN State Capitol
- **April 3** – MACS SH Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist & MACS
Annual Meeting
- **May 1** – Granite City Track Meet at Granite City Baptist in St. Cloud
All MACS Schools are Invited to participate

