



## Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

www.mnchristianschools.org

Volume XX, Issue 3

March 2013

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# The Messenger

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

## The Four-Fold Call of the Great Commission

*By: Mr. Alan J. Hodak*

We live in a sin-sick nation! It is a nation plagued by self-focus. By and large, our culture is self-centered, self-indulgent and full of self-pity. Our desire for self-gratification is so great that we will take of that which we are not entitled and we will kill in order to get what we want. We have placed in our government, men and women, by and large, who perpetuate a "self" mindset. Our government entitles and empowers other nations, individuals, and philosophies which go against the very foundational principles that this country was founded upon.

We are no longer safe. Our schools are plagued with violence which comes from several generations of learning to love self supremely. A sick individual would enter an elementary school and kill as many adults and children as he could for reasons we will never know. And then, in the most cowardly and selfish act, turn

the gun on himself. Our businesses are not exempt either as a promising company, like Accent Signage Systems in Minneapolis, who specialized in signage which helps the visually impaired, suffered a recent gunman's attack and lost several employees. The gunman turned the gun on himself after he murdered five people. Our shopping malls have seen similar violence. On a busy Christmas shopping day, approximately 10,000 people were in a mall when a shooter opened fire killing two innocent people. The man had stolen a semi-automatic rifle from a friend. Of course, this selfish, sick, and cowardly individual turned the gun on himself.

In the coming months, the growing debate will be about gun control and making certain firearms illegal. Our government will seek to impose a band-aid of control upon our lives in order to squelch the violence we see on our streets. But the violence is not because guns

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### **Legislative Update – What's going on in MN?**

MACS Executive Director, Alan Hodak, was able to meet with Senator Chuck Wiger, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, on Monday, March 4, 2013 regarding Governor Dayton's Education Bill (SF 453). The concern that we have over that bill is that it seems to change the rules regarding the receipt of Early Learning Grant monies given to private schools. Mr. Hodak presented documentation to show how the rules would be changing under the new bill. In SF 453, under Early Childhood Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten



## 4-Fold Call (continued from page 1)

are available for there will be plenty of ways in which an individual will be able to get those guns illegally if he wants them. The violence is because we are a sick society, encouraging violence, immorality and denying the very power which can deliver us from the ills we currently face.

The “Church” is the last hope for our nation. As believers, we must answer the true call of the Gospel. A Gospel which, for centuries, had the very power to change lives, to change thinking, to give hope, and to secure an eternal future. But it is the very message of the Gospel that our churches have failed to communicate to a struggling and hopeless generation. Perhaps believers have grown complacent and quiet. Maybe we are not sharing the message like we need to because we are afraid of what others may think of us. The message has certainly become squashed in our public institutions. Our government does not have the sense to see that a culture devoid of God becomes a godless culture. The Christian has shirked his responsibilities in the public arena and is basically “silent.” We don’t dare mention the word, “sin,” because we wouldn’t want to offend those who attend our churches or harm our public standing. So, we communicate a watered-down, ineffective, message of love, harmony, and peace just like we heard from our President recently. He is the epitome of a product from a culture of godlessness that is totally ineffective in battling the ills of our society because of an ineffective Gospel witness.

In the early 1900’s, a man by the name of G. Campbell Morgan preached a series of messages that were compiled in a book entitled, The Missionary Manifesto. Morgan masterfully took verses from each Gospel and expounded on the different emphasis of each in the teaching and preaching of the great Commission. It is wonderfully communicated and very convicting in its reading.

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus, the King, speaks with all authority given to Him from His Father. The King commands to “Go, make disciples, and baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,” teaching them to observe all that has been commanded by the Savior Himself. The great Lawgiver has the authority to bring all people under the “ethical system” of His teachings. “The Great Commission of the King, the Lawgiver, rings with the note of absolute authority” (Morgan, p. 20). God has given us a book which demonstrates and proves the existence of absolute authority and truth. In a nation racked

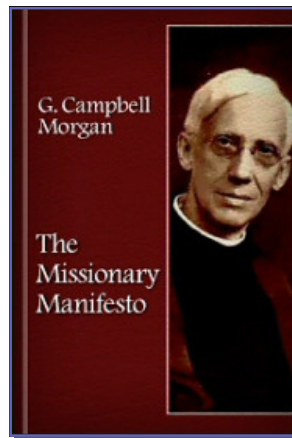
with “whatever is true for you is true,” we must begin to teach again that God’s Word is the source of all truth and that God’s Word is still true for today. Not only is it true for today, it is true throughout this age and for all of eternity.

In Mark 16:15-18, Jesus, the Servant, tells His Church to go out and preach the Gospel to every creature. All creation is affected by this message. The servant goes forth and ministers a message supported by the power of God. He goes forth and helps the sick, ministers to the hurting, and strengthens the weak. He prays and he uses whatever means available to aid those who are struggling. For it is the ministry of a sacrificial service of each believer who makes a difference in the lives of the hurting. And it is the power of the Word of God and of prayer that evidences the workings of God in the lives of hurting people everywhere. God help our churches to start ministering again. We support missionaries through our giving, but do we go to the fields ourselves: the prisons, the nursing homes, the food banks, etc. in America? The church must get to work evidencing the power of the Gospel. For it is when we minister that people’s hearts are softened and the Word of God can get through walls previously erected. When the walls come down, the heart is exposed to the truth and power of a life-changing message, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Would to God that our churches wake up to this one element of truth exposed to us in the Gospel of Mark?

In Luke 24:46-48, Jesus, the perfect man, was victorious in life and in death. His life was lived without any sin. We, as imitators of Christ, live out victorious lives as a result of our salvation in Christ. We change our previous sinful habits. We don’t speak the way we used to speak. We don’t act the way we used to act. We are not enslaved by the things of the world. We have put them away! Our lives are a result of real change that has come about because we are a “new man.” As a result, the evidence of our testimony causes a friend or family member to wonder about the change that has come about in our lives. “What happened to you, Alan? You are not the same person I once knew.” And thus is the evidence of the victory of salvation in the life of a sinner. The power

of Jesus’ life and death is available to each and every creature in the world. The followers of Christ in that day were witnesses of all those things. They evidenced Christ during His life and after His resurrection and it changed their lives. We must evidence the change of our own lives to a world that is desperately searching for truth.

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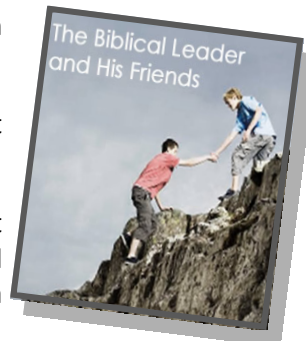
## Student Leadership Conference

January 29, 2013 was the date for this year's Student Leadership Conference at Fourth Baptist Christian School in Plymouth. Guest Speakers were Dr. Matt Williams and Mr. Kevin Brownfield.

The theme for this year's conference was *The Biblical Leader and His Friends: It's not about me and my friends but who needs a friend. (John 15).*"

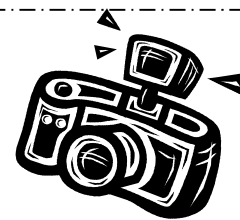
Students from Coon Rapids, Lake Region, Prior Lake, St. Francis and Fourth Baptist met together for the day long conference and had the chance to work in small groups and mingle at lunch and break times. It's a great opportunity for our students to interact in a non-competitive setting.

We are planning another Student Leadership Conference January 24, 2014 at Fourth Baptist. Make your plans to attend! Contact Mr. Alan Hodak for more info at 763-417-8240.



### Shot in the Dark Studio Tournament Photos—

The MACS Basketball State Tournament is now online and can be viewed at <http://www.shotinthedarksports.net/>. Team photos and action shots were taken all weekend. Please let your basketball families know. Thanks!



### MACS Calendar 2012-2013

Mar. 7—MACS Jr. High Fine Arts Festival at Woodcrest

Mar. 11—Bible Quizzing at Woodcrest

Apr. 5—MACS Sr. High Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist

Apr. 5—MACS Annual Meeting at Fourth Baptist

May 10—Granite City Baptist Track Meet at Granite City



### Next Year MACS Calendar 2013-2014

Oct. 4-6 – Great Lakes Teacher's Conference in South Bend, IN

Oct. 24-26 – MACS State Volleyball and Soccer Tournament at Rosemount

Nov. 1 – Choir Festival at Fourth Baptist

Jan. 24 – Student Leadership Conference at Fourth Baptist

Jan. 28 – Legislative Breakfast at Kelly Inn in St. Paul

Feb. 6 – MACS Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest

Feb. 27 – March 1 – MACS State Basketball Tournament at Fourth Baptist

Mar. 6 – MACS Jr. High Festival

Apr. 4 – MACS Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist

Apr. 4 – MACS Annual Meeting at Fourth Baptist



(Continued from page 1)

Program Eligibility, line 75.35, the bill states that “beginning July 1, 2014, each school must have a 3 – 4 star rating in the quality rating and improvement system.” This means, in part, that curriculum taught in private schools accepting grant money must be aligned with the ECIP’s (Early Childhood Indicators of Progress). These are Early Learning objectives that were written last year in compliance with the acceptance of MN winning the Race to the Top: Early Learning Challenge Grant.

While MACS has taken the position and has asked that none of their member schools accept any funding from State Daycare Assistance or Parent Aware, many other private and religious schools have lined up and taken the money already. Our specific concern with the changes in SF 453 is that the broad writing of these objectives includes some language which is suspect and troubling for all religious private schools statewide. For example, under the domain of *Social and Emotional Development*, one of the objectives (#4), states “That children will begin to develop awareness, knowledge, and acceptance of own gender and cultural identity.” We strongly object to the wording of this broad learning objective for obvious reasons. As Mr. Hodak has been following this trail after his discussion with Senator Wiger, he was able to find out that the learning objectives are being re-written and this particular objective will most likely be thrown out. There are other objectives we would like to have thrown out as well, and Mr. Hodak has requested to be a part of the review committee for the ECIP’s so that we can have direct input on the outcome.

## MACS Speech & Bible Festival

This year’s MACS Speech and Bible Festival took place on February 7th at Woodcrest Baptist Academy in Fridley, MN. Students from MACS schools across the state competed in various events, including Bible preaching, duet acting, oral interpretations of poetry, scripture and speeches, reader’s theater, puppetry and spelling.

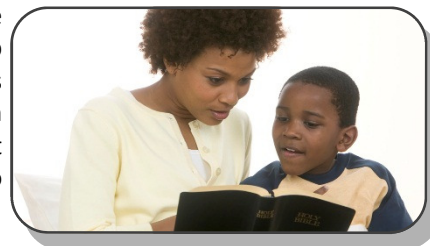
Superior performances included:

- Justin Keck (Chisago) - Dramatic Interpretation
- Duet Acting team of Marlee Moore and Grace Czczok (Lake Region)
- Christy Graves (Rosemount) - Humorous Interpretation
- Abigail Baker (St. Francis) - Oral Interpretation of Poetry
- John Newburg (Chisago) - Oral Interpretation of Scripture
- St. Francis Reader’s Theater—“Cat in the Hat”
- Meyer Mackenzie (Woodcrest) - Religious Reading

*So, why is MACS involved in this process?*

As long as we do not take any of the government monies, we will not have to comply with any of the ECIP’s as they are currently written under any of the Five ECIP Domain Framework. But other religious schools who do take the funding will have to comply. It is our position that any religious liberty taken away under the present Early Learning Grant rules, even if our MACS schools are not immediately affected, could have an effect on our schools later. We must preserve all of our religious liberties, in particular, in the selection of what is taught in the curriculum of our schools.

The rewriting of the ECIP’s is a great first step in protecting all religious private schools from direct government intervention into curriculum objectives.



*What can you do?*

Continue to pray that MACS will have an open door of communication with our DFL Senators who serve on the Education Committee. So far we do have that open communication, in part, because several members of the Senate attended our MACS Legislative Breakfast at the end of January. Pray for the committee leaders by name.

MN Senate Education Committee Leadership:

Chairman: Charles Wiger (DFL), Vice Chairman: Sandy Rummel (DFL), Ranking Minority Leader: David Hann (R)

- Lake Region Choric Speaking group
- Erin Burggraff (Fourth Baptist) - Declamation
- Seth Swanson (St. Francis) - Expository Preaching
- Daniel Foster (Rosemount) - Evangelistic Preaching
- Colleen Madden and Kendra Johnson (Rosemount) - Puppets
- Erika House (Lake Region) - Spelling Bee Champion

When asked about memorable performances, one teacher in attendance replied that the St. Francis Reader’s Theater presentation of “The Cat in the Hat” by Dr. Seuss was a neat take on the original and enjoyable to watch. The humorous interpretations are always fun to hear, and the declamation by Erin Burggraff of Fourth Baptist about President Ronald Reagan was very moving and well done.

There were a good number of students at the Festival, and we do hope to grow this event in the years to come.

A full list of the awards can be found on page 9 of this newsletter.

**Four-Fold Call**, *continued from page 3*

In John 20:21-23, Jesus, God, communicates something that we don't fully understand. That is, that the message of the Gospel has the power to forgive sin for those who believe. The message of the Gospel also has the power to condemn a person because of their failure to believe in that same message. It is not a popular message because it is such a convicting message. But as we go and communicate the true Gospel message: "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3b-4), we can be assured that the seed of the Word of God will be planted and bear fruit. Jesus sent out the disciples just as the Father sent Him. And so must the church go forth and share this same message of truth to an unbelieving world in the workplace, in school, in the store, and all over.

This four-fold commission to the church "relates to the Person of Christ, and each emphasizes one supreme value. The King sends us to proclaim His royalty. The Servant calls us to cooperation in His sacrificial service. The Perfect Man calls us to demonstrate the possibility of perfection through His victory won in our lives. God manifest, sends

us forth to exhibit 'the excellencies of Him' Who has called us 'out of darkness into His marvelous light'" (Morgan, p. 23).

Our nation needs to hear a Gospel message that carries "the voice of authority on the matter of moral standards." It needs to hear a Gospel message that enunciates an "ethic which is binding and authoritative, and which therefore gives a clear revelation of what sin is." Our nation needs the communicator of that message to be bold, but to evidence the power of a changed life. And our nation must see people who are willing to sacrifice self in order to deliver that message. The message, communicated truthfully and honestly, will carry with it power from above in such a way that will change hearts and lives.

How do we change a society whose focus of "self" is their god? It can only happen one person at a time, affected by the message of the Gospel, delivered by a legitimate messenger. The Church must wake up and answer the call of the Gospels. There is still hope for our nation and for this generation. The Great Commission speaks to a need, a genuine human need that we have the power and resources to meet. And it is the only way we can turn our sin-sick nation around.

Morgan, G. Campbell. *The Missionary Manifesto*. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI. Reprinted 1970.



## Matthew Bruffey Named National Merit Finalist

Matthew Bruffey of Fourth Baptist Christian School has just been named a Finalist in this year's National Merit Award Scholarship program.

Named a Semi-finalist in September, Matthew then had to meet or surpass a predetermined score on the SAT college entrance exam, write an essay, obtain letters of recommendation, send transcripts, and submit personal and student activities and achievements to be considered for Finalist.

As a Finalist, he is now considered a National Merit Scholar and has been awarded the Gold Scholarship by the University of Minnesota, a scholarship for National Merit Finalists only. Matthew will be pursuing a double major in astrophysics and physics.





## 2013 MACS State Basketball Tourney Results—Boys Teams

Feb. 21-23, 2013

at Fourth Baptist Christian School and  
Woodcrest Baptist Academy

**Champions:** First Baptist Crusaders—Rosemount

**Second Place:** Fourth Baptist Warriors—Plymouth

**Third Place:** Heritage Patriots—Karlstad

**Consolation:** Lake Region Hornets—Brainerd/Baxter



First Baptist Crusaders, Rosemount—2012 MACS Champions



Fourth Baptist Warriors, Plymouth—Second Place



**Boys All Tournament Team** (as pictured, L to R)

1. Bret Klopp—Heritage
2. Michael King—Fourth Baptist
3. Joel Antilla—St. Francis
4. Daniel Foster—Rosemount
5. Casey Tidrick—Rosemount
6. MVP: Jeff Fruetel—Rosemount



Heritage Patriots, Karlstad—Third Place



Lake Region Christian School, Baxter—Consolation Winners



## 2013 MACS State Basketball Tourney Results—Girls Teams

Feb. 21-23, 2013

at Fourth Baptist Christian School and  
Woodcrest Baptist Academy

**Champions:** Lake Region Hornets—Brainerd/Baxter

**Second Place:** Owatonna Christian Sabres—Owatonna

**Third Place:** Heritage Patriots—Karlstad

**Consolation:** First Baptist Crusaders—Rosemount



Lake Region Hornets, Brainerd/Baxter—2013 MACS Champions



### Girls All Tournament Team (as pictured, L to R)

1. Marah Horner—St. Francis
2. Laura Grandstrand—Heritage
3. Marlee Moore—Lake Region
4. Emily Beltran—Lake Region
5. MVP: Bethany Cressman – Lake Region
6. Bethany Corwine—Owatonna



Owatonna Christian Sabres, Owatonna—Second Place



First Baptist School, Rosemount—Consolation Winners



Heritage Patriots, Karlstad—Third Place

## MACS Basketball 2013 All-Conference Selections

### Boys All Conference First Team

(as pictured below L to R)

- |   |                 |                |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Brett Cournoyer | Woodcrest      |
| 2 | Daniel Foster   | Rosemount      |
| 3 | Matthew Bruffey | Fourth Baptist |
| 4 | Bret Klopp      | Heritage       |
| 5 | Daniel Newton   | Lake Region    |
| 6 | Joel Antilla    | St. Francis    |



### Girls All Conference First Team

(as pictured below L to R)

- |   |                    |             |
|---|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Bethany Cressman   | Lake Region |
| 2 | Liz Helder         | Rosemount   |
| 3 | Emily Beltran      | Lake Region |
| 4 | Alyssa Larson      | Owatonna    |
| 5 | Cherilyn Jorgensen | Owatonna    |
| 6 | Marlee Moore       | Lake Region |



### All Conference Second Team

- |   |              |                |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | Alec Hraba   | Chisago        |
| 2 | Robert Horn  | Fourth Baptist |
| 3 | Ryan Larson  | Woodcrest      |
| 4 | Nathan Rupe  | Rosemount      |
| 5 | Jeff Fruetel | Rosemount      |
| 6 | Kevin Steuck | Owatonna       |

### Honorable Mention

- |    |                   |                |
|----|-------------------|----------------|
| 1  | Kyle Jorgenson    | Heritage       |
| 2  | Zach Laughlin     | Mankato        |
| 3  | John Newburg      | Chisago        |
| 4  | Paul Gallion      | Victory        |
| 5  | Jake Waddle       | Chisago        |
| 6  | David Levy        | Owatonna       |
| 7  | Hayden Brooks     | Lake Region    |
| 8  | Josiah Palm       | St. Francis    |
| 9  | Andrew Kinniburgh | Fourth Baptist |
| 10 | Devin Hancock     | Prior Lake     |

### All Conference Second Team

- |   |                 |                |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Bethany Corwine | Owatonna       |
| 2 | Shayla Carlson  | Prior Lake     |
| 3 | Rachel Darling  | Woodcrest      |
| 4 | Amber Wikstrom  | Heritage       |
| 5 | Marah Horner    | St. Francis    |
| 6 | Ashley Amborn   | Fourth Baptist |

### Honorable Mention

- |    |                 |                |
|----|-----------------|----------------|
| 1  | Amanda Anderson | St. Francis    |
| 2  | Ashley Graves   | Rosemount      |
| 3  | Erica Kirkwold  | Chisago        |
| 4  | Cara Hodak      | Fourth Baptist |
| 5  | Joanna Watson   | Victory        |
| 6  | Lauren Ward     | Mankato        |
| 7  | Jessica Ureke   | Woodcrest      |
| 8  | Kari Weil       | Owatonna       |
| 9  | Rachel Kirkwold | Chisago        |
| 10 | Emily Stange    | Prior Lake     |
| 11 | Jodi Russell    | Heritage       |
| 12 | Rhea Wikstrom   | Heritage       |



## MACS 2013 Speech and Bible Festival Results

Category	School	Last Name	First Name	Score	Place	Rating
Dramatic Interpretation	Chisago Lakes	Keck	Justin	96.6	First	Superior
Dramatic Interpretation	St. Francis	Andrade	Vanessa	93.3	Second	Excellent
Dramatic Interpretation	Chisago Lakes	Bennett	Victoria	93	Third	Excellent
Duet Acting	Lake Region	Moore	Marlee	96	First	Superior
Duet Acting	Lake Region	Czeczok	Grace	96	First	Superior
Duet Acting	St. Francis	Day	Danielle	95	Second	Excellent
Duet Acting	St. Francis	Andrade	Vanessa	95	Second	Excellent
Duet Acting	Fourth	Bruffy	Matthew	90	Third	Excellent
Duet Acting	Fourth	Sarenpa	Jay	90	Third	Excellent
Humorous Interpretation	Rosemount	Graves	Christy	96.3	First	Superior
Humorous Interpretation	Woodcrest	Tutt	Allison	96	Second	Superior
Humorous Interpretation	St. Francis	Day	Danielle	95	Third	Excellent
Oral Interpretation of Poetry	St. Francis	Baker	Abigail	96.5	First	Superior
Oral Interpretation of Poetry	Lake Region	Moser	Kendra	85	Second	Good
Oral Interpretation of Scripture	Chisago Lakes	Newburg	John	98	First	Superior
Oral Interpretation of Scripture	Chisago Lakes	Hraba	Alec	97.75	Second	Superior
Oral Interpretation of Scripture	Woodcrest	Leaf	Megan	92.5	Third	Excellent
Reader's Theater	St. Francis			95.5	First	Superior
Reader's Theater	Lake Region			93.3	Second	Excellent
Reader's Theater	Fourth			83.3	Third	Fair
Religious Reading	Woodcrest	Meyer	Mackenzie	96.5	First	Superior
Religious Reading	Rosemount	Graves	Christy	94.5	Second	Excellent
Choric Speaking	Lake Region			96	First	Superior
Choric Speaking	St. Francis			94.5	Second	Excellent
Declamation	Fourth	Burggraff	Erin	92.6	First	Excellent
Declamation	Fourth	Botros	Beshoy	88.3	Second	Good
Declamation	Chisago Lakes	Brinker	Robert	86.3	Third	Good
Bible Teaching	Rosemount	Mc Kay	Emily	95	First	Excellent
Expository Preaching	St. Francis	Swanson	Seth	96.5	First	Superior
Expository Preaching	St. Francis	Swedeen	Caleb	96	Second	Superior
Expository Preaching	Rosemount	Taylor	David	85	Third	Good
Evangelistic Preaching	Rosemount	Foster	Daniel	96	First	Superior
Evangelistic Preaching	Rosemount	Hirsch	David	85.5	Second	Good
Topical Preaching	Woodcrest	Cournoyer	Brett	95	First	Excellent
Topical Preaching	Rosemount	You	Nakwon	94.6	Second	Excellent
Topical Preaching	Rosemount	Fruetel	Jeff	92.6	Third	Excellent
Puppets	Rosemount	Madden	Colleen	95.6	First	Superior
Puppets	Rosemount	Johnson	Kendra	95.6	First	Superior
Puppets	Rosemount	Rupe	Nathan	95.3	Second	Superior
Puppets	Rosemount	You	Nakwon	95.3	Second	Superior
Puppets	Fourth	Murray	Jonathan	72	Third	Fair
Puppets	Fourth	Peterson	Grant	72	Third	Fair
Spelling	Lake Region	House	Erika		First	
Spelling	Woodcrest	Ott	Carlie		Second	
Spelling	Lake Region	Moser	Kendra		Third	