

# View

*A Publication of the Folsom Point church of Christ, 900 E. Natoma, Folsom, CA 95630*

May 18, 2008

## Are We Secularizing Our Children?

*by Sewell Hall*

Several years ago, a Christian who was the president of a large state university stated his belief that students do not lose their faith because of evolution in the science department or humanism in the philosophy, psychology, or sociology departments. Rather, he felt that they become so absorbed with secular studies and secular activities that they do not take time for spiritual things. They neglect attendance at services, neglect Bible study and make their friends among worldly people. They die spiritually, not from poison but from spiritual malnutrition. Today, this is happening to children long before they get to college. And some of the finest, best intentioned and most sacrificial and loving parents are contributing to it.

Please pardon a personal reference. My parents were very concerned about keeping control of their children. My father complained 50 years ago that the schools were trying to take over the rearing of

children and he was determined not to let that happen to his family. Anything the school planned that conflicted with church activities was considered an encroachment by the school. We did not participate in organized sports, either in school or in summer programs. We did not play in the band

or join the scouts. As a rule, when school was out we came home. You may think my parents extreme. Perhaps they were. But one thing was certain: We had time for whatever Christians were doing anywhere in the areas where we lived. We not only attended every regular service and every service of gospel

meetings in our home congregation, but we attended most services of any meeting anywhere in driving distance even when meetings lasted the greater part of two weeks. Preachers who came preaching in the area learned to expect the Hall family near the front of the building night after night. I never remember going out of town for a

"A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE SEEMS TO BE DEVELOPING TOWARD ANYTHING THE CHURCH PLANS BEYOND THE USUAL SUNDAY MORNING, SUNDAY NIGHT, AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT ASSEMBLIES OR TOWARD ANY EXTENSION OF EVENING ACTIVITIES BEYOND ONE HOUR. THE CHURCH IS CONSIDERED INSENSITIVE WHEN ANYTHING IS PLANNED THAT ENCROACHES ON CHILDREN'S BUSY SECULAR ACTIVITIES."

ball game, but I remember many trips out of town to gospel meetings and lectureships. Those gospel preachers became our heroes and the members of those congregations became the friends whose respect and confidence we most desired.

This is not to say that all parents should adopt the policies of my parents. I did not adhere to all of them in raising my children. But surely some limits need to be imposed on the run-away secularism now so common. Children are the busiest people in town. Schools have lengthened the school day and long bus rides often require children to leave home very early in the morning and return late in the afternoon. Then they have homework to get. Much extra time in school is spent in humanistic activities. Children are constantly exposed to vulgarity and profanity not only from fellow-students, but even from teachers. They desperately need counteracting spiritual influences.

Many conscientious parents, however, want still more secular opportunities for their children than the standard curriculum provides. They encourage participation in extra-curricular sports organized by the school and in others that are privately organized, occupying afternoons and Saturdays and even portions of Sundays as well as the summer months. Students not inclined to sports are encouraged to join the band with long hours of after-school practice, summer band camps, compulsory Friday night football in the fall and concerts in the spring. In addition, there are often private music lessons. Scouts also provide wholesome experiences, and parents want their children to be involved. In fact, they feel that their children are deprived if they miss any of these opportunities, and so to provide them parents pack their own schedules full, taxiing the children here and there and sacrificially spending their energy and money.

What is wrong with these things? Generally nothing. The problem is that they are dominating children's lives. No wonder it has become impossible to plan a gospel meeting at a time when it does not conflict with some kind of secular activity! No wonder it is exceptional when students attend every night of such a meeting! No wonder very few parents and even fewer young people are to be seen at special services beyond their own congregation!

A negative attitude seems to be developing toward anything the church plans beyond the usual Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night assemblies or toward any extension of evening activities beyond one hour. The church is considered insensitive when anything is planned that encroaches on children's busy secular activities.

When do we expect our children to change from this heavily weighted emphasis on this world to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness?" If they become accustomed to a secular schedule in elementary school, high school will only increase the pressure. College allows still less time for the Lord unless there is a purposeful determination to keep the lid on secular demands. If such priorities have not been learned under the guidance of parents, it is unlikely they will be developed when students are on their own in college. By the time those school years of immersion in secularism are over, there is usually very little spiritual life left in them.

## **The church of Christ**

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### **Services**

Sunday Morning Assembly  
9:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.

Private classes arranged  
at your convenience.

For more information,  
visit our web site at:

[www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com)

Webmaster: Richard Harvey

# Agenda

## The Lord's Day, May 18, 2008

9:30 AM: Worship: Singing, Lord's Supper, Preaching

Sermon: Singing

☛ Preaching: David Posey, The Story

5:00 PM: Lord's Supper, Preaching.

### Classes @ 5:30 PM

**Auditorium, I John**

• Teacher: Dennis Wade

**Room 11-12,**

**Characters of the Bible**

• Teacher: Bryan Byrd.

## Wednesday, May 21, 2008

**10 AM, Here — "The Bible for Everyday"**

Teacher: David Posey, Sr.

### 7:30 PM, Classes

**Auditorium, Proverbs**

• Teacher: Randy Clark (Jeff Clark, Assisting)

**Room 11-12, James**

• Teacher: David Posey, Sr. (Zac Brown, Assisting)

### Notes

Most sermons are available in MP3 format on our website ([www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com)) or on CD (see a deacon).

## Tell Me the Old, Old Story!!

*by Yvette Rouse*

My husband, Larry, and I have always enjoyed telling our children stories. I love to recall a classic fairy or folk tale, while Larry creates characters of his own, complete with plots to help solve the current issue that our children might be facing. But the stories from God's Word are, by far, the best stories of all.

The real lives of men and women recalled to us by the Holy Spirit far surpass any literature man has penned on his own. How familiar are our children with the great heroes of old? How familiar are we ourselves with these rich lessons so that we can share them?

Do we know more about the ongoing saga of Britney Spears than the incomparable life experiences of our Lord Jesus Christ?

What WWF wrestler can compare with the mighty Samson? (Judges 13-16) What modern magician can make an iron ax head float on the surface of the water? (2 Kings 6:1-7) What movie crew can create live bodies from dry bones as Ezekiel witnessed? (Ezekiel 37:1-14) What more important vote could we cast than the one the Israelites voiced on Mount Carmel for the Lord? (1 Kings 18:20-40) What "Transformer" can become more

changed than when the penitent sinner who gladly receives God's grace through faith and is raised a new creature from the waters of baptism? (Romans 6:3-6)

As John and the writer of Hebrews pointed out, we are limited by time and space from recording so many other amazing events. (John 20:30,

21:25; Hebrews 11:32)

But how blessed we are to have received so many marvelous stories to build us up in the faith, comfort us in our sorrows, and enrich our lives each day.

Do we know the "old,

old story"? Does it burn in our hearts to share it with our family and others like Jeremiah? (Jeremiah 20:9) Are we depending on Bible class teachers to share it with our children in an hour or so each week? Let us redeem the time we have (Ephesians 5:16), and remember that the Bible is the one story that touches all our lives and does not have an ending.