



Americans United for Separation of Church and State Orange County, California Chapter

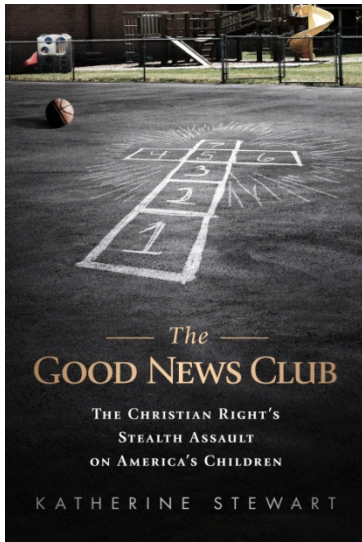
Katherine Stewart

The Good News Club: The Christian Right's Stealth Assault on America's Children

Saturday, March 3rd at 1:30 pm

Irvine Ranch Water District¹

15600 Sand Canyon Ave. (at Waterworks), Irvine, CA 92618



In January, 2009, Katherine Stewart learned that the Santa Barbara public elementary school her children attended had added a Bible study class called the “Good News Club” to its afterschool program. Stewart’s curiosity turned to concern as she discovered that the unstated purpose of the club, which is sponsored by the Child Evangelism Fellowship, is to convey the impression to its young members and their schoolmates that their school favors a particular form of the Christian religion. She soon learned that the Good News Club—a seemingly spontaneous and voluntary after-school program—was in fact part of a larger, calculated initiative by national advocacy groups whose declared aim is to “take back” America’s public schools and repurpose them with a Fundamentalist Christian agenda.

What happened in Stewart’s community is happening nationwide: at the end of 2010 there were more than 3,500 Good News Clubs operating in public schools across the country, and the number is rapidly increasing. What’s more, a landmark 2001 Supreme Court ruling not only permits such an unusual pairing of schooling and religion, it effectively makes it obligatory.

For more information:

www.au-oc.org or email: orangecountyau@yahoo.com

Fax: 714-515-4248 Call: 714-299-4551

In ***The Good News Club: The Christian Right's Stealth Assault on America's Children***, Stewart sets out on an investigative journey to uncover the effect the Good News Clubs and similar initiatives have on our schools, children, and communities. Everywhere, she discovers religion-driven programs inserting themselves into public school systems with unprecedented force and unexpected consequences.

Katherine Stewart has written for in *The New York Times*, *Reuters*, and *Marie Claire*. She lives with her family in New York City.

Please join us for this interesting discussion. Our doors open at 1:00 for socializing; seating will be on a first-come, first-seated basis. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing at the event.



¹ Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause nor activities of organizations which use the District's meeting rooms that are made available as a public service.