

Ten Commandments Georgia launches next initiative at fundraiser

By Joe Westbury, Managing Editor

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Comparing American society to a driver cruising down a highway unaware the bridge is out, Sen. Zell Miller cautioned a group of listeners at Atlanta's Capital City Club that without a moral warning sign posted at the edge of the road, Americans are hurtling toward a similar crash. But with the posting of a simple "Bridge Out Ahead" sign - or copies of the Ten Commandments in public places - the disaster can be easily avoided.



Senator Zell Miller

America's bridge to the future is collapsing and citizens need to heed the teachings of the Ten Commandments if the nation is to successfully cross that bridge, Sen. Zell Miller told a sold-out crowd at a fundraising dinner for Ten Commandments Georgia. More than 300 attended the \$125-per-plate dinner at Atlanta's Capital City Club on Oct. 3.

Miller, speaking on Oct. 3 at a fundraiser for Ten Commandments Georgia, drew several analogies between a world with and without the display of the Commandments. The \$125-per-plate event attracted a sell-out crowd of 300 and formally launched the organization's intentions of moving beyond its ill-fated courthouse battles to distribute copies of the document statewide.

Renewal effort

The organization may have been dealt a blow in July when the district Supreme Court required the removal of the Ten Commandments from the Barrow County Courthouse, but it's not giving up its battle to restore moral and spiritual values in society.

In addition to the keynote address by Miller, the clarion call to rally around a common moral code was sounded by Ten Commandments Georgia Executive Director Mike Griffin Sr. of Hartwell and President Jody Hice.

The group is unified in its renewed effort to "rebuild the moral foundation of Georgia through posting the Ten Commandments in homes and public buildings, teaching moral living to the next generation, electing like-minded individuals, registering like-minded voters, and educating voters on responsible jury service," Hice said.

Outlining the group's detailed objectives, Hice stated that Ten Commandments Georgia wants to have a chapter in each of the state's 159 counties, get the signatures of 1.2 million residents who support the public display of the document, mobilize 600,000 like-minded voters, and mail a 5x7-inch copy of the Commandments suitable for framing to each home in the state.



Recently elected Ten Commandments Georgia Executive Director **Mike Griffin Sr.** sounds the call for restoring a common moral code to America, beginning first in Georgia.

"We have been so busy fighting the alligators that we have been unable to drain the swamp," Griffin said in his address as he referred to past battles with the ACLU and various critics.

"The problem is not our critics but men's hearts. There will never be a restoration (of a common moral code based on the Ten Commandments) without a transformation.

Together - a force

"The restoration will come through a confrontation with the law of God as set forth in the Commandments. The devil knows that if men and women, boys and girls see their hearts in the light of those Commandments they will cry out to God for forgiveness," he stated to a round of 'amens.' "It is our mission to help redeem the citizens of the state of Georgia. The Ten Commandments movement is ultimately about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now is the time to drain the swamp of the alligators that are ruling our nation," he added.

Miller reinforced Griffin's comments by saying "alone we're only a voice. Together, we are a force."

"I'm still very hesitant to speak of religious matters because I can offer nothing but a life of imperfection. But I read that it is always the flawed man and woman who works to share the message of a perfect God."

Miller reminded the guests at the two-hour event that "all truth passes through three stages of acceptance: ridicule, violent opposition, and acceptance as self-evident.

"Not everyone agrees with us and some even ridicule us. But I'm reminded of the story of Noah, how he was ridiculed for building a boat while living in the middle of a dust bowl.

"He was recognized as a respected craftsman, a man of integrity, but his neighbors thought he was crazy and told him so. But he ignored the polls and the pundits so he could be faithful to what he knew God wanted him to do. As he remained faithful and as the waters lifted the ark above the flood, it carried the future with it as its precious cargo.

"Today we are numb. We are driving down the road to the future and we do not realize that the bridge is out. Americans have a long history of appreciating highway signs that are posted for our protection such as 'Sharp Curve Ahead.' But to deny the posting of a common moral code like the Ten Commandments is to deny that we need the sense of direction that they provide.

"We are not asking for a massive, invasive public policy. We are only asking for 10 sentences.

Following the Ten Commandments makes us better Christians, but just as important it makes us better Americans.

"Do you know why Hollywood and Madison Avenue, through advertising, show commercials everywhere we turn? Because we need to be reminded over and over again in order to change our behavior. Moses knew that when he said to write them on the doorways and on our hearts.

"I don't see where God's reasoning could be any clearer - we need to have the Commandments posted where we can see them regularly and be reminded of their words.

"We have a government that believes it's acceptable to remind us not to smoke around gasoline pumps but it's not acceptable to help remind us how to avoid our own spiritual and moral and physical destruction," he concluded.

Bringing the meeting to a close, Hice reminded the group of growing up in a time when a common

moral code was taught in the nation's schools, churches, and homes. As a result it was acceptable to leave cars and doors to homes unlocked at night because the nation was a much safer place to live.

"Tonight we have the opportunity to reverse the trend that has lead to such an outbreak of crime in our society. Tonight we have the opportunity to restore that moral code to America," he said.

Contribution to the group's statewide efforts can be sent to Ten Commandments Georgia at Box 941, Hartwell, GA 30643. Griffin is pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Hartwell and Hice is pastor of Bethlehem First Baptist Church in Winder.

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