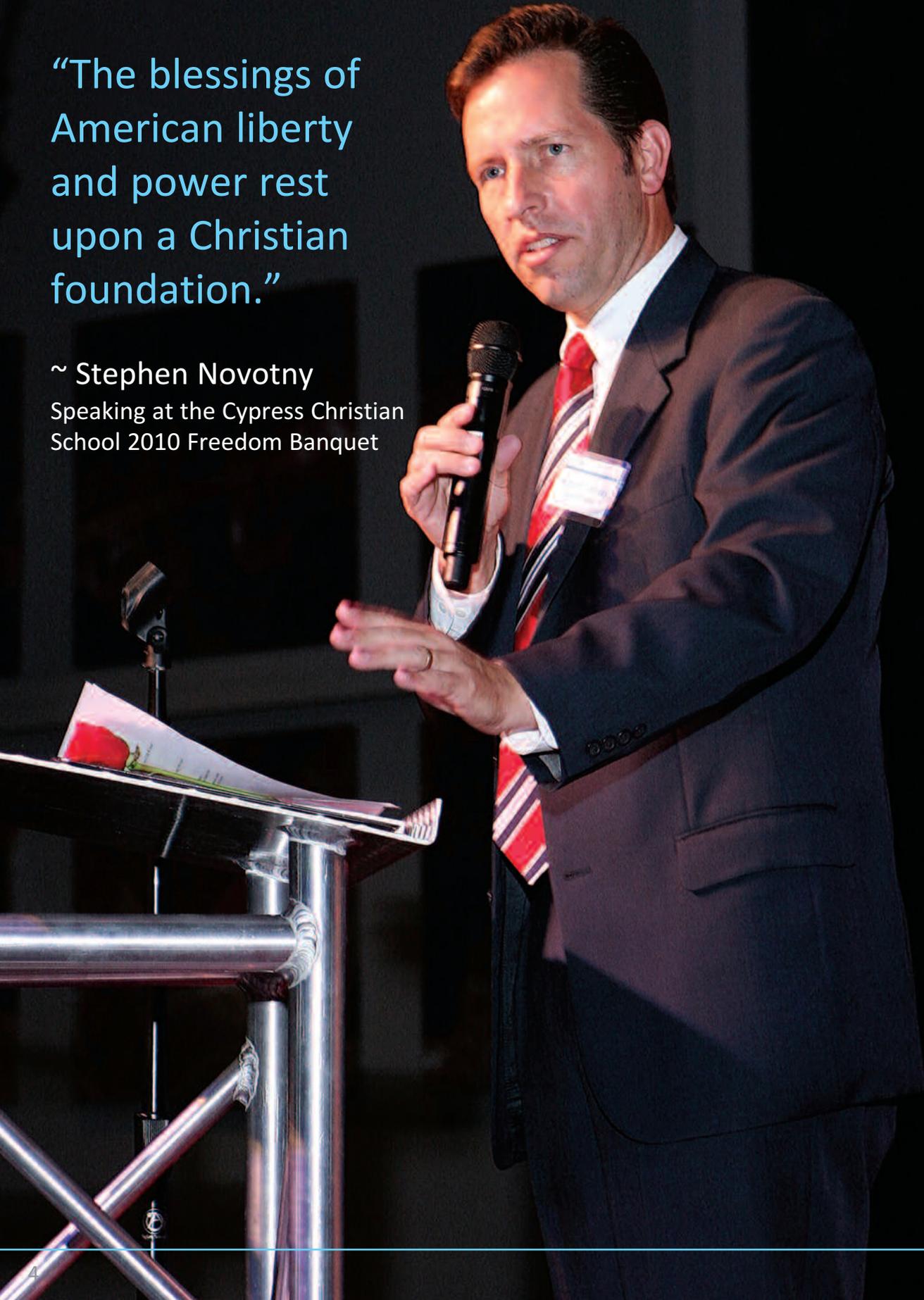


Freedom

“The blessings of American liberty and power rest upon a Christian foundation.”

~ Stephen Novotny

Speaking at the Cypress Christian School 2010 Freedom Banquet



Freedom

By Stephen Novotny, J.D.

This fall, well over 300 guests came to Cypress Christian School's Freedom Banquet. Those attending the banquet heard a passionate message from Congressman Ted Poe about the need our community and nation has for Christian schools, especially when other influences are at work to change our culture and depart from the Christian principles that have made our nation strong. The banquet served as a wonderful celebration of what God is doing through the ongoing work of Cypress Christian School and a celebration of the freedoms we enjoy as a school under the rights protected by the Constitution of the United States. There are three distinctive areas of freedom that make our school unique and valuable to our students, our community, and our nation. At CCS, we enjoy the freedom to think, the freedom to speak openly of reality, and the freedom to share meaning and purpose.

At Cypress Christian School, there is freedom to think.

One of the hallmarks of Cypress Christian School is a pursuit of academic excellence. All around the country, I have wonderful friends that faithfully serve in our public schools. Regrettably, they feel limited in their freedom to pursue truth, which is essential for academic excellence. Due to poor decisions in the court system and regulations handed down from detached governmental bureaucracies, most schools are stifled and operate under a blanket of understood censorship. It is unfortunate that teachers in our public schools and universities are generally prohibited from even acknowledging evidence that supports the theory of intelligent design or that the idea of creation is worthy of serious discussion. Heaven help the teacher in these institutions if they talk about the profound evidentiary flaws in evolutionary theory. The fact that the evolutionary, transitional ape-man fossils that were so proudly promoted in biology textbooks, and religiously taught to school children for decades, are now proven frauds has not diminished the zeal of those committed to an "evolution theory only" school system at all costs. There is no liberty in these places. There is only the morose feeling that an educator's best chances of survival is to put one's mind in neutral, obediently repeat the tired Darwinist party line,

or simply sit in silence. So much for academic freedom.

In contrast, at Cypress Christian School, there is freedom. Our students are taught the Darwinian theories just like students in other schools. However, unlike their public school counterparts, our students are not placed behind an intellectual iron curtain that forbids thinking or forbids consideration of evidence that is contrary to a secular-humanist philosophy. Instead, our students experience the freedom of being able to learn about the evidence that supports the account of the earth's creation, the creation of man, and intelligent design. At Cypress Christian School, students enjoy the liberty to study all facts and evidence to determine what theory of causation makes the most sense in reality, and not merely what theory is most expedient for political considerations.

At Cypress Christian School, there is freedom to speak openly of reality.

Students at Cypress Christian School are free to accept reality and speak openly about the world, as it actually exists. Our teachers are free to openly discuss that certain actions are right, and that other actions are wrong. We are not manipulated into saying silly things like "certain behaviors are not morally wrong, they are just different lifestyle choices" or "everyone's opinion is of equal worth." This is simply not reality. To the contrary, the world is full of ideas and opinions that are objectively worthless, and should be discarded as such, as soon as they are uttered in the open air. One fellow might say, "In my opinion, only the strong should be allowed to survive." If indeed all opinions are of equal validity, and there are no moral absolutes, what then would be one's justification to stop such a man from looting all of his neighbors that were very young, very aged, disabled or just sleeping at the wrong time? Imagine if people tried to actually live in a society governed by such nonsense. This is certainly the way of madness. Even so, under the watchwords of "inclusiveness" and "tolerance" the freedom to admit that such moral and logical realities exist is being suppressed.

Happily, Cypress Christian School enjoys the freedom to accept and teach the realities of our universe which include acknowledging that there is both a spiritual and physical element to our existence. Since biblical revelation takes precedence over the often erroneous or self-serving opinions of men, our students understand that the law to love one's neighbor as oneself is morally superior

to the law of the jungle—where brutalizing the weak becomes acceptable. Cypress Christian School understands that when moral truth is free to be recognized, only then is the pathway established to human dignity, justice, and freedom. When biblical principles are understood, only then is an individual protected from self injury brought about from lack of discernment. When there is freedom to acknowledge the spiritual truths of life, only then is the individual free to enjoy the whole of life itself.

At Cypress Christian School, there is freedom to share meaning and purpose.

At Cypress Christian School, we celebrate the freedom to share with students the meaning and purpose for life. For many, life only has disappointment, pain, unfairness, and uncertainty. Despair threatens to swallow up any promise of good, and it is hard for people to endure life unless there is a reason to believe there is some meaning and reward for persevering. In addition to the difficulty of life itself, people eventually feel locked in a prison of guilt and regret that comes from poor choices and the moral wrongs. In the face of the overwhelming sense of insignificance or despondency, people look for answers, for meaning, and for hope. Without the good news that there is a purpose for life, and that they can be forgiven for their wrongs, people remain locked away in hopelessness.

At Cypress Christian School, our teachers enjoy the freedom to teach students about the rich purpose for life, the reason to persevere through difficulties, and the forgiveness from wrongs that an individual may receive. Teachers are free to talk in the classroom about the relationship with God that one can have through repentance and faith in the Redeemer, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. When a person experiences this forgiveness, possesses a right relationship with God, and accepts God's purpose for their life, then that person is set free to experience true meaningfulness. The joy that results from this is deeper than a mere feeling and transcends changing circumstances. It is a sense of well-being that comes from the knowledge that all things have a purpose, and all wrongs will eventually be made right. The freedom to share such truths about life is precious indeed, and makes that gold star achieved on a spelling test shine just a bit brighter.