

Written by Hugh Kramer, LA Atheism Examiner  
Wednesday, 29 February 2012 00:00

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When journalist and author Katherine Stewart heard about a supposedly innocuous extracurricular bible study group coming to her children's public elementary school, she decided to do a little investigating. What she discovered was a well-funded attempt by the Religious Right to infiltrate public schools, convert children to a fundamentalist type of Christianity, and use them to proselytize their playmates. Her book, *The Good News Club: The Christian Right's Stealth Assault On America's Children*, reveals the extent of the attempt and the extremest religious and political views of the people behind it.

The good news about The Good News Club, at least for those of us in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, is that Katherine Stewart is coming here to talk about it. The Greater Los Angeles Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State is hosting three appearances by Ms. Stewart and they're all free to attend and open to the public.

From the AUSCS announcement:

## CALIFORNIA: The Good News Club: The Christian Right's Stealth Assault On America's Children

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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 specific yet 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 their particular form of the Christian religion. (From the CEF Website: "the purpose of Good News Club is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living.")

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.

Event attendees are encouraged to purchase and read the book prior to this presentation to participate in the dialogue. (Kindle edition is also available! ) Copies will also be available for purchase and signing at the event. Come find out more about Katherine's research and book and what this means to the wall of church-state separation in this country!

Questions? Contact [AU.LosAngeles@gmail.com](mailto:AU.LosAngeles@gmail.com) or call 805-405-3929.

Here's the event schedule:

Tuesday, March 6 at 8:30 PM at the Santa Monica Unitarian-Universalist Community Church, 1260 18th Street (18th & Arizone), Santa Monica, CA 90404;

Wednesday, March 7 at 7:30 PM at Heretic House in the Angelino Heights neighborhood overlooking downtown Los Angeles; and

Thursday, March 8 at 6:30 PM at the Oxnard Public Library (in Ventura County), 251 South A

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St., Oxnard, CA 93030.

All events are free to the public. The Heretic House event has limited seating so reservations are required. Contact [AU.LosAngeles@gmail.com](mailto:AU.LosAngeles@gmail.com) or call 805-405-3929 for reservations and directions.

<http://www.examiner.com/atheism-in-los-angeles/the-good-news-club-the-christian-right-s-stealth-assault-on-america-s-children>