

Most Americans Think That It is 'Illegal' to Pray in School, But is it?

By Christian Newswire

MEDIA ADVISORY, Aug., 2018 /Christian Newswire/ -- For more than 50 years, Americans have been confused about the issue of prayer in school and students' rights to pray in school. Congress never passed any law prohibiting prayer or the free exercise of religion as stated in our U.S. Constitution / First Amendment. ... "Congress shall make no law establishing a religion or denying the FREE EXERCISE THEREOF." The Supreme Court of these United States rulings and subsequent media reporting in recent years confused school administrators, students and the general public. The Supreme Court makes no laws and has never ruled limiting prayer by students or anyone in school. Some cases (Engel vs. Vitale 370 U.S. 421) implied and ruled that teachers

and administrators may not lead, coerce or force students to pray, however these rulings have nothing to do with a student's right to free speech and individual and group prayer initiated by students. The 1962 a New York Times headline read, "SUPREME COURT OUTLAWS OFFICIAL SCHOOL PRAYERS." The word "official" was key in that headline, not explaining that students have the right to pray. Students and teachers are free to pray at their desk, with friends, coworkers and classmates, during free time, at lunch, sports activities and special events, provided it does not interfere with normal class/school activities and lessons. A growing coalition of American citizens, leaders, historians, educators, celebrities, government officials, children's advo-

cates and media moguls are teaming up to remind all Americans and especially students that it is legal to pray in school. This back to school TRUTH campaign is endorsed by many not for profit organizations, legal teams and parent and student groups. Brad Dacus, President of Pacific Justice Institute, who has an army of free lawyers and legal counsel said, "In every case defending students' rights to pray, the students have prevailed, even teachers have the right to pray in school." Bill Federer, American historian and president of Ameisearch and the American Minute and who is also a prolific author, speaker and radio/tv commentator said, "President Ronald Reagan said the constitution was never meant to prevent people from praying, its declared purpose was to protect their



It is Legal to Pray in School -- informational campaign began nationwide August 13. Coalition is growing.

freedom to pray." Copyright free artwork for the campaign is available at the webpage: www.LegalToPray.com All participants will be sharing via radio, tv, internet media, twitter, email, text, Instagram, pinterest, youtube and all social and broadcast media and platforms. **Twitter: #ItIsLegalToPrayInSchool or #LegalToPray**

or #PrayInSchool Many independent outdoor billboard owners, newspapers and magazine editors are also participating. It is Legal to Pray in School is an informational public service campaign that does not attempt to promote any political, individual or organization's agenda. It is Legal to Pray in School

is an informational campaign only. The back to school TRUTH campaign initiates August 13th and encourages everyone to post, tweet, email, text, and share the It is Legal to Pray in School slogan and copyright free artwork/logo everywhere. For more information visit www.LegalToPray.com



God's at Work in the White Space

By Carol Round

"...because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world"—1 John 4:4 (NIV). Before having cataract surgery several years ago, I could only discern objects a few feet away. From far off, everything was a blur. Since I'd worn glasses from the age of 10, waking up each morning to a fuzzy world was the norm for me. Before surgery, I could read my favorite books without optical help. Tiny print was easier to read. Now, the reverse is true. Due to my age, I now require readers to see close-up. When I awaken, I can see clearly. The same is true of our

spiritual life. Focusing on trials, weaknesses or regrets creates a cloud upon our spiritual vision. This cloud blocks our sight. We do not see what God is up to in the world and in our lives. In a recent devotional by Christine Caine, she relates a story about attending a psychology class where her professor projected a picture of a small black dot in the middle of a large white screen. When he asked the class, "What do you see?" they all responded the same. "A black dot." Caine was excited, thinking how easy the class was going to be until the professor asked the same

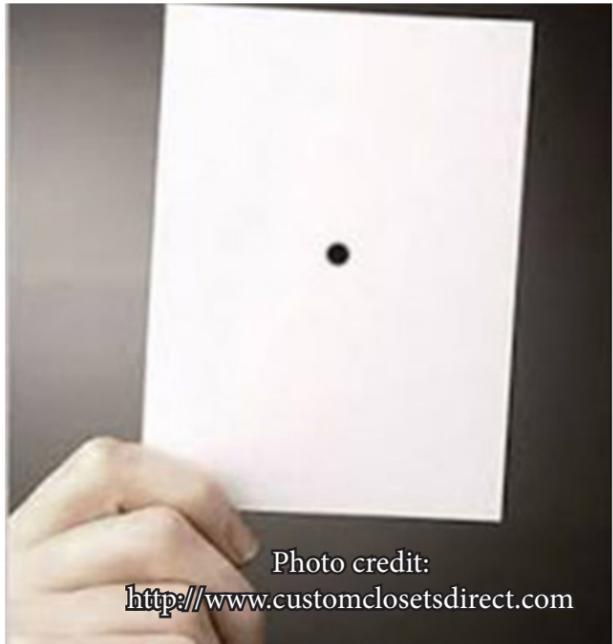


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question. "What do you see?" The class was confused

as they responded with the same answer. "A black dot!" Caine recalls the pro-

fessor's response, saying it was a lesson she'd never forget. "You were all so focused on the little black dot in the center of the screen that none of you noticed the dominant image on the screen: the large white space covering the screen top to bottom, left to right." Caine admits it was suddenly obvious because they'd chosen to focus on the black dot. "That's all we saw," she says. What happens to our focus in life when it remains on the black dot on the canvas of our lives? We lose sight of what God is doing around us. Still, you can be assured His power is at work, even when all we see are our problems. "When we focus on the vastness of God's mighty power and amazing work on this planet, we'll start to see His work in our lives," Caine adds. Seeing God at work in our lives requires us to look past the black dots. Until

I recommitted my life to the Lord in late 2001, I'd ignored the white space. My focus wasn't on Him, but on myself. When I began to examine my past in light of God's blessings, my eyes were opened. I recall a time when I'd been faced with my own mortality, at the age of 17. Yet God brought me back from the brink of death through the prayers of a well-known evangelist. However, it was 10 years later before I admitted my healing had been a miracle. I finally saw God in the white space. You, too, can quit living in the black dots of life. Ask God for new vision. Then you will see Him at work all around you. I always love hearing from my readers. Please feel free to email me at carol@carolaround.com or stop by my blog at www.carolaround.com for more inspiration.

24 HOUR PRAYER LINE: 833-463-7325 (Not live, recorded line)

Christian Human Rights Lawyer Still Missing One Year Later



Photo: Gao Zhisheng

MEDIA ADVISORY, Aug., 2018 /Christian Newswire/ -- A year ago, the brother of persecuted Chinese human rights lawyer Gao

Zhisheng went to the attorney's apartment, where he was under house arrest in China's Shaanxi province, only to discover him

gone. To this day, no one knows where he is. For 23 days, Gao evaded authorities, sneaking into the neighboring province

with two sympathizers. Then, Shaanxi officials crossed the border and found him hiding. They whisked Gao into custody and detained the two men with him. Since then, no one has heard from Gao. Sometime later, Beijing's authorities claimed that their special agents had Gao in custody, but no one has seen him, raising questions as to the legiti-

macy of their claim. Before he vanished, the lawyer managed to pen a book in secret, titled *Unwavering Convictions*, describing his decade of repeated kidnappings, arrests, and torture. ChinaAid helped smuggle the book out from under the noses of his government minders, had it translated into English, and secured publishers for it in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Unit-

ed States. It is available for purchase on the web at www.amazon.com ChinaAid strongly condemns Gao's arbitrary arrest and demands that the Chinese government immediately and unconditionally release him, allowing him to reunite with his wife and children, who reside in the U.S. Contact ChinaAid: info@chinaaid.org

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The Book *Unwavering Convictions* is available for purchase on the web at:

<https://www.amazon.com/Unwavering-Convictions-Zhishengs-Ten-Year-Torture/dp/1531004717>