



# Christian Education Initiative

NO.4

## Monthly Newsletter

JUNE 2025



### Remembering Dr. Marc Clauson

CELEBRATING THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE  
OF A BROTHER, FATHER, FRIEND,  
SCHOLAR, AND PROFESSOR

CEI is sorry to announce the unexpected death of Dr. Marc Clauson, a friend of CEI and twin brother to our Executive Director Kevin Clauson.

Marc spoke at last year's summit, and has been working with Dan Smithwick for years as an advisor for the PEERS Test. He served as Professor of History and Government at Cedarville University for the last 23 years, until he went to be with the Lord.

Please join us in praying for his surviving wife and four adult daughters.

### In this newsletter:

Remembering Dr. Marc Clauson, Letter from the Chairman, "Advancing" in the CEI Motto, & Summit VI Reminder

### Add to your calendar:

#### **Summit VI:**

Friday, September 26th

8:30AM-5PM

Saturday, September 27th

8:30AM-5PM

# Letter from the Chairman

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Greetings one and all. I want to first acknowledge the wonderful work Dr Kevin Clauson, CEI Executive Director, and Mrs. Maya Wright, Assistant to the Executive Director, have been doing for CEI by creating these monthly newsletters. I also want to acknowledge the selfless efforts of the CEI Board members, Dr Max Lyons, Dr Marlene McMillan, Dr Gary House, Mr. Mark Shepard along with Rev E Ray Moore, Chairman Emeritus and Mr. Dan Smithwick, Advisor.

CEI is now six years young and growing. We are a Bible-based, evangelical alliance that provides a networking forum for its members and promotes the member ministries in order to advance Christ's Kingdom in a hostile culture. We have some ways to grow and accomplish this goal but we have a plan in place to achieve this.

After Summit IV in September 2022, we realized that the American Christian community failed to be discipling their youth. The PEERS Trend Chart, based on the results of high school students from Christian homes, and Dr George Barna's reports from the Cultural Research Center show, without a doubt, that discipling our youth is wholly deficient. The CEI Board decided to broaden its vision from just K-12 education to the full concept of discipleship. 2023 was a turning point for CEI.

Ray Moore was making plans to retire from his chairmanship and release CEI from the umbrella of his Frontline Ministries. To fill Ray's shoes Dr Kevin Clauson, who recently retired, accepted the offer to be our Executive Director. I was voted in to be the board chairman.

We were losing some of the services performed by Lawrie Sikkema until here full departure from CEI in September 2024. Maya came on board in mid 2024. In 2024 Dan Smithwick retired from board membership as he was also making plans to retire from operating the PEERS. Dan is working with Kevin in transferring the PEERS to CEI. Dan has made some wonder improvements and simplified processing the PEERS but it will require one or two people, part-time at first, to handle the operation.

With the changes to CEI leadership and a new direction for discipleship we needed to get organized for a united purpose and vision. Nehemiah Institute became the umbrella for CEI as a DBA. We approved bylaws and newly created vision and mission statements. We were working from a draft strategic plan until approving it this year. With the strategic plan we also developed and approved CEI Glossary of Commonly Misunderstood Terms along with Christian Responses to Cultural Hot Topic Issues. These are found on the CEI website. By the way, CEI has recently moved under the umbrella of Kevin's Patrick Henry Institute. I hope to see you all at our Summit VI conference in September.

## CEI Motto – "Advancing"

The Christian Education Initiative's Motto is:

### ***"Advancing Christ's Kingdom Through Biblical Worldview Education"***

This month Kevin Clauson begins this project by dissecting "Advancing:"

In the first installment of our brief commentary on the CEI mission statement, we looked at the biblical meaning of Christ's Kingdom. In this installment, we will look at the meaning of "advancing."

## CEI Motto – “Advancing”

Advancing, or advancement, typically means moving forward, or progressing, or growing, or developing, or improving. When we discussed Christ’s Kingdom, we talked about the effects of a full-orbed biblical thinking on every aspect and endeavor of life.

Thus, when we talk about advancing Christ’s Kingdom, we are saying that we want to see biblical thinking and application become more and more widespread and more and more well-defined in the world. Historically, we believe we have seen this, although not evenly and not perfectly and not without some decline at times. But compare the world at the early era of Christianity with what we see today.

Look at one country example, the United States of America. Although this nation-state is not predominantly Christian today, we still see (and live off of) much “Christian capital”, to use a phrase from Francis Schaeffer. Much activity and many institutions derive from principles and precepts of God’s Word. (To focus on just one area, where else do we see a governmental structure so thoroughly based on the biblical ideas of both human sinfulness and covenantal concepts, applied in constitutions, the rule of law, separation of powers/checks and balances, due process of law, and so much more ?)

Of course, we also need to talk about how (the means by which) Christ’s Kingdom advances. There are those who accuse Christians of wanting to use force, governmental force, to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Christian influences. There may have been instances of this (or some variation of it) historically. I am not going to get into that here, and I believe that there have been nuanced situations in which there may have been mixed motives where some degree of “force” might have come into play.

But the most important thing to focus on is that Scripture itself points to an increase of Christian influence in the world through the Gospel (that is, Gospel preaching/teaching) followed by biblical teaching. This is not a coercive process, not by human beings anyway. This is a process through which God uses His Word, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, to “win” (humanly-speaking) the hearts and minds of people, often over a long period of time (sometimes a shorter period in a limited environment), during which individuals, families, and societies progressively take biblical ideas, refine them, and apply them to their lives and practices.

There may come a time in some societies where a “critical mass” of biblical-thinking Christians is reached, and those principles that are meant for civil application are democratically adopted into a legal code (or in the case of England and America, into the Common Law) to be applied to all. (Caveat: Not all restrictions from Scripture are meant to be applied as civil law. Example: Jesus speaks of lust. But lust is not punishable by the State. It is still sin.

But not all sins are crimes. This is a very important distinction and one which deserves more careful and thorough development, but not here.)

To summarize, “advancing” Christ’s Kingdom means to work to spread biblical thinking (followed by application and practice) to every human activity, through preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and biblically-based concepts, followed by God’s increase and blessing of His Word to the world, as His Spirit causes more and more people (in a short time or a limited geographical area, or more widespread in a larger area over a long period) to adopt, refine, and apply biblical thinking.

--Kevin L. Clauson



# Summit VI Reminder

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET,  
REGISTER FOR CEI'S ANNUAL  
SUMMIT!

CEI's Summit VI will take place on  
September 26–27 in Lynchburg, Virginia. At  
the Summit you will be able to network with  
other individuals and organizations of like  
mind and hear from various speakers who  
will present important information on various  
topics related to our theme, "Advancing  
Christ's Kingdom Through Biblical Worldview  
Education."

The well-known and renowned G.K.  
Chesterton once said, "When men choose not  
to believe in God, they do not thereafter  
believe in nothing; they then become capable  
of believing in anything."

This could easily be said by the Christian  
today. But we know that "Christ, not man,  
is King", and therefore we have the tools of  
Biblical thinking to create the building  
blocks of His Kingdom. CEI seeks to do  
this, and we invite you to join us in this  
noble endeavor.

Please note that the registration fee is \$75  
per person OR \$125 per married couple  
(Children 6–17 are FREE).

You can find more details and/or register  
by searching the link found below!

**Register at**  
**Christedu.org**  
**today!**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION INITIATIVE PRESENTS Summit VI

ADVANCING CHRIST'S KINGDOM THROUGH  
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW EDUCATION

### WHEN

Friday, September 26th  
8:30AM-5PM  
Saturday, September 27th  
8:30AM-5PM

### WHERE

Legacy Wealth  
Management Building,  
1971 English Tavern Rd.,  
Lynchburg, Virginia.

