



Dr. Kennedy with his daughter, Jennifer Kennedy Cassidy, Member of CRM Board of Directors.

## JENNIFER KENNEDY CASSIDY

MEMBER, CORAL RIDGE MINISTRIES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



April 2008

Dear Friend,

Instructors who want to give students the whole truth about the creation-evolution debate are being pushed out of public education. With your help, we'll come to their aid this month.

One biblical truth about which my father was very passionate is found in Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (NKJV). My father was a student of science and was one of the most outspoken evangelical leaders on the truth of Genesis.

Sadly, this biblical truth is rejected in public education today. Teachers and professors who are skeptical about evolution are often suppressed, denied tenure, and sometimes fired.

Anyone in public education today needs to think long and hard before he or she brings up objections to Darwinism in class or even casual conversation with colleagues. Their job and career may be on the line.

This month on *The Coral Ridge Hour* we reveal the high price educators pay when they go public with doubts about Darwin. Not only will we blow the whistle on the widespread suppression of academic freedom, we will also fight back with your signature on the enclosed petition.

This petition, which I hope you will sign and return, calls on your state governor to protect the academic freedom of instructors who teach about the scientific objections to evolution.

The examples of academic blacklisting are truly disturbing.

Dr. Caroline Crocker (see the enclosed *Impact*) lost her job teaching cellular biology at George Mason University after colleagues found out she brought up the scientific critique of Darwinism in class. "I thought a university was a place where we could ask questions, where we could discuss interesting theories," she told *The Coral Ridge Hour*. "I did not know there were some things you're not allowed to discuss."

Astronomer Guillermo Gonzalez far exceeded tenure standards established for his department at Iowa State University, but he was still denied tenure in 2007.

Gonzalez is co-author of a college astronomy textbook, and his work has been featured in *Science*, *Nature*, and on the cover of *Scientific American*. But he also coauthored *The Privileged Planet*, which presents evidence for the intelligent design of the universe. That proved his undoing. His department chairman told faculty members voting on his tenure bid that his posi-

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tion on Intelligent Design “disqualifies him from serving as a science educator.”

What happened to Crocker and Gonzalez is nothing new. Schoolhouse doors have been slammed shut in the face of creationist teachers for decades. Back in 1988, my father hosted the documentary, *The Case for Creation*, which profiled three creationists who had lost their teaching jobs.

One, Dr. Jerry Bergman, had seven earned degrees, but was denied tenure at Bowling Green State University because of his belief in creation.

After losing his bid for tenure, Dr. Bergman investigated the extent of bias against creationist teachers. His conclusion? “I have yet to find a single out-of-the-closet creationist who has earned tenure in any state university in America, ever—not one single one.”

He said that in 1988. Today, in 2008, the situation is unchanged. Dr. Crocker said her advice to professors who endorse Intelligent Design would be: “Don’t question evolution ... unless you’re prepared to give up your career. Don’t say anything until you have tenure, because you won’t get it.”

This is wrong. It robs instructors of their livelihoods, and it takes from their students the chance to learn about the many problems with the theory of evolution.

That’s why I hope you will join me in signing the enclosed petition to help restore true academic freedom to America’s high schools and universities. We must take action to protect Christian educators who want to give students both sides of the origins debate.

Along with your signature, will you please stand with us financially to help Coral Ridge Ministries present this vital, eye-opening, and disturbing information to the nation?

I wrote recently about our need to raise \$12 million to avoid further cuts in ministry outreach. Your gift will help us meet that financial goal and bring this important *Coral Ridge Hour* programming to viewers nationwide.

Sincerely in Christ,



Jennifer Kennedy Cassidy

Member

Coral Ridge Ministries Board of Directors

P.S. Please sign and return the enclosed Academic Freedom petition right away. We will collect and send the signed petitions to your governor and urge him to act on behalf of educators who want to give students both sides of the evolution debate.