

Christian Impact Committee (CIC)
Catalina Foothills Church
2150 East Orange Grove Road
Tucson, AZ 85718

Vision Statement of the Christian Impact Committee

The Community Impact Committee was created to provide the scriptural perspective on current issues, usually not available in the secular media. This purpose has led this standing committee of the church to publish the *Salt and Light* newsletter, to establish an Information Center where important more lengthy educational materials are available, and to promote other avenues for action and expression. The CIC seeks to support the church Vision Statement: “Catalina Foothills Church exists to glorify God by exalting the Lord in our corporate worship and our individual lives, by equipping God’s people to take the transforming power of the Gospel into every area of society—the arts, athletics, business, education, law, medicine, the military, politics and others.”

Small Beginnings

Our first experience with a Christian Issues Committee was in 1989 when we were at First Evangelical Free Church in Tucson. Now we have been involved with what is called the Christian Impact Committee at the Catalina Foothills Church since 1999. At both places we have been fully supported by the pastors and elder boards. At both places the committees have been declared standing committees of the church and receive some financial assistance through the church budgets. In both churches, one of the first things we did was survey the congregation to determine interests and issues. At all times we have sought to support all activities with good Biblical principles and scripture. Today we have reprints of an interesting article about choosing issues. It will be available at the end of our workshop.

CIC Meetings

The CIC meets monthly for about 1½ hours. Members of the committee must be members of the church, but we encourage and welcome guests. We always have one elder on the committee. One of the major activities of the committee is making some of the decisions as to what we print in the next issue of the *Salt and Light* (*S & L*), which is a monthly bulletin insert of the CIC. (At the Evangelical Free church, the *S & L* went out to everyone on the church mailing list with the monthly newsletter.). At our meetings we also discuss many current issues, and whether and how Christians should be involved. In the spring, we spend a great deal of time planning special biblical worldview Summer Sunday School classes.

Salt and Light

Basically, one person edits the *S & L* by gleaning articles etc. from other publications and Online (especially Len Munsil’s pertinent writings). A document containing a collection of possible articles is brought to the CIC meetings, and priority articles or subjects are chosen for the next month’s publication. Our due date is the last Wednesday of the month, as the *S & L* is printed and inserted in the bulletin the first Sunday of the month. Quite often we are blessed with a special push from the pulpit that people should read it! Gradually, some outside our church have become interested in the *S & L* and presently there is an email list of about 35 people who receive it by email. They know that they are free to use it as they please, changing headers,

adding and subtracting articles etc. There are a couple pastors out of Tucson who have requested it.

Summer Sunday Schools

These have been wonderful ways to educate, and we also learn the names of others who might be interested in becoming more active. Through an attendance list we have been able to gather a good network of people with email addresses for email alerts. We have agreed that this Alerts list would be used sparingly so that too much mail does not become an issue. We have not asked for legislative districts for those on the list but will begin doing so.

Classes have covered a variety of issues—abortion, homosexuality, issues in education, discrimination against Christians, Islam, and Ravi Zacharias videos (Deliver Us From Evil), to mention a few. One summer we brought in a number of speakers from different agencies—the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Tucson, Desert Christian High School, the Gospel Rescue Mission, Center for AZ Policy, Prison Fellowship, et.al. Another summer of classes was entitled, “Ethics: Opportunity and Challenge”. These classes featured areas of our culture: business, media, education, politics, law, sports, and medicine. Our church is large and with 2 Christian schools, and we have access to some very knowledgeable people, but we have felt free to have speakers from other churches also. Each session of these classes has shown an increase in attendance. Comments have always been appreciative and enthusiastic with many requests that they be given at other times of the year. Class attendance of 50+ people (in the summer, no less), led the pastors and elders to take notice.

CIC Information Center

Another educational effort of the CIC is the CIC Information Center, a well-defined section in the Church Library. The library is in an open area with major traffic flow and good visibility. We do have a few signs of disclaimers for the church position on everything featured there. On the shelves in acrylic stands of various sizes, we are able to place reprints, newsletters, “freebie” issues of WORLD magazine, Focus on the Family publications, contact information for public officials and other items. We have gone to some effort and expense to keep the area attractive and current. Currently we are redecorating the Information Center in red, white, and blue.

Voter Registration and Petitions

Voter registration is usually held at the two entrances to the church on at least 2 Sundays before the final deadlines. We have found that some eye-catching decoration at the table produces a lot more interest. Example: When we had the Marriage Petition tables, each table displayed a large tiered wedding cake. The cake was Styrofoam, but the icing was real, and the wonderful aroma brought many to the table...for cake! And the, of course, signing the petition.

Other Events

We have promoted observance of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, the National Day of Prayer, and July 4th with specially designed bulletin inserts. We have encouraged subscriptions to WORLD magazine.

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