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Focus on the Family digs heels in with Banned Books Week

Responding to Banned Books Week

by Stuart Shepard

A pro-family group is suggesting a creative way for families to act as "salt and light" in response to the American Library Association's (ALA) so-called Banned Books Week.

Focus on the Family is encouraging donations of books to neighborhood and school libraries: books that communicate a Christian and socially conservative perspective on hot-button issues such as homosexuality and abortion. The effort coincides with the ALA's annual twisting of the First Amendment, as it showcases books to which parents have objected — and which libraries have generally not pulled from shelves.

"Every year, the ALA and other liberal groups use this trumped-up event to intimidate and basically silence concerned parents," said Candi Cushman, education analyst for Focus on the Family Action. "The truth is, parents have every right and responsibility to object to their kids receiving sexually explicit and pro-gay literature without their permission, especially in a school setting."

The ALA claims that Banned Books Week is all about celebrating "availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints."

Cushman said it's time for families to turn the tables and challenge the ALA to honor its own principles.

"You can do this most effectively by simply going to your local public library, or a school library," she said, "and donating books that communicate your family's perspective on those issues."

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