

# ACTON notes

Acton Institute Newsletter

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*“connecting good intentions with sound economics”*

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# President's Message

“The stock market democratizes the opportunity for ownership.”

Playing a major role in the street protests against Wall Street were activists for many religious groups, Christian organizations, and ministers. This inclusion provided an important opportunity for members of the media to claim that these protests represented a broad spectrum of the population.

What does religious commitment have to do with protesting Wall Street? To look for a clear rationale here is pointless. This is today's fashionable cause, and the driving passions are little more than a desire to blame something for the hard economic times in which we live.

Looking more carefully, the stock market is a creation of the voluntary social order. It is a venue for exchanging property titles on the ownership of company stocks and bonds. This trading is essential so that these titles can be properly valued in the market. It allows companies to raise money to provide goods and services. The stock market democratizes the opportunity for ownership.

What's to protest? Well, many people continue to be angry at the bailouts of large companies arranged by the Bush and Obama administrations and made possible by the money-creation powers of the Federal Reserve. These bailouts have accomplished nothing but a prolongation of the pain of recession, and they have left a gigantic debt.

Note that while some people on Wall Street benefited directly from these bailouts, they were not made possible by the stock market. They were made possible by the government and the central bank. Does it not seem obvious, then, that these protests are rather misdirected? Of course. If we want to end the bailouts, we need to restructure the interventionist system that made them possible.

The more controls you put on the right to trade, the fewer opportunities are available for building civilization.

Your support of the Acton Institute helps bring rationality to this debate over the place of faith in the economic sphere. Thank you for all you do.

The mission of the Acton Institute is to promote a free and virtuous society characterized by individual liberty and sustained by religious principles.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Robert Sirico". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Robert Sirico, President

**ACTON**INSTITUTE

161 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 301 • Grand Rapids, MI 49503 • USA • [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org)

# Acton Unveils New Smartphone Apps

The Acton Institute Website is now available on iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad and Android operating systems. By using the app, you have access to the following features: Lord

Acton quote of the day, weekly commentary, events, Acton PowerBlog, contact, donation page, refer a friend, and about Acton.

According to Acton web coordinator David Lohmeyer, just over six percent of total Acton web traffic comes from mobile web browsers. The applications launched in late August of 2011.

In 2008, only about 1 percent of Acton's web traffic was the result of mobile devices and with that now at 6 percent, it made sense to invest in creating better access to the site for those users. Lohmeyer expounded:

The idea with our mobile apps is to bring Acton's mission and ideas to as many people as possible. Smartphones are being adopted at an exceptional rate, so rather than wait until later, we've decided to bring our content onto this new platform now.

With a solid foundation in the mobile arena, we'll be able to create future projects using this base. By doing our development in-house, we're able to cut traditionally expensive app development costs.

**"The applications launched in late August of 2011."**

If you own a smartphone, the best way to download the application is to search for the "Acton Institute" in the Android market and Apple store.

Users took to their social media accounts and pages to offer their thoughts on the new apps. Aaron Wong offered an endorsement, calling it "the premier iPhone app for the study of religion and liberty." Chris Marlink, social media manager for the Family Research Council in Washington D.C. praised Lohmeyer's work saying of the apps, "Very well done."

In other social media news at the Acton Institute, the Facebook page has surpassed 35,000 fans and the Twitter page now can boast 4,200 followers. *Acton Notes* reported that the institute had just over 1,000 fans on Facebook and over 300 followers on Twitter in the summer of 2009.



Acton's Web Guru, David Lohmeyer

## From Our Conference Participants

Father Sirico's closing message was really alive and powerful. I can still remember it. I will keep on praying for Acton and its mission.

—Pastor Roberto F. de Fiesta  
Philippines

What I heard, learned, and witnessed at Acton impacted my life in ways I cannot adequately express.

—Becki Essner  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

## 2012 Novak Award Deadline

January 2012 marks the 12th consecutive year that the Acton Institute will have granted the Novak Award to an up and coming scholar who has demonstrated exceptional intellectual merit and academic interest in the relationship between religion, economic freedom, and the free and virtuous society. The \$10,000 award is intended to reward scholars who are doing new outstanding research in advancing the principles shared by the Acton Institute and the award's namesake, the distinguished American theologian and social philosopher Michael Novak. The recipient will then present the annual Calihan Lecture at a public forum. This year's 11th Annual Calihan Lecture was given by the 2011 Novak Award winner Dr. Hunter Baker on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at Regent University.

Nominations for the 2012 Novak Award are being accepted from professors, university faculty members, and other scholars until the November 15, 2011 deadline. After nomination, eligible scholars then submit application materials to the

Tackett, Robert George, with noted author Eric Metaxas as moderator.

Miller was also interviewed by Ann Byle at the *Grand Rapids Press* where he declared,

'Doing the Right Thing' is building the case for thinking seriously about ethics and doing the right thing. I'll specifically address how we think seriously about ethics in the business world and how we apply our moral sense in making business decisions.

You can purchase 'Doing the Right Thing Curriculum' from the Acton Institute at [www.acton.org/BookShope](http://www.acton.org/BookShope).

## R&L Interviews OCA Metropolitan

Metropolitan Jonah, the leader of the Orthodox Church in America, is interviewed in the Summer 2011 issue of *Religion & Liberty*. Metropolitan Jonah, who was also a keynote speaker at the 2011 Acton University, discussed the topic of asceticism and the consumer society. He declared in the issue:

# ACTON News



Michael Miller (center) speaks nationally on ethics



Metropolitan Jonah

Acton Institute by December 15. Further details of this and other scholarships offered by Acton's Research department may be found at [www.acton.org/program/student\\_awards/home](http://www.acton.org/program/student_awards/home).

## Miller on 'Doing the Right Thing'

The Acton Institute's director of Media, Michael Miller, participated in a live national webcast on the topic of ethics on September 24 in Ashburn, Virginia. The event was titled "Doing the Right Thing: An Exploration of Ethics."

The panel also included Charles Colson, Del

When we see things in God and radiant with His presence, we're not likely to abuse them. So if we can have that perception, if we can attain that degree of spiritual vision, everything has its place in the creation and our stewardship of that becomes our fundamental duty.

Metropolitan Jonah also added that "Faith cannot be dismissed as a compartmentalized influence on either our lives or on society." In 2008, Bishop Jonah was elected as Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in America. In his 2011 address at Acton University, he said, "the fruit of secularism is despair."

# Acton Announces AU Online

The Acton Institute is launching AU Online, a new internet-based educational resource for exploring the intellectual foundations of a free and virtuous society. Slated for release alongside the 2012 Acton University registration that kicks off November 15, it is designed to offer the Acton community another way to experience the first class content and interaction of an Acton-sponsored event while at home, at the office, or at school.

Participants in AU Online will have the chance to attend a live, online video presentation from anywhere in the world. Courses range from a single session to a multi-part series, and will be led by the same distinguished faculty who help make Acton events world class. Participants in AU Online also have the chance to get more out of the experience through forums, supplemental materials and live chat sessions.

The four-part pilot series of this initiative is designed as an introduction to the principles of the Acton Institute and will be held twice

a week starting December 6-15 of this year. Through the Foundational Series, participants will be led through an examination of the relationship between Christian anthropology, liberty, government, economics, and Scripture in pursuit of a free and virtuous society.

Whether you are an alumnus of Acton programming or are just getting to know us, AU Online is a great resource to take advantage of to further your education and engagement with important topics and relevant issues.

Be sure to stay in contact with Acton's website, [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org), for more information. For further questions about AU Online, please contact Michelle Hornak at [mhornak@acton.org](mailto:mhornak@acton.org).

Additionally, you can still visit the Acton Website and purchase many of the lectures at Acton University for \$1.99 each. Next year, Acton University will be from June 12-15 in downtown Grand Rapids.



©istockphoto.com/ kal19/ Group of teenage students using computer

Attend Acton University online, new in 2012



## ACTON in the News

We cannot leave future generations with the full burden of our debt . . ."

—Excerpted from Rev. Robert Sirico's article in the *Pittsburgh Tribune - Review*.

### Rev. Robert Sirico

Title: Jobs & deficits — the moral equation

Publisher: *Pittsburgh Tribune - Review*

Date: 9.15.11

### Dr. Samuel Gregg

Title: The Continuing Failure of America's Welfare State

Publisher: *National Review Online*

Date: 9.14.11

### Dr. Samuel Gregg

Title: Benedict Among the Germans

Publisher: *The American Spectator*

Date: 9.12.11

## Reminder

### Help Acton Promote Freedom and Virtue!

The Acton Institute depends on the generosity of supporters like you. If you have not donated to Acton, but enjoy *Acton Notes*, please consider helping us meet our goals! Your help makes possible our mission to promote a free and virtuous society. You may choose to donate using the envelope provided, or you may visit the Acton website to make a secure donation online. We send our heartfelt thanks to those who have been so generous in the past with your strategic support as well as your prayers. You have a broad vision and a generous heart.

## INTRODUCE ACTON TO A FRIEND

KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE WORK OF THE ACTON INSTITUTE? USE OUR WEBSITE TO SEND THEM AN E-MAIL WITH INFORMATION ON OUR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. THANKS FOR PROMOTING FREEDOM AND VIRTUE!

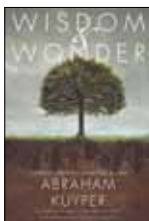
Visit: [www.acton.org/refer](http://www.acton.org/refer)



## ACTON UNIVERSITY 2011



# ACTON Book Shoppe



## Wisdom and Wonder

By Abraham Kuyper

*Wisdom & Wonder: Common Grace in Science & Art* is a new and complete translation of two sections that the Dutch Reformed theologian and politician Abraham Kuyper intended for his larger three-volume work on common grace.

**Hardcover 182 pages Original Price \$26.99 Sale \$24.99**



## Black and Tired: Essays on Race, Politics, Culture, and International Development

By Dr. Anthony Bradley

This book will be a breath of fresh air in terms of economics and public policy but is unique because it also explicitly applies Christian moral teachings to today's global concerns.

**Softcover 145 pages Original Price \$20.00 Sale \$19.00**

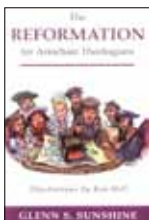


## Faith, Freedom, and Modernity

By Jan Klos

Beginning with a careful study of 19th century liberalism, Klos illustrates how free societies are unable to maintain themselves without the underpinning of a vigorous cultural commitment to a Christian understanding of man and the morality which flows from it.

**Softcover 360 pages Original Price \$15.00 Sale \$12.00**



## The Reformation for Armchair Theologians

By Glenn S. Sunshine

This readable, accessible narrative story of the Protestant Reformation is the fifth volume of the popular series with Westminster John Knox Press intended for "armchair theologians." Excellent for study groups, students, and even as a good starting point for those interested in the larger discipline of church history.

**Softcover 264 pages Original Price \$17.00 Sale \$15.00**

For our fastest service and a complete list of titles, visit [www.acton.org/bookshoppe](http://www.acton.org/bookshoppe)

	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
<a href="#">Wisdom &amp; Wonder</a>	\$24.99		
<a href="#">Black and Tired: Essays on Race, Politics, Culture, and International Development</a>	\$19.00		
<a href="#">Faith, Freedom, and Modernity</a>	\$12.00		
<a href="#">The Reformation for Armchair Theologians</a>	\$15.00		

Make checks payable to "Acton Institute." For orders in the United States, Canada, and Mexico: for the first item, add US \$6.75 for shipping; plus US \$1.00 for each additional item. Overseas orders: US \$8.75 for the first item, plus US \$1.75 for each additional item.

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## Calendar of Events

### ACTON INSTITUTE EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
<b>Nov 3</b>	<b>Chicago Open Mic</b>	Chicago, IL
<b>Nov 10</b>	<b>Acton on Tap: Religion &amp; Presidential Campaigns</b> Ray Nothstine to speak	Grand Rapids, MI
<b>Dec 1</b>	<b>From Aid to Enterprise</b>	London, England

### STAFF ACTIVITIES/DEADLINES

Date	Event	Location
<b>Nov 30</b>	<b>Hanns Seidel Foundation Conference</b> Dr Samuel Gregg to speak	Munich, Germany

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