

“We have an important meeting with the VRQA coming up and some major decisions to make. We would value your prayers and those of your prayer warriors.

At the end of 2013 we received the final report on the findings of the VRQA review into the school's operations. We were very disappointed that the VRQA persisted with a number of false claims about the school's operations. Most concerning was the finding that the school is failing to teach key learning areas. The reviewers found that the Biblical worldview based curriculum materials we use amounted to religious instruction and could not be considered to teach Math and English etc. This is despite the fact that this material has been successfully used by the school for many years to teach the key learning areas. As you know, our students have been well prepared for future academic studies through the use of these curriculum materials. They also declared that the school continues to teach Creationism in Science despite being required to stop doing so. Whilst the VRQA attempted to require this of us following our 2008 review we certainly did not agree to it. Indeed, the school declared that it would not stop teaching Creationism in Science.

This coming Thursday (Feb 27) the deputy director of the VRQA, Ms Robyn Timmins, is flying to Mildura to meet with our board chair, Anthony Weller, and me. At this meeting they will spell out what they require of us following the review. We understand from other schools who have already had a similar meeting that they will require the school to stop using the Biblical Worldview based materials that we have been using. They may also place other constraints and requirements upon us as well. We expect to be given a very short time to formulate a response to their demands.

Would you please pray for Anthony and me as well as the rest of the school board. Pray that we will have wisdom to know when to speak and when to stay silent. Pray that we will be able to pick our battles, to know when we should be defiant and when we should be willing to accept their requirements. Pray that God will equip us through His Spirit and strengthen our faith in Him.”