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## Not So Secret Agents

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Association (the GLB-TA) may be one of the most godless organizations in America, but the Chicago Public Schools system (CPS) is close behind. And what does that have to do with a funeral attended by 1,000 people, politicians, and every news media organization in Chicago?

One week ago (July 2, 2007), on a warm sunny evening, at 6:45 p.m., three blocks from my house, the Imperial Gangsters fired shots at Cobras across the street that divides them. Unfortunately, a playground is alongside this street. Thirteen-year-old 8th grade honor student, Shameka, was shot in the head and killed. Seconds before, she had been standing in the playground at a little vending cart buying some fruit. Playgrounds should not be battlegrounds.

The next morning, I was pulling into a parking place for a dental appointment and heard of the incident on the news. We called Shameka's school and offered any assistance needed by the family. Within hours, the principal of the school had returned our call saying the family needed someone to handle the funeral.

So, barely 48 hours ago, our corner in the Windy City was jampacked with funeral vehicles, media trucks, and gawkers. Near the end of the service, the invitation was extended. For moments, it looked as if no one would come. The preacher hesitated, inviting again and again, "Is there one? Is there one?" Suddenly, from the back row, a tall, husky kid walked down the center of the aisle. Applause broke out across the congregation. A U.S. senator

and a city councilman looked on from the first row. Then it broke wide open. Kids streamed down the aisle. Our prayer partners stepped in with them and accompanied them to the prayer room. When a student came forward, who stepped in as a prayer partner? None other than a CPS principal, one of our members. She looks like a youngish grandmother. She's a secret agent. She

of our children attended. This woman was also tall and carried herself like an African queen. She told me she would walk around the school like Joshua around Jericho, praying, asking God to penetrate the darkness. She was a secret agent. It was in her office after I led an assembly, where I sat with my open Bible sharing the gospel with the most troubled student in the school.

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kept gay and lesbian literature out of her library. Who stepped in beside the next student who came forward to walk her to the prayer room? Another CPS principal; a member of Armitage Baptist Church.

As students came down the aisles, I looked over at Shameka's principal, another believer. She's tall, striking; reminds me of a Latin princess. She's a secret agent. She is there as a principal and trying very hard to play that role, but she can't help herself. She sits; eyes clenched, her hands extended in front of her with palms up, praying and praising. I can imagine the many, many prayers she has prayed over her students; the agony she felt over the loss of one of them, and now she sees a spiritual harvest. She found a Christian to be the basketball coach. He invited team members to Bible study. It was through that study Shameka trusted Christ.

That principal reminds me of another principal of a school where one

So last Saturday, the funeral was tragic, sad, but victorious. Thirty-five people walked the aisle; many of them students from the slain girl's school. Yesterday, Sunday, when I got home at the end of the day, my wife said, "Guess who came to my Bible study this morning? That principal." She named the principal of one of the leading high schools in our city. She is a dedicated and strong believer. She's a secret agent.

I think of Obadiah in Ahab's court. I think of Joseph, Daniel, and Esther. I think of evil urban systems and seats of power infiltrated, influenced, and impacted by not so secret agents. Corrupt, evil, urban systems can be penetrated. God has His people everywhere. In a work environment ever increasingly opposed to anything Christian, in urban public systems which are intensely hostile to anything remotely Christian, God wants salt and light. Secret agents are needed in every city.