

Faith of Our Founding Fathers



Fitting Today

CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION has been striving constantly for the past twenty years for the right of public school pupils to have the opportunity to pray and read the Bible during school hours, just as the children of the founding fathers had that opportunity. However, court decisions during the past 10 or 15 years have gone contrary to the concepts of the California Christian Citizens Association.

For the first 150 years of our existence our Nation has been proceeding in the faith that God's Word and Prayer are essential to the building of a free, strong and prosperous Nation. Noah Webster, born in 1758, referring to his childhood schools, said, "When I was young the books used were chiefly or wholly Dilworth's spelling books, the Psalter, the Testament and the Bible."

However, for the last quarter of a century and, especially since the formation of the United Nations organization, the Bible and Prayer have been pushed into the background, the Supreme Court of the United States and the National Council of Churches doing most of the pushing, with the result that we are coming perilously close to the position of the U.S.S.R.

The late Senator Dirksen, a great believer in Prayer, and in the need for Bible

instruction, told of a sticker that someone placed on his desk sometime during a temporary absence from his office. The sticker read as follows:— "In case of an atomic attack, the Federal Rule against praying in this school will be temporarily suspended."

Well, the atomic attack has come! It has struck at our Christian faith, and has left behind the rubble of broken homes, riots, revolution, a soar-crime rate, pornographic poison and a new morality akin to that of ancient Sodom.

David Lawrence, editor of U.S. News and World Report, wrote in the year of our Lord 1966, "Historians some day will write that the United States, in the 1960s, experienced an era of anarchy, unparalleled in a free country, governed originally by a written constitution, and once dedicated to the principle of Law and Order. We are today on the verge of a complete breakdown of our government structure."

Is this not reason enough for the Federal Rule against praying in the schools to be suspended?

There being no indication of the Government suspending the Rule, we Christian Citizens of the United States must proceed to make the demand! We agree with Robert Dilley, in his great book, "Message for

America", when he writes, "Because Christians have been so tolerant in the United States they have allowed a moral and spiritual breakdown to occur in their education system. The time has now come when the Christians must demand that the minority groups of Atheists, Agnostics, Jews, Unitarians, etc., become tolerant of the Christian religion, which has been the foundation of freedom, and provided the bulwark against collectivism for the past 175 years. The question now resolves itself into just how far the vast majority of Christian Americans are going to allow themselves to be pushed, before they begin to push back."

Is this land going to be "land of the free and home of the brave" or "land of the spree and home of the slave?"

The C.C.C. Association is dedicated to the purpose of convincing our Nation that even at this late hour there is a cure for the Nation's ills! We believe that the faith of the founding fathers, which made the United States a great Nation, is the faith that will cure the Nation!!

Many are already crying out for the application of this cure, and some of those crying the loudest are scientists. For example, Charles Steinmetz, the electrical wizard, foresees the day when, "the scientists of

the world will turn their laboratories over to the study of God and prayer." "When this day comes" he declares "the world will see more advancement in one generation than it has seen in the last four." And here we might add the words of J. Edgar Hoover, the famous law-enforcement officer, who said: "We must re-awaken in every citizen a fierce devotion to the supremacy of the law." Of course, we know that the foundation of all law is the Law of God as revealed in the Bible, and we know too, that the breakdown of the law brings anarchy.

But how on earth can we awaken a fierce devotion to the supremacy of the law, when the supreme law of God is banned from the schools with such powerful agencies as the Supreme Court and the National Council of Churches declaring against the reading of the Bible in our schools? We believe that the Bible should be read and taught in the homes of the people, and in the churches, but this will be ineffective as long as the Bible is regarded by the Government as not worthy of a place in the curriculum of our schools, while other books which are devastatingly critical of the Bible, and even atheistic, are permitted.

A statement of the late President Calvin Coolidge is here very apropos. President

Coolidge said, "The secular theory of the Bible cannot stand. Unless destroyed it will shake the Nation to its foundations. The forms and power of religion must permeate the State and be recognized by it. And the public school is the one place to put religion to make it effective in the national life."

Indeed this was the conviction of all our Presidents, under whom and under God, our Nation grew to greatness.

George Washington said: "It is impossible to govern the world without the Bible."

Andrew Jackson: "The Bible is the rock upon which this Republic rests."

Thomas Jefferson: "The Bible is the source of Liberty - I have always said, and always will say that the studious perusal of the Sacred Volume will make better citizens."

Ulysses S. Grant: "To this Book we are indebted for the progress made in our civilization, and to this Book we must look as our guide in the Future."

Abraham Lincoln: "In regard to the great Book I have only this to say. It is the best gift God has given to man....But for it we would not know right from wrong."

William McKinley: "The more profoundly

we study this wonderful Book and the more closely we observe its precepts, the better citizens we will become and the higher will be the destiny of our Nation."

Theodore Roosevelt: "The Bible is the most democratic book in the world."

Woodrow Wilson: "There are great problems before the American people. I would be afraid to go forward if I did not believe that there lay at the foundation of all our schooling and all our thought, the incomparable and unimpeachable Word of God."

Benjamin Kidd, the great educator, always kept before him the following dictum, "What you put into the schools will in from 20 to 30 years be a controlling force in the life of the Nation." This he illustrated by a reference to the late German Kaiser, who when he came to power ordered all teachers from Kindergarten to University to teach his principles in the schools of Germany. Soon the schools of the German nation rang with the deification of the Kaiser, and the glories of war. A quarter of a century later war burst upon humanity. School teachers and professors in College and University know how true this is.

Dan Smoot, in the Smoot Report of Oct.

31, 1966, quotes a professor of Psychology in Michigan University, who said, "I teach a course called the Psychology of Influence and I begin by stating categorically that the time has come when if you give me any normal human being and a couple of weeks....I can turn him from a Christian into a Communist or vice versa."

In Review of the News, Nov. 1966, we are told of a former Harvard University professor who now leads a movement based on the hallucinatory drug LSD and declares that everyone outside his League for Spiritual Discovery is crazy.

He says, "our aim is to change the fabric of American Life" and he predicts that "within twenty years half of the justices of the Supreme Court will smoke Marijuana."

It has always been true that when people forsake the fountain of Living Waters, they turn to broken cisterns that can hold no water. We must work day and night to get people, especially young people, back to God, the Fountain of Living Water. And no plan for this will succeed that omits the Bible and Prayer, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Barriers to Prayer and Bible reading may belong in the U.S.S.R. but certainly not in the United States unless it is our intention to sovietize America.

The United States Constitution has no barrier to the use of the Bible and to Prayer in our schools. Indeed, a true interpretation of the First Amendment forbids such barriers.

With the encouragement we are getting from Governor Reagan in California and President Nixon, and with the exodus that is taking place from the modernistic churches, Bible leaders should be ready for a new crusade to exalt the Word of God and to urge the prayerful reading of it in the home, in the church, and in the schools of the Nation.

Let us now take a new look at the words of the First Amendment to the Constitution over which this religious controversy rages. And these are the words, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The history that lies back of the adopting of the First Amendment was so succinctly stated by the late Dr. R. H. Martin in his book - Our Public Schools, Christian or Secular, that we quote, "Of the 13 original Colonies there are nine which had established churches at the time of the Revolution....The Colonies selected a particular church to which they gave financial support and favors which they denied to other churches. Opposition to this arose on the part of non-conform-

ing churches, and came to a head in Virginia in 1786....Before the disestablishment Virginia was Christian with an Episcopal Tag, afterwards it was still Christian without any tag.

Religion was not excluded when disestablishment took place. In 1922 the Supreme Court of Virginia declared, "from the creation of the State until the present time this State has been recognized as a Christian State."

But at the time of the adopting of the Constitution there were still some states which had an established church, and nothing was said in the Constitution about disestablishment. However, James Madison from Virginia was a candidate for Congress and he promised that he would introduce an amendment and submit it to the Colonies. This was done and the First Amendment to the Constitution was adopted, but it was never intended to divorce religion from the state, and certainly not from the schools.

The same Congress of which James Madison was a member passed an ordinance in 1787 which contained the following declaration: "Religion, Morality and Knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be forever encouraged."

They did not say morality and knowledge are necessary, but not religion. They said, "Religion, Morality and Knowledge", in that order.

Justice Storey of the Supreme Court of the United States in his commentaries on the United States, published in 1833, deals with the First Amendment and declares, "The real object of the Amendment was, not to countenance, much less advance, Mohammedanism or Judaism or Infidelity, by prostituting Christianity, but to exclude all rivalry between Christian sects."

As an encouragement for those seeking action on this urgent matter – the return of the Bible to our schools, we cite the decision of the Superior Court of Baltimore City, delivered by Judge J. Prendergrast. We are indebted to the National Educators Fellowship for a brief account of this case in their magazine of September, 1961.

This is an action brought by two avowed Atheists, who protested the continuing enforcement of a rule of the Board of School Commissions of Baltimore City, which provides that a chapter in the Holy Bible shall be read or the Lord's Prayer recited in the opening exercises of each school day.

The rule of the Board, which petitioners claim is objectionable, was adopted in 1905,

some 64 years ago, and with certain modifications has been in force since. It reads as follows:— "Section 6 – Opening Exercises. Each school, either collectively or in classes, shall be opened by the reading, without comment, of a chapter in the Holy Bible and/or the use of the Lord's Prayer. The Douai Version may be used by those pupils who prefer it."

On November 17, 1960, upon the complaint of petitioners, the Board amended the rule by adding: "Any child shall be excused from participating upon the written request of his parent or guardian."

The petitioners now seek to have the entire rule rescinded on the ground that it violates their rights.

Specifically petitioners aver that the enforcement of the rule threatens their religious liberty in one way or another. When the petitioners' counsel was asked how the religious liberty of a person who has no religion can be endangered, he had no answer.

The Court said, "It is abundantly clear that the petitioners' real objective is to drive every concept of religion out of the public school system. If God were removed from the classroom, there would remain only Atheism Thus the beliefs of virtually all the pupils would be subordinated to those of Madalyn

Murray and her son (the petitioners). Any reference to the Declaration of Independence would be prohibited because it concludes with the historic words of the signers...“with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.”

Any mention of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address would be anathema because the great Emancipator prayed that this Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom.

It is even possible that the United States currency would not be accepted in school cafeterias because every bill and coin has the familiar inscription, “In God we trust.”

The court found that the facts alleged in the petition for a Writ of Mandamus do not spell out any violation of petitioners’ Constitutional Rights.

The power of the School Board to require the reading of the Holy Bible or recitation of the Lord’s Prayer, as a part of the opening exercises each day, with the provision that objecting students may be excused, is a matter within the Board’s discretion.

While we advocate the use of the Bible and Prayer for the schools and the Nation, we do not forget the urgent necessity of the Bible and Prayer in the individual life. Indeed we urge acceptance of the Lord Jesus

Christ as personal Saviour and Lord for every citizen of the United States.

Rev. Bruce Steward of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles has a precious little tract pointing the way in which the Bible can change lives.

In the tract he asks: Do you know the Way to spiritual life? He then indicates four steps leading to that Way.

STEP 1 Discovering that God has made us with a need for spiritual life.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, declared that He had come to give life and to give it more abundantly.

STEP 2 Admitting that we have a sinful nature, which rebels against God and against spiritual life.

His Word declares that “all have sinned...”Romans 3:23.

STEP 3 Recognizing that God has a plan of reconciliation through Christ’s death on the cross.

The Word declares, “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God, for He hath made Him to be sin for us,

who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.", II Corinthians 5:20-21.

STEP 4 Approaching God through Jesus Christ for forgiveness and spiritual Life.

His Word declares; "He that heareth My Word and believeth in Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.", John 5:24.

Here's how you might pray:— "Dear God, I need your help. I confess I have sinned and need your forgiveness. I thank You for sending your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to die upon the cross and give His life for my sins. I want your forgiveness. I want Jesus Christ to be my Saviour, and I shall by your grace follow and obey Him as the Lord of my new life." In Jesus Name, AMEN!

Having taken these steps, then begin to take spiritual exercise every day. Read and study the Bible every day and Pray!

Tell others what God has done for you. Worship regularly with God's people and start working for Him.

This is excellent counsel from an am-

bassador of Jesus Christ. Having listened to this counsel we should be willing "to come to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

And here's one job that is crying out for helpers — namely the making of America safe for the young and rising generation.

Robert Leroy Bradt in an article, in American Mercury, tells of how farmers in Northern Minnesota protect their crops from an invasion of the dread army worm.

They dig deep entrenchments around their fields, fill them with gasoline and then set it afire. Into these flaming trenches the invaders fall and perish.

Our most precious American crop is the boys and girls in our schools, and yet, up to this moment, we have no plan for digging a trench or of building a wall of protection around them. Worse than that, we are virtually helping the Soviets to pervert their youthful minds through free delivery of Communist poisonous propaganda. The Deputy Director of customs in New York said, in June, 1961, that Communist propaganda is really "flooding this country."

Another customs officer said that this Communist material did indeed reach, directly or indirectly, every school or college in the United States.

The California Christian Citizens Asso-

ciation is putting on this campaign to bring the Bible and Prayer back into our schools for the protection of our most precious and greatest asset – our children.

Whether these children get a smattering of the Bible and Prayer in their churches and homes – and we are told that 50% do not – they are surely entitled to some protection in the schools of a Christian Nation in which they virtually live six hours a day, five days a week, and where there is no protection against subtle propaganda.

CITIZENS OF CALIFORNIA, WE PLEAD
WITH YOU TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR
OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN!

*Regarding this booklet please write to
Dr. R.E. Smith, Corresponding Secretary,
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California, 90065*

*Please join us in Prayer and in giving what-
ever support you are able to give to this
Cause.*

*Yours in behalf of
the C.C.C. Association which is laboring
for Christ and Country,*

*David Calderwood
Author*