

AWAKEN

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An
APPEAL
to
HEAVEN

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MEGAN NISSLEY *Dayspring Christian Academy, Class of 2014*



Awaken magazine is published annually by Dayspring Christian Academy. Dayspring Christian Academy is one of about 25 Principle Approach® schools in America. Of those, Dayspring is one of five model demonstration schools. The mission of Dayspring Christian Academy, through the Principle Approach, is to partner with families and churches in equipping students to:

- Acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every area of life
- Demonstrate a biblical worldview
- Become citizens of excellence in Christian character and scholarship
- Restore America’s Christian purpose

For more information on the school, please visit www.dayspringchristian.com or call 717.285.2000. If you would like to submit comments or letters to the editor of *Awaken*, please email Lisa Becker at lbecker@dayspringchristian.com.

Dayspring Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



The white pine image and phrase “Appeal to Heaven” was emblazoned on George Washington’s Revolutionary War flag to remind people that after all alternatives of seeking justice have been exhausted, only an “appeal to heaven” remains. The white pine was chosen because it had lined the landscape of American colonies and was used by England for sailing ship masts. For their own purposes, colonists claimed the trees close to the ocean. The ‘Broad Arrow’ act allowed England to take the trees and caused such resentment against the crown it helped start the Revolutionary War. So, the tree reminded colonists of the overreach of government.

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Dayspring Christian Academy is one of 25 *Principle Approach* schools in America. Of those, Dayspring is one of five model demonstration schools. Dayspring serves students in preschool through 12th grade.

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An Appeal to Heaven

It is time to appeal to Heaven on behalf of our children and for the future of our nation.



BY DR. MIKE MYERS
Headmaster and Founder
Dayspring Christian Academy

“Under these circumstances, it has appeared to me that the duty of imploring mercy and benediction of Heaven on our country demands at this time a special attention from its inhabitants.”¹

President John Adams, 1798

Recently, there has been a resurgence of a very old icon, one that goes back to the earliest days of America’s rise on the world stage. That symbol was an eastern white pine tree placed on a white flag with these earnest words emblazoned on it: An Appeal to Heaven. The meaning of those words and their connection with that symbolic tree are not to be trivialized, perhaps, now more than ever.

It is no fantasy that our earliest foreparents tied their hopes, aspirations, and dreams as well as expended their efforts “to the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith.” This is clearly evident in the copious documents, letters, and journals that have been preserved. No

matter how hard one tries, the religious connections in our history cannot be accidentally expunged.

Early American visionaries took seriously their dependence on and allegiance to the Sovereign Lord and Ruler of Nations as evidenced by the sober words pronounced by John Winthrop, governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, in 1630:

“For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken, and so cause him to withdraw his present help from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world.”²

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The “Appeal to Heaven” flag is representative of a time in America when it was common to openly acknowledge an overruling Providence, whose forgiveness and blessings were sorely sought. There was a sober understanding that God governs in the affairs of men and nations. Equally embraced was the notion that men and nations are accountable to Him.

More than 150 years after Winthrop’s “city upon a hill” sermon, Benjamin Franklin, at the Second Constitutional Convention, apprehended their meaning and appealed publicly:

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that “except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it.” I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages.⁴

Henry of Bolingbroke, in *On the Study and Use of History* (1794), declared that “nations like men have an infancy.” America’s infancy was characterized by a prevailing Biblical worldview. Rosalie

Slater, co-founder of the Foundation for American Christian Education, believed the link between America and Christianity to be so strong that “there would be no America if there were no Christianity.”⁵ From its inception, America has been subject to the same destructive forces working since the beginning of time to destabilize human civilization.

America’s outlook began to shift as the prevailing worldview of the political and educational elites veered from Biblical certainty. This transformation did not occur suddenly, but can be traced through the 19th and 20th centuries up to the present day—with devastating consequences. Over the years, the superficial and cynical treatment of America’s founding story has taken its toll, producing apathy and even disdain among an increasing number of its citizens.

“except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it.”



“An Appeal to Heaven” flag flown during the Revolutionary War.

Education has been key in all of this. In fact, Lance Wallnau, a Christian business consultant who specializes in cultural transformation, calls education one of the seven mountains of culture taken captive by Satan.⁶ What and how we teach our young holds tremendous import and potential for the cause of Christ, but also for the cause of Satan. It is no secret that our national record has been largely re-written and reshaped for the purposes of social engineers and powerful political forces. Current history textbooks are rife with politically correct rationales and unfounded scenarios explaining the rise and role of America. With no anchor to the past, no mooring to the secure bedrock of authoritative history, there is little to provide authentic meaning or clear direction in our modern world. With so much at stake, we should not be surprised that the attack has intensified in our day.

It is no secret that our national record has been largely re-written and reshaped for the purposes of social engineers and powerful political forces.

Current history textbooks are rife with politically correct rationales and unfounded scenarios explaining the rise and role of America.

Yet we are not without hope! All across this nation, Christians are calling upon the Name of the Lord, appealing to Heaven for help in this hour of need. God has declared: “So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, says the Lord (Isa. 59:19-20).

God has given us the tools to tear down the strongholds of the enemy. From every corner of society, Christians must lead the way back to Biblical truth.

America’s Principle Approach model of education employed at Dayspring Christian Academy equips students with the tools of sound Bible based reasoning in every school subject along with intrepid Christian character in order to expose the lies and unmask the delusion inundating our postmodern culture (2 Cor. 10:3-5). This is the kind of education that informed early Americans for nearly 200 years and is, thankfully, being restored to Christian homes and schools in our time.

In the final analysis, human efforts alone will not suffice. It is time to appeal to Heaven on behalf of our children and for the future of our nation.

“All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace.”

President Abraham Lincoln, 1863

¹ James D. Richardson, A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, Vol. VII (New York: Bureau of National Literature, Inc., 1897), p. 259. “A Proclamation”, by John Adams, 1798.
² Hall, V. M., & Slater, R. J. (1983). The Bible and the Constitution of the United States of America (p. 41). San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education.
³ Hall, V. M., & Slater, R. J. (1983). The Bible and the Constitution of the United States of America (p. 41). San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education.
⁴ Retrieved from <http://www.wallbuilders.com/libissuesarticles.asp?id=98> on September 26, 2016.
⁵ Slater, R. J., Hall, V. M., & Adams, C. G. (1994). Rudiments of America’s Christian history and government : student handbook (2nd rev. ed., p. 1). San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education.
⁶ Ahn, Che’ (Ed.) (2010). The reformer’s pledge. Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers. ISBN: 9780768432695.

Seven Pillars of a Proper Education

The Principle Approach: a method of education that appeals to heaven for its foundation.

A Principle Approach education is based on one simple idea: Rather than teach students what to think, they should be taught how to think—how to reason from Biblical truth and make applications in every area of life.

At its core are seven Biblical principles upon which this nation was founded. These principles build the framework for a Christian view of God, man, and government.

PILLAR #1 God’s Principle of Individuality

Everything in God’s universe is revelational of God’s infinity, God’s diversity, and God’s individuality. God creates distinct individualities, God maintains the identity and individuality of everything that He created.

In other words, every individual has value simply because God created them in his image. Genesis 1:26-27 says, “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule... over all the earth...” “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” (Read also John 1:3 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11). The secular view is that the individual has value based on his or her contribution to the whole. The Christian view is that man has value because he was created in the image of God. The Principle of Individuality also shows that God’s individuality can be seen in everything He created. No two organisms are alike, and every organism has distinct qualities.

So how does this principle tie in to government? We see this principle reflected in our Declaration of Independence, as first drafted by Thomas Jefferson in 1776. Jefferson eloquently states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights; that among these, are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...” Simply put, individuals have inalienable rights that come from God, not government.

PILLAR #2 Christian Self Government

One of our staff’s favorite quotes is that by Hugo Grotius, who, during the 1600s, laid the foundation for international law based on Natural Law. In Rosalie Slater’s *Teaching & Learning America’s Christian History*, Hugo Grotius is quoted as saying, “He knows not how to rule a kingdom, that cannot manage a Province; nor can he wield a Province, that cannot order a City; nor he order a City, that know not how to

regulate a Village; nor he a Village, that cannot guide a Family; nor can that man Govern well a family that knows not how to govern himself; neither can any govern himself unless his reason be Lord, Will and Appetite her Vassals; nor can reason rule unless herself be ruled by God, and (wholly) be obedient unto Him.”

The idea of Christian self-government is that government must first be internal, then external. This form of government is true for the individual and extends to the family, the community, and the nation.

I Timothy 3:5 states “For if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?” Robert Winthrop said, “Man must be governed by the Bible or the bayonet.” It is important to understand that, when self-government is increased, less government is needed. The table below compares and contrasts Christian self-government with the secular view of self-government.

CHRISTIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT	SECULAR SELF-GOVERNMENT
Christ-centered	Self Centered
God-governed	Group-centered
“They will be done.”	“My will be done”
I Tim. 3:2 (...above reproach... temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable...); Tit. 1:8 (...hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled), Gal. 5:23 (fruit of the spirit... self-control)	Judges 17:6 (every man did that which was right in his own eyes); Jer. 9:5 (everyone wears his neighbor and does not speak the truth... they weary themselves committing iniquity)

PILLAR #3.
America's Heritage of Christian Character

"This divine power of the gospel revealed itself to the heathen in the lives of Christians, which showed forth the virtues of Him who had called them out of darkness into his marvelous light, and enabled them to walk as the children of God, in the midst of a perverse generation, among whom they shone as lights in the world!... The whole life of the Christian, from the beginning to the end, is a conflict with the world and the powers of darkness, a conflict within and without..." Dr. Augustus Neander, Memorials of a Christian life.

Romans 5:3 says. We understand that character is formed through pressure (2 Corinthians 1:9-10), through conflict (Galatians 4:19), and by consistently taking dominion over our external environment rather than conforming to it (James 1:12). Through each of these tasks, we remain faithful to Christ.

In America today, we see the fruits of this principle. We see that lawmaking is the codification of the lawmaker's morality. We see that God uses individual characters to forward His story. We see He uses both the Christian and the pagan for His purposes. An anonymous author once said, "Sow a thought, reap a deed. Sow a deed, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny." This brings us to our next key principle, Conscience is the Most Sacred of All Property.

PILLAR #4.
Conscience is the Most Sacred of All Property

Ephesians 2:10 states, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Early Americans viewed conscience as a distinct possession, and held the view that God Himself gave it to the individual. It was vital not to lose it or violate it. The early American believer was convinced that Christian conscience was valuable property—sacred property!

As long as we are good stewards of the conscience God has given each of us, we are free and have true liberty, no matter what the external conditions may be.

At Dayspring Christian Academy, our students are taught (and our teachers reflect) that Man is God's property, and the most important property that God has given to every human being is his conscience. As long as we are good stewards of the conscience God has given each of us, we are free and have true liberty, no matter what the external conditions may be.

Conscience is formed by studying the Scriptures. The right of conscience (realized through Christianity) is what gives value to the individual. As did the first century Christians, we surrender our lives before we violate our conscience. With the principle of property is the necessity of stewardship of that property. Stewardship means putting to good use. In America today, we see that we have replaced individual responsibility with psychological justification. We fail to remember that government does not grant men's rights. God does.

PILLAR #5.
Christian Form of Our Government

"As men, we have God for our King, and are under the Law of Reason: as Christians, we have Jesus the Messiah for our King, and are under the Law revealed by him in the Gospel." *The Reasonableness of Christianity*. John Locke, 1695

We see the roots of our Christian form of Government in Exodus 18:21, Deuteronomy 1:9-19, and Isaiah 33:22. Peppared through historical documents we find

statements such as "The Bible is the rock on which our republic rests." (Andrew Jackson, June 8, 1845)

Chief Justice Earl Warren, addressing the annual prayer breakfast of International Council of Christian Leadership in 1954 stated, "I believe no one can read the history of our country without realizing that the Good Book and the spirit of the Savior have from the beginning been our guiding geniuses... (in most of the founding charters... the same objective is present: a Christian land governed by Christian principles."

Verna Hall, who founded the Principle Approach method of education along with Rosalie Slater states that, "Each religion has a form of government."

PILLAR #6.
How the Seed of Local Self-Government is Planted

"The external threat to our nation will never be so great as the challenge within. That challenge is a challenge to the integrity of individual Christian self-government. The art of self-government is learned through 'the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system.'" (Samuel Adams, 1790, in a letter to John Adams)

The key to planting the seed of self-government is the diligent teaching and planting of truth. This "seed principle," is applied daily in each class and course at Dayspring Christian Academy. The Word of God is the seed, planted first in the heart of the

child by his parents, then by churches and schools. The seed is planted to produce fruit. The seed is sown by Jesus and harvested in His time.

PILLAR #7.
The Christian Principle of American Political Union

This principle states that there must be a common unity on the basic principles which are foundational to the nation. Unity, which is internal to the nation, must precede external union. We find calls to unity throughout Scripture including in Ephesians 4:13, I Corinthians 1:10, Psalm 133:1, and Ephesians 4:1-3. We see examples of unity in our American history by looking at the Boston Patriots and the Tea Party and the subsequent Port Bill and unified reaction. We also see unity in the Days of Fasting and Humiliation, the cementing of the American Union Committees of Correspondence, and the response of the other colonies to the Boston Tea Party.

Tuesday, September 17, 1787, is perhaps, the most pointed example of a call to unity. It was on this day that Benjamin Franklin rose at the Constitutional Convention with a speech in his hand. This speech was read by James Wilson and said: "Mr. President, I confess that there are several parts of this constitution which I do not at present approve, but I am not sure I shall never approve them: For having lived long, I have experienced many instances of being obliged by better information, or fuller consideration, to change opinions even on important subjects, which I once thought right, but found to be otherwise. It is therefore that the older I grow, the more apt I am to doubt my own judgment, and to pay more respect to the judgment of others... On the whole, Sir, I cannot help expressing a wish that every member of the Convention who may still have objections to it, would with me, on this occasion doubt a little of his own infallibility, and to make manifest our unanimity, put his name to this instrument."

This Christian Principle of American Political Union shows us that our American political union is to be a Union with Unity.

Seven principles form the manner by which we, at Dayspring Christian Academy, educate. While there are many other principles in The Principle Approach, these seven keys are frequently found woven throughout our curriculum, modeled through our teachers, and form the mission of Dayspring Christian Academy: to partner with families and churches in equipping students to:

- Acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every area of life
- Demonstrate a Biblical world view
- Become citizens of excellence in Christian character and scholarship
- Restore America's biblical foundation ▶

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The Hero of Every Subject —Even Math

BY LESLIE SCHMUCKER
Dayspring Christian Academy Teacher

A Dayspring Christian Academy teacher, Leslie is also mother to two Dayspring graduates. This article first appeared on DesiringGod.com. She blogs at schmucker3b.blogspot.com. (Reprinted with Permission).

In August, I experienced my first day of school, for the 50th time—my 32nd as an educator. Twenty-eight of those years I spent teaching in public school, and the last three at Dayspring, where my husband and I sent our children.

Unlike many Christian schools, Dayspring goes beyond tacking a few Bible classes onto their classical curriculum. Here, the Bible is the heart of the curriculum. Every day, in every subject, in every class, the students are taught that God is the Creator of every bit of information. Teaching at this school goes past merely imparting knowledge. The goal is to use the subjects as vehicles to behold the glory of Christ.

Of course, this is not revolutionary. Martin Luther asserted, *I am much afraid that schools will prove to be great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount.*

A century later, on September 26, 1642, the founders of Harvard College in the Rules and Precepts at Harvard stated, *Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, let every one seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seek it of him (Proverbs 2, 3).*

AMERICA'S SCHOOLMASTER
Even in our more recent American history, education's goal was to foster a Biblical worldview in its citizens, not only to lay Biblical foundations for civic duty, but to educate Biblically as a compass to lead children to the true north, Christ.

Noah Webster was named the Founding Father of American Scholarship and Education and "America's Schoolmaster." His famous *Blue Back Speller* was the fundamental reading book used by Colonial American children, along with the Bible,

which was the primary textbook. Webster went on to write the incredible American Dictionary of the English Language, which was published in 1828. Webster's 1828 is a massive and thorough volume of comprehensive definitions of English words and pervaded with Scripture. In it, he defines education this way:

The bringing up, as of a child; instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.

Luther, Harvard's founders, and Noah Webster could be so boldly Christ-centered because they knew the sciences existed to display the wonder, majesty, grandeur, minutiae, vastness, intricacy, opulence, and sublimity of creation, and



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the genius of the Creator. They recognized that history outlines God's providence throughout the expanse of time. Nothing escapes his notice or his hand. Spurgeon said, "When we read human history, we should read it to see the finger of God in it." Webster especially understood that studying language scrutinizes God's primary way of communicating with humans, words (Hebrews 1:1-2). Teaching it should point students to *the Word*, who is Christ.

WHAT DOES MATH SAY ABOUT GOD?

But what about math? Until my children went to Christian school, I had long declared a profound devotion to the hatred of math. But I have come to see that math is part of God's character. There is no getting around it. Nothing you can see or think about is separate from math. God is a God of order, and math is the essence of that order. The day my second-grade daughter brought home an assignment to find a Bible verse pertaining to math was the day I rescinded that life-long devotion to hating it.

To obtain knowledge of the world around us is to obtain knowledge of the character of God (Romans 1:19-20). To teach is to point our students to God and to lead them to give him the glory he deserves. Why do you think Jesus said that if his disciples kept quiet, even the rocks would cry out (Luke 19:40)? He knew that God's creation is so spectacular that every inch of it declares his glory. We must show this to our children!

PARENTS ARE TEACHERS TOO

Noah Webster contended that this responsibility falls on the shoulders of parents, and, by extension, teachers. Even parents who send their children to public school are primarily responsible for making sure Christ is exalted in the things their children are learning.

So how do we do it when the amount of images and information that compete for our children's attention is so staggering? It is practically incomprehensible to my generation. And as a teacher, it is a daunting task to teach my students anything new. There has been an added paradigm to the imparting of new knowledge. We now must teach students how to access and apply the knowledge that is at their fingertips every second. And much of that knowledge has been distorted, perverting the purity and beauty of God's good creation.

To obtain knowledge of the world around us is to obtain knowledge of the character of God.

As Christian teachers and parents, we are charged with the formidable task of showing our children that God is infinitely more beautiful than anything of the world. By our own strength—because of the enemy's insidious, albeit God-sanctioned, rule in the carnal realm—this task is impossible. But as Jeremiah pointed out, nothing is too hard for God (Jeremiah 32:17).

We must pray with intention and deliberation for our children. We must get creative in our teaching, showing them Elohim, the Creator God. We must compel our students to see God's glory in everything from a bumblebee to a tree to a skyscraper. We

must lead them to an understanding of the quintessence of the old hymn,
*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small;
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all!*
We must never stop teaching them to give God the glory in all created things.

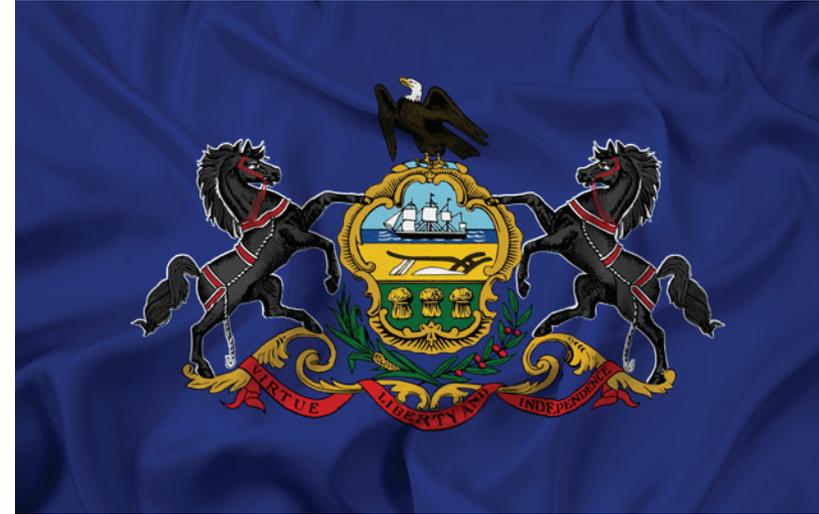
THE FINAL EXAM

John Piper says, "The redeemed cosmos will reach its final purpose when the saints enjoy God in it, and through it, and above it, with white-hot admiration."

So teachers and parents, while your heads swirl with technology woes, scope and sequence charts, lesson plan rubrics, faculty or co-op meetings, state standards, IEPs, differentiated instruction, outcomes-based learning, curriculum changes, seating charts, lunch duty, schedules, standardized testing, and wondering when you'll get a minute to use the restroom, pause to pray. Ask God to help you cut through the noise of regulations and procedures to the ultimate desired outcome of our teaching: God's glory.

Pray that God would compel you to be perpetually cognizant of the beauty in

his creation and to give you a soul-saturated appreciation of the majesty of the world around you. Then ask him to show you how to teach in such a way that by June your children will have seen the wonder in the knowledge you've imparted. ➤



*I pledge allegiance to the flag
Of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
And to the Values for which it stands;
Virtue, Liberty, & Independence.
One State, Under God. A Holy Experiment.
The Keystone of our Indivisible Union*

8th Grade Class Submits Proposal for State Pledge

BY AUBREE POOLE

State Rep. Brett Miller worked with Dayspring's 2015-16 8th-grade class to submit a pledge for the Pennsylvania flag to state legislators for possible adoption.

There are 17 states in the United States of America that have a pledge to their flags. These pledges, typically short and solemn, promise allegiance and service to the flag of the state, much in the same way our country's pledge promises allegiance to the national flag. Pennsylvania, however, is not among those 17 states.

Earlier this year, the Dayspring Christian Academy's 8th-grade class toured the state capitol, accompanied by 41st District Representative, Brett Miller. The class, had been working on formulating a state pledge throughout last school year. Teacher Caleb Young had the idea to establish a state pledge, and got in touch with Miller, asking him if any such document existed.

Miller charged the State Archives Office to search for one. The State Archives Office searched through documentation dated back to the founding of Pennsylvania in 1681 but found no evidence of a pledge to the flag.

To develop the pledge, each student in the 8th-grade Pennsylvania Studies class wrote a pledge and read it to the class, which voted on the top five and compiled parts of them into one. Most of the pledge came from student Stephanie Horst, though some was drawn from others.

The pledge contains elements from the nation's Pledge of Allegiance and mirrors it in length and cadence. It references "virtue, liberty, and independence," Pennsylvania's state motto, which also appears on the state flag and coat of arms. The pledge also mentions PA as a "Holy Experiment," a term used by William Penn.

At the culmination of their tour of the capitol, the class presented Miller with their submission, in the hopes that he would introduce it as a bill for adoption

in the State House of Representatives. "This started as an idea which must be put into the form of legislation. That legislation presents the proposed idea in written form," said Miller. The submission must first be formally drafted into a bill. If the bill survives committees, it will go to the floor of the House, in which case, it would need a majority vote to pass.

"It may take a while to pass, if it passes at all, but it was a worthy project for the class and incorporated what they've learned in Civics class and Pennsylvania history," Young said. ➤



American Exceptionalism and Its Foundation in Divine Providence



BY DR. MIKE MYERS
Headmaster and Founder
Dayspring Christian Academy

240 years ago, members of the Second Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. That document embodies the very essence of the American dream. The Declaration of Independence officially dissolved the political bands that had tied the American Colonies to Great Britain, the most powerful empire on the planet at that time. The Declaration sets forth the principles and ideas behind a just and fair government, while the Constitution presents how to run the government.

Of course, the signing of the Declaration was not entered upon without exhausting all avenues of reconciliation. More than once, the colonists tried to appeal to King George III for due consideration of their rights as Englishmen. In the end, once the die had been cast, a spirit of unity spread across the Colonies. Significant, also, was the spirit of appeal and gratitude expressed to God.

Samuel Adams, Father of the American Revolution, declared: “We have this day restored the Sovereign to Whom alone men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven and from the rising to the setting sun may His kingdom come.”

Referring to this momentous occasion, Declaration signer and future second president of the US John Adams wrote to Abigail, his wife:

I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shows, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more. You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States.

The rise of America among the nations of the world was exceptional, as any astute student of history would see. Adams wrote of the Toil and Blood and Treasure that it would cost to maintain the Declaration, and to support and defend these States. Adams was correct and that reality has not changed in the 240 years that have elapsed since his time. Now, as much as ever, today’s generation must be as vigilant and courageous as the Founders, to support and defend our nation and the ideals upon which it was based.

Let’s consider America. Just the name has evoked deep emotion and highest aspirations in countless millions in the relatively short while that this nation has existed as the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” For most who call this country

their home, a deep pride swells the chest as we reflect upon the majesty and the far-reaching influence of America. Any who have left these shores for an excursion or missions work quickly realize the extent of liberty and blessings that American citizens enjoy. Notably, America is still the most sought after destination for the beleaguered and oppressed around the world.

And why would that be? I believe it is tied to this idea of exceptionalism. In recent times, there has been a resurgence of interest and use of the term, American Exceptionalism. To some, it may seem arrogant and against the rules of political correctness. To others, it is a way of identifying the virtues of our nation. If such a thing does exist, just what does it mean, and to what or whom is this exceptionalism to be attributed? Answering these questions requires deep research and unbiased analysis to discover and understand all aspects of our history—the good, the bad, and the ugly (and all three do exist). Beyond that, we must faithfully remember and rehearse our history lest we forget who we are as a people and what God purposed our nation to be. If we drift from our founding principles—the very ideas and ideals that made us great—we will become easy prey to philosophies and agendas that would have been anathema to those who secured the moorings of our nation with their blood, sweat, and tears.

It is no fantasy that our earliest foreparents tied their hopes, aspirations, and dreams as well as expended their efforts to the glory of God and the advancement of the

**Was there a
central, noble, and
God-breathed purpose
behind the establishment of
the United States of America?**

Christian faith. This is clearly evident in the 1606 First Virginia Charter and in the copious documents, letters, and journals that followed. In the wake of the politically correct, postmodern, multicultural tidal wave that has swept through our political institutions and government schools in recent years, ordinary Americans are beginning to awaken to threats that could forever alter the outcome of the great America Experiment. Now, more than ever, we must search for the meaning of America.

We must fearlessly ask pointed questions about the foundations of this nation and be prepared to search diligently for honest and verifiable answers. Was our nation simply the offspring of the European Enlightenment—the result of political evolution? Was the American Dream merely a wealth scheme perpetrated by greedy colonists seeking a means to their own personal aggrandizement? Or, was there a central, noble, and God-breathed purpose behind the establishment of the United States of America?

Using contemporary sources, one would find ready answers and opinions regarding these questions. Current textbooks and histories are rife with politically correct rationales and unfounded scenarios explaining the rise of America. Over the years,

the superficial and misleading treatment of America's founding story has taken its toll, producing apathy and even disdain among some of its citizens. With no anchor to the past, no mooring to the secure bedrock of authoritative history, there is little to give authentic meaning or direction regarding our presence in today's world. Sadly, recent generations have not been given the tools of research and logic to mine the gold of America's genesis and purpose.

As with everything, we must define what we mean by our terms if we want others to understand our position. From a conservative, Christian perspective, American Exceptionalism is not a claim to perfection, nor is it about power or wealth or superiority, for as Jesus said, "Unto whom much is given, much is required." American exceptionalism—that which truly sets it apart from other nations—arose out of the seedbed of Biblical principles that were studied and embraced by our founders. The application of those principles resulted in a harvest of individual and civil liberty, which has yet to meet its rival.

The dawn of America did not occur in a vacuum. God providentially prepared not only a land, but also a generation of men and women who could reason from the principles of truth contained in the

Bible and apply them to every area of life, including civil government. Noted historian Richard Frothingham wrote in his, *The Rise of the American Republic* (1910), that a

... fresh impetus was given to that transformation of society, which began when Christianity—the basis of the good, permanent, and progressive in modern civilization—first appeared in the world. At that time, social order rested on the assumed natural inequality of men. The individual was regarded as of value only as he formed a part of the political fabric, and was able to contribute to its uses, as though it were the end of his being to aggrandize the State. This was the pagan idea of man.

The wisest philosophers of antiquity could not rise above it... The State regarded as of paramount importance, not the man, but the citizen whose physical and intellectual forces it absorbed... It bore hard on those whom the State virtually ignored—on laboring men, mechanics, the poor, captives in war, slaves, and women....

Christianity then appeared with its central doctrine, that man was created in the Divine image, and destined for immortality; pronouncing, that, in the eye of God, all men are equal. This asserted for the indi-

vidual an independent value. It occasioned the great inference, that man is superior to the State, which ought to be fashioned for his use. This was the advent of a new spirit and a new power in the world.

I submit that this—Christianity—was the beginning of American exceptionalism for it was upon these principles of Biblical Christianity that the Great Experiment, America, was forged.

Samuel Adams addressed the significance of Christianity in both the establishment of this nation and in the education of its children to preserve and sustain the new Biblical, civil order that God was establishing. He wrote:

Let divines and philosophers, statesmen and patriots, unite their endeavors to renovate the age, by impressing the minds of men with the importance of educating their little boys and girls, of inculcating in the minds of youth the fear and love of the deity and universal philanthropy, and, in subordination to these great principles, the love of their country; of instructing them in the art of self-government, without which they never can act a wise part in the government of societies, great or small; in short, of leading them in the study and practice of the exalted virtues of the Christian system.

Why was John Adams so emphatic in his exhortation to his wife about memorializing the signing of the Declaration of Independence? Did he just like a good party? Certainly there was more to it than that! Adams recognized the importance and necessity of remembering.

One hundred years after John Adams penned that letter, the Rev. Samuel W. Foljambe preached an election sermon in which he stated: "The more thoroughly a nation deals with its history, the more decidedly will it recognize and own an overruling Providence therein, and the more religious a nation will it become; while the more superficially it deals with its history, seeing only secondary causes and human agencies, the more irreligious will it be."

From a conservative, Christian perspective, American Exceptionalism is not a claim to perfection, nor is it about power or wealth or superiority, for as Jesus said, "Unto whom much is given, much is required."

Why should this concern us today? Let us examine what John Adams wrote at our founding:

We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

Furthermore, George Washington, believing that religion must be foundational in the successful planting and growth of the nation, insisted: Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim true patriotism, who should labor to subvert these two great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the destinies of men and citizens.

Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.

George Washington

Thomas Jefferson, primary author of the Declaration wrote: "The Bible is the cornerstone of liberty. A student's perusal of the sacred volume will make him a better citizen, a better father, a better husband." As inferred by Jefferson, a worldview,

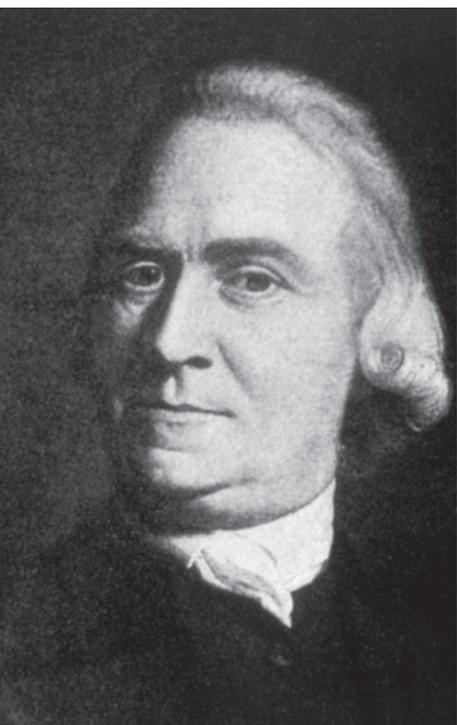
with its assumptions and presuppositions, makes all the difference in the real stuff of life. It affects what one means and how one interprets what others mean. It sets in motion policies and programs that will affect the generations yet to be born.

It is essential that 21st century Americans understand what the founders meant when they penned the words of the Declaration and the Constitution. Without the solid foundation of a Biblical worldview—their worldview at the time of writing these documents—the meaning can be twisted and perverted into anything one wants them to mean to support an agenda that is contrary to the founding principles so many purchased with their lives.

The American Experiment was not just a moment in history; it continues today and depends on us to remember, proclaim, and preserve the principles that birthed it. The power of the civil government in America rests not in a king, or a dictator; not in the military or a panel of judges; the power of government rests in the people. What will we do with that power?

James Madison, chief architect of the US Constitution wrote:

We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." ▶



Samuel Adams, Father of the American Revolution, declared:
"We have this day restored the Sovereign to Whom alone men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven and from the rising to the setting sun may His kingdom come."



THE
Fruit OF A *Drop*
Education

DAYSPRING ALUMNI CREATE FILM
 ON THE LIFE OF HARRIET TUBMAN

The thrust of a Dayspring Christian Academy education is that we desire for students to think and reason from Biblical principles and apply them to every area of life. We mean to affect society and influence the civil realm as our graduates fulfill the roles God has for them. For some that may mean leaders in city hall and others as leaders of families. For others yet, this education will influence in the area most embraced by young people today: media.

Though just eight and three years respectively out of the classrooms of Dayspring, Michael Schmucker and Josh Henry, owners and operators of LampHouse Films, have stepped in to the influential realm of films as part of Dayspring's Remember America Films initiative.

Their work has come to life in *Carry Me Home*, a short film (approximately 20 minutes) that tells the story of Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave from the South who could have wandered into obscurity, but one at a time plucked hundreds more slaves from death to life as she led them to freedom. The film pulls back the veil of the Underground Railroad and witnesses one slave's attempt at freedom alongside Tubman on what would be her final journey.

Based on a true story, the film stars Karen Abercrombie as Tubman. Audiences may recognize Abercrombie from the recent movie *War Room* where she starred as Miss Clara, a fierce prayer warrior. Abercrombie brings that conviction and vigor to the screen as she portrays the fearless Harriet Tubman. It was filmed locally and features many local actors including Lindsey Grimble, who portrays lead character Maria Ennals and Joel Ashur, who plays the role of Maria's husband, Stephan.

Dayspring embarked on the project as part of its mission to restore the Biblical foundation of America. Specifically, the mission of Remember America Films is to glorify God and to inspire people to set their hope in Him by illuminating His providence in America's history. Tubman's story had not been told on the big screen, and as a devout woman of faith, she was a good fit for the first Remember America film.



In this interview, Michael and Josh tell their story and that of *Carry Me Home*. Both spent many years at Dayspring. Michael entered the school in fifth grade, while Josh began in academic kindergarten. They begin by sharing some of their favorite Dayspring memories then tell *Awaken* their story of making *Carry Me Home* and what comes next for the film that audiences have called “powerful” and “spectacular.”

AWAKEN: *What is your favorite memory from Dayspring?*

JOSH: The (ninth grade) Plymouth trip is such an enduring memory to me. I absolutely loved it. My class became a class during that trip. In fact, after that trip I had everybody give me photos, and I put them in a little editor that was built into my computer. For the first time in my life perhaps, I spit out a video. That was probably one of the very early indications that when people watched it and were entertained by that, I thought I should do this more.

MICHAEL: The trips are always the highlights. (Our senior field study) to Italy was awesome.

JOSH: Just general time spent in the senior lounge was awesome.

MICHAEL: Shooting the senior film was a highlight in Mr. Schwartz’s class. Most people do a two-minute, five-minute whatever. No we’re doing a half-hour

heist epic. We’re going to plan. We’re going to break in. You know it was a full-on heist, and Burl (Business Park, DCA’s former location) at the time was the perfect setting. I loved figuring out the ins and outs. Another thing, I, in my youth and foolishness, said aloud, ‘I just don’t like old movies,’ in front of Mr. Schwartz one time because at the time I

“FOR A FILM ABOUT MIRACLES, THERE WERE QUITE A FEW MIRACLES IN THE MAKING OF THIS MOVIE.”

really didn’t. And to this day, he and I get together and we’ll watch old films. And I’ve been introduced to so many terrific films that way.

AWAKEN: *What are some of the enduring principles you learned from Dayspring?*

JOSH: The constant teaching of how to think for yourself and problem solve. Dayspring really teaches you how to do that properly rather than just telling you what to learn.

MICHAEL: It’s not a regurgitation of facts, and it also instilled in me a work ethic. Even just writing. I consider myself to be a pretty good writer, and that was

totally Dayspring’s doing. Also facilitating leadership opportunities. I think there is a thoroughness—making everything the best that it can be not just phone in something when you are doing it. At LampHouse when we are making a film, we strive to make it the best that it can possibly be. I think that is pretty foundational in my schooling at Dayspring.

JOSH: Just learning to think from Biblical principles and having an understanding of Biblical principles.

MICHAEL: I would say studying the Bible was a skill, and I walk this line because Dayspring is not your church. What I did was to get the skill to study and learn from the Word.

AWAKEN: *How did you get started in films?*

MICHAEL: I used to make little films on my parents’ camcorder. I have these DVDs from my classes at Dayspring. I have a solid collection. Instead of doing PowerPoint presentations for reports, I would always ask if I could make a film instead! I made a film about the book of Obadiah for Mr. Day’s eighth-grade Bible class. It’s a modernized retelling of Obadiah. It’s quite artistic.

JOSH: I remember making a film for a cooking demonstration that was all in Spanish for a Spanish class. I remember making another one with (classmate) Trevor Brown in a bear costume.

AWAKEN: *When did you know you wanted to be film makers?*

MICHAEL: 11 years old.

JOSH: Me, my siblings, and cousins have been making films for years. It just slowly kind of evolved to a Dayspring friend Nathan Lee showing me editing software. Then that kind of turned into making videos in high school and putting them on YouTube. I got a kick out of everybody getting a kick out of them, and that became my singular focus. Everything else was secondary to making sure there was a new video every week. It became my obsession for a long time, and that kind of turned into corporate work seeming like a plausible career path. Not until I was at LampHouse, though, did narrative film become interesting and even irresistible.

AWAKEN: *How did you start working together?*

JOSH: I was an intern with Michael when he owned a freelance business MS Cinema. We realized we would have been in competition with each other and we had very similar goals. So, we thought it made sense to go in to business together.

AWAKEN: *Why is film making a passion for you?*

JOSH: I love telling stories.

MICHAEL: I love telling stories in a visual medium. It’s a blend of where technical meets art. It actually looks like operating cameras and clicking and editing software, but all of that to evoke emotion to create stories and feelings that move people. It’s a beautiful form of art, and it’s where all of the art forms sort of meet. It has the capacity to evoke the most out of people. It’s a medium that appeals to the masses.

JOSH: It’s what happens when every form of art works together to create something.

THE MIRACLES

AWAKEN: *There were several things along way where you felt the Lord interceded or just blessings, can you talk a little bit about that.*

MICHAEL: For a film about miracles, there were quite a few miracles in the making of this movie.

JOSH: We were telling a story about a woman who would pray for things then expect for things to happen, and I really feel like it was our job to learn that lesson before we were allowed to teach that lesson. We certainly learned it in the film-making process. I had a production assistant come up to me afterward and say, “Josh my faith has been strengthened by watching how God worked through the making of the film.”

COUNTING THE MIRACLES

Michael and Josh gave an account of what they call miracles that occurred in the making of *Carry Me Home*.

1. The first they are quick to identify is having actress Karen Abercrombie accept the role of Harriet Tubman. Within an hour of them reaching out to her regarding the possible role, they heard back from the actress with confirmation to act in *Carry Me Home*. She most notably and recently played the beloved Miss Clara from last summer’s box-office smash *War Room*.
2. The dialect coach. “Getting the dialect coach was a direct answer to prayer,” Josh said. “We prayed that we would be able to get a dialect coach, even though we couldn’t afford one and didn’t have connections. We got one who almost donated her time and who is very talented.”

3. The snow in the film. There is a scene in the film where Harriet Tubman meets Maria Ennals, the lead character. “It’s in the woods and we set up the scene, which is in the middle of winter, but it just kind of looks like woods at night,” Michael said. “There was snow scripted for that scene. We looked at getting a snow machine but we didn’t want to have to bother

with it, because it was expensive and probably just too much trouble,” he added. “So, when we had just about finished setting up to shoot the scene, there was a heavy snowfall that just dumped on us and the winds came in. In less than six minutes the ground was coated in snow and there was this beautiful light snow falling. It was like God dressed the scene.”

4. There is a scene in the film where Harriet is driving a horse and wagon, which of course they needed to shoot the scene. “It was just the day before we needed it to shoot, and we got it,” Josh remembered.
5. “We didn’t have our river location just a week out from shooting, and that was making all of us a little nervous,” Josh said. It is a pivotal scene in the film. They contacted the office that gives such permission for the location, and learned it was going to be a two-week waiting period to film in that location. The film’s production manager, Jenna Greene, typed up an email saying that even though it was probably impossible to get the permission in the time that they needed it, would they give the crew permission to film.

“We all thought it was a lost cause,” Josh said. “So we gathered around Jenna to pray as she was writing the email. This was common practice and we had done this a handful of other times before sending emails. As Jenna prayed, she said, ‘God, just let us know. Please give us this location within the hour. Amen.’ And I was freaking out. Within the hour? Two days would have been perfectly fine, and sure enough, it had to be an hour on the nose that we got the call that we had a green light for the location.”

“In every area, that we didn’t think through beforehand because it was our first narrative film, God took care of it,” Josh noted. “We were able to create the film that we wanted to create, because everywhere that we had a shortcoming, He stepped in and took care of it for us.”





Ellie Green '11 writes the score for Carry Me Home

The score for *Carry Me Home* was written by another Dayspring graduate Ellie Green (Class of 2011). She attends the University of Bangor (in Wales, UK). She expects to graduate in 2017 and pursue a career as a film composer.

AWAKEN: How did you connect with Josh (Henry, director) on *Carry Me Home*?

ELLIE: I knew Josh from high school. He asked me to work with him on the film, and told me of his mission to make good art, and I was very eager to be a part of it.

Awaken: What interested you about the film?

ELLIE: The fact that Josh wanted to tell a good story, and make good art drew me to the film.

Awaken: From where did you draw your inspiration for the score?

ELLIE: I drew my inspiration from the story of the film, from the feelings and emotions of the characters.

Awaken: Anything from the process of writing it that you would like to share?

ELLIE: The writing process began with a few watch-throughs of the film. Then I did a spotting session, where I made notes of all the places I thought music would be appropriate, and the kinds of melodies and themes that would be right for those spots. Maria (Ennals, the main character) is the only character that has her own melody, because she is very much the heart of the story. The other melodies are driven by the emotion of the scene and the feelings of the characters during that scene.

AWAKEN: What were your roles in *Carry Me Home*?

MICHAEL: Director of Photography/Producer

JOSH: Director/Producer/Writer

AWAKEN: Why did you want to do a film like *Carry Me Home*?

JOSH: It was really Dayspring's desire to create a film that showed God's providence in America's history, and it was on us to determine the best way to do that.

MICHAEL: I had been involved in working on the Remember America brand and creating films for Dayspring for a long time just for marketing purposes. But it has been a goal of LampHouse's for a longtime to get in to narrative film making as we continue working on films for corporate business, non-profits, organizations to also be creating narrative films. We want to make films and tell great stories but we had already been so close to the Remember America brand. Dayspring wanted to show God's providence in America's history and here's an opportunity to create a film that is beyond LampHouse. So, as we did the research and explored various stories in America's history, it became apparent that Harriet Tubman is an incredible story in American history that has not been properly told. The more I thought about it, she was an incredible woman of faith, plot-wise there are incredible storytelling opportunities just for that time period... there was slavery... an escape film... there were so many things to explore in her life. So, when I first brought it to Dayspring, I kind of said, "how about Harriet Tubman?" (Emphasis on the question mark.) I watched everyone go through the same process. Harriet Tubman? Then everyone felt like that was a pretty good idea. So, Josh read just about every book written on Harriet Tubman.

JOSH: I have a pretty high stack of books where as a director it is one of my chief responsibility to know more about the subject, know more about the script, know more about the film than anybody else. I need to be able to answer the "why" questions. I fell in love with the story. I fell in love with telling Harriet Tubman's story. She has so much to her life. So much we don't cover in *Carry Me Home* It was hard to narrow down for *Carry Me Home* what aspects of her life I wanted to hone in on as I was writing. I really think we came up with the best version especially for a 20-minute film.

AWAKEN: What happens in *Carry Me Home*?

MICHAEL: We are looking at Harriet Tubman through the eyes of those who were trying to escape slavery with her on the Underground Railroad. Everything that happens in the movie, even the miracles, they are all true things. They may have happened across other escapes, but they happened. As a viewer of a film, you watch it as if you are a main character, and we didn't want to make it look like we assumed we knew what Harriet would have been thinking.

So that is why we chose to present the film through the eyes of someone who had an encounter with Harriet Tubman. So we, the audience, could have an encounter with Harriet Tubman.

AWAKEN: What do you hope the audience walks away with?

JOSH: I hope that people who are watching the film can live a life that is as selfless as Harriet Tubman's and to see her and her faith the way she put it into practice and her love for those around her and that people will be touched and inspired by watching Harriet to lead better lives themselves.

MICHAEL: Even just having people enlightened by true history that has not been told before.

AWAKEN: What were some of the most challenging times on set?

JOSH: The river crossing scene was something that was on our radar from the very beginning, because we knew it was going to be logistically challenging. It was last in the shooting schedule, because we thought it was going to be the most difficult. We were pleasantly surprised, though. It was difficult but it was not the coldest day on set. The first time I got in the river was 1 or 2 a.m. on January 13, so that tells you it was cold. As the director I am always aware of what I am asking the cast and crew to do. They were great sports. No one complained even one word.

MICHAEL: It was cold, but we were in wet suits and we poured hot water down our wet suits. We had towels at the ready and robes. The coldest day by far was when we were filming kneeling in a swamp in the Chesapeake Bay and a cold wind was at our back. We shot in winter on purpose, because that was when almost all slave escapes would happen. Nights were longer, which presents an interesting situation while you are filming.

MICHAEL: We credit Debra Kauffman who was the hospitality manager on the film (and a Dayspring mom) for keeping

us well fed and comfortable. For those of us who have had experience on film sets or know what it is like, we had better food on our set than almost any production out there. It was a lovely treat after long, cold days of shooting to come into a warm place where they had delicious food prepared, and they had a network of volunteers from Dayspring who helped with that as well.

JOSH: We credit Debra Kauffman with her help in the shoot. It was so encouraging for the crew to have warm meals and a warm place to look forward to. You don't always get that on film sets, and Debra was the one who provided that for us.

AWAKEN: Did you know that Harriet Tubman was going to be on the \$20 bill?

MICHAEL: The idea of the film came almost a year before we filmed it, and news of Harriet Tubman being on the \$20 bill came out after we had shot the film. ➤

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APPEAL TO HEAVEN

How you can pray for *Carry Me Home*, Michael and Josh, and LampHouse Films

1. As we move forward with the next step and work on the script for the feature film that God would continue to bless us and that we would write a film that He would have us make.
2. As we run a business, that we would continue to do so with wisdom and ways that honor Him.
3. That our identity continues to be in Christ.
4. That we have balance with our professional and family life as well.



From the Halls of Dayspring to the Halls of Harrisburg's Capitol, Dayspring Alumnus Tells His Story

Eric Pettis '10 delivered the alumni remarks at the 2016 Honors Ceremony. As Executive Assistant to Pennsylvania's Lt. Governor Mike Stack, he shared about his years at Dayspring and the path the Lord paved to his current position. At the ceremony, he presented Dayspring Upper School Teacher Eric Schwartz with an award from the lieutenant governor's office.

As a former recipient of awards at Dayspring, I can remember the affect receiving an award had on my life. It's absolutely inspiring to be recognized for your hard work and it gives you the confidence to continue your record of success in the future," Eric Pettis, executive assistant to Pennsylvania Lt. Governor Mike Stack and 2010 Dayspring Christian Academy graduate.

When I was asked to speak tonight, I was asked to share my story. What am I doing now and how did I get there? I don't want to share my story because I think it's interesting or cool. Rather, it is my hope that hearing my story inspires and encourages our students here, and most importantly, reminds them that anyone, with perseverance and the Lord's help, can overcome

what doubts they may have about their future and achieve the calling God has for their life.

It was the sixth grade, I was a B to C student, and was pretty unpopular. My life as a student compared to the Peanut's character named "Pig-Pen," the guy who always had the cloud of dirt around him who was known for being sloppy and kind of odd. I certainly was not the smart kid in my class. I was known as the wacko kid that did stuff to impress people. I may have been a bit of an annoyance to my fellow students back then.

Maybe some of this was attributed to my lack of maturity. However, I think there was a bit more missing from my lackluster academic performance in middle school.

I don't mean to paint myself as a terrible student—I was actually a good kid—I just lacked a desire to focus on working hard in school instead of worrying about people accepting me.

Ninth and 10th grade rolled around, and I was determined that I had to be someone different. The Eric Pettis in middle school wasn't going to work out for high school. It was around this time when I started to fully appreciate all that Dayspring had to offer me and allowed Dayspring to have a life-changing effect on me as a person.

When I was in high school, our school theme was based on Hebrews 12:1: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." I remember allowing the valuable lessons I learned that year at Dayspring to resonate inside me.

It was this year when the Lord used Dayspring to show me that it was my calling as a Christian to pursue excellence in all that I do. I feel like the Lord spoke to me and told me to run with perseverance, striving for not only academic achievement, but actively pursuing becoming a leader. The Lord showed me that if I gave my everything, I could go from being "Pig-Pen" to maybe someday being a leader in our nation.

A significant factor that helped change my vision for my future was teachers that believed in me. The Dayspring teachers and staff helped me realize that I had potential to be someone greater than I thought I was. If it wasn't for the inspiration from teachers like Dan Stone, Donna Hurley, Rita Simmons, Ed Sykes, Keith Felizzi, and many others, I'm not sure where I would be today.

Tribute to Teacher Eric Schwartz
I forgot to mention one other person who made a huge impact on my life: (Upper School Teacher) Erich Schwartz. First, I want to share a quick story about Mr. Schwartz. However, it doesn't involve

me, but my younger brother Shawn, who graduated from Dayspring in 2012. (And please give me leeway Mr. Schwartz, because I am paraphrasing the story.)

My brother was in Mr. Schwartz's class and forgot his textbook in his locker outside the classroom, which he needed for class that day. That's not usually not a problem...if you have your hall pass with you or if you haven't used it all up. Well, Shawn either used up his entire hall pass or didn't have it with him. My brother nervously told Mr. Schwartz about his predicament and waited to see the obvious shameful reaction from his instructor. However, Mr. Schwartz didn't have a bad reaction at all. Instead, he put on his thinking cap.

You see, Mr. Schwartz is always willing to help his students, even if the method is unconventional. Within seconds, Mr. Schwartz explained that if Shawn were to get his textbook without a hall pass, he would have to justify it in some way. To Shawn's surprise, Mr. Schwartz instructed the class to make a human chain from the classroom to his locker so that a part of my brother was technically still connected to inside the classroom. Shawn grabbed his textbook as he held on to a row of classmates and then made it back safely to the classroom. Mr. Schwartz had saved the day and became my brother's hero.

Mr. Schwartz could tell that, like my brother, I had a lot of potential, but needed some extra attention. I remember the countless hours he would spend talking with me after class, helping me understand concepts, working with me on projects, and taking the time to help me become something better. I would like to say that Mr. Schwartz took a liking to me, but in actuality, the reason Mr. Schwartz is an amazing teacher is because he takes a liking to every one of his students.

Mr. Schwartz, thank you for being a friend when I didn't have many, for being a mentor when I lacked wisdom, and for being one of the most inspiring teachers I have ever come across. Thank you for taking so much of your time to invest in me, my brother, and my family. I don't know where I would be today without your influence.

So, it is on behalf of the Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that I present you with this Citation for your selflessness and unmatched dedication to your students. President John Quincy Adams's grandson and Harvard graduate, Henry Brooks Adams, said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

The Lord used the seeds He planted in me during my time from Dayspring to really open doors for me when I started

A significant factor that helped change my vision for my future was teachers that believed in me.

The Dayspring teachers and staff helped me realize that I had potential to be someone greater than I thought I was.

my time at Millersville University, where I majored in Political Science and Economics. I increased my academic load by entering into the Honors College, requiring me to take extra classes and to write a 60-page Senior Thesis. I increase my leadership responsibilities by serving as the Public Relations Officer of the Commuting Student Association. And finally, I increased my occupational preparation by taking on two internships in Harrisburg, one for the Department of State and the other for then Senator Mike Stack. With the Lord's help, I graduated successfully from the Honors College, earning Cum Laude Honors, Departmental Honors, and the Briedenstine Award for the University's best Research Thesis.

It may seem like I had a rock-ing college career and knew exactly what I was doing, but that couldn't be further from the truth. I had no idea what I was doing. All I could do was rely on the preparation from Dayspring and my trust in the Lord.

Let me give you some exam-ples: First, I had no idea why the Lord sent me to a secu-lar university when I had desperately tried to get into the Christian college of my choice. I had no idea why the Lord put it on my heart to enter in the Honors College when it looked like copious amounts of extra work for what appeared to be for little reward. I didn't know why I was studying politics and economics and what I could do with that. Most astonishing of all, I had no idea why the Lord placed me into a senate internship with a Democrat from Philly. I come from a conservative family, so it was awkward telling my parents that the only internship I could secure was with the family's opposite party.

I also didn't know where to work. When graduation came around, I didn't have a job. That would be me. I tried looking

everywhere but couldn't find a thing. I really had no idea what the Lord was doing with my path. Did He forget about me?

It was in that moment that the Lord reminded me to never give up, never stop trying, and to fully put my trust in Him. So I thought, at least I can volunteer. This is an important life lesson to all the students: when you can't find work, sometimes the best thing to do is to volunteer and not wait for work to find you. You would be surprised the doors that can open.

President John Quincy Adams's grandson and Harvard graduate, Henry Brooks Adams, said,
"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

I decided to volunteer on a local cam-paign for Representative Brett Miller, who coincidentally represents the Day-spring's district in Mountville. From that experience, I learned about a lobbying job in Harrisburg and worked there for about half a year.

While working at the lobbying firm, I got a call that would change my life. You see, that Senator that was the Democrat—the one I had no idea why God would send me to work for him— was elected in 2014 as Pennsylvania's Lt. Governor, the second-highest-ranking elected official in the State. The call was from the Lt. Gov-ernor's Chief of Staff, who was my boss when I was an intern. He offered me

a position in one of the most prestigious offices in the capitol as the Lt. Governor's Executive Assistant. I would get to travel with the Lt. Governor across the state, manage interns, oversee office finances, work on political research, and basically have the job any Poli Sci major would dream about. I was shocked.

It has been (more than) a year since I've been in this office. Serving as the Executive Assistant has been a complete honor and privilege, and, most impor-tantly, an excellent learning experience. It's probably one of the best jobs I could have asked for. While some people are astonished that I could get such a great job at such a young age, I'm reminded that it wasn't really my ability, but really the Lord's hand at work. There is no way that I could have earned this job if I was the one planning my own career. There's no way.

It was amazing to watch the Lord open and close doors. I remember asking God so many times why He would open and shut the doors He did. Sometimes, when I thought I had a great opportunity before me, the door would be closed. On

the other hand, when I found out an op-portunity that I thought wouldn't fit with the Lord's plan for me, He would lead me to take it. It has been my experience that with perseverance and the Lord's help, you can go much further than you may have been able to on your own.

I commend Dayspring and the staff for teaching today's students the same principles you taught me. They have sig-nificantly impacted me in many different areas of my life and have been invaluable to me. Continue to teach the life-chang-ing lessons that can help shape students' futures that will inevitably impact their path going forward. ▶

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There are only 25 schools in America designed to educate students through the Principle Approach. It is the method of education used to raise our founding generation and is in place today at Dayspring Christian Academy, one of five model demonstration schools in America.

What will you do to help raise up these children and restore the foundations?

Ways to Give

GIVING CAMPAIGNS OF DAYSPRING

ANNUAL FUND

The annual fund is an essential part of the success of Dayspring Christian Academy. With annual gifts of support of our classrooms, teachers, and students we can ensure that students receive a biblical, classical education.

Any gift can make a difference in the education of a child, such as:

- Tuition assistance for lower-income children
- Uniforms for students in need
- Assist with transportation
- Support for field studies

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

A giving circle enables donors to pool their gifts to make a bigger impact than just one gift could have. Giving circles offer an innovative approach to fundraising for specific programs and projects that are typically unbudgeted items. Join today and help make a direct impact in the classrooms of Dayspring Christian Academy.

EITC/OSTC

In 2001, The Pennsylvania legislature passed legislation, called the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC). In 2012, they approved the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC). Opportunities exist for businesses to receive tax credits through these programs and Dayspring is an approved EITC/OSTC approved scholarship organization and participating school. Contact Dayspring to learn more about how your business can support Dayspring through these programs.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

- Remember America Speaker Series
- Patriots Celebration Dinner
- Thanksgiving Exposed

Dayspring Christian Academy holds premier events in Lancaster County that share our mission and educate the community. These events support the school raise up the next generation of leaders for our Constitutional Republic. Additionally, more than 13,000 people

have attended one of our outreach events. Many corporate sponsorship opportunities exist for local businesses to advertise and market their company as Dayspring reaches a wide audience through these events and programs. We would be very pleased to talk with you about how we can advertise your business and reach a captive audience.

EXTRAGIVE.ORG

Each fall, Dayspring participates in the Lancaster County Community Foundation's Extra Give.org campaign. In 2015, Dayspring raised \$63,000 in a 24-hour period, while overall \$6.1 million was raised for more than 300 Lancaster County organizations. Those interested in supporting Dayspring's mission can make an online gift of \$25 or more and help us raise awareness and funds. Check the Dayspring website in October for more information and steps to give. With your support, you can help us be a part of the \$300,000 stretch gift being provided by Lancaster County Community Foundation.

TYPES OF GIFTS

GIFTS OF CASH Cash gifts are always appreciated. These gifts can be made by check or credit card. Go to dayspringchristian.com and click on "Support Dayspring."

MAXIMIZE YOUR DONATION WHILE ENJOYING TAX BENEFITS Marketable securities and mutual funds are the most common assets contributed to nonprofits in today's day. When these assets have appreciated (have been owned by the donor for more than one year and have since increased in value), donors can maximize their charitable donation and, in most case, enjoy significant tax benefits.

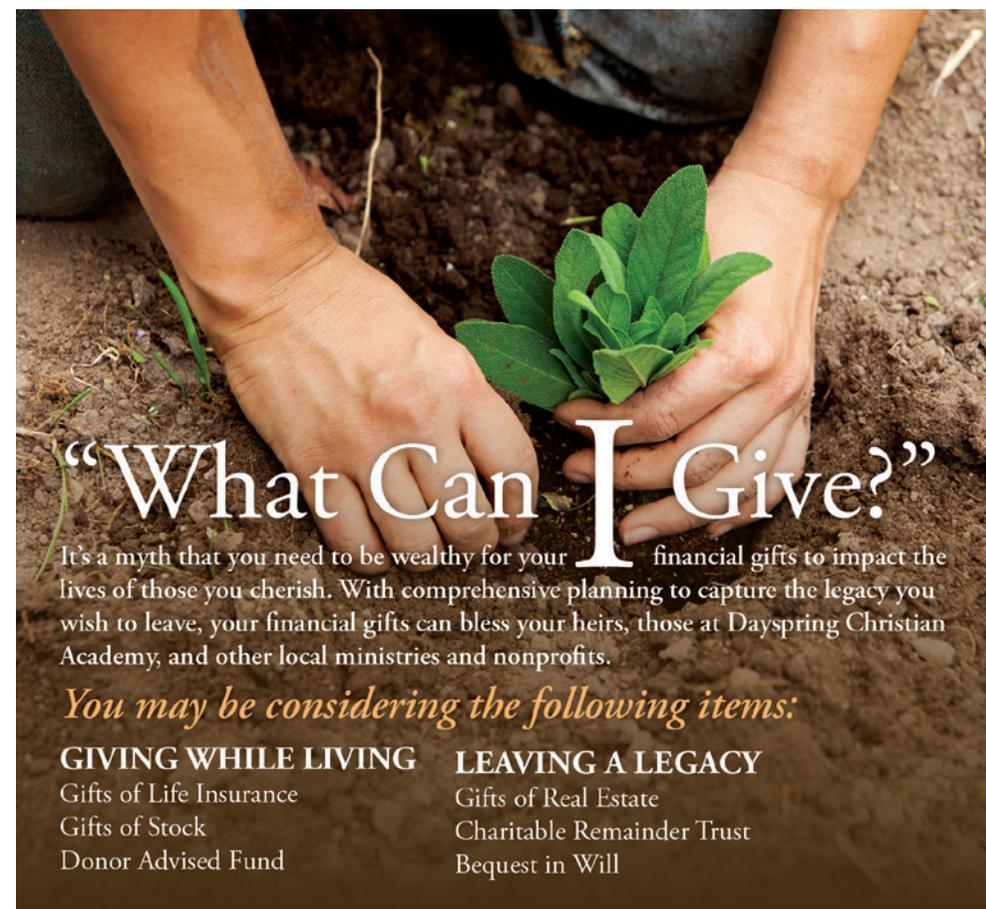
MATCHING GIFTS Some companies offer to match gifts you make to a charitable organization. By completing your company's application and informing Dayspring Christian Academy of this match, you can significantly increase, and sometimes double or triple, your gift.

Inform the Dayspring Christian Academy Development Office about your company match! Just email jmartin@dayspringchristian.com for information.

PLANNED GIFTS Please consider including Dayspring in your legacy plans. Remember that planned gifts can be structured to provide benefit for not only Dayspring, but also yourself and your family. Whether it's a deferred gift, such as a bequest in your will or trust, a beneficiary designation on a retirement account, charitable trust or life insurance policy, or if you are seeking to maximize tax efficiency through a current gift of appreciated assets, planned giving demonstrates a special commitment to the future of Dayspring and our future students. These gifts strengthen Dayspring Christian Academy's capacity and lessen its dependence on annual giving. Have you been looking for a place to give a lasting

gift? Contact the Development office to learn more about how you can enrich the lives of future students at Dayspring. Call Joanne Martin at 717.285.2000 or email her at jmartin@dayspringchristian.com. You may also reach out to the planned giving specialists at Ambassador Advisors to learn more about how you can enrich the lives of future students at Dayspring.

IN-KIND GIFTS Do you have an item that might benefit Dayspring Christian Academy? Crayons, new office supplies, lightly used bookshelves, and more can benefit Dayspring Christian Academy. These and other in-kind gifts can be effective ways to support Dayspring students. Please check with our Development Office to see how an idea you have for a gift can be most useful and appropriate. ➤



“What Can I Give?”

It's a myth that you need to be wealthy for your financial gifts to impact the lives of those you cherish. With comprehensive planning to capture the legacy you wish to leave, your financial gifts can bless your heirs, those at Dayspring Christian Academy, and other local ministries and nonprofits.

You may be considering the following items:

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REMEMBER AMERICA®

speaker series

2017

The Remember America Speaker Series is designed to remind Americans of their unique heritage of liberty that was founded upon biblical principles. *The next Remember America event is Friday, April 21, 2017, at the Lancaster County Convention Center.* This year we bring in influential speakers Lt. Gen. (RET.) Jerry Boykin and Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice.

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) William G. "Jerry" Boykin serves as Family Research Council's Executive Vice President. He was one of the original members of the U.S. Army's Delta Force. He was privileged to ultimately command these elite warriors in combat operations. Later, Jerry Boykin commanded

all the Army's Green Berets as well as the Special Warfare Center and School. In all, Lt. Gen. Boykin spent 36 years in the army, serving his last four years as the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence. He is an ordained minister with a passion for spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and encouraging Christians to become warriors in God's Kingdom.

An accomplished and internationally respected judicial advocate, **Jay Sekulow** has presented oral arguments before the Supreme Court of the United States in numerous cases in the defense of constitutional freedoms, especially those involving religious liberty.

WHY REMEMBER?

Why do we put out the call to America to remember? It is certainly not just to take a stroll down memory lane or to engage in some nostalgia kick. It is not clinging to the past. The word remember appears some 227 times in the Bible and that is significant! In those Scriptures, remembering was always for some purpose and was intended to elicit some kind of action. Remembering (or not remembering) always had consequences—like preserving a nation on the one hand or losing a nation on the other. Remembering compels us forward with fresh vigor to recognize the importance of what is being commemorated so that the value and lessons associated with it are not lost.

- DR. MIKE MYERS



museum of the Bible

The 2017 Remember America Speaker Series brings two speakers who have made their mark in their respective careers for standing on the Word of God. They have armed themselves with the truth of the Bible and waged battle in the courtroom (Jay Sekulow) and on the battlefield (Lt. Gen. Jerry Boykin). It seemed right, then, to bring in an exhibit from the Museum of the Bible, which is set to open in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2017. This exhibit will bring artifacts from the ancient world and will include Medieval manuscripts and pieces up through the Bible in America. Guests will be able to peruse these artifacts and interact with experts from the Museum of the Bible. Dayspring Christian Academy is thrilled to bring in this important exhibit as part of its Remember America event.

"THE BIBLE IS THE BEST-SELLING, MOST-TRANSLATED BOOK OF ALL TIME AND IS ARGUABLY HISTORY'S MOST SIGNIFICANT PIECE OF LITERATURE. IT HAS HAD AN UNQUESTIONABLE INFLUENCE ON SCIENCE, EDUCATION, DEMOCRACY, ARTS, AND SOCIETY. THIS BOOK HAS ALSO PROFOUNDLY IMPACTED LIVES ACROSS THE AGES, INCLUDING MY OWN."

- STEVE GREEN
 Chairman Of The Board Of The Museum Of The Bible And President Of Hobby Lobby.

WARRIORS IN BATTLE: OUR 2017 REMEMBER AMERICA SPEAKERS

COURAGE THEN AND NOW

BY LT. GEN. (RET.) JERRY BOYKIN



Lt. Gen. (Ret.) William G. "Jerry" Boykin serves as Family Research Council's Executive Vice President.

He was one of the original members of the U.S. Army's Delta Force. He was privileged to ultimately command these elite warriors in combat operations. Later, Jerry Boykin commanded all the Army's Green Berets as well as the Special Warfare Center and School.

In all, Lt. Gen. Boykin spent 36 years in the army, serving his last four years as the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence. He is an ordained minister with a passion for spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and encouraging Christians to become warriors in God's Kingdom.

Joshua stood on the bank of the Jordan River contemplating the enormous task ahead of him. He was about to lead millions of his fellow Israelites across the flooded river in a quest to finally conquer the land that had been promised to his people, the Jews. Canaan was part of the covenant that Yahweh had made with Joshua's ancestor, Abraham.

For 40 years Joshua had wandered with the Jewish people in a barren desert waiting for this very moment. What Joshua never anticipated was that he would be the one to lead his people in the battles that would surely follow as they wrested the "Promised Land" from the current inhabitants.

After all, Joshua had walked in the footsteps of the great leader, Moses, throughout those years in the desert, and he naturally expected that Moses would lead them across the river and into battle against the heathen forces of the Canaanites. But now he stood bewildered, having been informed by his beloved Moses that the responsibility for the final quest was being passed to him.

Joshua approached the Lord for guidance. God made His instructions for Joshua quite simple, "Be of good courage ... Be strong and very courageous" (Joshua 1:6-7, NIV). In verse 9 of the same chapter, God repeats his directive to Joshua, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous?"

Now think about this for a moment: God's instruction to Joshua as he prepared for the greatest battle in the history of the world was to show courage. What did God mean with this exhortation? Was God talking about being brave in battle, or was His directive more complex and comprehensive than just being a war hero?

What is courage and how does it manifest in society today?

Recently, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Ray Odierno, spoke at an event in the Pentagon's Hall Of Heroes, where recipients of the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal Of Honor, are inducted into this special and unique brotherhood of heroic Americans. He described this year's 24 recipients as "ordinary men who, under the most chaotic and difficult conditions, displayed extraordinary courage at the risk of their own lives."

Others who spoke at the ceremony, including U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, used myriad terms to describe these incredible men and their selfless acts of valor that earned them a place in history and the respect of all Americans.

Throughout the wars and conflicts in which America has been engaged, uncommon courage has been a common virtue among the nation's warriors on battlefields at home and abroad. Stories of heroic feats have been the subject of movies and books for decades as Americans still take pride in hearing tales of valor.

Stories like *Lone Survivor* are popular because the nation desperately desires real heroes. (*Editor's note: Lone Survivor is a book written by our 2013 Remember America speaker Marcus Luttrell, a retired Navy SEAL. It was also made into a major motion picture.*)

Courage in battle has always been a necessary characteristic of sound leadership and an imperative for victory in war. Courageous warriors are revered in the annals of history, but heroism, or physical courage on the battlefield, is only one type of boldness.

Moral courage is an equally important concept and one that seems to be less common in our nation, where political correctness, compromise, and intimidation of those with differing views have become prevalent.

America was birthed in large measure as a result of the moral courage of 56 men who operated on the core principle of liberty being preferable to tyranny. When they voted on July 2, 1776, to separate from the Crown of England, these men knew they were marked men who would be executed if the American Revolution failed. Undaunted by the risks and potential consequences, they moved forward, leaving a legacy and an example for future generations.

America desperately needs a revival of moral courage. People committed to biblical values

must start speaking about and standing firm for the principles in which they believe. Compromise must not be considered.

The nation is in great peril because so many are now failing to heed the warning of Isaiah: "Woe unto you who call good evil and evil good" (Isaiah 5:20, NIV).

To stand and be counted in these perilous times, people must know what they believe. It isn't enough just to know the teachings of the Bible, but it is critical to deeply contemplate why we believe the

Word. Otherwise, it will likely cause us to fail when challenged by a determined adversary who wants to defeat and discredit our line of reasoning.

We prepare for battle by knowing what we believe and why, then we demonstrate moral courage by being willing to stand for what we believe, even when all those around us are compromising. ▶

WHY WE REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FREEDOMS

BY JAY SEKULOW

As a second generation American, I cherish the freedoms of America. I'm the grandson of a Russian immigrant. My grandfather came to the United States with his family through Ellis Island at the age of 14—to escape religious persecution.

At a time when the fight for religious freedom is still very real in many parts of the world, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the unparalleled freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

We must never forget that it is our responsibility and duty to be vigilant and stand up for those freedoms—whether it's in court, Congress, or even the public square.

The Declaration of Independence changed the course of human history:

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent

respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

These first 106 words of the Declaration said something that no other document had ever said. Government exists to serve the people, not the other way around.

God gives us our rights, not the government. *The Declaration of Independence* pointed to far-reaching, fundamental truths tied to our faith and our relationship to God.

As Alexander Hamilton put it, "The sacred rights of mankind are not to be rummaged for, among old parchments, or musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature by the hand of the divinity itself; and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power."



Thankfully, our Founding Fathers and other great leaders throughout our nation's history have realized this truth and fought hard, often even risking their lives, for this truth.

In 1981 in his first message commemorating the observance of Independence Day, President Ronald Reagan recalled the words of John Adams as he wrote to his wife Abigail after signing the *Declaration of Independence*:

[T]he anniversary of our independence should be observed with great fanfare: "... with pomp and parades... shows and games... and sports and guns and bells... with bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, and from this time forevermore."

Well, Mr. Adams, rest assured that what you wanted is being done. Your traditions are now ours, and we guard them like national treasures. And you know why. When we unfurl our flags, strike up the bands, and light up the skies each July 4th, we celebrate the most exciting, ongoing adventure in human freedom the world has ever known.

It began in 1620 when a group of courageous families braved a mighty ocean to build a new future in a new world. They came not for material gain, but to secure liberty for their souls within a community bound by laws.

A century-and-a-half later, their descendants pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to found this Nation. Some would forfeit their fortunes and their lives, but none sacrificed honor...

What makes our revolution unique and so exciting, then, is that it changed the very concept of government. Here was a new nation telling the world that it was conceived in liberty; that all men are created equal with God-given rights, and that power ultimately resides in "We the people."

We sometimes forget this great truth, and we never should, because putting people first has always been America's secret weapon. It's the way we've kept the spirit of our revolution alive—a spirit that drives us to dream and dare, and take great risks for a greater good. It's the spirit of Fulton and Ford, the Wright brothers and Lindbergh, and of all our astronauts. It's the spirit of Joe Louis, Babe Ruth, and

a million others who may have been born poor, but who would not be denied their day in the Sun....

As Dwight Eisenhower once said: "There is nothing wrong with America that the faith, love of freedom, intelligence and energy of her citizens cannot cure."

He was right. If we just stick together, and remain true to our ideals, we can be sure that America's greatest days lie ahead.

AS ALEXANDER HAMILTON PUT IT, "THE SACRED RIGHTS OF MANKIND ARE NOT TO BE RUMMAGED FOR, AMONG OLD PARCHMENTS, OR MUSTY RECORDS. THEY ARE WRITTEN, AS WITH A SUNBEAM, IN THE WHOLE VOLUME OF HUMAN NATURE BY THE HAND OF THE DIVINITY ITSELF; AND CAN NEVER BE ERASED OR OBSCURED BY MORTAL POWER."

Let us not forget the work we still have ahead, to remain true to our ideals, our faith, our love of freedom, and our God-given right to love our neighbors and make our communities safer, freer, and stronger for the next generations.

Our roadmap today is still the words of that Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Much of our work at

the American Center for Law and Justice involves defending the First Amendment:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The Constitution—a framework for freedom—is as vital today as when it was adopted by our Founders when this country was formed.

Let's not forget that freedom is never free. Defending our freedoms—our way of life—requires sacrifice and vigilance—especially from those men and women in the Armed Forces. To the men and women around the globe—protecting our freedoms—thank you for your service.

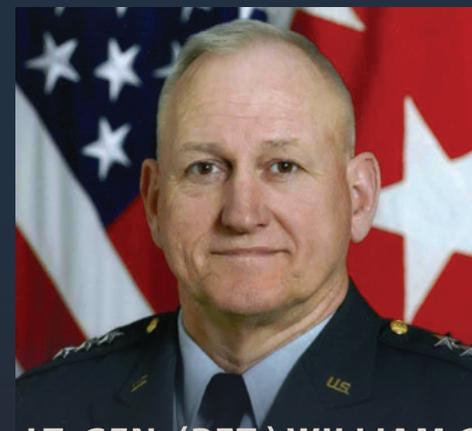
Let's not forget that we face very real enemies around the world who want nothing more than to destroy us and our entire way of life. These jihadists are working every day to extinguish our light and bring down our nation as a shining city upon a hill for all the world to see.

Most Americans understand what's at stake. They appreciate our country and our constitutional republic. And they understand we can no longer take those freedoms for granted.

As the grandson of a Russian immigrant—a fruit peddler in Brooklyn, New York—I want to thank those who came before us, those who paved the way, and those who now stand in defense of the United States of America—the greatest nation on earth. ▶

REMEMBER AMERICA®
speaker series

WARRIORS IN THE BATTLE
CONVICTION, COURAGE, AND THE DIVINE WORD OF GOD



LT. GEN. (RET.) WILLIAM G. "JERRY" BOYKIN
Original Member, Delta Force
Family Research Council's Executive Vice President



JAY SEKULOW
Chief Counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017
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