

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

January—February, 2008 ☆ Vol. 18, Number 01

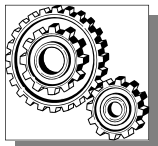
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If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)



## In the Works

Christians United for Israel presentation

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Candidate scorecard

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

## Our Christian Heritage (Part 2)

A compilation by  
Darrell Desautels

*Editors Note: We began this article in our last issue to remind our readers that our history is based on Christian principles. We continue with information on some of our Founding Fathers, and signers of the Declaration of Independence, who have been "reinvented" as atheists or deists.*

**Thomas McKean: Governor** of Delaware and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He served two states at the same time.

Many cases came before him, and some people would be sentenced to death. In 1777 John Roberts was found guilty and was sentenced to death for treason. McKean said to John Roberts "...you have been found guilty. You have few days left on this earth. It is to your advantage during this period of time to make peace with your maker. You need to find remission of your sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. You need to call someone who can lead you to that relationship whether a minister or a friend. You are

not prepared to meet God."

Hmm, Impressive isn't it? An atheist giving an altar call in the Supreme Court.

**Abraham Baldwin:** Founder of the University of Georgia. He was America's youngest theologian. For 7 years he was a Chaplain in the American Revolution.



**Charles Pitney and John Langdon:** Founded the American Bible Society, which still exists in America today, and have given out millions of bibles over the years. All this founded by atheists?

**Rufus King:** He was the original manager of the American Bible Society.

**James McHenry:** He was the founder of the Baltimore Bible

Society.

Our founding fathers founded 121 different bible societies. Not bad for a bunch of atheists.

**Roger Sherman, John Dickerson, Jacob Broom:** All considered leading theologians of the day.

In 1791 the American Sunday School Union was started by the signers of the Constitution.

**Francis Scott Key:** The first American President of the ASSU was also the writer of the Star Spangled Banner. He served as ASSU president for 52 years and was quoted as saying, "My two greatest loves are America and getting kids to Sunday school."

**John Marshall:** Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

**Bushrod Washington:** Supreme Court Justice.

**Marquis de La Fayette:** These 3 men were on the board of the ASSU.

**American Tract Society:** Our fathers founded it. Some of



**"How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, his precepts!  
O! 'tis easier to keep holidays than commandments."**

**Benjamin Franklin**

(Continued from page 1)

the original tracts were written by the signers of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. Our fathers started to pass out these tracts wherever they went across America.

**Samuel Adams:** The father of the Revolution and Governor of Massachusetts. He declared, *“I rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of my sins.”*

**John Dickenson:** Signer of the Constitution declared, *“Rendering thanks to my creator, to Him I resign myself humble confiding in His goodness and His mercy through Jesus Christ for the events of eternity.”*

**Charles Carroll:** Signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was the last of the 56 to die. He declared *“On the mercy of my redeemer I rely for salvation and on His merits not the works that I have done in obedience to His precepts.”*

**John Jay:** Original Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and Governor of New York. Also one of the original founders of the American Bible Society. He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> president of the ABS. He declared, *“Unto Him who is the author of all good I render sincere and humble thanks for His manifold and unmerited blessings and especially for our redemption and salvation by His beloved son, blessed be his Holy Name.”*

**September 7, 1774:** The original U.S. Congress opened with prayer. The opening prayer

lasted 3 hours.

**John Adams** wrote his wife Abigail that they prayed and had a bible study out of Psalms 35 + 36. They were so confident their faith grew to where they believed they could defeat the British in the upcoming conflict. He told his wife Abigail to read the letters to her father, who was a minister, and have him read them to the church. *“I want everyone to know what happened in Congress this morning reading these psalms.”*

**Silas Deane:** An American Diplomat described the morning like this, *“After this time of prayer even the stern old Quakers had tears running down their cheeks. The Quakers would be the least likely to cry.”*

Now out of the 250 founding fathers we have at least 12 that were not Christians. They were Jefferson, Franklin, Joe Barlow, Henry Lee, Aaron Bur, Thomas Payne, Ethan Allen, Charles Lee and Henry Dearborn. Only 5% of the founding fathers were not Christian.

But your average founding father started the American Tract Society, American Sunday School Union, Bible Society, Board of Commission for Foreign Missions and the Christian Constructional Society. Again, not bad for all being atheists, deists and agnostics.

**Ben Franklin** One of our least religious founding fathers. When the average life span was

35 Franklin was 81 when his body was falling to pieces, but his brain was still sharp. June 28<sup>th</sup> 1787 Franklin gave this speech to the then present Congress. Remember Franklin is the least religious of our founding fathers. He says, *“In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain when we were severely in danger, we had daily prayer in this room for divine protection. Our prayers were heard and graciously answered. I have lived 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. Except the Lord build a house they labor in vain that build it. Without his concurring aid we shall not succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.”* He encouraged the Congress to pray everyday before they proceed to business. The least religious of the founding fathers tells Congress that they are not praying enough.

In 1952 the Supreme Court said, *“...are you suggesting that we should separate religious instruction from public education?”* The court went on to say, *“...that would be impossible, that would violate all of our laws, all of our traditions. No way we will separate religious instruction from public education.”*

In 1962 the **Warren Court** started a war against religion. The court in essence said in Engel vs. Vitale, that we can't let you pray in public. Prayer in school has got to come to a grinding halt. And for the last

three decades Americans have been taught that this is the reason the founding fathers gave us the First Amendment. The implication being that the founding fathers found school prayer reprehensible; it was repugnant to them, and that is why they gave us the First Amendment.

If the founding fathers were so opposed to prayer in school why didn't they stop it? Why was prayer in schools for 170 years before the Warren Court discovered them saying we don't need this anymore?

**The 1963 Warren Court** said the founding fathers would never want the bible to be read in schools.

**1782** the first bible printed in English in the United States was printed by the Congress of the US. These fathers went on to say *“...this bible is for the use in schools.”*

And the Supreme Court today says the First Amendment mandates the separation of church and state. The Amendment reads, **“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;... There is no separation phrase here.**

The Constitution requires that everything said on the floor of the House and Senate be recorded in public records for our public consumption. This grieves many of our Congressmen and Senators today. The entire 256 founding fathers, even the non-Christians, never

**The first time the formal term “The United States of America” was used was in the Declaration of Independence.**

even mention once the separation of church and state.

In 1789 James Madison summed it up like this:

*“What we want in America is what we couldn’t have in Great Britain. We don’t want it so the Federal Government will make us all one denomination. We don’t want to all be Catholics, or Jews, or Anglicans, or anything else, we want our ability to choose our own denominations.”*

Can Congress constitutionally take prayer out of public schools?

Even though the 10 Commandments have formed the basis of civil law in the western world for years, the Court tells us they don’t want to mess people up by forcing the 10 commandments down their throat.

Why has violent crime increased 694% since that time of taking prayer and bible out of our schools?

The Supreme Court seems to say that, by letting our kids see the Ten Commandments, we have set a very dangerous president. Why? If the kids saw the Ten Commandments,

they might obey them. We can’t have that, can we?

**Robert Winthrop:** A statesman speaker of the House of Representatives said, *“Men by word must be controlled either by a power within them or a power without them. Either by the word of God or by the strong arm of man. Either by the bible or by the bayonet.”*

The only way to control human behavior is by internal restraints by the word of God. If people don’t do it from the inside you are in trouble, because you have to beat it into them from the outside.

What does America rely on today? The bible? The courts say that is unconstitutional. How about external force? So now we pass laws at a rate beyond belief, trying to make people act right, think right, speak right, behave right, and do right; and it doesn’t help. Because if you can’t handle the inside, you will never handle the outside.

**Daniel Webster** gave a speech

looking at the corner stone of the capital and said, *“That rock is not the foundation stone of American Government. It’s right here.”* He said (pointing at his heart), *“Whatever makes men good Christians makes them good citizens.”*

How do we get from where we are, back to where we were?

**William Patterson** was a signer of the Constitution, from New Jersey. He was placed on the U.S. Supreme Court by George Washington and served two decades after signing the Constitution.

He said, *“Two decades America has already become a world leader. People come here from all over the world to see what makes us great. It’s the Constitution. As great as this document is, it will not guarantee that America retains good government. Nor will it guarantee that we have sound policies in America. If at any time we ever couple bad leaders with this document it will*

*be worthless...”*

The 1992 Supreme Court case Lee vs. Weisman took up the question of prayer at graduation. Argument in this case was historical. The court was shown how our founding fathers not only had prayer, but also gave sermons at graduations. The court was shown an actual bible that our founding fathers printed, just for use in schools. And the case was lost, 5-4, with Justice David Souter, who cast the deciding vote against prayer, implying that although the founding fathers may have participated and condoned prayers at graduations, they may not have fully understood the Constitution.

What good is the Constitution in the hands of people like David Souter?

Proverbs 29:2 says, **“...when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but, when a wicked man rules, the people groan.”**

*Darrell Desautels attends Community Bible Church in South Burlington*



### The Mayflower Compact

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King defender of the faith, etc. Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian faith, and Honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and of one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politic, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid; And by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Oordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the General good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In Witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, King James of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, Anno Domini 1620.

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead  
James 2:17

e-mail : [camnet@surfglobal.net](mailto:camnet@surfglobal.net)

[www.christianactionministry.com](http://www.christianactionministry.com)

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**As we begin 2008 we thank God for his blessings on our country and for the freedom we have. This year is a presidential election year and probably one of the most important in a long time. The direction our country takes may hinge on who is elected.**

**CAM is working on several issues and will be reporting on them in our newsletter. The NAFTA superhighway, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the stands of the presidential candidates, and our bi-yearly scorecard on local candidates.**

**We begin this year with a reminder of our Christian Heritage and the faith of our Founding Fathers. May we all keep that in focus as the year continues.**

✉ CAM Network, Inc.  
PO Box 1067  
Williston, VT 05495  
☎ (802) 372-6442



**Next Meetings**  
*February 11, 7:00 pm*  
*No. Ave. Alliance Church*  
*Burlington, Vt.*  
*March 10, 7:00 pm*  
*Community Bible Church*  
*So. Burlington, Vt.*

**Making A Difference in Vermont!**



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