

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

March—April, 2013 ☆ Vol. 23, Number 02

Inside

The First Amendment and Pulpit Freedom Sunday

By
Kay Trudell

The First Amendment and Pulpit Freedom Sunday

Information on Pulpit Freedom Sunday and its relevance to us

Pages 1 & 2

God's Gift of Liberty to Us

Foundations of the Liberty we have in the United States

Page 3

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

October 7, 2012 was proclaimed as Pulpit Freedom Sunday in the United States. Were you aware of this? Did any of your pastors or priests observe this day? What am I talking about? To answer the question, we need to examine the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It says in part: "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 ..."

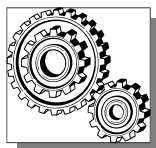
The "ban" on political campaign activity by churches and non-profits was passed almost 60 years ago. During the term of then-Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson,

who later went on to become President, several pastors preached in church against his immoral behavior. LBJ was angered by this, and



forced legislation through the Congress in 1954 that threatened non-profit organizations (including churches) with the loss of their tax-exempt status if

they "preached politics" from the pulpit by speaking openly about "political" issues such as abortion, homosexuality, the moral principles of specific candidates, etc. Despite this clear violation of the First Amendment, the threat stuck. For fifty years and more, churches usually have not called public officials to account for sins committed while in public office, or for their support of immoral legislation. As the result of government intimidation, churches have been mostly silent in these areas, with a few exceptions. This so-called ban is a clear violation of the First Amendment rights of pastors and priests, who may preach about any matter involv-



In the Works

September 13, 2013
The Constitution with KrisAnne Hall

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 655-0280.

"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer: German Lutheran pastor, theologian, dissident, and founding member of the Confessing Church in Nazi Germany. He was one of the few church leaders who stood in open and courageous opposition to Hitler. He died a martyr in a concentration camp on April 9, 1945.

ing Scripture, morals, the teachings of their church denomination, etc. from their own pulpits.

During Colonial times, it was the custom for pastors to preach an election sermon before the members of their congregation went to the polls. The pastors sought to give clear guidance from Scripture so votes would be cast righteously according to Biblical principles. In 2008, the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) and the American Family Association revived this tradition with Pulpit Freedom Sunday. The first Pulpit Freedom Sunday was held in 2008 with 33 pastors volunteering to take part. In 2012 1,400 pastors and priests in all 50 states took part. This is a start, but there are 350,000 pastors and priests in the United States, so it is still a movement in its infancy.

According to Erik Stanley, an attorney with ADF, the goal of Pulpit Freedom Sunday was to have pastors and priests

reclaim their First Amendment rights to speak out on moral issues relating to political candidates and campaigns. This included naming names, calling out candidates for holding immoral positions on issues such as but not limited to abortion, homosexuality and same-sex marriage, and even endorsing candidates from the pulpit in their capacity as an individual pastor. Pastors and priests signed up with ADF ahead of time if they wished to participate. ADF stood ready to defend them in court for free if they were persecuted. Some bold pastors went a step farther. They actually filmed themselves preaching about candidates and these issues from the pulpit, then sent copies of the DVDs to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and invited the IRS to come and arrest them.

Stanley said that “Pulpit Freedom Sunday has become a nationwide movement of pastors who are reclaiming their constitutional right to decide what is said from their pulpits,

and to not be intimidated when they stand and proclaim Biblical truth, even in the realm of politics and candidates and elections. These pastors believe politicians should not get a free pass from moral and biblical scrutiny during election season.” Stanley went on to say that the goal of Pulpit Freedom Sunday was to accomplish one of two things: (1) Either to generate a test case --- because the ADF felt that it would not take long for a federal judge to strike the ban down as unconstitutional if a case ever went to court, or (2) To continue to support and empower pastors and priests so that the growing chorus of voices of ministers of the Gospel will become so strong in the U.S. that Congress will either repeal that law or let it eventually fall by the wayside by choosing not to enforce it.

As the internet site *Western Journalism* reported: “More than 1400 pastors stood up in their pulpits on Pulpit Freedom Sunday in 2012 and told the

IRS that ‘We’re mad as Hell and we’re not going to take it anymore.’ ”

They then proceeded to preach full Biblical truth, including preaching about various candidates for political office from the Presidency to Governors to Congress. As of the printing of this newsletter, no IRS agent has visited any of those churches. No pastor or priest has been arrested or fined.

“The question is,” said ADF’s Erik Stanley, “Who should decide the content of sermons: the pastors or the IRS?” True enough. But to go even one step farther, God-given Scripture should decide the content of sermons for any pastor. Sermons should be based on Biblical truth: the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help us God. The truth can certainly be preached with love, but always the truth according to Scripture.

Kay Trudell is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Community Bible Church in South Burlington



“America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold: its patriotism, its morality, and its spiritual life. If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within.” *Josef Stalin*

God's Gift of Liberty to Us

by
KrisAnne Hall

Our history is rich with men and women who have surrendered all, so that many could have the greatest nation the world has ever known. For over 700 years before the Declaration of Independence, men and women were learning the lessons that would be taught to our founders. Lessons that would infuse our founders with a courage and a hope that would build the greatest nation in the world. Patrick Henry said, "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know no way to judge the future but by the past."

Did these brave men and women live without fear? Hardly so! Mercy Otis Warren articulated this dilemma so well.

"I have my fears. Yet, notwithstanding the complicated difficulties that rise before us, there is no receding. May nothing ever check that glorious spirit of freedom which inspires the patriot in the cabinet and the hero in the field, with courage to maintain their righteous cause, and to endeavor to transmit the claim to posterity, even if they must seal the rich conveyance to their children with their own blood."

They knew that bravery was not the absence of fear, but doing what you must in the face of fear. They knew that the battle for Liberty was a

righteous cause. Knowing the source of her courage is the key to understanding her resolve. She said they were "...ready to sacrifice their devoted lives to preserve inviolate, and to convey to their children the inherent rights of men, conferred on all by the God of nature." You see, the battle for Liberty is a battle for the gifts of God.

Thomas Jefferson said, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"

For Patrick Henry, courage not only came from knowing the history that "guided his feet" or fighting with the "vigilant, active, and the brave," but also knowing they served a "just God who presides over the destinies of nations" and when standing for Liberty, a gift from God, they could not fail.

The key to victory, the key to the courage that brings victory is not simply fighting the fight, but knowing we fight a righteous battle for the One who gave us that Liberty. Our founders were in a position to pledge their lives, the lives of their families, everything that they had because they were firmly rooted in all the assurances of Liberty. Our founders knew that Liberty is a gift from God, and those that stand for God's gifts will be victorious

through God's promises. They firmly believed that living in tyranny was worse than dying for Liberty. They knew that through their faith in Christ, their rewards in standing for God's gift would be certain, on the battle field or in Heaven.

As Thomas Paine so eloquently put it, "These are the times that try men's souls." But Paine's full statement gives a richness that is lost with the initial quote alone. Payne continues to tell us who will last in this battle and why they will last.

"The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing (sic) its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated."

If we wish to have the resolve that Mercy Otis-Warren spoke of, the confidence that Patrick Henry displayed, we must know what Thomas Jefferson knew so we will not become the sunshine patriots Thomas

Paine condemns. We must know Liberty is a gift from God, this Gift, although it comes at a high price, is worth fighting for because God is with us. If God be with us, who can be against us?

This is not yet the darkest hour experienced by our nation by far. We still live in the greatest nation in the world. A nation built upon the principles of Liberty. The principles that cry all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights. A nation where all men have equal opportunity to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. No other nation can make that claim. No other people have that birth right. But with that gift comes great responsibility to secure that Liberty for generations to come. We cannot lose hope. We cannot let Liberty slip. Because, it is not our hope, it is not our Liberty, it is the hope and Liberty of ages and millions yet unborn. We must acquaint ourselves with the lamp of experience that gives us the courage to see a guaranteed victory. But we must also acquaint ourselves with the Giver of that gift of Liberty and the provider of the hope of victory.

KrisAnne Hall is the featured speaker for the Christian Action Ministry's September 13th presentation on the Constitution

It is with sorrow that we announce the passing of Sue Carlsen, a longtime Director of the Christian Action Ministry. Sue contributed several articles and book reviews for this newsletter and was a faithful supporter of CAM. Our sympathy goes out to her husband Steve.

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead James 2:17

e-mail : camnet@surfglobal.net

www.christianactionministry.com

Friday, September 13, 2013 at 7:00 pm Sheraton Conference Center So. Burlington, VT

CAM is delighted to bring KrisAnne Hall to Vermont for an evening on the U.S. Constitution.

KrisAnne Hall is an attorney and former prosecutor, fired after teaching the Constitution to TEA Party groups. She would not sacrifice liberty for a paycheck. She is a disabled veteran of the US Army, a Russian linguist, a mother, a pastor's wife and a patriot. She now travels the country and teaches the Constitution and the history that gave us our founding documents.



KrisAnne Hall does not just teach the Constitution, she lays the foundations that show how reliable and relevant our founding documents are today. She presents the “genealogy” of the Constitution – the 700 year history and five foundational documents that are the very roots of American Liberty. One cannot properly understand or interpret the Constitution without a firm grasp of its very foundation.

KrisAnne will also be the keynote speaker at Constitution Day on Saturday, Sept 14 in Taylor Park, St. Albans at 10:00 am. Constitution Day is sponsored by American Conservative Women in Action (ACWA).

The **Christian Action Ministry Network, Inc.** is an educational nonprofit public charity supported entirely by volunteers and contributions from the public. Personal, church and business donations are encouraged and are tax-deductible under the IRS Code 501(C)3. The information provided herein does not necessarily reflect the views of any particular church or individual associated with the Christian Action Ministry Network.

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



Next Meetings
*March 12, 7:00 pm
Living Hope
Williston, Vt.*
*April 16, 7:00 pm
Parkinson Home
Hinesburg, Vt.*

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**



NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BURLINGTON, VT
PERMIT NO.165