Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

September—October, 2014 ★ Vol. 24 Number 05



Choosing Candidates for Public Office

What to look for in a candidate (a Christian view)

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Find out about our guest speaker for the upcoming September program on the Constitution

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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

Candidate Survey

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.

Unalienable

Lauston Stephens

ome regard Thomas Jefferson as among the most secular of the Founding Fathers, yet he penned these words in the Declaration of Independence, "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."

Modern eyes may glaze over when people encounter the concept of "self-evident truth," but modern ears will perk up again at the phrase, "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." As a result, Jefferson's words before "Life...," have, to a large extent, passed out of modern thinking. Let's think about them.

"We hold these truths to be self -evident." Jefferson did not delve into the reasoning behind the proposition of selfevident truth for any lack of understanding of philosophy. He later served as president of the American Philosophical Society. The Declaration is a political document with specific purpose. It needed to be people of the day would have been familiar with the reasoning process whereby a proposition was shown to be "selfevident." "We hold these truths..." elegantly lays the foundation on which to stand when the 13 United States "declare the causes which impel them to the separation."

"All men are created equal." The truth of this is not as "selfevident" to secular man today because Darwin's attempt to explain the "how" of creation has become a refuge for those that want to avoid answering to a Creator. Jefferson and the other Founders may have been focusing on the equality before God of subject and king, but recognition of the equality of all stems a flood of evil. History has shown that embracing evolution has allowed some to condone eugenics, genocide and other crimes against humanity. The equality of all before our Creator is selfevident where we live: "Therefore whatever you desire for men to do to you, you shall also do to them;" (Matt. 7:12 WEB)

"They are endowed by their short and to the point. Learned Creator with certain unalienable Rights." If you discard the self-evident truth that we have a Creator, your only law is the law of the jungle or "survival of the fittest." If you are not the fittest, government becomes your savior and the source of your rights. What government gives, government can take away. On the other hand, any right given to you by your Creator is "unalienable," that is to say; the *right* cannot be taken away from you.

> If God has given you a right to something, anyone who takes it from you will ultimately answer to Him. For example, vou have a God-given right to life. That does not mean no one can take your life. It means anyone who does take your life will have to answer to the one who gave you the right to life. It also means you will ultimately answer to God as to how you exercise that right.

For over 20 years, this ministry has sought to educate fellow Christians on where candidates for the Vermont legislature stand on a wide range of issues. The list of questions



"Much of the social history of the Western world, over the past three decades, has been a history of replacing what worked with what sounded good."

Thomas Sowell

American economist, social theorist, political philosopher and author

put to candidates has changed over time as various issues have arisen. Candidates expect unalienable rights, life, liberty us to raise the "social conservative" questions and are sometimes surprised at a fiscal policy question, perhaps unaware of biblical teaching on steward- lives. ship.

This year we are bringing back to Vermont constitutional attornev KrisAnne Hall for four days of education on the "genealogy" of the U.S constitution and the roots of liberty. So we took a fresh look at the questions we put before candi-

dates in terms of the founding documents of this Republic. Framing the issues in terms of and the pursuit of happiness shows how much modern Americans have substituted government for God in their

For example, fiscal policy questions show wanton taxation as impinging on our unalienable right to the pursuit of happiness. If you believe your right to the pursuit of happiness flows from government, then you may want government to "fix" health care. If you know

your rights come from your Creator, then you will not place your faith in government to solve life's problems.

Some will be surprised to see support for a voter ID law grouped under "Liberty." The mantra is that voter ID laws intimidate minority voters. This might be true in some parts of the country where ethnic votes determine results, but that is an absurd charge in Vermont that is so ethnically homogenous. The threat to liberty here is in stuffing the ballot box, not in keeping it empty.

The final surprise may be that, for the first time, a Second Amendment question has been included. There is a long and honorable history of Christian pacifism in America. Some may think that no Christian would be interested in bearing arms. Yet the 2nd Amendment shows that the Founders regarded self-defense as a right given by God, not government. Isn't this a self-evident truth?

Lauston Stephens is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Assembly of God in Rutland,

Editor's Note:

Our next Nov— Dec issue will contain our 2014 Candidate Survey using the format described above. If you are interested in helping with this survey by calling candidates to ascertain their position on the issues, please give me a call at 802-372-6442.

CHOOSING CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE by John C. Talcott, Jr

- Don't select a candidate by party affiliation, for all parties have both good and corrupt individuals within the organization.
- Don't select a candidate by his appearance, good looks, etc.
- Don't select a candidate by what he says or promises he will do, for this is often meaningless when he gets into office.
- Don't select a candidate just because you know him, or some friend of yours knows him.
- Don't pick a candidate because he is the smartest person or has had the most experience in politics.
- Don't select a candidate because he says he is a Christian ~ most all will profess to be Christian since they live in a so-called Christian nation.

Of course, the best candidate is the committed, qualified, God-fearing Christian who is seeking office not to further his own interests, but to please God and to serve his community, state or nation justly and honestly. In many cases, the electorate may not have the choice of a qualified, born again Christian candidate!

What do we look for then? First, we have to inquire more about the candidates, learn their qualifications: Does the person have an affiliation with a church or Christian organization? But, more importantly, does he or she have a sterling character? Is he a person of high principles? Is he seeking to serve his electorate as a statesman, not seeking the rewards accorded to politicians? Finally, is he honest? Is he humble? Is he willing to stand up for the right even though he may lose?

When you have a comparison of the qualifications of the candidate, pray to God about the matter, asking Him to give you His wisdom; particularly if two or more candidates seem to be equal in their qualifications. Once you feel sure of the answer in your heart, promote and endorse the person of God's choice and be sure you cast your vote in the election.

Lastly, by praying and fasting with God's people for our nation, we present a channel through which God can work.

John C. Talcott, Jr. served as the founding president of Intercessors For America



"This nation was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the principle—among others—that honest men may honestly disagree, that if they all say what they think, a majority of the people will be able to distinguish truth from error, that in the competition of the marketplace of ideas, the sounder ideas in the long run win out."

Elmer Davis—American writer and commentator



KrisAnne Hall is an attorney and former prosecutor who travels the country teaching the Constitution and the history that gave us our founding documents. Host of <u>The KrisAnne Hall Show</u>, she pulls no punches, puts <u>Liberty First</u> and gives no quarter to those who hide behind party labels. Like no other host, KrisAnne will tell you what the founders had to say on today's relevant issues .

KrisAnne is a disabled Army veteran, a Russian linguist, a mother, a pastor's wife and a patriot. Born and raised in St. Louis, MO, she received her undergraduate degree in Bio-Chemistry from Blackburn College in 1991 and her J.D. from the University of Florida, Levin College of Law and is a former Russian Linguist for the US Army. KrisAnne worked as a state prosecutor and with a prominent law firm defending religious liberty and First Amendment rights. Kris-Anne lives in No. Florida with her husband JC (a pastor and former Russian instructor for the US Navy) and their adopted son Colton.

Here she is in her own words:

"Right up front there are some

WHO IS KRISANNE HALL?

things that I need to tell you about myself. I want you to know where I came from and how I got to where I am today. I don't want to ever be accused of deception or dishonesty. So, in full disclosure:

I was not born a Constitutionalist. I did not live my life with an inherent understanding of Liberty and what is necessary to defend it. I was not raised a Christian. For some, these things will be a stumbling block, so you need to know from me.

I was raised a Democrat. The only thing more evil than Satan was a Republican in my home. There were no choices to be made in voting...straight Democrat party line was the only choice.

I was an environmentalist. An ardent environmentalist. Some of my best friends were members of Green Peace and I supported the WWF and PETA. I was a vegetarian by ideology, not for health reasons, for almost 15 years.

I believed in the "good" of scientific manipulations of food and the necessity of vaccines. Not only believed this, but helped create them when I was a biochemist for Monsanto.

I believed in Global Warming and defended it vigorously. I believed in the Big Bang and openly criticized those who believed in creationism as ignorant and misled.

I believed Government's duty and purpose was to be a provider for the people. I supported programs that would give the government more control over the people. I even believed a One World Government was the best way to go to ensure "global peace." I supported the principles of socialism, although I cannot claim to have known at the time it was socialism, per se, that I supported.

I supported abortion and often openly condemned others for being pro-life. I have argued with abortion protesters on street corners and called them names that I am not proud of.

I was not only not a Christian, but I practiced many other religions, including many occult versions. I was bitter against God and felt that only ignorant, weak people needed faith.. I was too intelligent and too educated for such a feeble crutch.

I was not born with the knowledge that I have now. I did not wake up one morning with a divine epiphany. I traveled a long road. I learned some hard and painful lessons. My beliefs were challenged and I came to know the Truth.

I am able to stand firm on what I believe because I have discovered the difference between truth and lies. I am able to defend the truth because I walked the path. I can show you my path of discovery, and to be guaranteed it is not tied to any political motivation or personal gain...unless you call the liberation that comes from knowing the truth in the face of lies, a personal gain.

So when someone says to you, "Did you know that person used to

be associated with this or that group or used to believe this... How can you possibly believe him now?" Remember this story.

It is good to question someone's "transformation". You SHOULD do that. If they cannot show you that path, step by step, you should question their motivations.

But do not discount someone's current position just because of who they USED to be or who they USED to associate with or what they USED to believe. Sometimes it is NOT a selfish or deceptive motivation, but a path to enlightenment. We all had to wake up somehow.

Just so you know where I stand."

KrisAnne Hall

Author of Not a Living Breathing Document: Reclaiming Our Constitution, and the DVD series The Roots of Liberty: The Historic Foundations of The Bill of Rights and Bedtime Stories for Budding Patriots and Essential Stories for Junior Patriots.

Awarded the Freedom Fighter award by Americans for Prosperity, the Certificate of Achievement from the Sons of the Revolution for her defense of Liberty, and Congressman James Blair Award for Defending the Constitution.

KrisAnne is an incredibly passionate speaker – a true Patrick Henry of our time. She speaks to audiences all across the country on Constitutional History, American Exceptionalism, and the Fight for Liberty. Her passion and enthusiasm is contagious and she is able to inspire any group.

	ion for KrisAnne Hall ey Parish Hall 9 am	September 6, 2014 to 3 pm (lunch inclu	ıded)
Please reserve seats fo	r KrisAnne Hall's presentation <u>I</u>	<u> The Roots of Liberty</u> on S	September 6th
Name:	Phone:	Email	
Address:	Town	State	Zip
Enclosed is payment of	(\$25 per person)	Seating is limited to 2	250 people

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What can I do?









Faith without works is dead James 2:17

e-mail: camnet@surfglobal.net

www.christianactionministry.com

The Foundations of the American Constitution (1-1/2 hours)

Wednesday Sept 3rd 7:00 pm at Community Bible Church, South Burlington, YT Thursday Sept 4th 7:00 pm at Church of the Rock. St. Albans, YT Friday Sept 5th 7:00 pm at Lamoille Valley Church of the Nazarene, Johnson, YT

The Roots of Liberty (5 hour seminar)

On September 6th, from 9am to 3pm at St. John Vianney parish hall, we are hosting Kris-Anne for an informative seminar on the Constitution called <u>The Roots of Liberty</u>. She will



discuss in detail the Constitution and the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments to the Constitution), using the Founders' own words, explaining the true meaning and purpose of each amendment.

We are planning on a box lunch meal at noontime. Cost is \$25/each and includes lunch. Limited to 250 people. Contact us for advance reservations. (802) 655-0280 or send in the reservation slip found inside.

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

September 14, 7:00 pm No. Ave. Alliance Church Burlington, Vt. October 2, 7:00 pm St. Marks Catholic Church Burlington, Vt.

Making A Difference in Vermont!