

The Awakening

Spring 2016
GODSHUB

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were ... ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

(Acts 4:13)

This verse summarizes our hope and calling: that our small group of ordinary men and women who make up GODSHUB would be able to speak boldly because we have been with Jesus. May you find this reflected in the articles of this, our second, newsletter.

God Bless,

Chris J. Fenner

President

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THE SILENT GENERATION SPEAKS UP

by Rex Wedgeworth, Founding Director of Godshub

The “Silent Generation” – those born between 1927 and 1945 – often were, and still are, silent on many issues. Now, however, our own Founding Director, Rex Wedgeworth, shares his heart and becomes a voice for many of his generation who have been silent for too long.

I can't help but feel anger, frustration and disappointment (and sometimes hopelessness):
when I think about my friends that died in Korea and Vietnam who were fighting communist anti-God forces (did they die for nothing?);

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when I find that almost all of the forty-five Communist goals that were entered into the Congressional Record in 1963 have been accomplished.⁽¹⁾

I can't help but feel anger, frustration and disappointment (and sometimes hopelessness):

when I realize that the Founders pledged their "Lives ... Fortunes ... and sacred Honor"⁽²⁾ for our nation, and today's revisionist historians purposefully distort their contributions;

when I remember that the church was the center of the education system during the Founding era, and for 150 years thereafter, but the anti-God forces have now been able to completely strip away any religious influence.

I can't help but feel anger, frustration and disappointment (and sometimes hopelessness):

when I realize that anti-God forces, with the aid of the mainstream media, are now able to affect almost everything in our lives, including the outcome of cases before the Supreme Court;

when I realize that many of the people today who are promoting European socialism in America actually have a more extreme agenda.

I can't help but feel anger, frustration and disappointment (and sometimes hopelessness):

when I hear Christians complain about Supreme Court decisions and about the leaders in our government, and then I find out that perhaps as few as 25% of Christians actually vote;

when I hear Christians tell how they decided who to vote for, and realize that God's perspectives were not even considered by them.

I can't help but feel anger, frustration and disappointment (and sometimes hopelessness):

when I hear church leaders say that we must maintain separation of church and state, and therefore not be involved in the political process;

when I see that the churches think that they are powerless to reassert God's position in the American public arena.

I can't help but feel anger, frustration and disappointment (and sometimes hopelessness):

when I realize Christianity has been deviously removed from public schools, universities and the public arena by people and organizations with anti-God and communist agendas;

when I see recent college graduates who seem to be cynical and uninformed about our nation's Christian heritage.

I can't help but feel anger, frustration and disappointment (and sometimes hopelessness):

when I hear that military officers are discouraged or even demoted for having a Bible on their desks;

when I hear that Christian chaplains in the Armed Forces are not allowed to pray in Jesus' name, or to encourage a non-believer to come to know Christ.

I can't help but feel anger, frustration and disappointment (and sometimes hopelessness) when I realize that all too often we still remain silent.

References:

1. Congressional Record—Appendix, pp. A34-A35, Thursday, January 10, 1963; Current Communist Goals
2. Declaration of Independence



THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

Author J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)

Let us never forget what a solemn thing it is to speak with God. Let us beware of rushing into His presence with carelessness and flippancy. Let us say to ourselves, "I am on holy ground. This is none other than the gate of Heaven." When Abraham spoke to God, he said, "I am nothing but dust and ashes" (Genesis 18:27). When Job spoke, he said, "I am unworthy – how can I reply to you?" (Job 40:4). Let us do likewise.

Once having begun the habit, never give it up. Your heart will sometimes say, "We have had family prayers; what great harm is it if we leave our private prayer undone?" Your body will sometimes say, "You are sick, or sleepy, or weary; you do not need to pray." Your mind will sometimes say, "You have important business to attend to today; cut short your prayers." Look on all such suggestions as coming directly from the devil. They are as good as saying, "Neglect your soul."

Never forget that you may tie together morning and evening devotions by an endless chain of short prayers throughout the day. Even in the company of others, or while you work, or going down the street, you may be silently sending up little winged messengers to God, as Nehemiah did in the very presence of Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 2:4).

We are all selfish by nature, and there is a tendency in us to think only of our own souls and to forget others. Against this tendency we have need to watch and strive, not the least in our prayers. We should stir ourselves up to name other names beside our own before the throne of grace. We

should try to bear in our hearts the whole world – the heathen, the Body of Jesus Christ, the country in which we live, the congregation to which we belong, the family and home in which we live, and the friends and relations we are connected with. For each and all of these we should plead. It enlarges our sympathies and expands our hearts. This is for the benefit of the Church and for extending the Gospel. This is to be like Christ.

I know well that asking God is one thing, and praising God is another. But I see so close a connection between prayer and praise in the Bible, that I dare not call that true prayer in which thankfulness has no part. It is not for nothing that Paul says, "By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). And then in Colossians 4:2, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

It is of mercy that we are not in hell. It is of mercy that we have the hope of Heaven. It is of mercy that we live in a land with spiritual light. It is of mercy that we have been called by the Spirit, and not left to reap the fruit of our own ways. It is of mercy that we still live and have opportunities of glorifying God.

Surely these thoughts should come to mind whenever we speak with God. Surely we should never open our lips in prayer without blessing God for that free grace by which we live, and for that lovingkindness

which endures forever.

Oh, if we should be bright and shining lights in our day, we must cherish a spirit of praise. And let our prayers be thankful prayers.

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WHY WE MUST VOTE

by Chris Fenner, President of GODSHUB

“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”
(Proverbs 29:2)

As we enter this critical year for our nation, we, the people who are called by God’s name, must be involved in the political process, so that our “groans” can be turned to “rejoicing”. And here’s why.

First, our Founders made it clear that our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people; for example:

George Washington, our first president, said in his farewell speech, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."¹



John Adams, our second president, wrote, “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”²

Also, the Constitution was “ordained and established” by the People of the United States as stated in the preamble.

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Now, whatever is “ordained and established” has to be maintained. We see this very clearly in two examples:

- A marriage between two people is “ordained and established” but if it is not maintained, the initial love soon grows cold, leading to an eventual divorce.

- A house is “ordained and established” when it is built or purchased, but if the owner fails to maintain it, it also soon deteriorates.

Consequently, “we the People of the United States” who are called by God’s name; that is to say, Christians, must do two things to maintain our Constitution:

- we must live our lives as a testimony of Jesus Christ in our hearts so that we can be seen to be a “moral and religious” people, and
- we must fulfill our responsibilities to our nation by being involved in the political processes so that “moral and religious” leaders come into office at all levels of government. The primary way to do this is to VOTE in local, state and national elections.

References

1. George Washington, Farewell Address, September 1796.
2. John Adams, Message to the Officers of the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of Massachusetts, October 1798.



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