

When America Cried For Bibles

Even the U.S. Congress cleared a printing of Bibles, and American statesmen helped spread them throughout the land.

The American Revolution was in full swing. The Bible, through more than one hundred fifty years of early settlement in America, remained the base of her people's religious devotion, her education, her colonial government. These Bibles had been shipped in from England.

Now, suddenly the American Revolution cut off this supply, and the stock dwindled.

Here was America in its greatest crisis yet—and without Bibles! Patrick Allison, Chaplain of Congress, placed before that body in 1777 a petition praying for immediate relief. It was assigned to a special committee which weighed the matter with great care, and reported: "... that the use of the Bible is so universal and its importance so great that your committee refer the above to the consideration of Congress, and if Congress shall not think it expedient to order the importation of types and paper, the Committee recommend that Con-

gress will order the Committee of Congress to import 20,000 Bibles from Holland., Scotland, or elsewhere, into the different parts of the States of the Union.

"Whereupon it was resolved accordingly to direct said Committee to import 20,000 copies of the Bible." During the session in the fall of 1780 the need arose once more.

Robert Aitken, who had set up in Philadelphia as a bookseller and publisher of *The Pennsylvania Magazine*, saw the need and set about quietly to do something about it.

In early 1781 he petitioned Congress and received from them a green light to print the Bibles needed. The Book came off the press late the next year, and Congress approved it.

So originated the "Bible of the Revolution," now one of the world's rarest books—the first American printing.

- "The Rebirth of America",
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The principles of God's Word guided the decisions on which this nation built its foundation. This was the discovery of Alex DeTocqueville, the noted French political philosopher of the nineteenth century. He visited America in her infancy to find the secret of her greatness. As he traveled from town to town, he talked with people and asked questions. He examined our young national government, our schools and centers of business, but could not find in them the reason for our strength. Not until he visited the churches of America and witnessed the pulpits of this land "afire with righteousness" did he find the secret of our greatness. Returning to France, he summarized his findings: "America is great because America is good; and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Throughout our history, our forefathers have given eloquent testimony of our commitment to God and His principles:

"It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord." - Abraham Lincoln

- "The Rebirth of America"

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..." - Psalm 33:12

News & Notes

THANKS: To Randy Beagle for an extensive amount of work on the PA System and the preparations to project the "Silencing of God" DVD's on the screen at the front of the auditorium. Great job!

SINGING TONIGHT: Following the evening worship period. All are invited to stay and sing praises to God.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies in this good work.

THE SILENCING OF GOD SEMINAR: America's moral and spiritual foundation is under attack. Three of five DVD sessions remain, each about one hour in length: Tuesday, Jan. 15; Thursday, Jan. 17; and Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 7:00 p.m. each of these evenings. Come and be informed!

ELDERS NIGHT: Sun., Jan. 27th. Our Elders will speak to us about matters that concern this congregation. Plan to be here.

PANTRY: Macaroni & cheese.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER & WITH CARDS: Linda Parkes, UPMC Passavant Cancer Center, Room 6132, 9100 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Phone: 412-358-3642.

REMEMBER THESE SHUT-IN'S: Ella Beagle (at Vera's), Lloyd Cowdery.

SICK: City Hospital: Lloyd Ferrell. Weirton Medical Center (Skilled): Jean Larimore. AT HOME: Ruby Eddy, Bertha Seman, Jack Board, Charlie Delong, Mike Harris, Gene Miller, Mary Nelson, Bette Gentry, Dan Williams (Sharon's husband), Jim Smith (preacher at Langeloth), Bill Reed (friend of Don Spencer), Cole Bellon (Michelle Hanlon's nephew). IN FLORIDA: Eva Sharp (Elaine McClung's mother) 12265 C.R. 681, Webster, FL 33597. Those who have been shut-in or in nursing homes for an extended period of time are posted on the bulletin board. Continue to remember each one.

GOD IN AMERICA'S HERITAGE

The Liberty Bell: "Proclaim liberty through all the land and to all the inhabitants thereof." Inscription engraved on the bell in 1753, and taken from Leviticus 25:10.

The Great Seal of the United States: The Great Seal was adopted in 1782 and is used by the U.S. State Department and is also found on every one dollar bill. On one side, the "eye" at the top of the pyramid represents the all-seeing eye of God. The Latin words translated: *Annuit Coeptis* (The Eye of Providence Has Favored Our Undertaking), and *Novus Ordo Seclorum* (A New Order of Ages).

In God We Trust: In 1864 the Congress of the United States of America approved adding "In God We Trust" to the two-cent coin. In 1908 legislation was passed and "In God We Trust" was mandatory on all coins. In 1955 "In God We Trust" became mandatory on all U.S. coins and paper currency. In 1956 "In God We Trust" became the national motto of the United States.

The Pledge of Allegiance: The words "under God" were added by Congress in 1954.