

## A GREAT NATION

Thomas B. Warren (deceased)

A nation is a lot like a person. It is born. It lives. It grows old. It dies. Many great nations have arisen during the history of the world. Some of them experienced a pattern somewhat like this: They began with strong spiritual and moral conviction, followed by the growth and eventual dominance of materialism, eventually to be destroyed by moral decay, apathy, and anarchy. Sounds all too familiar, doesn't it?

America began with spiritual conviction, and at least a great many people meant it when "In God We Trust" was stamped on its money. Then came the industrial revolution, the agricultural revolution, the glorification of materialism in general, and a people who began to trust more in money than in God. Now we see signs of decadence and apathy, the next-to-last stage. As one of the Nobel Peace Prize winners pointed out several years ago, not just in America, but in the rest of the world, our moral fiber is unraveling rapidly.

Is it all over? Is it the end? Is America about to die? Well, that depends upon what we Americans decide. God gives us the choice, both as individuals and nations to follow our way or His way (Matthew 7:13-14). It's up to us. He wants us as willing followers, not as robots with no freedom of choice (Matthew 11:28-30).

Centuries before Christ, Nineveh, much like America today, was faced with a choice. Nineveh could pursue either its own self-centered course or turn back to God. In what must have been one of the greatest spiritual revivals in history, Nineveh heard God's warning. Its citizens believed God, proclaimed a fast, turned around from wrongdoing, and were saved from destruction (Jonah 3:5-10).

The same thing can happen in America today. America has been great. It can be even greater. Our permissiveness, violence, and overindulgence can be either the beginning of the end or the crisis experience that gives us rebirth in God's will. It's up to us which of the two it will be.

- East Hill News, East Hill Church of Christ, Pulaski, TN -

### A Message From Ben Franklin

God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that "except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1). I firmly believe this. I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.

- Ben Franklin at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 -



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

2 Chronicles 7:14 - *'If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.'*

Psalm 67:5-6 - *'Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.'*

Psalm 9:17 - *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.'*

God's glory shines through His children.

## News & Notes

CONFESSION: Casandra Miskimen.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER: Today at about Noon at the Fellowship Building. All are invited.

EARLY SERVICE: Following our Fellowship Dinner TODAY at 2:00 p.m. at the church building.

NEW CONVERT CLASS: Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 406. This class is for those who were baptized in the last three years.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Resumes this Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Ladies are invited to help prepare stuffed bears for kids. Knowledge of sewing not required. Come and enjoy the fellowship and good times.

SUMMER LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Each Thursday, 11:00 a.m. at the Brown's residence. All ladies welcome and invited to join in this study.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, July 7th, 8:00 a.m. at EJ's in Chester.

NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL: Next Saturday, July 7th, 2:30 p.m. at Fox.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CAMP: July 9-14 at Tomlinson Run State Park. Sign-up sheet on the desk in the foyer for anyone who will help.

MEMBER VISITS: Our Elders and Minister are making visits to get to know the members better. Schedule a visit here at the building or in your home by signing the sheet on the desk, or arrange an appointment by talking to Rico. Otherwise, expect an impromptu visit.

PANTRY: Vegetable beef & tomato soups.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS & CARDS: Cindy Moore (Pat Allison's cousin). Her address: 2760 Craig Circle, Fullerton, CA 92835.

SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME: Pat Allison, Charlie Delong, Bill & Carol Stillwell, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Doris Dunham, Alex Harless.

FOX NURSING HOME: Mary Jane Bowers (Room 19). CROSSROADS: Sarah Miller. AUBURN NURSING HOME, SALEM, OH: Jim Mick. IN FLORIDA: Ilene Rayl.

## FOR THE JOURNEY

A young Christian packing his bag for a journey said to a friend, "I have nearly finished packing, I only have to put in a guidebook, a lamp, a mirror, a microscope, a telescope, a volume of fine poetry, a few biographies, a package of old letters, a book of songs, and a set of books I have been studying, a sword, and a hammer."

"But you cannot put all that into a bag," objected the friend!

"Oh, yes," said the Christian. "Here it is." And he placed his Bible in the corner of his suitcase and closed the lid.

- Author Unknown. via Beacon, Belview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

