



Our Covenant for America's Second Four Hundred Years

In the name of God, Amen. ¹ We humble ourselves before the divine Author of our individual and national existence ² and ask Him to provide a safe journey for us and our children through our nation's next four hundred years. ³ Almighty God rules over the universe. He is the Lord of our bodies and our minds. ⁴ He presides in the councils of nations. ⁵

He is the great Provider of all public and private good ⁶ that was, that is, or that will be. ⁷ Throughout our history, He has been our constant friend. ⁸ Humbly we approach His throne with praise for the wonders which He has done and with gratitude for His glorious light of the gospel, whereby, through the merits of the gracious Redeemer, we may ourselves become the heirs of God's eternal glory. ⁹ We commit to Him that our first and principal desire is to assist our families and neighbors to come to the true worship of God as He is revealed in the Bible. ¹⁰

We acknowledge that the Bible is itself the government of the People, by the People, and for the People. ¹¹ We remain convinced that the only legitimate purpose of government is to promote the welfare of mankind ¹² and to secure God-given rights, ¹³ therefore, we should choose leaders who entirely love and will promote the common good. ¹⁴ Our public officials need to be a praying people and a prayed-for people. ¹⁵

We ask the God of Wisdom, the Great Governor of the World, to encourage our leaders to create laws that would honor Him and be in keeping with His Word. ¹⁶ We recognize that our blessings of liberty cannot be preserved unless we firmly adhere to ¹⁷ the foundations of our national policy which were laid in the eternal rules which God Himself ordained. ¹⁸ When we as individuals are not influenced by those moral principles, we look in vain for public virtue. ¹⁹ Recognition of the Supreme Being has always been the first and most basic expression of Ameri-

canism ²⁰, but even those who do not believe in God receive the blessings of our nation's settled and quiet Government ²¹ because God's fundamental principles of liberty formed the basis on which our nation's laws were erected. ²²

We realize, however, that we are a nation of differing and often competing faiths, a body politic comprised of freemen, rather than a religious dictatorship imposed upon the unwilling. ²³ The manner in which we carry out the duty we owe to our Creator can be directed only by reason and conviction, and not by force or violence. ²⁴

Our citizenship duties are to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other. ²⁵ Bigotry is simply inconsistent with our declaration ²⁶ that Creator God made all men equally free, endowed with inherent rights for the enjoyment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. ²⁷ These truths are self-evident and need no other proof, ²⁸ and we will not, and can not, sell these gifts from God, or give them away. ²⁹

We depend solely upon the Great Arbiter of the Universe by whom empires rise and fall ³⁰ and the Invisible Hand ³¹ which has given us the choicest bounties of Heaven. We 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. We humble ourselves before God's power, confess our national sins, and pray for His forgiveness. ³² Lord, we sing "In God Is our Trust" to you in a united chorus. ³³

Grant us a new birth of freedom in You, so that our government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth ³⁴, but shall continue as one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. ³⁵ All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ.

Notes:

1. Bradford, William, MAYFLOWER COMPACT (November 11, 1620)
Second Continental Congress, DECLARATION OF THE CAUSES AND NECESSITY OF TAKING UP ARMS (July 6, 1775)
3. Ezra 8:31
4. Jefferson, Thomas VIRGINIA STATUTE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY (January 16, 1786)
5. Washington, George, WASHINGTON'S FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS (April 30, 1789)
6. Washington, George, WASHINGTON'S FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS (April 30, 1789)
7. WASHINGTON'S THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION (October 3, 1789)
8. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S REQUEST FOR DAILY PRAYER IN CONGRESS. Recorded in James Madison's notes (June 28, 1787)
9. Jefferson, Gov. Thomas, PROCLAMATION APPOINTING A DAY OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER (November 11, 1779)
10. SECOND CHARTER OF VIRGINIA (May 23, 1609), and ORDINANCE FOR VIRGINIA (July 24, 1621)
11. Wycliffe, John, GENERAL PROLOGUE OF THE WYCLIFFE TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE (1382)
12. Second Continental Congress, DECLARATION OF THE CAUSES AND NECESSITY OF TAKING UP ARMS (July 6, 1775)
13. Jefferson, Thomas, DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (July 4th, 1776)
14. ROBINSON, JOHN "LONG LETTER" TO THE SPEEDWELL-MAYFLOWER COMPANY (July 27, 1620)
15. Pory, John, PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST AMERICAN LEGISLATURE (July 30, 1619)
16. Rev. Mr. Duche, 1ST Resolution of the Continental Congress (Sept. 6, 1774); and Dickinson, John ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION (November 15, 1777)
17. Mason, George, THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Art. 15 (June 12, 1776); and THE NORTHWEST ORDINANCE, Art. 3 (July 13, 1787)
18. Washington, George, WASHINGTON'S FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS (April 30, 1789)
19. ADDRESS OF THE SENATE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (May 7, 1789); and WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS (September 19, 1796)
20. Ford, Gerald, Proclamation 4338 - National Day of Prayer, 1974, quoting President Dwight D. Eisenhower
21. FIRST CHARTER OF VIRGINIA (April 10, 1606)
22. THE NORTHWEST ORDINANCE (July 13, 1787)
23. ROBINSON, JOHN "LONG LETTER" TO THE SPEEDWELL-MAYFLOWER COMPANY (July 27, 1620)
24. Mason, George, THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Art. 16 (June 12, 1776)
25. Mason, George, THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Art. 16 (June 12, 1776)
26. Quock Walker v. Nathaniel Jennison, (J. Cushing, Massachusetts, 1783)
27. Mason, George, THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Art. 1 (June 12, 1776); DECLARATION AND RESOLVE OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, Art. 1, (October 14, 1774)
28. Jefferson, Thomas, DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (July 4th, 1776)
29. Mason, George, THE VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, Art. 1 (June 12, 1776)
30. ADDRESS OF THE SENATE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (May 7, 1789)
31. ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (May 5, 1789)
32. Lincoln, Abraham PROCLAMATION OF a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer, (March 30, 1863)
33. The National Anthem (last stanza), Adopted By Congress, (March 3, 1931)
34. Lincoln, Abraham The Gettysburg Address, (November 19, 1863)
35. Pledge of Allegiance Adopted By Congress (June 14, 1954)

讀者迴響

英國政府即將於4月30日實施一項法案名為 **Sexual Orientation Regulations**，這法案內容嚴重打擊基督教會的教導自由，埋沒聖經真理、屬靈書籍內容，及強制規定教會必須接受及替同性戀者舉行婚禮。同時，教會必須要開放讓他們進行各類活動。任何人士若批評「同性戀或同性婚姻」是錯誤或強調「一男一女」是正確的婚姻觀，也會導至觸犯法律；倘若任何人士的言論令同性戀者有難受的感覺，也可能被對方起訴，賠償款項可高達五千英鎊。若這法例獲得通過，對我們的下一代更是禍哉，因為這法例同樣會禁止老師在校園內或課室內講解聖經的婚姻觀，或偏袒一男一女的婚姻制度，又或者批評「同性戀者」；相反地，同性戀主義有可能被列入教科書內容。這樣，我們的下一代將要被逼灌輸這被歪曲了的思想，他們將會變成是非不分、道德淪亡社會的犧牲品。
Britain, Return To God! 懇請為英國禱告，求主憐憫，不要讓這法案通過！

英國

Bonnie Yip

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