

GCN

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GREAT COMMISSION NEWS

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Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he chose for his inheritance.
(Psalm 33:12)

God's word is true. United States of America is a living testimony of God's truth. From the first day of her existence she has the Creator God as her Lord, and the Bible as her foundation and standard of living. The puritan from Britain and Europe who migrated to the New World of America had the motivation: "aiming to spread the Gospel of Christ's Kingdom to the utmost part of the new continent." This is obviously for the puritans, not only did they seek the freedom to worship God they also wanted to preach the Gospel of Christ to the people of America.

Therefore the founding fathers of America founded the nation based on the principles and standard of the Bible.

According to William Bradford (1590-1657), the author of *Of Plymouth Plantation*, among those 56 people who signed on the Declaration of Independence, 52 of them publicly professed to believe in the triune God. They were godly Christians.

The U.S. Declaration of Independence affirms that: "We hold these 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." Three basic beliefs of the found-

ing of the United States are fully exposed: there is the Creator, God created man, and God established the absolute morality.

The founding fathers also believed that people must be able to read the Bible in order to understand God's teachings. So they advocated educating civilians and made United States the father of "public education" of the world. Bible became the main school textbook among other knowledge. Biblical content is an important curriculum and students were trained in character building and morality. Just as President Roosevelt said, "A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education." Therefore, during the early years of the United States, there was a culture of living a simple life; people were straightforward, godly, hardworking, moral, law-abiding. No family locked their doors, be it day or night.

Among the first 126 universities of America, 123 of them were Christian, such as Harvard (Harvard University), Yale (Yale University), Columbia (Columbia University), Princeton (Princeton University) and others. They all had Christian background and origins.

The most impressive has been the words of "In God we trust" on the United States notes, printed below. During the United States presidential inaugurations, the presidents shall lay hands on the Bible while reciting the Oath of office of the President of the United States, ending with the saying, "So help me God" to show their aspirations. Every presidential speech to the people must add at the end: "God bless the United States

of America." Each time when the Supreme Court is in session, the court Marshall will make the announcement ending in: "God save the United States and this Honorable Court." George Washington summarized it well, "Religion and morality are indispensable support for political prosperity."

From the beginning of the seventeenth century, sciences has flourished in the United States. Most of the early scientists were Christians, such as: physical astronomer Kepler (1517-1630), hydrostatic scientist Pascal (1623-1662), chemist Boyle (1627-1691), calculus scientist Newton (1642-1727), magnetic principle scientist Faraday (1791-1867), glacial geologist Agazzi (1807-1873), statistical thermodynamics scientist Maxwell (1831-1879), geneticist Mendal (1822-1884), bacteriologist Pasteur (1822-1895), the thermodynamic scientist Kelvin (1824-1907), to name a few.

Since the heads of state and people are willing to honor God, and live according to biblical truth, God really has blessed and been gracious to the United States. In just two hundred years, God has made her the world's leading, pivotal super power.

Even though the forefathers of the United States honored God, but as the Bible says, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way." (Isaiah 53:6) America has also turned away from the Biblical way. Here are some of the recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court:

1961, in *Torcaso vs. Watkins* the Court decides that Secular Humanism is a legal religion. That gives Humanism the right to forbid Christian activities in the name of "separation of church and state."

1962, in *Engel vs. Vitale* the Court forbids prayer in public schools.

1963, in *Abington School District vs. Schempp* the Court forbids Bible reading in public schools.

1968, in *Epperson vs. Arkansas* the Court decides that it is unconstitutional for public schools to forbid the teaching of evolution.

1973, in *Roe vs. Wade* the Court decides that unborn children are not persons, thus legalizing abortion.

1980, in *Stone vs. Graham* the Court forbids



public school exhibiting the Ten Commandments. Their reason is that by looking at the Bible students will meditate and follow the bible, which is against the constitution.

1892, in *McLean vs. Arkansas* the Court stops Arkansas public schools in teaching creationism because it is not scientific and forces them to teach evolution instead.

1986, in *Bowen vs. Roy* the Court gives the government greater freedom to infringe on the religious right of an individual.

1997, the Court decides Atheism is a legal religion, and in subsequent years, Satanism also becomes legal.

2013, in *United States vs. Windsor* the Court ruled DOMA (Defense Of Marriage Act) unconstitutional, thus opening the floodgates for legalizing same-sex marriage.

Those who run after (or offer gifts to) other gods will suffer more and more. (Psalm 16:40)

The Bible warns that God will bring down any rulers who are proud and not honoring God (Daniel 5:22-28):

“But you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.

“This is the inscription that was written:

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN

“This is what these words mean:

Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.

Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

The Bible uses Babylon to represent nations not honoring God and rebelling against His ways. The attitudes of the Babylonians are similar to the United States today:

BABYLON DANIEL 5	REVELATION 17-18	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Invading, impregnable	PRIDE	Supremacy in military, economics and politics
Hosting a party under siege	PRESUMPTUOUS	World leader, global police
Giant feast and carouse	PLEASURE	Hollywood style party life
Praise materialism, contempt of God	PROFANITY	Despise Christianity, consumerism
Indulgence, sensuality promiscuity	PROMISCUITY	Same gender marriage, abortion, legalizing drugs

Meanwhile the God of mercy and compassion keeps sending many of His servants to warn the Americans, among them are:

1) Edward Gibbon who wrote *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (1776 and 1788) that discusses several reasons for the great civilization’s demise, including the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home and the marriage, and the decay of religion and morality.

2) In 1947, D. Carle Zimmerman identified 11 symptoms of final decay in his book *Family and Civilization*.

1. No-fault divorce
2. “Birth Dearth” and increased disrespect of parents/parenthood
3. Meaningless marriage
4. Defamation of past national heroes
5. Acceptance of alternative marriage
6. Widespread attitudes of feminism, narcissism, hedonism
7. Propagation of antifamily sentiment
8. Acceptance of most forms of adultery
9. Rebellion of children
10. Increased juvenile delinquency
11. Common acceptance of all forms of sexual perversion

3) In 1979, Leonard Ravenhill published ► To P.6



Our Hope & Our Plea

by David R. Reagan

Is there any hope for America? No! Our only hope is Jesus, and thus we have no hope, for we have rejected Him. We have turned our back on the very God who made us great and showered us with blessings. We have forgotten that God's Word teaches that "to those to whom much is given, much is expected" (Luke 12:47-48).

We have stubbornly set our course. We have determined to live as we please and not as God has dictated. We have chartered a course of self-destruction, and God is going to allow us to have our way.

The Lack of National Hope

Many professing Christians have deceived themselves into believing that there is hope for our nation if we can only elect the right President or elect the right political party to control Congress. If that is your view, then you have set yourself up for certain disappointment.

I am neither a Republican nor a Democrat. I am a Monarchist because I have devoted my life to doing all I can to help prepare the way for the coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords

who will reign in glory and majesty from Jerusalem and who will bring peace, righteousness and justice to this earth.

Allow me to repeat my fundamental point for emphasis: Our only hope is Jesus, and since we have turned our back on Him, we have no hope as a nation.

The Abundance of Individual Hope

But there is individual hope for those of us who know Jesus as our lord and Savior. He has promised to walk with us through the fire and high water, comforting us in our sufferings and providing our needs. He will never forsake us (Isaiah 43:1-3 and Psalm 37:25-26).

We also have the incredible hope of the Rapture of the Church when true believers will be taken out of this world in the blinking of an eye to be with Jesus forever (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

And there is hope for those who will be left behind to face the terror of the pouring out of God's wrath, for even when God pours out His wrath, His major purpose is not to punish but to

bring people to the end of themselves so that they will repent and be saved (Isaiah 26:9).

That's grace. Let us rejoice that our God is a God of grace (1 Peter 5:10). Otherwise, there would be no hope for any of us.

A Series of Pleas

The urgency of the moment demands action ---- action on the part of all of us.

A Plea to Unbelievers

If you have never received Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, I pray you will do so this moment. Time is short. Action is needed now. God has prolonged your life to this point because He does not wish that any should perish, but that all might be saved. (2 Peter 3:9).

Perhaps you think you are saved because you have been baptized or have become a member of a church ---- or because you consider yourself to be a good person.

None of these things will save your soul from Hell. Salvation is not a matter of religious rituals, church membership or good works. It is a matter of relationship. Jesus said, "this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3).

Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Have you committed your life to him? Are you trusting in Him or in your good works?

To come to know Jesus personally and to be sealed by the Holy Spirit for salvation, you need to reach out to God in faith through a simple prayer like this one:

Dear Heavenly Father, I confess to you that I am a sinner and that I am sorry for my sins. I thank You for the salvation You have made possible through the sacrifice of Your Son. I accept Him as my Lord and Savior, and I welcome the indwelling power of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Once you have prayed this prayer, seek out a Bible-believing church where God's Word is

preached and where Jesus is held up as the only hope for this world. Make a public confession of your faith in Jesus and be baptized to manifest your commitment to Him and to symbolize your own death, burial and resurrection as a new person in Christ (John 3:3 and 2 Corinthians 5:17).

A Plea to Believers

For those of you who have truly placed your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, my plea is that you will get serious about reaching out to unbelievers with the message of the Lord's soon return. Time is short. Urgent action is needed.

I pray too that you will examine every aspect of your life to see where you have made compromises with the world ---- where you have grown comfortable with sin. The Holy Spirit is calling you to holiness in preparation for the Lord's imminent return. Identify those areas of your life that are not totally surrendered to the Lord and crucify them.

A Plea to Pastors

My plea to pastors is that you will commit yourselves to studying God's Prophetic Word and take it to mean what it says.

This will enable you to recognize the signs of the times and the urgency of the moment. You then need to communicate this sense of urgency to your people, convicting them that Jesus is returning soon. And you need to teach them how they can best prepare for that momentous event.

A Plea to God

Dear Heavenly Father, I praise You for the manifold blessings that You have given our nation ---- for Founding Father of great wisdom, for unparalleled freedom, for abundant prosperity, and for the great joy of serving as a conduit of Your spiritual blessings to the rest of the world as You have utilized our riches and ingenuity to communicate the Gospel to all nations and to translate and publish Your Word in many languages.

I think You also, Lord, for the great patience You have shown toward us in the midst of our rebellion against You.

I am terribly grieved, Lord, that in our pride we have deserted You. I realize that we fully deserve Your wrath, but I pay for mercy. I pray that before You deliver us from Judgment to destruction, You will raise up one last national revival to bring more souls into Your kingdom.

Most of all, Lord, I pray for the soon return of Your precious Son. Send Him quickly, Dear God. Send Him in glory and majesty, and through Him, please flood this wicked world with peace, righteousness and justice.

Maranatha!

Amen.

(Excerpted with permission from David R. Reagan, "A Prophetic Manifesto," McKinney, TX: Lamb & Lion Ministries, 2012.)

(The Great Commission Center International has acquired the copyright of this book and is undergoing the publishing of a English-Chinese bilingual book)



► From P.3 *America Is Too Young to Die*. He wrote,

"This much is sure: this generation is mesmerized by materialism and tantalized by TV. It is jeopardized by evils no other age has known, and victimized by cruel, malicious propaganda that clouds reality and therefore confuses thinking. The last but not least ingredient of this 'witches brew' is the religious jackanapes, attracting the crowd to his revival jamboree with the lure of miracles, as a cover-up for his itch for gold." In the first chapter of his book, he rewrote the sixth and seventh chapters of the Prophecy of Amos to reflect on the moral catastrophe of America.

4) In 2005, Rabbi Jonathan Cahn of the Beth Israel Congregation in Lodi, New Jersey gave nine harbingers according to Isaiah 9:10 to illustrate that what happened on 911 was in fact God's warning to America. The mystery of the 9 Harbingers sent to ancient Israel warning of its destruction, now reappear on American soil: The Breach - The Terrorist - The Bricks - The Tower - The Gazit Stone - The Sycamore - The Erez Tree- the Utterance - and the Prophecy, and what it reveals about America's past, present, and future.

5) In 2000, Andrew Delbanco tells of the stringent God of Protestant Christianity in *The Real American Dream: A Meditation of Hope*,

who exerted immense force over the language, institutions, and customs of the American culture for nearly 200 years. He then talks about the falling away of this God and the rise of the idea of a sacred nation-state. But finally, he speaks of the contemporary moment, when symbols of nationalism are in decline, leaving us with nothing to satisfy the longing for transcendence once sustained by God and nation. In short, Delbanco says that American cultural history has had three phases—each one centering on one high priority, "God. Nation. Self."

Since we discovered that, in Tocqueville's words, "the incomplete joys of this world will never satisfy the heart," how have we Christians made do? President Reagan once said, "If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

Let us follow the instruction of the prophet Jeremiah, "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (29:7)

Pray to the Lord for American to return to God, will you?

(The author is GCCI Director of US Ministry Development.)



Asia: Against stern warning not to work with this Muslim tribe, said to be more dangerous than vipers and shunned by everyone including UN and a medical mission agency that withdrew from them recently, a pastor went, anyway, after sensing insistent call from God. Over time, he has gained their trust, and baptized over 500 of them in recent years. The pastor had been trained by an agency on the outreach “strategy” of “pure love, pure gospel, pray, give or go.”

<Asian Access, www.asuanaccess.org, 6/11/14>

Malawi: Failed to win the presidency, a Christian leader was appointed as the Opposition Leader in the Parliament because the President’s party did not win a majority. Majority of the people claim to be Christians, but most are nominal believers. This Leader received training from an agency 28 years ago on genuine faith and integrity of words and action. He decided not long ago to enter politics to increase his influence. In 45 years, 27,000 have attended this month-long training.

<Haggai Institute, www.haggai-institute.com, 6/10/14>

Middle East: Television is the only access to a congregation many people have. In some places it is illegal to attend a church or own a Bible. A satellite ministry is providing a church of sorts to them and those in North Africa. Their broadcast program includes Worship, Bible classes, Theological Education, children’s programs, Bible reading (illiteracy is also a problem), besides general programs of news, live talk shows, etc.

<Sat-7, www.sat7usa.org, 6/6/14>

India: Local missionaries have found a group of “forgotten” islands in the northeast, and were able to penetrate the close-knit society with the gospel message. One missionary met a woman with health issues and began praying for her. She later told him that he was like a son and accepted Christ along with the whole family. Afterwards missionaries were able to open a center to provide children with food, clothing and help with schooling. In two years, traveling island to island by boat the missionaries have reached 44 islands and established 66 centers. On one island every one has come to Christ.

<Gospel For Asia, www.gfa.org, 5/14/14>

Dominican Republic: Earthquake resistant homes are built with Styrofoam blocks. These houses with concrete columns every 16 inches apart are very strong, secure, safe and easy to construct. An agency is working with national government and a local church to transform one of the nation’s poorest communities. They need more volunteers who are interested in building, health care and children ministry.

<Orphan’s Heart, www.orphanheart.org, 5/8/14>

Turkey: In a country of 76 million, 99.9% Muslims, an agency has been asked by the Ministry of Education to create a Christian curriculum for 5th, 6th, 10th and 11th grades public school elective classes. This happens because, as the country is set to join the European Union, the officials wish to show that Christian children can learn about their religion.

<International Needs Network, innetworkusa.org, 6/2/14>

USA: A researcher on trends of the Church in America predicts that more and more people will stop calling themselves Christians due to the decline of number of nominally Christians, those who show up culturally on Easter and/or Christmas. He says further that this will make churches more of the same mind, more passionate, better focused and stronger. And as people are more honest about their faith, Christians have more openings to share their faith.

<InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, www.intervarsity.org, 6/6/14>

Belarus: During the 2014 World Hockey Championships in Minsk, May 9-25, an agency has teamed up with local churches to reach the team members of 16 national teams and 400,000+ spectators. In this religious freedom highly restricted country, they have been able to pass out 250,000 copies of a magazine geared to youth, not counting the 50,000 copies passed out by the local churches before the event started. They hoped to continue to pass out 100,000 more before the event ends, and another 100,000 for the rest of the year.

<Russian Ministries, russian-ministries.org, 5/20/14>

West Africa: To escape the Ebola outbreak which is 90% fatal, a mobile medical clinic move to northern Ghana where they found an opening to the normally gospel-resisting Muslim people. As medical care was provided to 300 villagers in three days, the Muslims also accepted the sharing of the gospel and reading of Bible stories to children. Responding to this great need and opportunity, another clinic will be sent after the raining season and the Ebola threat.

<Reach Beyond (HCJB), reachbeyond.org, 6/4/14>

Nepal: Vacation Bible School is often a person’s first introduction to Jesus. An agency working with local pastors and teachers expect 75,000 children for a week of Bible stories, puppet shows, actions songs, games, and nutritious food. In one camp of 100 children last year 30 came to Christ.

<Gospel For Asia, www.gfa.org, 5/22/14>

Venezuela: As violent conflict between government and protestors making going out dangerous, Christians are praying more and sharing the gospel with neighbors more at home.

<International Mission Board, imb.org, 5/22/14>

Mission Consultation to Roma

Budapest, Hungary
September 29 to October 3, 2014

Theme:
Roma for the Nations

- (1) To stir up the awareness of the Global Church to care for the most neglected Roma people
- (2) To encourage churches and mission agencies to strengthen their mission works among the Roma people
- (3) To encourage Roma Christians to become missionaries
- (4) To help networking small Roma churches for mutual support
- (5) To provide opportunity for churches and missionary organizations to form a united effort for Roma missions



Roma Vision Sharing & Prayer Rallies in California



Prayer groups at Crosspoint Church of Silicon Valley, 6/13/14



Opening prayer at Golden Gate Christian Reformed Church, San Francisco, 6/14/14



Prayers for Romas at Golden Gate Christian Reformed Church, San Francisco, 6/14/14



Viewing of short film on Romas at Home of Christ in Fremont, 6/15/14



Dr. Sharon Chan sharing vision of Chinese Church's participation in Roma ministry at Chinese Church in Christ, San Jose, 6/14/14

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