



July, 2021

PASTOR'S CORNER

JIM HAYS

Our Founding Fathers and their Forgotten Friend

On the 4th of July we will celebrate the 245th anniversary of the independence of our country. A lot has happened to these United States during those 245 years. At one point we were not the united states but divided in civil war. At other times we have seen many obstacles face our country from pandemics (1912 and 2020) to economic ruin (Great Depression and other recession times) to world wars (I and II) to even attacks on our homeland by terrorists. Today we may be facing the greatest struggle of our country and that is the divisiveness and intolerance people have to others and their point of view.

This is not new, in fact the founding fathers had this very same problem at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 as they were attempting to write the constitution for this country 11 years after declaring their independence from Great Britain. (And you thought Congress moves slow today! – 11 years and still no constitution).

Finally, Ben Franklin took the stage and said these words:

“Mr. President The small progress we have made after 4 or five weeks close attendance & continual reasoning with each other---our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many noes as ays, is methinks a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the Human Understanding. We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of

Government, and examined the different forms of those Republics which having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolution now no longer exist. And we have viewed Modern States all round Europe, but find none of their Constitutions suitable to our circumstances. In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection. -Our prayers, Sir, were heard, & they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor. To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance?

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth that God Governs in the affairs of men. 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, Sir, in the sacred writings, that "except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the

"OUR FOUNDING FATHERS..." CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and by word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest.

I therefore beg leave to move-that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that service."

I couldn't say it any better – it is time to get back to prayer and legitimate prayer for our country and our leaders and it can begin with you in your daily prayers.

Grace to you all,

Jim

MISSION/OUTREACH COMMITTEE

A relatively new program enacted by the committee is "Helping Hands." This program is designed to provide assistance to GPC members who need some help with minor projects around the home. If assistance is needed, let your deacon or a member of the committee know.

The GPC family will have two opportunities to join in the mission work of the Church during July. One involves the Conway Ministry Center and the other the Backpack for schools program.

Conway Ministry Center

The Storehouse Pantry of the CMC provides food and hygiene supplies to the homeless and others in need. The pantry has been serving this need with a drive-through distribution since the beginning of Covid-19. Starting in September, it will be reverting to its "Client Choice" method of operation, which allows clients, accompanied by volunteers, to shop for food and supplies they choose. It also allows the volunteers to interact with the clients and pray with them. This year, they are asking participating churches to assist with a food drive during July. More information will be coming about this, and we encourage you to participate by donating nonperishable food and hygiene supplies by placing them in the purple boxes at the church.

Backpack Program

Grace Presbyterian has been involved in this program along with St. Matthew's Lutheran Church and Antioch Baptist Church for several years. We help pack food items for about 130+ students in three elementary schools in Conway. Other churches or organizations do the same for other schools. The supplies are placed in backpacks of kids that will be needing food over the weekend. During the last half of July, the Backpack organization of Conway will place a box in our Church for donations of school. More information about this project will also be forthcoming.

If you have questions, please seek out a member of the Mission/Outreach Committee.

Saved People – Serve People

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◇ Please call or email the office if you would like to help with **church cleanup**.
- ◇ If you would like more information about the Mission and Evangelism Team activities or if you would like to join the team, please contact Ken Hunter or call the church for more information.
- ◇ Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Ministry Center Storehouse Client Choice Pantry. If you would like to help, you can place your donations in the two tote bins located in the hallway at church, contact Ken Hunter or call the church for information. Items can be dropped off Monday -Thursday 4:00-5:00.
- ◇ Please join us for in person Bible study, 9:30 Sunday mornings at the church.

TABLETALK

Tabletalk is our monthly devotional booklet provided to us through our subscription with Ligonier Ministries and their founding pastor R.C. Sproul. The booklet is free to all church members and is available about a week before the new month begins. With today's increasing use of phone and tablets instead of paper sources, I thought I would share with you how you can access Tabletalk on your phone or tablet and download each issue for your reading convenience.

On your phone or tablet, go to renewtabletalk.com. Near the bottom of the page is a place to put in our account number and our zip code. The account number is 1895815 and the zip is 72034. After you enter those two numbers click on the "Enter My Subscription Account". This will take you to the next page and you will see "View Details" on the right side of the page. Click on "View Details" and it will take you to the next page where you will see "Download Digital Issues". Click on "Download Digital Issues" and it will take you to the next page where you will see 8 months of Tabletalk issues.

There are 3 downloaded forms. The blue icon one is for kindle, the green icon is for other devices, and the red icon is the pdf version. Most of you will want to click on the pdf version for the issue you want. Click on the pdf version for the month you want and that issue will be on your phone or tablet.

From here use your own phone or tablets means to save the issue to your files (my iPhone has a blue box with an upward pointing arrow at the bottom of the screen which then allows me to save to files – your phone or tablet may be different.) Once it is saved, you can access your files on your phone or tablet at your convenience for your daily devotional.

Please do not use this page to renew or change our subscription – thank you.

Supreme Court Establishes Strong Precedent for Soul Winners

A U.S. Supreme Court decision has solidly backed the rights of soul winners to share their faith on college campuses. In 2016, two students at Gwinnett College in Georgia were sharing their faith with other students on campus. Campus police accosted them and said that they would have to get a permit to share their faith in a special zone set aside for that purpose on campus. Students Chike Uzuegbunam and Joseph Branford duly applied for a permit to use the two tiny speech zones that the college had set aside. When they tried to use that permit, they were stopped by police because a fellow student had expressed discomfort with their message.

The violation of their rights was so blatant that a major Christian legal association, Alliance Defending Freedom, took up the case. After several years of contradictory findings by the lower courts, the US Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

Over two dozen other legal advocacy organizations filed friend-of-the-court briefs with the Supreme Court. That's because this case was pivotal in dealing with an obscure legal maneuver.

To avoid court action in the past, colleges had simply changed their rules before the case went to court and the judge would then dismiss the case as if there was no violation of freedom of speech. But that ruling did not place a barrier against the school reinstating the restrictions.

In this case, however, attorneys had changed their appeal in a way that the court had to rule on it for all future instances. This is why the case got so much attention and, with an 8-1 ruling in favor of free speech, turned out to be a major victory for the future.

The victory was even greater because it applies not only to colleges and universities but to any other government or private organization that attempts to limit soul winning in a public area.

Many in the new generation are persuaded that such public witnessing is ineffective; that relational evangelism is the only way to go. However, those who have been trained in tract distribution know that it is a way that works.

“SUPREME COURT ESTABLISHES...” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

A flood of testimonies have come to our office over the years. Some have testified of suicides prevented. Others simply told of the memory of a picture in the tract that left them with a nagging awareness of God. Finally, the Holy spirit used it to persuade them to follow Jesus.

This ruling should be an encouragement to soul winners. We must stand boldly against the darkness of a culture going barbaric. Abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, power to the few, unjust incarceration, worship of false gods or lying ideologies, sex trafficking, etc., have been the norm in cultures without the influence of Christ.

America has enjoyed unprecedented freedom from these sins for a few hundred years because enough people were committed to Biblical principles, and when sin began to grow, righteous people would stand publicly against it.

One of the ways they spread the truth of Christ’s power to heal hearts —and the culture— was with gospel tracts. The Great Awakenings (revivals) in America and the Western World were often preceded with saturation with gospel tracts.

With most of the modern media opposed to the gospel, tracts are still an effective way to spread truth. And we need freedom to do that. But the freedom is worthless without the boldness to actually do it.

<https://www.chick.com/battle-cry/article-listing?issue=5-2021>

Reprinted from *Battle Cry*, published by Chick Publications, Inc, Issue Date: [May/June 2021](#) (serving the Bible-believing Christians of the world)

BIRTHDAYS:

7/5 - Susan McNabb; 7/5 - Libby Roller; 7/10 - Jenny Harrison; 7/10 - Sarah Hays; 7/23 - Robin Scott;
7/25 - Steve McNabb; 7/27 - Steven McConkie; 7/29 - Heather Chapman

CURRENT PRAYER LIST AS OF (7/1/2021):

Prayer Concerns: Janet Bainter, friend of Barbara Watkins with digestive cancer; Heather Beczo, daughter-in-law of Tibor and Ilona Beczo; Chad Brown, son of Sharon Brown; Ron Carter, brother of Jean Brown with cancer; Bill Conner; Virginia Driggers, friend of the church; Steve Hoffman, friend of Nancy Davis with cancer and transplant need; Family of Tonya Mashburn, daughter-in-law of Charles and Trudy Jordan; Larry and Carol McAdams, sister and brother-in-law of Nancy Davis, health concerns; Vivian Sackhoff, mother of Jeff Sackhoff; Connie Staal, friend of Larry and Lavon Dunn; Family of Ken and Joy Upham; Phil and Cheryl White, father of Nancy Davis’ daughter-in-law with heart trouble; Jeff and Jenny Whitehead, friends of Joe and Sue Dablock.

Like us on  @gracepresconway or  @GracePresConway
For a free downloadable copy or podcast of the sermon, please visit our website at
www.gracepresconway.org

OUR DENOMINATION:



ELDERS:

John Davis
Ken Hunter
Pat Rice

Ralph Scott
Barbara Watkins

DEACONS:

Jenny Harrison: 417.459.2550
Karen Griffin: 501.269.2485
Annette Sackhoff: 501.472.3783
Henry Hawk: 501.730.4173

STAFF:

Admin. Assistant: Erin Tucker, ph. 501.504.6899
Lay Pastor: Jim Hays, ph. 501.499.2885
Lay Pastor: Joe Pruett, ph. 501.733.1650
Organist: Lyle Rupert
Choir Director/Pianist: Eloise Stowe

OFFICE:

1010 Hogan Lane, Suite 2
Conway, AR 72034
501.504.6899
gracepres@conwaycorp.net