



Consequences

by Jim Shaner

I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name exalt together.

Psalm 34:1-3

There are consequences for our wrong doings. Even in physics there is a law, for every action there is a reaction. The following is an example. Many of us may have driven our vehicles over the posted speed limit. There are many consequences for speeding. First, the vehicle uses more gasoline costing us more money. Second, one may be pulled over by the police for speeding. The result would be a fine and possible loss of ones driver's license. Third, one could be in an accident resulting in destruction of one or more vehicles, injury or possible death.

While cleaning my computer room which I keep all books, notes and photos, I came across an old newspaper. Since I do not usually buy newspapers, I knew there must be an important article that caught my attention. Once I read the headlines, I knew why I kept that newspaper. The headline on Friday, January 9, 2004, was "Board drops Lord's Prayer." The article was about the Coatesville, Pennsylvania Area School Board decision to eliminate the recitation of the Lord's Prayer in favor of a silent moment at its meetings. I thought that there could be consequences to the elimination of the Lord's Prayer. Would that small act of not reciting the Lord's Prayer change anything?

Now a little over five years have passed and unfortunately Coatesville made national news. Nearly every night for the last four months, the residents of Coatesville went to sleep in fear for one or more arsonists may set fire to their homes in the middle of the night. Bags of valuables were placed by the front door in case of fire. Some children slept with parents. Over 70 arsons occurred in the small steel mill city of eleven thousand citizens from January 2008 through March 2009. One woman died in her home when a fire was set in the middle of the night to her back porch. So far the police arrested three people in December and two people in late February and one this March. In addition to the arsons, the number of murders increased since January 9, 2004.

Did the act of not reciting the Lord's Prayer in Coatesville Area School Board cause the arsons and murders? To a small extent, the answer is yes. In America, we have allowed prayer and the reading of the Bible to be removed from public schools. We have allowed the Ten Commandments to be removed from many of our public buildings and parks. We have allowed the sin of abortion to kill 50,000,000 unborn children in America...children created in God's image. We are now debating whether marriage is acceptable between members of the same sex in America. No longer does America bless our Lord at all times. America no longer praises God, nor boasts of God, nor magnifies or exalts His Holy Name with its

actions on the whole as the psalmist of Psalm 34 demands. Why should God bless our nation?

I did not grow up in a Christian home. I heard the word of God spoken on the public address system until my senior year in high school. It was one of the only places that the truth of the Bible was made known to me; some Hollywood movies, a comic strip in the Sunday morning Philadelphia Inquirer were others. That Word did not become void. I became a Christian at the age of 26 after once being an atheist.

One of results or consequences of allowing prayer and reading of the Bible to be removed from our public schools is "the Me Generation or Generation X," a generation with little or no accountability, raised without moral absolutes at home or at school. Since Jesus was taken out of our schools, look at the role models which our youth have to follow. When I look at professional sports today, I see greed, pride and steroids. When I look at the Hollywood celebrities, I see greed, pride and immorality. When I look at our Washington politicians, I see greed, pride and dishonesty. We once had a president with the nickname, Honest Abe. Now the words, honest politician, appear to be an oxymoron. Even some of our physicians have given up their Hippocratic Oath to abort unborn children.

The legal basis for this prohibition of sponsoring religious observances in public schools is the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which requires that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." Just nine years after the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was adopted, our nation's Capitol Building was officially opened. On December 4, 1800, Congress authorized that church services for the public would be held in the recently opened Capitol Building. Among those who attended the services at the Capitol were Presidents Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Quincy Adams and later Abraham Lincoln. Notably, Jefferson attended a Capitol church service just two days after he wrote his famous letter containing the words, wall of separation between church and state. Furthermore President Thomas Jefferson ordered the Marine Corps Band to play at the Capitol worship services. From 1865 to 1868 the largest Protestant Sunday service in America at that time was the First Congregation Church which met in the House chambers with a congregation of nearly 2000 people. It appears that most our founding fathers of America believed in God and wanted our citizens to worship God also. Why do the courts of our nation believe so differently today when the following universities began as bible schools; Harvard, William and Mary, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Brown, Rutgers and Dartmouth.

Did you know that the prayer which began the nationwide controversy in 1962 over religion in public education was just 22 words long? The prayer was as follows:

"Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our Country."

The words,"Almighty God", is contained in the 34 state constitutions. The acknowledgement of dependence upon God is contained in one form or another in the Declaration of Independence, Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and in

the constitutions of every state in the union. The invocation of blessings is in the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States and 29 state constitutions. How can it be seriously argued that a prayer, combining these various phrases, gathered from the basic law of our land is in violation of our Constitution?

We should all learn from our American history. In the darkest hour of the Revolutionary War at a place named Valley Forge, a general humbled himself and knelt in the snow and prayed. Nearly one third of his army, mostly untrained men 18 years old or younger, would die from starvation or from the bitter cold. That man would later become the first President of the United States, George Washington. Our fledgling nation would later defeat the most powerful army in the world. That is the power of one man's prayer.

Today all America should humble itself, seek God's face (not His hand) and allow prayer and bible back into our public schools.

To learn more about the One Nation Under God –Walk Across America, go to our web site, www.walkacrossamerica.info.

**God bless,
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**Total miles walked of the American Discovery Trail - 852 miles
Number of prayer walkers - 66 prayer walkers
Number of people praying for America - 57,963 prayer warriors**

On May 10, the One Nation Under God – Walk Across America will resume in Adams County, Ohio. Please pray that my strength would be fully restored so that I may walk for a whole month later this year. This year several people have asked to join me from different states. With God's help, the walk is continuing. Praise God.