

THE SOWER
ARTHUR CHURCH OF CHRIST
415 W. 4TH STREET
ARTHUR, IL 61911
Ron Bartanen, Evangelist

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

Have you visited our web site lately? (www.Arthurcoc.com)

BIBLE-SAFE ZONES

If one finds Bibles to be upsetting, forces are at work to provide one with Bible-free zones where you can go and not be offended. It's called "government facilities." It's similar to "gun-free zones" that have been provided where people can go to and feel securely protected from people with guns. One difference is that for some reason most people who are prone to shooting people seem to be unable to read signs, such as, "No Guns Permitted," while Bible-safe zones are more secure. Christians haven't been bold enough yet to carry Bible into schools, court houses, military facilities, etc., defying federal laws. Somewhere in our nation's Constitution liberal Supreme Court justices have found (must be "between the lines") that having Bibles in such places is a violation of "separation of church and state."

From the Internet I some time ago came across this article in "Todd Starnes Report," on this theme:

"A Bible was removed from the waiting room of a Chillicothe Veteran Affairs Medical Center (CVAMC) in Athens, Ohio after a veteran complained. "Our government is secular, and must remain secular," the unidentified veteran wrote.

"Mikey Weinstein, the founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, fired off a letter to the medical center on behalf of the veteran—alleging that the presence of the Bible inside a government facility is a violation of the U.S. Constitution. Weinstein, a fussy little man with a strong aversion to our Lord, said the Bible's placement in the waiting room was 'illicit and unconstitutional.' In other words, 'Good Housekeeping' is fine, but the Good Book is not. The panicked VA staff scoured the entire building to ensure there were no other Bibles lurking about—waiting to spontaneously convert people. They found one.

"So, did this veteran think that this Bible was going to do something? Was it going to cause him to collapse into a coma? Was he going to wake up the next day and decide to be a Christian because it was on a table where he had been? No, this is just another example of the thought-police. If you do not think like them, then you are infringing on their rights.

“Thanks to the brave staff of the CVAMC their facility is now Scripture-free. But someone should tell these people that there is an easier way to avoid things they do not like: Do not pick them up.”

Our nation has come a long way from the days of our nation’s founders who seemingly misunderstood the Constitution, even supplying school children with Bibles. (Tongue in cheek.)
--Ron

“We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to sustain ourselves to the Ten Commandments of God.” (James Madison, 1778; fourth president of the United States)

CHOOSE WORSHIP

“The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away: blessed be the name of the LORD.” (Job 1:21)

Our daughter traveled to Africa to serve as a medical missionary. As a nurse, she was committed to bringing healing, comfort and God’s grace to as many people as she could among those living in the bush. Grinding poverty made living conditions difficult. Disease and malnutrition plagued the women and children who came to her for help.

On one particularly difficult day our daughter assisted a number of women who came to their clinic to give birth. Of all the babies delivered that day, only one survived. It was an exhausting, heart-breaking, faith-wrenching day as she watched mother after mother grieve for a child lost and dreams broken.

As she poured out her heart about all she had seen and experienced, she penned these words: “Today, I choose worship.” In the middle of desperate circumstances, she chose to honor God’s sovereignty, surrender to His will, and trust in His goodness. So can you.

No matter what you are facing today, no matter what has been broken or lost in your life, you can choose to worship. You can set your heart towards His face, bring your broken dreams to Him, and pour out your resolve to reflect His glory.

Dear Father, thank you for the avenue of worship. Help us to choose worship today, to see your face, and shine as lights for your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen. —Casandra Martin, *Power for Today*

“It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians: not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this

very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity and freedom of worship here.” --Patrick Henry

THE FIRST BOOK TAKEN, THE LAST BOOK LEFT

It is said that when the famous missionary, Dr. David Livingstone, started his trek across Africa, he had 73 books in three packs, weighing 180 pounds.

After the party had gone 300 miles, Livingstone was obliged to throw away some of the books, because of the fatigue of those carrying his luggage. As he continued on his journey, his library grew less and less, until he had but one book left—his Bible.

Truly, the Bible is the one book humanity cannot do without. One writer said about the Bible: “This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s character.”

“I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word” Psalm 119:16).

--House to House/Heart to Heart

“WHAT SATAN HATES” will be today’s message, with Rev. 12:1-12 as the reading.

VOTE this Tuesday for the candidates that will best adhere to Biblical principles in their decisions. Pray for our nation that we will be led by those who realize that even nations will be held accountable to God.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Keep Ruby Bradd (Clinton; recovering from cancer); and Wayne Polk (health problems). *** Also pray for those suffering persecution for their Christian faith, especially in communist and Islamic countries. A*** Pray for our nation as voting is completed. We have seen numerous warnings of mob violence, looting and arson being planned in major cities.