

THE CHRISTIAN METHODIST

NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to Christ, Dedicated to Truth, Dedicated to Renewal



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A Better Way

We are including information on what is going on in our society in this edition of The Christian Methodist Newsletter because if our country collapses, "renewal" in our church will take a back seat to the resulting turbulence and anarchy.

Despite the fact that a great deal of work has gone into the "Protocol" for the future of the United Methodist Church (UMC) by many well-respected people with impressive credentials – it is deeply flawed. Furthermore, it does not reflect the best plan for our beloved church nor what God's will is for us. We can do better. In the Spring 2021 issue of The Christian Methodist Newsletter, we will publish "A Better Way" for our United Methodist Church with a workable solution. We plan to have it in the mail to you by January or February. We won't take the time to do it here, since we address a more pressing issue.

– Allen O. Morris

Please Pray

If we live our lives in a free, safe, and Christian nation, we can have the freedom to better serve the Lord and tell others about the priceless gift of salvation available through Him and about the Bible as God's Word & the best possible guide through life. We should pray in the spirit of 2 Chronicles 7:14, lifting up our corporate and individual sins to the Lord in a spirit of repentance. We ask that you also pray against attacks on our country: a "hedge of protection" around the United States "against all enemies, foreign and domestic, visible and hidden"; I know this sounds strident – but we are under serious attack by very real enemies at home and abroad (China, Russia, Iran, Hezbollah – and others).

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America's Future Hangs in the Balance!

By Allen O. Morris

"Pray! Vote! Stand!" - words repeated by Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council. I would add, "Inform yourself about those candidates (deeply flawed, as all of us are) who stand for the principles on which our Constitutional Republic was founded – and vote for them." This is the most important election in our country since 1864. Again, please vote for those who best support our Judeo/Christian/American values.

Following is the edited version of a letter I sent to the Fayetteville, NC mayor:

October 5, 2020

Dear Mayor Colvin,

I want to present to you a copy of the book *Hometown Heroes*; just one gem of information is a presentation by Booker T. Washington that is relevant to our situation today – "Cast down your bucket where you are..." He was speaking to a background issue of a massive influx of immigrants into our country from Ireland. Even though some of them were probably my ancestors, I very much support what Washington was saying. In his address at the International Exposition in Atlanta, September 18, 1895, as recorded in *Up From Slavery* (1901), he said, "To those of my race who depend on bettering their condition in a foreign land or who underestimate the importance of cultivating friendly relations with the Southern white man, who is their next-door neighbor, I would say: 'Cast down your bucket where you are'...in making friends in every manly way of the people of all races by whom we are surrounded...To those of the white race who look to the incoming of those of foreign birth and strange tongue and habits of the prosperity of the South, were I permitted I would repeat what I say to my own race: 'Cast down your bucket where you are.' Cast it down among the eight millions of Negroes whose habits you know, whose fidelity and love you have tested."

Until I was 10 years old, our family lived in the Denver Heights section of San Antonio, Texas. My two brothers, my sister and I were the only "white" kids in the neighborhood (I dislike using terms denoting skin color). My best friend was Franklin "Frankie" Napier. He remembers us as being blood brothers. Even though our family moved [away] when my father retired from the Army, Frankie and I have kept in touch.

On my first assignment to Germany as a second lieutenant, I was a special staff officer for the battalion commander. As LTC Kelly Porter's Equal Opportunity Staff Officer (EOSO), I had been trained to investigate issues of

discrimination. We had a cordial relationship [like a father]. He and I have maintained a warm relationship over the years. Whenever I'm in Washington, DC, I visit him and his wife Shirley and go to their – Bethlehem Baptist Church.

What happened in Minneapolis was tragic, but there are some who are trying to exploit this deplorable event. Sadly, we as a society are not as close as we were when Frankie and I were 8, 9, and 10 years old living in San Antonio. There is a lot of work going on to try to divide us as a people, and to get us fighting among ourselves. I say all of this [since what] is going on right now really breaks my heart.

In addition to *Hometown Heroes*, I have authored other books. The next one entitled *Foxhole Buddies* will be dedicated to Frankie and Colonel Porter. The final chapter will be called "So What?" with a laser-like focus on the heart of this issue. With the scenario of a person (i.e., "you") and I in a 3-person foxhole with 100 enemy soldiers coming over a ridge a mile away, we have the chance to pick our next "foxhole buddy"; who will it be? Do we care if he is white, black, Hispanic, Oriental, or any other ethnic group? The answer: "No!" We want to know only 1 thing: "Can and will that person fight?" This will determine how or even if we will survive.

Skin color and ethnicity do not matter.

In reality, we do have an enemy; we are in the "same foxhole" and there [are] some very real enemies – "bad guys" if you will – who are trying to divide us. We cannot let that happen. If our country collapses, it will cause unbelievable chaos and will be tragic for all of us.

We all need to come together and practice what Jesus taught us when He was asked, "...which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" He replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

One time years ago I heard something that brought home to me this truth, "You have never looked into the eyes of any person whom God does not love." Just think about those words. Then we should let this reality guide us in how we relate to all other people.

We need to inform ourselves and stand for calm and reason at this time.

In His Service,
Allen Morris, United States Army (Ret.)

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Dr. James Dobson's Concerns⁺

Dear Friends,

As I write this newsletter, voters across this nation are only a few short months away from the next general election. What an ominous time this is for our 244-year-old republic. Its future hangs in the balance. The choices we make on November 3rd will send this nation down one of two dramatically different paths. The wrong decision will be catastrophic. I agree with former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, who said recently that the next election will be "the most important since 1860."¹ He also warned that if we appease or ignore the violence and anarchy occurring in the streets, it might be the end of civilization as we have known it.² Those are sobering words coming from a man who has stood at the pinnacle of national power.

Mr. Gingrich referred to the significance of 1860 because that was the year Abraham Lincoln was elected president. I'm sure the Speaker would agree that the following election of 1864 was also critical to the future of the nation. Lincoln and his opponent, Maj. Gen. George McClellan, were in a hotly contested campaign for the White House that could have gone either way. The "war between the states," as it was called, had been raging for three ghastly years, and the entire nation was staggered by reports from the bloody battlefield. Lincoln was running for a second term, and he campaigned on the promise of finishing the war and preserving the Union. These were momentous times for the young nation. During the first week of January 1863, the President signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves.

Democrats and their presidential candidate, Maj. Gen. McClellan, initially campaigned on a "peace platform," pledging to end the war and send soldiers home. As the election approached, he talked more about negotiating to let the South establish a separate government whose cornerstone would be slavery. If McClellan had been elected, there would have been no foreseeable end to the inherent evil of buying and selling human beings and treating them like cattle. Thus, the Civil War was a struggle for the soul of America. The summer before the election, the war was going badly for the Union. Lincoln, in fact, was convinced he was going to lose the election.³ He wrote the following memorandum on August 23, 1864, asking his Cabinet to accept the grim prospects for his re-election. These are his words:

"This morning, as for some days past, it seems exceedingly probable that this Administration will not be re-elected. Then it will be my duty to so cooperate with the President-elect as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration; as he will have secured his election on such grounds that I cannot possibly save it afterwards."⁴

I checked into what had happened to a person that I remember from years past – Eldridge Cleaver. If you remember he spent time in prison after having committed felony attacks on behalf of the Black Panther Party, spent time in jail, and then fled the United States to avoid prosecution. He went to Cuba, Algeria, and then France, spending a total of seven years abroad. He then returned to the United States – knowing that he faced prosecution of his crimes. It is interesting that this country which is "so terrible" offered far more than he knew. It took a "stay abroad" to convince him of that fact.

–AOM

No wonder Lincoln dealt at times with depression. Clearly, the Union was a hair's breadth away from losing the war. But then, the tide began to turn. One historian wrote, "The political landscape shifted dramatically when Gen. William T. Sherman took Atlanta in early September. This major military shift, coupled with the severe internal strife within the Democratic Party, solidified Lincoln's chance at victory."⁵ As you know, Abraham Lincoln and the Republicans won the election of 1864 in a landslide. McClellan was defeated by more than 500,000 popular votes and 191 electoral votes. An estimated 78 percent of Union soldiers cast their ballots in favor of Lincoln. McClellan took just three states: Kentucky, Delaware, and his home state of New Jersey.⁶ Less than two months after Lincoln's inauguration, he was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. He is said to have been the "last casualty" of the Civil War.⁷

Why have I recounted our Civil War history and the election of 1864 at this time in our history? It is for two reasons. The first is to consider some striking similarities between then and now. Our nation is divided like no time since the Civil War. Lawlessness and anarchy stalk the cities as angry mobs riot, burn, loot, rob, and kill innocent bystanders. Cultural monuments are being destroyed. Scores of people have been shot. Our courageous police officers are being brutally attacked by the same people they have vowed to protect. A man and his son stopped to ask for directions, and he was gunned down on the spot. A one-year-old baby was shot in the stomach while he sat in his stroller. The child died at the hospital.

What began as a justified and lawful protest in response to George Floyd's senseless murder by a rogue police officer has morphed into violence for the sake of violence. Hatred flows in the streets, including vitriol directed at the President of the United States or anyone who dares to support him or his policies. Constitutional rights to freedom of speech and religious liberty are being trampled. There is also widespread belief that violence and anarchy are being organized and funded by powerful forces that are maneuvering America toward a socialist dictatorship. There is always a kingmaker behind such lawlessness. Most disturbing is open talk of another civil war. It is troubling to even utter those words. The last time Americans faced off against each other, 600,000 soldiers died. May God forbid it from happening again.

During the revolution of the 1960s, I recall a ubiquitous bumper sticker that read, "What if they gave a war and nobody came?" It was a catchy phrase that made sense to those who opposed the Vietnam War. But my reaction to it then and now is "What if they gave a war and only one side came?" That question keeps me awake at night. There are multiple millions of passive Americans out there today, many of them Christians, who are clueless about what is happening to their homeland. [Emphasis added. – AOM] They are losing something precious and irreplaceable. Do they not understand that their children and those who are yet to be born will live in tyranny if we fail them on our watch? Countless young men and women have laid down their lives on battlefields around the world to protect liberty and our way of life. Now, what they purchased for us with their blood is slipping away. Disengaged people won't lift a finger to preserve this great land. They won't take even a few minutes to go to their polling places to vote. There are also thousands of pastors who won't allow voting registration tables in the lobbies of their churches. Don't they know or care that America is on the ropes? Hordes of angry anarchists are salivating over the next election, hoping to push America over a cliff. If they succeed, as Newt Gingrich said, Western civilization will never recover. Is there anyone left who believes some things are worth dying for? Aren't there patriots out there such as Patrick Henry

Continued from page 2

who said in defiance of British tyranny, "Give me liberty or give me death!"? That was the spirit during his day. The Declaration of Independence closed with these words endorsed by the signers, "We pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." They knew they would be hanged if they lost the war. Why did they do it? Because they loved their country enough to die for it.

How I pray for the emergence of silent, intimidated Americans who will come out of their hiding places to let their voices be heard on Election Day 2020. There must be tens of thousands of ministers in our midst who, like the Black Robed Regiment of the Revolutionary War, will strip off their clerical garb and fight valiantly for religious liberty. If these men and women of faith and conviction don't come to the rescue of their country, it is doomed.

During the Civil War, untold soldiers gave their lives to preserve the integrity of the United States of America and to end the tragedy of slavery. Here is the question of the hour: Are you and our brothers and sisters willing to carry the bloodstained banner around which our predecessors rallied? We will know the answer on November 3rd.

That brings us to the second reason I have addressed the Civil War and the election of 1864. It is to remind us that voting matters. Each presidential campaign has been important, but some have had jaw-dropping and nation-shaping consequences. I believe we are at such a pivotal moment now. You can be certain that America will be forever changed by the political party that gets its supporters to the polls. They will win the day – and the future.

Unfortunately, the majority of Christians have a record of not showing up on Election Day. It is unbelievably sad. As many as 75 percent of them sit on their hands, apparently assuming that their votes don't matter. They are wrong. Voting ALWAYS matters. George W. Bush won the presidency in 2000 by 537 votes in a nation of 130 million registered voters. Many down-ballot contests have been won or lost by a single vote.

I plead with you to register and vote in this presidential election. I won't try to tell you who to vote for because you can figure it out for yourselves. But I will suggest how you might evaluate the situation we face. I'll close with seven critical issues that have stunning significance for the nation. Please think hard about them, and then go to the polls.

1. The Next Generation. There is a fierce battle being waged now in the nation's classrooms for the hearts and souls of our children and grandchildren. Those of us who are passionately committed to the Judeo-Christian system of beliefs are losing our kids right before our eyes. They are being force-fed a radical curriculum that is godless, anti-American, and sexually perverse. Make no mistake, the left and secular culture are manipulating the minds of your sons and daughters every day of the year. I urge you to be extremely careful about those whom you set in power over your children. Protect them with your very lives.

2. The Sanctity of Human Life. All life is sacred and is a gift from Almighty God. But as you know, America has the blood of innocents on its hands. Since 1973, more than 60 million babies have been murdered through abortion and countless lives have ended by euthanasia. This is the most tragic holocaust in the history of the world! Some states have

The disintegration of a society into...factions is bound up with its rejection of the forces that bring it unity – "law" and "justice." ~Commentary on Habbakuk 1:4, "Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted."; pp. 499-500. Carl E. Armerding, Professor of Old Testament, Regent College; as printed in The Expositor's Bible Commentary, volume 7.

Ours may become the first civilization destroyed, not by the power of our enemies, but by the ignorance of our teachers and the dangerous nonsense they are teaching our children. In an age of artificial intelligence, they are creating artificial stupidity. ~Thomas Sowell; Thomas Sowell (2002). "Controversial Essays", Hoover Inst Press

even passed laws allowing wounded and suffering infants to lie alone on porcelain trays after somehow surviving unsuccessful abortions. They will die without the comfort of their mothers' breasts. If that doesn't touch your heart, you are without compassion. I hope you will not cast a single vote for any politician who supports such wickedness.

3. Marriage and Family. The family is God's original building block for society. Marriage continues to serve as the foundation for every dimension of human life. Everything of value rests on it, including procreation and the care and training of children. If that ground floor is weakened or undermined, the entire superstructure of civil society will come crashing down. But listen carefully: powerful and highly funded forces, including LGBTQ and other leftist entities, are determined to destroy the family as an institution. It is already on its knees, and its future is grim. Before you vote, find out what position the candidates have taken on this issue. Then vote accordingly.

4. Religious Liberty. The first item listed in the Bill of Rights addresses the issue of religious liberty. All the other enumerated rights flow from that fundamental freedom. That is why it is alarming to recognize that this right to worship and honor God as we choose is under vicious attack today. The courts have done the greatest damage, but now an entire sub-culture is trying to bring down the Christian faith. Whether it has invaded your private world or not, it is at your front door. It was this primary concern that led to the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War in 1776. We can't compromise one jot or tittle within that fundamental right. Fight for it with every ounce of your strength and determination. Don't let the government close the doors of your church or tell you when you can sing praises to the Lord Almighty. They have a devious agenda, and it is dangerous. Be ready to go to the mat in defense of what you believe. And let this passion influence how you cast your ballot in November. Here I stand. Will you join me?

5. Capitalism v. Socialism. It is difficult to believe that for the first time in American history, our nation appears to be thinking about trading our democratic way of life for the tyranny of socialism. I can hardly catch my breath. Could we really consider abandoning the beloved system of government that was designed to be of the people, by the people, and for the people? Is it true that up to 40 percent of millennials and others are prepared to surrender their liberties in exchange for the absolute authority of the state? Democracy and capitalism have made ours the most powerful and successful nation in the history of the world. Are we really considering scuttling the system that has served us for 244 years in exchange for what some people call "free stuff?" I pray not! But that option awaits you in the polling booth.

6. The Judicial System. Given recent rulings, we know that judicial overreach has almost ruined this great nation. Justices and judges are constitutionally charged to interpret

Let's be very clear on this: "A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both"

—Dwight D. Eisenhower

