

AWAKEN



A Publication Of Dayspring Christian Academy

VOLUME 14, NO. 1 FALL 2024

WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS?

FAITH. HUMILITY. COURAGE. OBEDIENCE.

+ MAN'S UNQUENCHED
QUEST FOR
GREATNESS

+ UNDERSTANDING THE
GREATNESS OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

+ THE GIFT OF
PERSECUTION



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- Acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every area of life
- Demonstrate a biblical worldview
- Become citizens of excellence in Christian character and scholarship
- Restore the biblical foundation of America

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The cover design for this issue of *Awaken* encapsulates the timeless question in our theme: *What is true greatness?* We seek to understand greatness beyond worldly achievements or accolades to understand greatness as God defines it. Our cover depicts those who have through their work and lives demonstrated greatness in light of God's kingdom. True greatness, according to Scripture, is found in faith that trusts God above all, humility that serves others selflessly, courage that stands for truth, and representation of a triumphant Jesus—reminding us that there is only one answer to this central question. This issue of *Awaken* delves into qualities that only Jesus embodies perfectly, while urging us to seek greatness not in fame or power, but in a life that reflects God's heart.

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WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS?

HOW DOES ONE RAISE A CHILD IN FAITH, HUMILITY, COURAGE, AND OBEDIENCE TODAY?



BY DANIEL STONE
HEADMASTER, DAYSPRING
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

THE WORD **GREAT** is commonly used to describe what is in actuality an *uncommon* quality. The idea of *greatness* can spark in-depth, thoughtful discussion with varying results. In the dictionary, the dozens of definitions for *great* almost all imply superiority in some way, whether in size, status, ability, or accomplishment. Historians refer to Christianity, Judaism, and Islam as “the three *great* world religions.” In American history, we have had the *Great* Society, the *Great* Recession, and the *Great* Depression. We also reserve this title for the largest of certain species of animals: *great* white shark, *great* Dane, *great* horned owl, *great* blue heron, etc. In Revelation 20, we read about the *Great* White Throne of Judgment.

History is replete with characters who sought greatness. Whether self-proclaimed or later named by historians, examples include Alexander the *Great* of the Greeks, Herod the *Great* of the Hebrews, and Alfred the *Great* of England. The Magna Carta (*Great* Charter) was the first step in guaranteeing the rights of citizens in what would later become *Great* Britain.

In modern nomenclature, it's not uncommon to hear sports commentators and fans discussing the G.O.A.T. (*Greatest Of All Time*), a common acronym used to describe athletes considered to be the best at what they do. Whether it is Michael Jordan in basketball (or LeBron James, depending on one's generation), Tom Brady in football, Simone Biles in

“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave. Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:26

gymnastics, or Wayne Gretzky (“The Great One”) in hockey, these *greats* dominate many sports conversations.

But, like all things, as Christians, we must filter our thoughts through God’s Word. As we look at the topic of greatness, we remember Jesus’ words. In Matthew 20, the mother of the sons of Zebedee (the disciples James and John) brings her sons to Jesus and asks Him to grant that they would sit on His right and left hand in His kingdom. Jesus’ response to the mother, her two sons, and the other ten disciples was, “Whoever would be *great* among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave. Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Of course, we know that Jesus demonstrated this, first by washing His disciples’ feet, the task that was given to the lowest servant in a house, then by suffering and dying on the cross as a sacrifice for all mankind’s sin.

So, to model greatness by Jesus’ definition, one has to pursue the opposite of what the world would call *great*. As Jesus said, one must become a servant. The word “servant” used by Jesus in this passage is *diakonos* (plural *diakonoi*), which translates as “one who executes the commands of another.” This same word is used by the Apostle

Paul for the word “deacon.” In Acts 6, a problem arose for the early church as the widows were being neglected. The disciples gathered together to appoint deacons to serve these needs. These servants, these *diakonoi*, were God’s answer for meeting the needs of the church. What a beautiful picture! Where the world defines *greatness* by looking at one’s achievements, successes, accolades, and accomplishments, the standard for Christians, set by Jesus and the Apostles, is to be a servant.

What about national *greatness*? Are we or have we ever been a *great* nation? This was a question searched out by a young French author back in the 1830s. Within the first few decades of our young nation’s history, some exceptionalities were already evident to many. Alexis de Tocqueville traveled across America at this time to study the new nation’s remarkability. A famous quote that has been attributed to him links America’s *greatness* to her *goodness*. As Tocqueville traveled the country in search of this greatness, he is said to have opined:

I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers – and it was not there ... in her fertile fields and boundless forests – and it was not

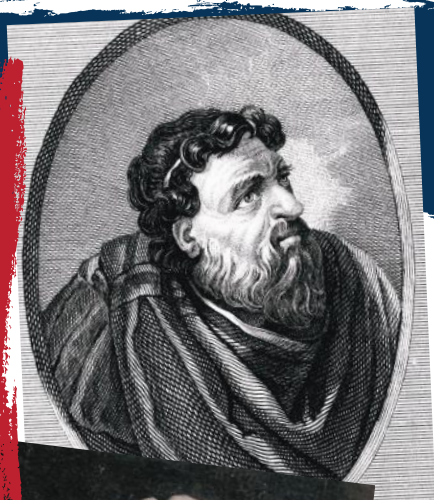


Former NFL quarterback Tom Brady and former NBA player Michael Jordan are called the greatest of all time. What is true greatness?



Where the world defines greatness by looking at one’s achievements, successes, accolades, and accomplishments, the standard for Christians, set by Jesus and the Apostles, is to be a servant.

“I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers – and it was not there ... in her fertile fields and boundless forests – and it was not there ... in her rich mines and her vast world commerce – and it was not there ... in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution – and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”



History calls them Alexander the Great and Herod the Great, but what is true greatness?

there ... in her rich mines and her vast world commerce – and it was not there ... in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution – and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her

“What makes a people master of itself if they have not submitted to God?”
–Alexis de Tocqueville

genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.

The beauty and truth of this quote are surely timeless. Tocqueville recognized that America's greatness came from her goodness, and, what's more, that goodness came from religious belief. He would also go on to say, “Who can know what's in the heart of all Americans? But, we can see that they all believe religion necessary to the maintenance of republican institutions.” He also observed, “What makes a people master of itself if they have not submitted to God?” Surely not all Americans were Christians, neither in the 1830s nor at its founding in the 18th century; however, Christian belief and practice were the prevailing societal ethic. This prevailing biblical worldview, held by generations of Americans from the Pilgrims and Puritans for 200-plus years, informed the ethic by which this nation was founded. That Christian code is what made America, while far from perfect, good. And that goodness surely did turn to greatness.

So how do we teach greatness to our students at Dayspring Christian Academy? We emphasize that students strive to understand Jesus' definition of greatness. One of the pillars of our mission is to restore America's biblical foundation. America's greatness truly lies in the



Alexis de Tocqueville wrote in his book **Democracy in America** that “America is great because she is good.”

goodness of her people. Of course, we know that the only goodness in man is found in the redemptive work of Christ.

Thus, we teach this to our children from little on up: that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, but that through Jesus, God made a way for us to be redeemed. In that redeemed state, each person works out God's plan for his life through the sanctification process. For the student, as he matures in his faith and as he progresses through his biblical education where he learns to view all of life through the lens of God's Word and biblical reasoning, he can understand that true greatness comes from living out the command of Jesus: to be the servant of all. That is true greatness.

For the student, as he matures in his faith and as he progresses through his biblical education where he learns to view all of life through the lens of God's Word and biblical reasoning, he can understand that true greatness comes from living out the command of Jesus: to be the servant of all.



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WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS?

MAN'S UNQUENCHED QUEST FOR GREATNESS

IN LIGHT OF THE WORD OF GOD

BY DR. MICHAEL R. MYERS

FOUNDER AND VISION AMBASSADOR, DAYSPRING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Man once walked with God, but after the fall, as man walked away from God, the Tower of Babel rose as an outward symbol of self-exultation.

THE DESIRE FOR GREATNESS WAS BAKED INTO THE HEART OF THE HUMAN RACE AT CREATION.

After all, Scripture declares that our First Parents, Adam and Eve, were made in the image of God. The Creator gave humans the capacity to recognize and quantify greatness. God set the standard of greatness.

In *Teaching and Learning America's Christian History*, Rosalie J. Slater and Verna M. Hall state, "Everything in God's universe is revelational of God's infinity, God's diversity, God's individuality. God creates distinct individualities. God maintains the identity and individuality of everything which He created."¹

Before the fall, Adam and Eve had a pure, harmonious, and fulfilling relationship with Creator-Father. Surely, they were awed by the beauty of His creation, His wisdom, and His power. How long that idyllic paradise continued, we know not. But when Adam and Eve allowed sin to enter,

the whole world turned upside down, including the crowning jewel of Creation, mankind itself. What had started as a relationship based in purity and obedience turned into humanity's desperate but futile desire to be its own god. The exaltation of self was born.

The Preacher aptly describes the futility of life for misdirected humankind, stating:

Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

What advantage does man have in all his work

Which he does under the sun?

A generation goes and a generation comes ...

And that which has been done is that which will be done.

So, there is nothing new under the sun ...

There will be for them no remembrance among those who will come later.

Ecclesiastes 1:2-4, 8-9, 11

What had started as a relationship based in purity and obedience turned into humanity's desperate but futile desire to be its own god. The exaltation of self was born.

FAITH. HUMILITY. COURAGE. OBEDIENCE.

The never-ending struggle to be God has plagued the human race ever since that fateful decision in the Garden – until Jesus came to turn the world right side up. Only God Himself could supersede the deserved doom of man. It is because of the Son's act of humility and obedience that the Father has "highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11). That is true greatness!

Challenging the early Christians to abandon selfishness and conceit for humility, the Apostle Paul eloquently described the path to greatness:

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bondservant and being born in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

Paul's powerful word-picture reveals the heart of the Gospel message – that God Himself took it upon Himself to remedy the hopeless state of His human children. In so doing, He has provided the pattern for attaining true greatness.

Noah Webster, in his *American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828), created a biblical worldview treasure that preserves the meanings of words, biblically and governmentally, as they were used during

the founding period of America. Webster listed 25 definitions of the word *great*. Yes, 25! He succinctly ended his list of meanings with a statement and some examples: "The sense of *great* is to be

understood by the things it is intended to qualify. *Great* pain or wrath is violent pain or wrath; *great* love is ardent love; *great* peace is entire peace; a *great* name is extensive renown; a *great* evil or sin, is a sin of deep malignity, &c."²

Another word closely related to great is *greatness*, which Webster defined as "Magnanimity; elevation of sentiment; nobleness; as *greatness* of mind. Virtue is the only solid basis of greatness" (emphasis mine).

Today, many things are called great; many people claim greatness. In fact, social media, podcasts, and television conspire to entice young and old alike to climb the ladder

of success. There is no shortage of books that promise the "keys to success." No small effort is expended to seek that elusive moniker of "GREAT."

Greatness is sought by a very broad list of contenders: athletes, billionaires, artists, songwriters, singers, leaders, authors, speakers, cooks, humanitarians, teachers, pastors, inventors, scientists, politicians, and the list goes on. While there are many highly competent achievers in these ranks, what truly quantifies them as great?

The understanding of great and greatness is a very big deal in the Bible. In the New American Standard version of the Bible, nearly 1,000 references are given between these two words. Many verses rightly refer to the attributes to God, while others provide the path to attain true greatness in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus emphasized the greatness theme in His teaching:

+ "So whoever will humble himself like this child, he is the greatest in the

"So, whoever will humble himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:4

kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:4).

+ "But the greatest of you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted" (Matthew 23:12-14).

+ "And sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, 'If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all'" (Mark 9:34).

+ "He said to them, 'Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great'" (Luke 9:48).

+ "For what does it benefit a person to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what could a person give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36-37).



John and Abigail Adams offered sage advice to parents regarding the value of building character in their children: "It should be your care, therefore, and mine, to elevate the minds of our children, and exalt their courage, to accelerate and animate their industry and activity, to excite in them an habitual contempt of meanness, abhorrence of injustice and inhumanity, and an ambition to excel in every capacity, faculty, and virtue. If we suffer their minds to grovel and creep in infancy, they will grovel and creep all their lives."



Paul's powerful word-picture reveals the heart of the Gospel message – that God Himself took it upon Himself to remedy the hopeless state of His human children. In so doing, He has provided the pattern for attaining true greatness.

WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS?



In the Book of Genesis, we learn that the humbling of Joseph led to his greatness.

Likewise, Paul provides instruction about greatness: “But we have this treasure in earthen containers, so that the extraordinary greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves” (II Corinthians 4:7).

Greatness is an effect, not a cause. True greatness results from the godly character of the individual. The root of the word character means “to cut, scrape, or engrave.” People are not born with character but develop character over time. Parents are the first teachers of character in the home. John and Abigail Adams offered sage advice to parents regarding the value of building character in their children: “It should be your care, therefore, and mine, to elevate the minds of our children, and exalt their courage, to accelerate and animate their industry and activity, to excite in them an habitual contempt of meanness, abhorrence of injustice and inhumanity, and an ambition to excel in every capacity, faculty, and virtue. If we suffer their minds to grovel and creep in infancy, they will grovel and creep all their lives.”³ Examining the life and accomplishments of their son John Quincy Adams gives great credence to the parenting skills of John and Abigail Adams.

In a Christian home, the church and the school lend helping hands to bring about the lessons, experiences, and trials that shape the character of the child for Christ. As children grow to adulthood, their godly character blueprint guides them through the many decisions of life.

The question that should be ever-present in the mind is, *who or what is in control* of

“But we have this treasure in earthen containers, so that the extraordinary greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.” II Corinthians 4:7

the multitude of decisions that form one’s life-record? One of Webster’s definitions of character is “the peculiar qualities, impressed by nature or habit on a person, which distinguish him from others; these constitute *real character*, and the qualities which he is supposed to possess, constitute his *estimated character*, or reputation.”⁴ Put another way, real character is internal; reputation is but outwardly seen, which can be masked but eventually the truth will come out.

Before true greatness shows up, godly character must be formed and tested as a matter of course. The life of Joseph in Genesis provides a cogent example of this principle. In his youth, capable and aspiring Joseph had the “world by its tail,” often leaving his brothers in the wake of his arrogance. God had great plans for Joseph, which required him to go through the crucible of character development before he could achieve true greatness. After years of character-honing, Joseph became a powerful ruler, second only to Pharaoh himself.

A primary consideration of greatness is God’s assessment of the person. His judgment is inscrutable and the only valuation that counts (Galatians 6:10, I Thessalonians 2:3). Many character qualities are requisite for greatness, with humility topping the list, for good reason. Humility is the antidote to pride,

selfishness, and arrogance – all part and parcel for the human drive to be “Number 1.” Again, the Bible provides instruction:

“All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the humble ... so that He may exalt you at the proper time” (I Peter 5:5-6).

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others” (Philippians 2:2-4).

The Bible offers many examples of men and women – often unexpectedly and unplanned – who demonstrated greatness: Moses, Ruth, David, Esther, Mary, and Paul, to name a few. The list grows through the two thousand years since Christ came. There is incredible greatness in people who impacted their own world but also impacted the generations beyond. It is incumbent for parents,

pastors, and teachers to recount the stories of these “men and women of whom the world was not worthy,” as the biblical writer of Hebrews put it.

Introducing students to our spiritual heroes is an essential aspect of Dayspring’s Principle Approach[®] to education. Rosalie Slater, who co-founded the Foundation for

The question that should be ever-present in the mind is, *who or what is in control of the multitude of decisions that form one’s life-record?*

It is incumbent for parents, pastors, and teachers to recount the stories of these “men and women of whom the world was not worthy,” as the biblical writer of Hebrews put it.

FAITH. HUMILITY. COURAGE. OBEDIENCE.

“Today we have no proud heroes – no models of character, or leadership, to inspire our youth. We have no identity for courage, conscience or compassion, to cherish as part of the proud fabric which a people weaves into its character and tradition. The reason is not that we do not possess such a treasury of greatness and heroism. The reason is that we have allowed our treasury to be robbed and pillaged of its gold – the gold of Christian character. In so doing we have lost our vision of the destiny and purpose of God’s America.”

–Rosalie Slater, co-founder, Foundation for American Christian Education

American Christian Education in 1964, identified seven key biblical principles from which the American founding generation reasoned to forge the American Republic. She named one of those principles “America’s Heritage of Christian Character.” Writing in *Teaching and Learning America’s Christian History*, Slater opined in the early 1960s:

Today we have no proud heroes – no models of character, or leadership, to inspire our youth. We have no identity for courage, conscience or compassion, to cherish as part of the proud fabric which a people weaves into its character and tradition. The reason is not that we do not possess such a treasury of greatness and heroism. The reason is that we have allowed our treasury to be robbed and pillaged of its gold – the gold of Christian character. In so doing we have lost our vision of the destiny and purpose of God’s America.⁵

The looming question is, does our current generation, both young and old, have the greatness of character it will take to preserve our once-great republic? If we value the God-given liberty to be a self-governing people as our founders intended, we must return to the paths of God’s Word and restore the incredible blessing He has given us. Greatness starts first in the hearts of individuals – ordinary men and women. From there, the seeds of Christian character will grow – family by family, church by church, community by community – until true greatness once again prevails across our nation.

“And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured,

not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mocking and flogging, and further, chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented (people of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts, on mountains, and sheltering in caves and holes in the ground.” Hebrews 11:32-38

**TRUE GREATNESS:
PEOPLE OF WHOM
THE WORLD WAS
NOT WORTHY**

Greatness starts first in the hearts of individuals – ordinary men and women. From there, the seeds of Christian character will grow – family by family, church by church, community by community – until true greatness once again prevails across our nation.

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WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS?

UNDERSTANDING THE GREATNESS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

BY ANGELA ADAMS

UPPER SCHOOL TEACHER, DAYSPRING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS? In his *American Dictionary of the English Language*, Noah Webster said, "Virtue is the only solid basis of greatness." What is "virtue?" It is reflected in an individual with strong character, morals, and a drive for excellence. Though success is not always a true measure of greatness, it often is the product of one who achieves it. Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee University, wrote in his autobiography, "I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."¹ A true measure of greatness is the ability to persevere through life's difficulties.

During the mid-19th century, slavery drove a wedge between the Northern and Southern sections of the young United States of America. The political division in the nation was so great one congressman even beat an abolitionist senator unconscious on the Senate floor. The Great Experiment, the Christian constitutional republic, was in jeopardy and desperately needed a strong leader. Providentially, Abraham Lincoln, a tall, backwoods-raised, self-educated man from Illinois, would be appointed to lead the torn nation through one of its darkest hours. In his youth, he did not seem the epitome of greatness, but there are over 15,000 books written about him and he is considered one of America's greatest presidents.² He knew what it meant to overcome obstacles. He was a man of faith, humble beginnings, conscience, and courage.

HUMILITY

Abraham Lincoln did not like to share about his childhood, thinking it would taint people's views of his accomplishments. He once told reporter John Locke Scripps of the *Chicago Press & Tribune*, "Why Scripps ... it is a great piece of folly to attempt to make anything out of my early life. It can all be condensed into a single sentence ... 'The short and simple annals of the poor.'"³

Abraham Lincoln was born in the wilderness of Kentucky on February 12, 1809, to Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Like his father, Thomas was a pioneer seeking to settle on new land in the Midwest. Thomas and Nancy had three children; the younger son died, leaving Sarah, the eldest, and Abraham. Thomas taught Abraham the value of hard work.

The loss of his mother was devastating to him. He said the "love he acquired in reading the Bible through (the) teaching of his mother, had been the strongest and most influential experience in his life."

FAITH. HUMILITY. COURAGE. OBEDIENCE.



As a child, Abraham Lincoln had an insatiable desire to read.

His mother, Nancy, was able to read, a valuable gift that was rare for a woman in such poor circumstances. She also loved poetry and would recite it from memory. Abraham became a logophile, a lover of words. His love of poetry inspired many later political works and speeches.⁴ Young Abraham was hardworking

and had an insatiable desire to learn to read and write. He recognized from his parents that with persistence it was possible to rise above one's station.⁵ He wanted something more and understood

from his parents that hard work, determination, and education could help him. He often read books late into the night such as the Bible, *Aesop's Fables*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, and *The Life of George Washington*.⁶ The independent scholarship of Abraham Lincoln would contribute greatly to his success as a lawyer, politician, and president, though his education in school amounted to less than one year.⁷

SORROW

Thomas Lincoln would soon move the family to the newly formed state of Indiana in 1816. Soon relatives of Nancy joined them.⁸ Tragedy would fall upon the small community with the arrival of milk sickness. Not only would Nancy's relatives fall ill and die, but so would Nancy herself. Abraham was only 9 at the time. In his book *Abe Lincoln Grows Up*, Carl Sandberg describes Thomas Lincoln and Dennis Hanks making a pine box coffin as "Little Abe, with a jackknife, whittled pine-wood pegs."⁹ The loss of his mother was devastating to Abraham. He said the "love he acquired in reading the Bible through (the) teaching of his mother, had been the strongest and most influential experience in his life."¹⁰ Abraham once told his law partner, William Herndon, "All that I am or hope ever to be I get from my mother. God bless her."¹¹

"It is a great piece of folly to attempt to make anything out of my early life. It can all be condensed into a single sentence ... 'The short and simple annals of the poor.'"

Later in life, he continued to experience great loss and struggled with bouts of depression.¹² His sister Sarah Lincoln died in childbirth on January 28, 1828.¹³ Three years later, Abraham Lincoln settled in New Salem, Illinois, where he met a young woman named Ann Rutledge.¹⁴ They became close friends. Legend purports they may have even been secretly engaged. But Ann fell ill and died 25 days later.¹⁵ The news devastated Abraham and sent him into such a state of depression his friends placed him on suicide watch.¹⁶ His ability to persevere and push through the darkness of his soul would become a valuable strength in times of great trials.

FAITH

Abraham Lincoln moved to Springfield, Illinois, in 1837 to work as a lawyer.¹⁷ He met and married Mary Todd.¹⁸ They would have four sons, but only two would live to become adults. Edward Baker Lincoln, their second son, would die in Springfield at age 4.¹⁹ Eddie's death caused both parents to question the finality of life and seek hope.

Devastated by her son's death, Mary turned to Dr. James Smith, pastor of the



Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln lost two of their four children in childhood.

First Presbyterian Church.²⁰ Abraham Lincoln purchased a pew in the church and even accepted and read Dr. Smith's book on skepticism.²¹ Dr. Smith became a family friend and shared many private conversations with Lincoln. Mary observed:

From the time of the death of our little Edward, I believe my husband's heart, was directed towards religion and as time passed on – when Mr. Lincoln became elevated to Office – with care of a great Nation upon his shoulders

"From the time of the death of our little Edward, I believe my husband's heart, was directed towards religion and as time passed on – when Mr. Lincoln became elevated to Office – with care of a great Nation upon his shoulders – when devastating war was upon us – then indeed to my own knowledge – did his great heart go up daily, hourly, in prayer to God – for his sustaining power."

WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS?



Abraham Lincoln debated Illinois Sen. Stephen Douglas as Lincoln sought to ensure slavery did not spread into new territory.

– when devastating war was upon us – then indeed to my own knowledge – did his great heart go up daily, hourly, in prayer to God – for his sustaining power.²²

Lincoln often spoke more freely of his faith after the death of a second son, William Lincoln, in 1862 while serving as president, perhaps proving Mary's statement concerning her husband's faith.²³

Unfortunately, the reality of death and tragedy haunted Lincoln from the time he was young even into his presidency as the weight of the sacrifice of so many soldiers bore heavily upon his shoulders. His presidency caused him to reflect on the sovereignty of God during one of the most trying times in the nation's history, and he began to see himself as an "instrument of Providence"²⁴ and the war "a divine punishment for the sin of slavery."²⁵

COURAGE IN PRINCIPLE

Abraham Lincoln made a name for himself in politics as an eloquent speaker and shrewd debater. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1847.²⁶ He would return to Springfield and serve the next few years in the Illinois Circuit Court.

Lincoln was a strong supporter of the United States Constitution. He believed that when the forefathers said, "All men are created equal," this included the black population. In 1856, he decided to join the newly formed Republican Party. The Republican Party was formed in response to Illinois Sen. Stephen Douglas' Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed people in new territories to vote whether to be a slave state or a free state.²⁷ This was known as popular sovereignty. Lincoln believed Douglas' push for popular sovereignty would ensure the spread of the institution of slavery into the new territories. He decided to run against him for the 1858 Senate race, challenging him to a series of debates. Douglas believed the Constitution was "made by white men, for the benefit of white men."²⁸ Lincoln countered, "There is no reason in the world why the negro is not entitled to all the natural rights enumerated in the Declaration of Independence, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I hold that he is as much

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Delivered at Gettysburg, PA | November 19, 1863

"FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead,

who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

FAITH. HUMILITY. COURAGE. OBEDIENCE.

“With malice toward none; with charity for all...”

entitled to these as the white man.”²⁹ He saw slavery as a “vast moral evil.”³⁰ During the 1858 convention, Lincoln penned his famous “House Divided” speech, which he borrowed from Scripture: “A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free.”³¹ He lost to Douglas but caught the eye of the Republican Party and became the party’s official presidential candidate, winning the 1860 election.

GREAT ADVERSITY

Even before Lincoln’s First Inaugural Address, seven southern states seceded from the Union, beginning with South Carolina. Upon his election, he immediately began to form his Cabinet. Lincoln wisely chose his party opponents. He knew it was important to have a united front within his Cabinet and to do that, he would need to consider the opinions of those who disagreed with him. Next, he would need to calm Southern fears that his presidency meant that he was infringing upon their rights to own slaves; rather, it was to stop the further spread of the institution. Anger and hatred ran high. Lincoln was secretly transported from Springfield to Washington, D.C., because of rumors of assassination attempts.³²

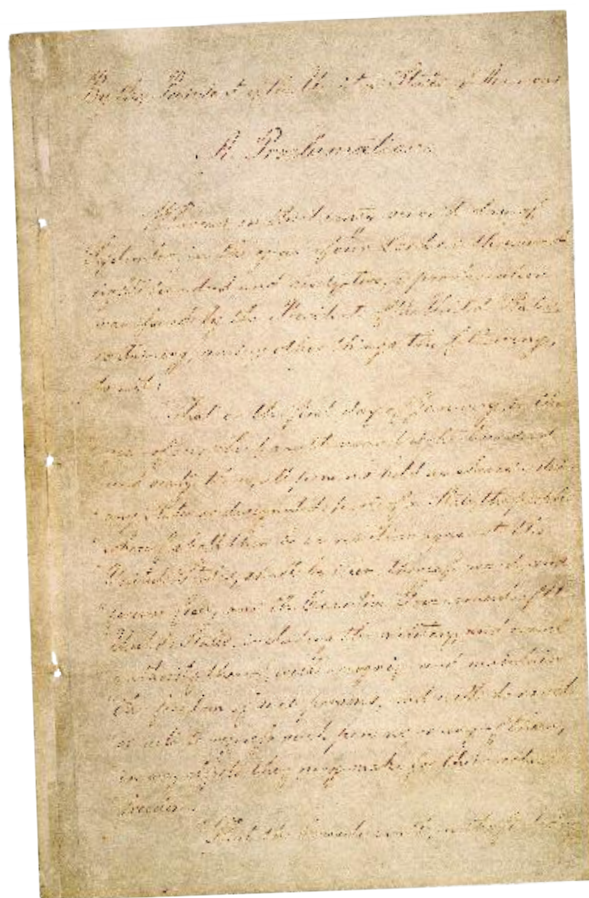
Lincoln attempted to calm the Southern states in his First Inaugural Address while recognizing the importance of treading carefully to avoid igniting a civil war. He assured them, “I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.”³³ However, he also asserted, “You can have

no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to ‘preserve, protect, and defend it.’”³⁴

Lincoln knew he had to act with caution, or he would lose the support of the border slave states. Thirteen Southern states would form the new Confederacy. The Civil War began just months after Lincoln took office.

No president had ever faced such turmoil and division. The war would rage for four long years. Lincoln proclaimed that the purpose of the war would be to preserve the Union. He announced his final Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, freeing slaves in all rebelling territories. The war now had a moral purpose. Lincoln, upon signing the proclamation, said, “I never in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right than I do in signing this paper.”³⁵ It was one step closer to the emancipation of all in the bondage of slavery.

The three-day Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 was the turning point of the war. More than



The Emancipation Proclamation, which was handwritten by Abraham Lincoln and issued preliminarily on September 22, 1862, shines now as a declaration of liberty for American slaves but was then an executive order that had no teeth unless the North won the war. It did allow for African Americans to join the Union Army, and nearly 200,000 did so.

51,000 men lost their lives in the battle. A few days after the battle, Lincoln was asked by Gen. Daniel Sickles if the battle had caused him to worry like many others in Washington. Lincoln shared how he dealt with his concern over the battle:

I went into my room one day and locked the door and got down on my knees before Almighty God and prayed to him mightily for victory at Gettysburg. I told him this was his war and our cause, his cause, but that we couldn’t stand another Fredericksburg or Chancellorsville.

WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS?



Second inauguration of Abraham Lincoln. Forty-one days later, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre by John Wilkes Booth.⁴⁰

Southern states back into the Union would not be an easy task, nor would assuring the eradication of slavery. In his Second Inaugural Address, Lincoln said of the war:

Fondly do we hope – fervently do we pray – that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether."³⁸

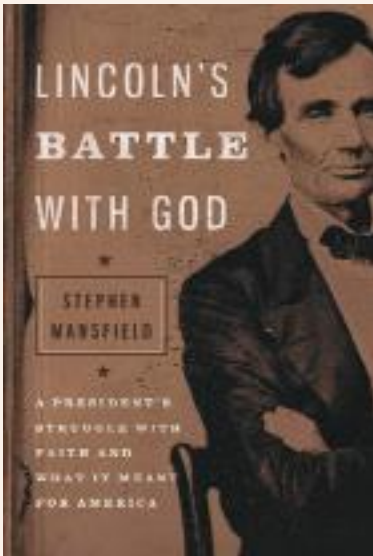
He also made a cry for unity:

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.³⁹

However, Lincoln would live to see the end of the war and the passing of the Thirteenth Amendment, which freed the slaves. This gave him the nickname "The Great Emancipator."

The Great Emancipator got his start in life as an impoverished boy who lost his mother in childhood. He had only one year of formal schooling. Life dealt him the heartbreaking loss of two young sons and others close to him. His life was marked with hard work, victory, defeat, ups, and downs. In the end, he lost *his* life for daring to lay open the battle to end slavery in America. Such is true greatness.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



Lincoln's Battle with God: A President's Struggle with Faith and What It Meant for America
by Stephen Mansfield depicts the evolution and role of faith in the life and presidency of Abraham Lincoln.

And I then and there made a solemn vow to Almighty God that if he would stand by our boys at Gettysburg, I would stand by him. And he did, and I will. And after that, I don't know how it was and I can't explain it, but soon a sweet comfort crept over my soul that things would go all right at Gettysburg, and this is why I had no fears about you.³⁶

Lincoln reiterated in his Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863, at the New National Cemetery in Gettysburg, his goals to preserve the Union and assert that "all men were created equal." The battlefield at Gettysburg had a profound effect on Lincoln. His spiritual advisor and friend Dr. Phineas D. Gurley said, "After the death of his son Willie and his visit to the battlefield of Gettysburg he said ... that he had lost confidence in everything but God, and that he now believed his heart was changed, and that he loved the Savior."³⁷

In 1865, Lincoln would be elected to a second term in office. As the war was turning in the North's favor, Lincoln felt it necessary to choose his words carefully. He knew that admitting the rebellious

FAITH. HUMILITY. COURAGE. OBEDIENCE.

*Profile in Service***ELIZABETH THORN****SIX MONTHS PREGNANT, SHE BURIED THE GETTYSBURG DEAD**

FROM JULY 1 TO 3, 1863, Robert E. Lee's offensive move into the state of Pennsylvania during the Civil War had a devastating impact on the small town of Gettysburg, which was home to 2,400 citizens. After the Battle of Gettysburg, there were approximately 21,000 casualties left behind, 3,000 dead horses, and 7,000 dead remaining on the field needing burial.¹ Many citizens with the Union military tended to the wounded and assisted in the cleanup and rebuilding of the war-torn town. Among them, one citizen stood out for her courage in restoring the town. Her name was Elizabeth Masser Thorn.

Peter and Elizabeth Thorn were immigrants from Germany who married and settled in the small town of Gettysburg. In 1856, Peter Thorn became the caretaker of Gettysburg's Evergreen Cemetery. He and his family, along with Elizabeth's elderly parents, moved into the Gatehouse of the cemetery.² In 1862, Peter Thorn enlisted in the Union Army, leaving Elizabeth, their three children, and her elderly father to care for the cemetery.³ Elizabeth Thorn was responsible for tending the grounds and digging graves for interment while her husband was off fighting.

On June 26, 1863, the war came to Gettysburg. Confederate soldiers under Jubal Early had entered looking for supplies on their way to York, Pennsylvania.⁴ Elizabeth and her family were forced to turn over various goods. On July 1, these same soldiers returned as fighting began west of town near McPherson Ridge. Elizabeth soon saw Union soldiers moving cannons across the street and throughout the cemetery grounds. Her home was on high ground, creating a strategic placement for Union artillery.⁵

A Union officer under Union Gen. Oliver Howard was looking for someone to show him the roads that led into Gettysburg.⁶ Elizabeth volunteered, though six months pregnant with her fourth child. The officer, though reluctant, allowed her to walk beside his horse to protect her from enemy fire.⁷ Later, Elizabeth was asked to prepare a meal for the Union soldiers, move her family to the basement for their safety, leave the next morning, and relocate to a safer position outside the town.⁸ Her home was now in the middle of enemy fire.



Photo Credit: TheGettysburgExperience.com, Diana Loski

The next few days were spent searching for food with family and neighbors. They saw the terrifying results of the battle everywhere they went. Wounded soldiers lay dying on the ground, crying out for help. Elizabeth witnessed surgeons removing arms and legs.⁹ The family returned to the Gatehouse on July 7, three days after the final day of the Battle of Gettysburg.¹⁰ Elizabeth found her belongings strewn in all directions, most of her furniture missing, her home uninhabitable, crops damaged, livestock missing, and the prevalent stench of the dead horses that were strewn across a neighboring field.¹¹ Thorn was ordered to "commence sticking off lots and graves as fast as she could make them" by David McConaughy, the wartime president of Evergreen Cemetery.¹² While even soldiers abandoned the macabre task of burying the dead, Elizabeth, along with her 65-year-old father, dug 91 graves in three weeks.¹³ She received no extra pay for her services. To Elizabeth, they were all someone's son. She recalled this undertaking simply as "hard days."¹⁴



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WHAT IS TRUE GREATNESS?

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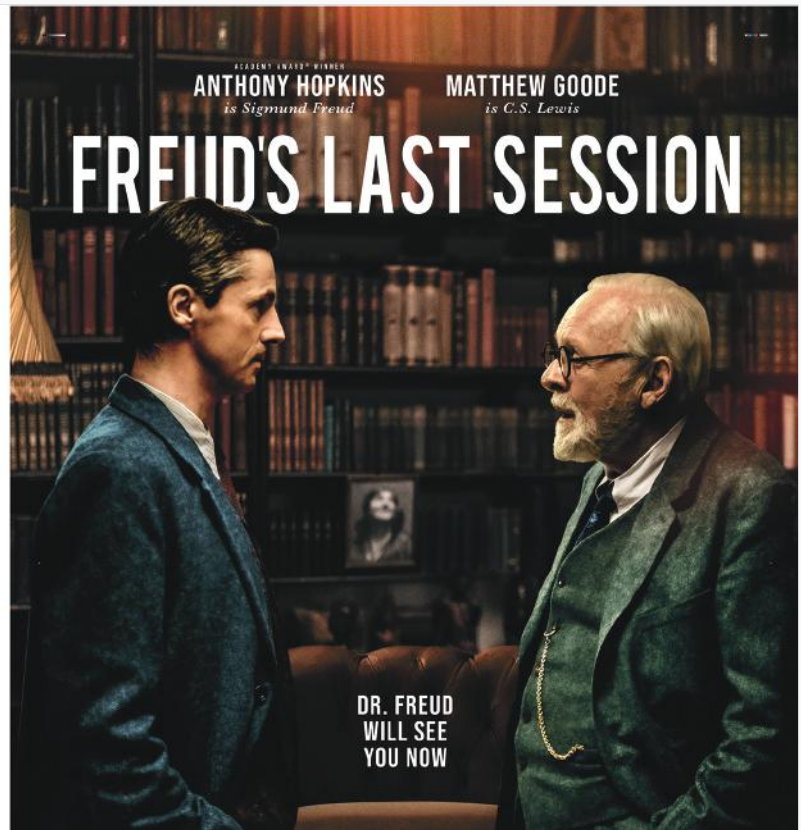


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THE GIFT OF PERSECUTION

IN CHINA, the Chinese Communist Party, known as the CCP, has forced Christians to meet in underground churches for years with the official ban on non-CCP-controlled churches ("Persecution"). The situation for Chinese Christians is only intensifying. As of July 2023, "illegal religious activities" are considered espionage under the Chinese Anti-Espionage Law, and the Chinese Communist Party has launched an ongoing campaign to stifle Christian communities ("Persecution"). The CCP now requires

state-sanctioned churches to pledge loyalty to Chinese president Xi Jinping, worsening the situation for "house churches," which are independent of the state and often meet in the homes of Christians, drawing the anger of the authorities ("Persecution"). China is only one of the countries where Christians are being persecuted, and persecution is worse in many other countries. Although persecution may seem awful, Christians should see it as a gift because it encourages other believers, is ultimately for the good of the persecuted, and helps spread the Gospel.

he grew a beard and went into prisons ("5 Defiant"). His actions were significant in the freedom of 220 Christian prisoners in just one year ("5 Defiant"). The persecuted are a gift to other Christians by God since their testimonies can benefit people by being an encouragement to persevere, particularly at this time where many Christians feel exhausted and discouraged.

Because persecution is ultimately meant to benefit believers, Christians should see it as a gift. When Christians are persecuted because of their belief in Christ, they are "blessed" ("Christians"). In Philippians 3:10, Paul views being able to "share [Jesus'] sufferings" as an honor (Holy Bible). He addresses the benefits in Romans 5:3-5, explaining that "suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame." In these verses, Paul points out that through suffering, believers become more like Christ and develop good character. Thus, seeing persecution as good should be our attitude toward for the sake of Jesus ("Christians"). Christians should not seek persecution, but when they experience it, the outcome is for their betterment, a principle evident in the biblical story of Joseph ("Christians"). Seeing his brothers in Egypt after they sold him as a slave years before, Joseph told them, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20). Although Joseph was sold by his brothers, he still believed in



By Angel Ye,
Grade 11

For Christians, persecution is a gift is because other believers can be encouraged. In a survey done by the Barna Group on American pastoral burnout, the results show that in March 2022, 42% of surveyed pastors considered leaving their full-time ministry (Long). This result corresponds with the results from 2021, when Barna first documented a significant increase in burnout among pastors, and validates the rising number of pastors who consider quitting, an increase by 13% from the 29% who considered quitting in January 2021 (Long). With such a high rate of burnout, leaders and the people they serve are in desperate need of both hope and encouragement – and both can be found in stories of Christians under persecution (Paul). For example, a priest in Syria was willing to sacrifice himself to free Christian prisoners from the Islamic State: Pretending to be an Islamic State member,



PERSECUTION

God's plan and knew that God would use it for good. No matter what happens, believers should keep trusting in God's plan and know that He will use it for His glory. Persecution is evil in the world's view, but God uses it for the good of those who love Him ("Christians").

One of the ways that God works through persecution is spreading the Gospel; therefore, believers should see it as a gift. Persecution will be present wherever the Gospel is being shared (Noble). The only way of having no persecution is not sharing the Gospel at all (Noble). By using Open Doors' World Watch List, people can see the 50 countries where persecution is most extreme (Noble). The World Watch List is also a sign that regardless of the cost, God still works in these places and the good news still spreads (Noble). The early church suffered tremendous persecution, resulting in the death of disciples, imprisonment of believers, and scattering of the people ("3 Ways"). However, this persecution had an unexpected outcome: the spreading of the Gospel to new places ("3 Ways"). Despite being meant to stop the Gospel, it had the opposite result; persecution increased the number of people who heard about Jesus ("3 Ways"). The Apostle Paul was responsible for the persecution of the early church and was known for his blasphemy and violent actions, but God transformed him into one of the most significant missionaries in history ("3 Ways"). Although there was persecution, the

Gospel still spread, and even the persecutor came to know Christ and was used to further spread the good news.

However, not everyone sees how persecution can benefit believers. In his article "Why Religious Persecution Is Bad," Allen Faulton writes, "Religious persecution can get really nasty for at least five big reasons: It's highly irrational, it promotes needless conflict, it creates oppressive conditions, it generates cycles of persecution, and it tends to lead to xenophobia and racism." Faulton's points are reasonable, but Christians should remember that God is still in control. Romans 8:28 states, "For those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Christians should trust in God despite their circumstances.

Although persecution may appear as something terrible, Christians ought to consider it a gift as it encourages the faithful, is ultimately for the benefit of believers, and assists in the spread of the Gospel. The stories of how God works through the persecuted churches can be a way of encouragement to us when we need it the most. God ultimately works for our good, and that includes through persecution although it may seem bad at the time. Many people seek to persecute Christians, but God's plan succeeds despite them, and one of the results we get is the spreading of the good news. As Christians, we

should see persecution as a gift and trust in God's plan no matter what.

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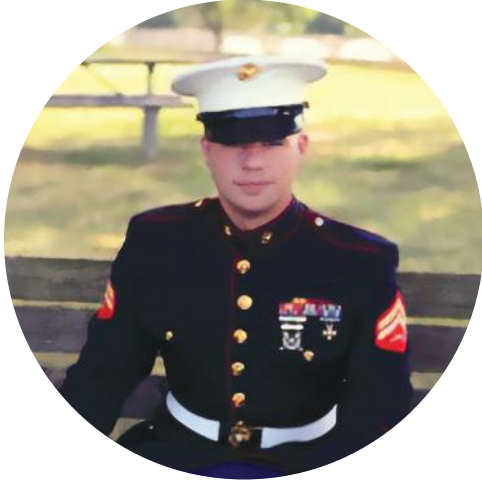
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“When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.” Isaiah 43:2



Dan Lucas, a 2006 DCA graduate, served in Iraq and Afghanistan during his four years of service with the Marines.

ALUMNUS DAN LUCAS BLAZES A TRAIL OF SERVICE

THIS ALUMNI PROFILE WAS WRITTEN BY
DAN LUCAS, DCA CLASS OF 2006

I GRADUATED FROM DAYSPRING IN 2006 having already committed to service in the United States Marine Corps Infantry. In January 2007, I reported to Parris Island, S.C., for 13 weeks of basic training, followed by six weeks of infantry school at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where I learned the basic skills of a Marine infantry mortarman. I was assigned to Weapons Company 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Infantry Division based in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. In the spring of 2008, I deployed with my unit to Zaidon, Iraq, for seven months. We conducted counter-insurgency operations, which entailed getting to know our assigned villages and helping to fulfill their needs for infrastructure like power, running water, schools, and training a police force to work with us in eliminating Al-Qaeda-funded terrorists from the area.

During our operations, we discovered and destroyed thousands of pounds of weapons and explosives, and we even found traces of Saddam Hussein's VX nerve agents meant to harm the innocent. Patrolling the countryside of Iraq, I began to realize that my reading of the Old Testament was becoming clearer in some way. The years of biblical study at Dayspring had built a solid framework of the Old Testament in my mind, but somehow seeing and experiencing the region that Babylon had occupied and interacting with its descendants seemed to bring the Old Testament to life in living color. Even though this perspective was unexpectedly found in a war zone, it was an experience that I treasure to this day.

After seven months in Iraq, we returned to Hawaii for another five months of training before deploying to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in April 2009. Our mission in Afghanistan was like our mission in Iraq: conduct counter-insurgency operations by assisting the local populace and routing out Taliban fighters; however, Helmand Province proved to be more kinetic in nature. We engaged in active combat with the Taliban and were often ambushed with improvised explosive

Early in my Afghanistan deployment, after we lost a Marine to an IED, I had the realization that we are all dead men. It will come as a shock to most, but this was comforting to me.

devices (known as IEDs) that were activated by a Marine stepping on a well-hidden trigger. Early in my Afghanistan deployment, after we lost a Marine to an IED, I had the realization that we are all dead men. It will come as a shock to most, but this was comforting to me. I realized deep in my gut that none of us leave this Earth alive, that we all will die and face our Lord in His time. I could walk with resolve down Route 515 focusing solely on my mission. My fear was cast aside, and my footsteps placed in God's hands. My foot would not strike any object that was outside God's plan. The words of Isaiah 43:1 never rang truer: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."



I look to the words near the beginning of Isaiah 43: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. ... When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

After four years in the Marine Corps, I decided to end my time in uniform, and I returned to civilian life in 2011. Upon my return to Lancaster, God brought my wife, Allyssa, into my life and we were married in August 2012. Allyssa supported me unwaveringly as I tried to figure out what the next chapters of my career would be. As part of that search, I enrolled in the Bible ministry program at Lancaster Bible College on the GI Bill. Simultaneously, I began a career in the trades as a woodworker at Cedars Woodworking LLC. Through my college and trades experience, it became clear to me that full-time ministry was not my calling, that I was meant to work with my hands. After graduating from LBC in 2015, I pursued carpentry as my career, leading me into home remodeling with Fravel Home Improvements Inc.

Over the course of a decade as a tradesman, I enjoyed my work very much, but never found my calling in it. And I found it difficult to balance the demands of the company schedule with time with my family. In addition, I missed the life of service I found in the Marine Corps. As I was in my mid-30s with two children, Matthew and Hannah, going back in the military was out of the question. Allyssa suggested that I apply to be a career firefighter with Lancaster City Bureau of Fire. After research and prayer, I began a highly competitive eight-month application process. In late June 2021, just weeks into the selection process, our 7-year-old daughter, Hannah, was diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia.

Aplastic anemia is a condition in which

a person's bone marrow shuts down production of blood cells, leaving patients unable to oxygenate their organs, vulnerable to deadly levels of bleeding from the most minor of injuries, and susceptible to life-threatening infection from everyday bacteria. It is not hyperbole to say that literally everything around Hannah was a threat to her life. The treatment would be a bone marrow transplant from a matched donor. Finding a donor and prepping Hannah's body for transplant took about two months. It was by far the longest two months of our lives as we watched the lack of blood production sap the life and strength out of our little girl. As the

condition progressed, she was rushed to the hospital more and more often to address uncontrollable bleeding and infections. Her spirits dimmed and it became clear that she may not make it to transplant day – and if she did, she may be so emotionally injured as to not really recover. So, I found

myself weeping in the hospital bathroom pleading that God heal her spirit and soul, even if it cost her earthly life. And that was the last prayer that I had strength to pray as we waited for transplant day.

From then on, “Oh God ...” was as much as I could manage. But “the Spirit help[ed us] in our weakness. We [did] not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercede[d] for us through wordless groans.” Paul's words in Romans 8:26 poignantly describe our prayer life in the weeks leading up to transplant prep on the fifth floor of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The Spirit moved in the hearts of His people and prayers were sent up on our behalf by our church family at

Likewise, God used Dayspring to prepare me for a life of service to God, my family, and my country.



Dan Lucas is pictured with wife, Allyssa, and children Hannah and Matthew has served with the Lancaster City Bureau of Fire since May this year.

Grace Church at Willow Valley, and by Dayspring families, and by other local churches, and the Catholic churches of our extended family, and even by churches as far away as Uganda – Hannah was brought before God by name. And God answered. A young man in Kansas City was found to be the perfect match for a bone marrow transplant.

To prepare for transplant, Hannah was moved to the oncology floor and underwent various treatments to include chemotherapy and radiation. On September 3, 2021, Hannah received her long-awaited bone marrow transplant. She spent the rest of September recovering in the hospital until she was released with strict housing requirements to limit exposure to her fresh but weak immune system. Over time, Hannah was allowed to slowly re-enter normal life, but with many follow-up appointments with the oncology doctors.

In December 2021, with Hannah's immune system still new and vulnerable, and her future looking bright but still very uncertain, I finally received a short email from Lancaster City Bureau of Fire offering me the opportunity to train to be a fireman. The elation of succeeding through eight months of testing and being selected out of the dozens of remaining applicants was overshadowed by the realization that with Hannah still recovering and still making frequent trips to the hospital that there was no way I could commit to being a fireman right now. And Fravel Home Improvements had been so gracious to me, allowing me



Dan Lucas' children both attend Dayspring.

to come and go from my job as needed through Hannah's ordeal, that it felt wrong leaving at this moment. I didn't like the decision, but staying at Fravel Home Improvements for the time being was the only course of action that gave me peace. I turned down the job with Lancaster City Bureau of Fire, figuring I'd permanently burned the bridge to the fire department. But maybe if God wanted me there later, He could make a way.

Within days of turning down the firefighting job, I started watching the Lancaster City website again for the next time they were taking applications. *Two years* later, the bureau announced that it was hiring again, and I began the eight-month selection process *again*. I figured that I would be disqualified at each event because I turned the job down last time. But, somehow, I passed every selection again and was offered the job again. From the moment I began training, it felt right that this was the place God had for me. Five weeks of EMT school and nine weeks of firefighting school were challenging, but fun. We learned fire dynamics, how to use protective equipment, forcible entry, how to search for and rescue victims, how to maneuver hose lines, and so much more. I've been a qualified firefighter since the first week of May this year and have been full time with Lancaster City Bureau of Fire since then. I still have much to learn on the job, so every call we run I try to learn at least one thing new. Just as in the Marine Corps, in a job that demands risk, I look to the words near the beginning of Isaiah

43: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. . . . When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

God used my experience in the Marine Corps, my time as a carpenter, and Hannah's illness to prepare me for the physical, mental, and emotional challenges of the fire service. These past experiences of working long, hard, draining, and potentially dangerous jobs that require technical skill mesh well with my new career as a fireman. Likewise, God used Dayspring to prepare me for a life of service to God, my family, and my country. In the classroom, the teachers helped me to build a biblical worldview based upon God's Word that has stood through many storms and droughts and directed the course of my life. The most valuable piece of my Dayspring education is that God's Word applies to every situation in our lives, and He is with us and interceding for us one 100% of the time.

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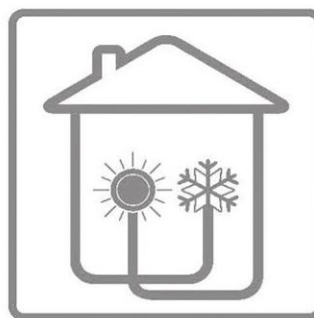
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Marketable securities and mutual funds are the most common assets contributed to nonprofits today. When these assets have appreciated (have been owned by the donor for more than one year and have since increased in value), donors can maximize their charitable donations and, in most cases, enjoy significant tax benefits.

MATCHING GIFTS

Some companies offer to match gifts their employees make to a charitable organization. By completing your company's application and informing Dayspring Christian Academy of this match, you can significantly increase, and sometimes double or triple, your gift. Inform the Dayspring Christian Academy Advancement Office about your company match.

PLANNED GIFTS

We invite you to consider a deferred gift such as a last will and testament, gift annuity, charitable trust, or life insurance policy. A planned gift demonstrates a special commitment to the future of

Dayspring and our future students. Deferred, or planned, gifts strengthen Dayspring Christian Academy's capacity and lessens its dependence on annual giving. Have you been looking for a place to give a lasting gift? Contact the Advancement Office at Dayspring.

IN-KIND GIFTS

Do you have an item that might benefit Dayspring Christian Academy? Crayons, new office supplies, lightly used bookshelves, and other in-kind gifts can be effectively used to support Dayspring students. Please check with the Advancement Office to see how your in-kind gift idea can be most useful and appropriate.

GIVING CAMPAIGNS OF DAYSPRING

ANNUAL FUND

The annual fund is an essential part of the success of Dayspring Christian Academy. With annual gifts of support for classrooms, teachers, and students, Dayspring can ensure that students receive a biblical, classical education.

Any gift can make a difference in the education of a child, such as:

- Tuition assistance for Dayspring families in need
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in the classroom
- Athletics
- Field studies

SPECIAL PURPOSE ENTITY (SPE)

Recently, Pennsylvania allowed for a new kind of business partnership, a Special Purpose Entity (SPE). SPEs are opportunities that allow businesses and individuals to redirect PA tax dollars to an approved scholarship organization like Dayspring.

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

A giving circle enables donors to pool their gifts to make a bigger impact than just one gift could have. Giving circles offer an innovative approach to fundraising for specific programs and projects that are typically unbudgeted items. Contact the Advancement Office to join today and help make a direct impact in the classrooms of Dayspring Christian Academy.

EITC/OSTC

In 2001, the Pennsylvania legislature passed legislation called the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC). In 2012, legislature approved the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC). Opportunities exist for businesses to receive tax credits by donating through these programs, and Dayspring is an approved EITC/OSTC scholarship organization and participating school. Contact Dayspring to learn more about how your business can support Dayspring through these programs.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

- Remember America Speaker Series
- Patriots Celebration Dinner
- Thanksgiving Exposed
- Athletics

Dayspring Christian Academy holds premier events in Lancaster County that share its mission and educate the community. These events support the school in raising up the next generation of leaders for this Constitutional Republic. Additionally, more than 27,000 people have attended these outreach events in the past several years. Many corporate sponsorship opportunities exist for local businesses to advertise and market their company as Dayspring reaches a wide audience through these events and programs. Also, there are ample opportunities to support Dayspring's student-athletes through sponsorships of athletic gear and more. The Advancement Office would be very pleased to talk with you about how Dayspring can advertise your business and reach a captive audience.

If you would like to walk with us in raising up the next generation, please email Joanne Martin in the Advancement Office at jmartin@dayspringchristian.com or call the school at 717-285-2000, ext. 211.

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2 Chronicles 7:13-14

The Lord said: ¹³When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

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“It has been Dayspring’s privilege to bring in many speakers over these 15 years to help amplify this message for the Lancaster community. The theme for the 2025 Remember America Speaker Series is ‘Revive. Reform. Restore. It’s Time.’

“As America approaches the end of the first quarter of the 21st century, it is clearer now than ever that restoration of our nation to its biblical principles will only be achieved by the revival of individuals who surrender their hearts to Christ. This must be followed by reformation of the homes, churches, and schools of this nation: a reformation that leads to restoration of God-honoring norms. Ken Ham’s message of God’s Word as the authority for our lives, the fallen nature of man and the wonderful redemption we have through Christ will encourage our audience and inspire them to share the total reliability of God’s Word with others. Pete Hegseth’s message of the power of Scripture to revive and restore the individual heart and mind will encourage our audience to make God’s Word the priority in their lives. It will be a wonderful evening together, and we hope you will join us.”

— DAN STONE, HEADMASTER, DAYSPRING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

REMEMBER AMERICA WELCOMES PETE HEGSETH + FRANKLIN GRAHAM

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DAYSPRING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY presents the 15th Remember America Speaker Series, featuring Answers in Genesis' Ken Ham, FOX News' Pete Hegseth, and Franklin Graham. The event is a call to return to the truth of the Bible for revival in America and a call to reform our lives through God's Word.



KEN HAM

Since moving to America in 1987, Australian Ken Ham – founder of Answers in Genesis-U.S. and the highly acclaimed Creation Museum and visionary behind a popular, full-size Noah's Ark – has become one of America's most in-demand Christian speakers and interview guests. He became internationally known for his 2014 creation/

evolution debate with Bill Nye "the Science Guy," which has been watched by an estimated 25 million people. Ham hosts the daily radio program "Answers ... with Ken Ham," heard on over 1,000 stations, and in 2020 oversaw the launch of Answers TV, a video streaming service.



PETE HEGSETH

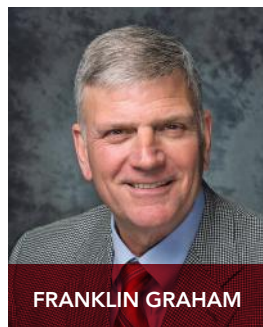
Pete Hegseth is co-host of FOX & Friends Weekend on the FOX News Channel. He is also a FOX Nation host, #1 New York Times best-selling author, and Army combat veteran.

On FOX News, Hegseth is a commentator on every major program – both for daytime and primetime shows. He

regularly guest-hosts for FOX & Friends (weekday), The Five, Hannity, Ingraham Angle and Jesse Watters Primetime. Hegseth also co-hosts FOX News' New Year's Eve coverage

alongside his FOX & Friends Weekend co-hosts. Hegseth first joined the network as a contributor in 2014.

On FOX Nation, Hegseth is the host of multiple ongoing series, including "Modern Warriors" (military), "Battle in the Holy Land" (Israel), "The MisEducation of America" (education), "Untold: Patriots Revealed" (history), and "The Life of Jesus" (Christianity). Hegseth's recent book – "Battle for the American Mind" (June 2022) – spent over 12 weeks on the New York Times Bestsellers list, including four straight weeks at #1. Two of Hegseth's previous books – "American Crusade" and "Modern Warriors" – were also bestsellers.



FRANKLIN GRAHAM

Evangelist and Christian leader Franklin Graham is son of famed evangelist Billy Graham. Franklin has dedicated his life to serving the Lord and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. Today he is president and CEO of the international relief and evangelism organization Samaritan's Purse and Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. As a

speaker and author, Graham regularly addresses current moral and social issues, calling Christians to stand for biblical values and challenging them to make a difference in the world for the sake of the Gospel. He is editor-in-chief of BGEA's Decision magazine, the "Evangelical Voice for Today," which features solid Scriptural teaching as well as timely articles with a biblical worldview about issues and events in today's culture, including many topics that affect the freedom of believers to live out their faith.

Tickets are available online at DayspringChristian.com. For sponsorship information, visit the website or call Joanne Martin at 717-285-2000, ext. 211.



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