

God's Signature over the Nation's Capital

Evidence of your Christian Heritage

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Founded and Incorporated in 1984

by Catherine Millard.

Foreword

As a young student in France, I became fascinated with the heroes of America's founding period. Years later, after becoming an American citizen and a born-again Christian, I discovered that the source and strength of the noble ideals, values and characteristics of the founding fathers of the American Republic was their Biblical faith.

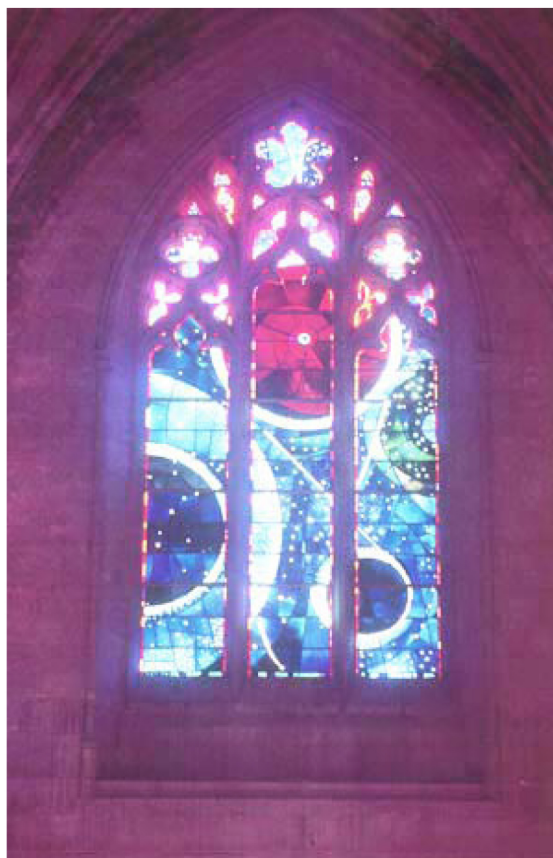
It's an exciting study, so let us explore together our rich heritage, etched in marble and stone and woven into the very warp and woof of America's culture – through the architectural, artistic and historical themes inherent within and without her national landmarks, monuments and memorials.

The original parchments, *The Declaration of Independence*, the *Constitution* and the *U.S. Bill of Rights* are on permanent display in the **National Archives**. In speaking about the Constitution, signed on September 17, 1787, several U.S. Presidents have traced its effectiveness and solidity to the hand of Almighty God. **George Washington** delivered his *Farewell Address* to the nation on September 17, 1796. In it, the first President spoke about its value in these terms:

May Heaven continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence: that your union and brotherly affection may be perpetual: that the free Constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained; that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue; that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these states, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing as will acquire them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection and adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it...It is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union to your collective and individual happiness; ...The name American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exult the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations...

The National Air and Space Museum

On the ground floor of this museum, one can trace sixty-six years of the development of aviation, from Professor Langley's



The Space stained-glass window, by Rodney Winfield. Inscribed upon the base of his masterpiece: "Is not God in the height of Heaven?" Job 22: 12. The larger orb is the moon, a moon-rock in its center, brought down by Astronauts of Apollo 11. Below, to the right-hand-side is the earth, connected to the moon by a trajectory. Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. Photograph: John W. Wrigley © 1990.

"**Aerodrome**" in 1896 to the Lunar Module, a replica of the one which landed on the moon in the 1969 Apollo 11 Expedition. Shortly after Langley's "aerodrome" came the first successful flight undertaken by Wilbur and Orville Wright's Flyer in 1903.

The first solo trans-Atlantic flight was made in 1927 by Charles Lindbergh in his "**Spirit of St. Louis**" Ryan aircraft. The entire flight from New York to Le Bourget airfield, Paris, lasted thirty-three hours and five minutes. A periscope provided a general view of what lay ahead.

Hanging from the ceiling above are: "Glamorous Glenn," (named after the pilot's wife), the **X-1**, first aircraft to fly faster than sound in 1947; and the **X-15**, a black, rocket-powered aircraft which represents travel at 6.7 times the speed of sound.

An inside view of "**Friendship 7**", John Glenn's Mercury Spacecraft, is here afforded. He was the first American astronaut to orbit the globe. Then on to "**Gemini 4**", the spacecraft from which Edward H. White made his spectacular space walk, while astronaut McDivitt manned the module.

In July, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin and Michael Collins came back from history's first lunar expedition in "**Columbia**," the original **Apollo 11** command module, which is on exhibition in this hall.

Enter and explore **Skylab's** intricate and complex inner workings. The visitor is shown how the astronauts lived; how they slept, ate, and bathed during their sojourn of 28, 59 and 84 days encircling the globe – all successful planet data-collecting expeditions.

Four towering rocket-propelled missiles – **Jupiter, Vanguard, Scout and Minuteman**, together with a number of smaller ones, stand solemnly opposite Skylab, while a replica of the **Apollo-Soyuz** hook-up in space is reproduced in its entirety. A sketch gives full technical details of the orbit of both spacecraft which culminated in their successful encounter in space.

An engineering model of the **Lunar Rover** associated with the **Apollo 15** mission, together with moon rocks brought down to

earth by its astronauts, are on exhibition in the “Apollo to the Moon” Gallery on the second floor. **Skylab Four’s** command module can also be seen in this exhibition hall.

Astronaut **James B. Irwin** of the **Apollo 15** moon landing bears witness to a supernatural encounter with the living God upon the moon. Subsequent to this experience, he gave his life “for the furtherance of the gospel of Christ among men”, founding “High Flight” in Colorado Springs. In 1973, astronaut **William Pogue** was one of the three crewmen on **Skylab Four** which set a record of 84 days in space. He says that the mission made him more firmly convinced of spiritual reality. In his own words:

There’s more to life than the body and intellect –
it’s the soul. There’s that kernel that most of us miss.

A veteran of the longest manned voyage in space, Pogue said that “he wanted a more challenging assignment.” He therefore became a Christian evangelist, joining the staff of “High Flight,” an evangelistic organization founded in 1972 by astronaut **James Irwin**. Irwin stated that the crew of **Apollo 15** explored the moon’s surface “with the power of God and Jesus Christ.” “God was there,” he attested:

The hours that I spent on the moon were the most thrilling moments of my life.
Not because I was on the moon, but because I could feel the presence of God.
There were times when I was faced with new challenges and I asked for help.
Help from God was immediate.

He further added that an experience such as his had to make man “truly appreciate the creation of God, the infinite precision with which God controls the universe.”

Astronaut **Frank Borman**, who was on the first orbit to the moon in 1968, says that he saw “evidence that God lives.” Of further significance is a reflection made by one well acquainted with many of the astronauts, science-fiction novelist Martin Caidin:

There has been a tremendous change, very quietly, in the attitude and lives of men who have gone to the moon, where they can see the planet the way God must have seen it.

Dr. Paul E. Garber, first Curator and now Historian Emeritus of the National Air and Space Museum, states that the Bible has the earliest printed records of man’s yearnings to fly. For instance, he points out that the Second book of Kings has an account of Elijah being taken up bodily out of this world in a “chariot of fire” (II Kings 2:1-11). Dr. Garber quotes various Scriptures depicting men in flight, such as the prophet Isaiah’s analogy:

Those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles...” Isaiah 40:31.

The latter Scripture is inscribed upon a gold medallion awarded to **Wilbur and Orville Wright** by Congress, upon their return from Europe in July, 1909.

In formulating his research, the first Curator of the National Air and Space Museum discovered that four things mystified Solomon. The first of these was “the way of an eagle in the sky.”

Proverbs 30:19. The writer of Proverbs describes this scene as incomprehensible and too wonderful for him. A bronze replica of the Wright medal can be seen in the “**Early Flight Gallery**,” on the main floor of the building. (*Editor’s note: Since this chapter was completed, the Wright Medallion – with its Biblical inscription – has been removed from display.*)

The Voice of America

Representing the United States abroad, the **Voice of America** serves as a reliable and authoritative source of worldwide news. Its principles incorporate an accurate and objective presentation of American thought, its institutions and policies, together with objective discussions thereon. Regular broadcasts are made in forty-four languages. Approximately 1200 hours of direct broadcasting is put out by V.O.A. per week, as compared with 2259 by the U.S.S.R., 1411 by China; 820 by the Arab Republic of Egypt; 821 by the Federal Republic of Germany and 737 by the United Kingdom. Twenty-two commercial circuits feed **Voice of America** relay stations, which in turn beam short-wave frequencies abroad via satellite transmission.

German-born Father **Victor Potapov** came to the United States at age two. His formal theological training was acquired at Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Seminary in upstate New York. He has been with the **Voice of America** now for almost ten years, broadcasting a forty-five minute, predominantly Christian program in the Russian language, which is repeated six times throughout the week to the U.S.S.R., and several times weekly to Siberia.

The Breakfast Show on Moscow time, transmitted throughout the Soviet Union includes a three-minute Scripture reading. Father **Potapov** sees this program as being of crucial importance, the Russian people lacking religious literature due to its prohibition. His broadcasts include Scripture, theological texts, news of Christian life in America, an explanation of Church feast days, and the importance of the Bible. Senators and Congressmen interested in the plight of Christians persecuted in the U.S.S.R. are interviewed informally, giving their listeners the assurance of this nation’s moral support. A Vesper Service is broadcast weekly on Sundays at 1900 hours Vladivostok time. One hundred million shortwave radio sets are estimated for the U.S.S.R.

Father Potapov is particularly thrilled about the formation of “The Millenium Committee,” commemorating a thousand years of the Christianization of Russia (988-1988). The basic purpose of this committee is to encourage and promote commemorative undertakings by as many institutions as possible both in the United States and abroad. Included in the many 1988 year-long exhibits, lectures and conferences planned were: the January 17-21 Conference on the influence of Christianity on state and society in contemporary Russia, at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California; the January 28th conference, “Soviet Union Update,” on recent developments affecting church and religion in New York; a May 8th Gala Millenium anniversary “Rostropovitch in Concert” at Riverside Church in New York City; and the June 11th official Millenium “Jubilee” in Moscow, when Patriarch Pimen will preside over the ceremony, with many foreign guests in attendance.

According to this man of God, an upsurge of interest and curiosity in Christianity has been engendered in the Soviet Union, especially among the youth, who are asking themselves the question: “Why are there so many Biblical themes in our literature, paintings,

art, architecture and sculpture, if it is not important?"

On November 24, 1983, **Voice of America** broadcast its very first worldwide English language **Thanksgiving Day Service** from Boston's historic church, the *Old South Meeting House*. Christmas, 1983, saw numerous Christian programs broadcast in different languages abroad. Programs have included the following topics: "Jesus Christ: His birth, His impact;" "The Customs of Caroling;" and "Christmas through the Eyes of Children."

Here are some excerpts coming from these programs which point to America's Biblical roots as a nation firmly founded upon God's Word:

Olvera St., Los Angeles.

'Posada' means lodging or shelter and refers to the story told in the Bible (The Christian Holy Book) of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem where they sought lodging before Jesus was born. The Holy family finally ended up taking refuge in a stable where Mary gave birth to the Christ child. Today, each town has its own way of depicting this story through Las Posadas...It's a very humble ceremony. It's not a Hollywood production.



Painting of Mount Vernon as it appeared at the time of George Washington

Jesus Christ: His Birth,

His Impact. He was born of the Virgin Mary in the city called Bethlehem in Judea, which is now Israel. And, in this birth, God became man and walked among us, and He came to save us from our sins, to give us new life, to open the door to eternal life for all of us who believe in Him, and to bring about reconciliation between humanity and God, and the people of the earth with one another.

The master control for this organization is in the nation's capital, and can be toured during the five working days of the week. Live news broadcasts to countries abroad are fascinating to watch. You will carry away a lasting and memorable experience of the **Voice of America's** broadcasting network, and vast outreach across our globe.

Martha Washington's Bible

As we began this book with George Washington, it is altogether appropriate to finish it with **Martha Washington**, America's first First Lady, and Washington's beloved wife. This great woman is known to have read her family Bible each morning in her bed-chamber from 5:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m., before commencing her daily duties and responsibilities as wife, mother and grandmother. Her magnificent leather-bound, autographed family Bible is on permanent display in the Museum at Mount Vernon, which stands a short distance from the Washington plantation home. It is well worth your while to visit the museum and see this visible proof that we are truly a Christian nation whose founding parents (mothers and fathers) established their lives upon biblical values.

Although you may still visit the museum on the grounds of Mount Vernon, since completing *God's Signature over the Nation's*

Capital, this priceless item of America's Christian heritage has been permanently removed to the archives. The librarian tells me that it definitely needed a rest, having been out there much too long.

Fellow Christians, it is the twelfth hour. Americans, bearing the noble title of *one nation under God* must return to their godly foundations and biblical truth lest we incur the judgment of Almighty God upon this land. I believe that the God of America's founding fathers was speaking through the Presidential Inaugural Scripture chosen by **Ronald Reagan**, the fortieth First Officer, when he swore allegiance to the Constitution with his left hand upon the Bible. This took place on January 20, 1981 and 1985 respectively.

The Bible used by the President to take the oath of office belonged to his mother, Nellie Reagan. It is the New Indexed Bible, *King James Version*, published by Dickson Publishing Company in Chicago, Illinois. The Bible was opened during the swearing-in ceremony to II Chronicles 7:14:

IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND. (II Chronicles 7:14).

His mother wrote a sonnet inside the front cover of the Bible.

It reads as follows:

WHEN I CONSIDER HOW MY LIFE IS SPENT
THE MOST THAT I CAN DO WILL BE TO PROVE
'TIS BY HIS SIDE, EACH DAY, I SEEK TO MOVE.
TO HIGHER, NOBLER THINGS MY MIND IS BENT
THUS GIVING OF MY STRENGTH, WHICH GOD HAS LENT,
I STRIVE SOME NEEDY SOULS UNREST, TO SOOTHE
LEST THEY THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL LOSE.
THROUGH FAULT OF MINE, MY MAKER TO PRESENT
IF I SHOULD FAIL TO SHOW THEM OF THEIR NEEDS
HOW WOULD I HOPE TO MEET HIM FACE TO FACE.
OR GIVE A JUST ACCOUNT OF ALL MY WAYS
IN THOUGHT OF MIND, IN WORD, AND IN EACH DEED
MY LIFE MUST PROVE THE POWER OF HIS GRACE
BY EVERY ACTION THROUGH MY LIVING DAYS.

— Nellie Reagan

Within the Bible Mrs. Reagan wrote these notations:

IF IN SORROW, READ JOHN 14
IF PEOPLE FAIL YOU, READ PSALM 27
IF YOU WORRY, READ MATTHEW 6: 19, 37
IF DOWN-CAST, READ PSALM 34
IF DISCOURAGED, READ ISAIAH 40
IF YOUR FAITH BECOMES WEAK, READ HEBREWS 11
A THOUGHT FOR TODAY:
YOU CAN BE TOO BIG FOR GOD TO USE
BUT YOU CANNOT BE TOO SMALL.

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