



America's First Freedom

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Table of Contents

Prelude

Part I

Introduction (1980)

Chapter 1 – The Proper Sequence of Authority

Chapter 2 – Is the United States of America a Democracy or a Republic

Chapter 3 – The Amazing Origin of America's Religious Freedom

Chapter 4 – The State of the Union

Chapter 5 – Slaying the Federal Dragon

Part II

Chapter 6 – Preserving our Freedoms

Chapter 7 – Expressing God-Given Freedoms

Chapter 8 – Establishing a Legal Church

Part III

Chapter 9 – Attacked!

Chapter 10 – While America Slept

Chapter 11 – A Much-Contested Glimmer of Hope

Chapter 12 – What Can We Do Now?

Appendix

Prelude

The original manuscript for this book was written in 1979 and 1980 by the Liberty Ministries International staff and specifically by an accomplished researcher and much-published writer who worked for us at that time. For years we couldn't find a copy of the manuscript. As luck would have it, early in 2021 we found a hard copy of the first five chapters. As we retyped the words into our computers, we realized how relevant the ideas are now—forty years later!

Part I

The Introduction and Chapters 1 through 5 are mostly as originally written. Remember, in 1980 there was no world wide web, no internet search engines. The original work was done the old-fashioned way, using libraries and other research methods. I am awed by the amount of research that was done back then without the help of the internet. Our great appreciation is extended to this wonderful staff member (who wishes to remain unnamed at this time) and other staff who helped with this project. While we regret publication was thwarted and not published earlier, we believe it is even more fitting in this timeframe of 2021.

Part II

We have endeavored here to complete the book following the already written chapters, most of it based on other literature produced by LMI in 1980. Also we want to explain the collaborative nature of this book, so our readers may better understand the changes of “voice” throughout the book. As mentioned chapters 1 through 5 were left basically as originally written. Chapter 6 contains information that was part of the LMI Philosophy, but written contemporaneously with more recent research. Chapters 7 and 8 contain wording taken from various publications

from Liberty Ministries in 1979 to 1981. The style of writing will reflect this. We apologize for any confusion this may have created.

Part III

In the last chapters we have added information that was only partially understood by us at that time and no part was printed as part of the original LMI philosophy. Others who were with us then may have different memories; each of us has our truth about what happened. We honor that. This is our memory and particularly *my truth (Linda)*. These chapters is my work alone and may or may not reflect how any of our staff felt then or now.

Our main goal and purpose in finishing this book is two-fold. We want to leave a written narrative about what happened in this phase of our life for our children, grandchildren, extended family and any others who may be curious about what we did and why. Secondly, we intend to make this available on the internet to anyone who may find it while researching the founding of our country, our Constitution and Bill of Rights, and most of all, what can happen if we as citizens don't keep a watchful eye on our government.

Because we now have the excellent research tools of the internet, we have a distinct advantage in writing the ending to this book. This part most likely doesn't reflect what was originally intended. Our purpose with this book is to recreate our reasoning, teachings, and actions in 1980, and more importantly, how pertinent those philosophies are today. Check out Linda's companion story, *Memoirs of Awakening*, wherein we relate the personal side of this adventure and how we felt and reacted to events unfolding around us.

A nod and wink of understanding to those who read this with indignation about what would *today* be considered politically incorrect. We are leaving the wording from the 1980 era chapters of the book as it was written with little editing. To such critics we can only say, “Please forgive us and just deal with it!” Remember it was 1980!

We want to specifically mention that the research on the internet in 2020 and 2021 has given insight, phrases, quotes, and knowledge to help fill in the gaps of our own understanding. Effort has been made to acknowledge authorship in the pages as we go along but has not always been possible. We have not intentionally copied anyone’s work without acknowledgment, but if we have failed in this desire, please contact us so that we can rectify any oversights.

At this point, I want to acknowledge and give my appreciation to the tireless work of my sister and editor-extraordinaire, Teresa Untiedt, for her work untangling those thoughts and ideas that sometimes ran together and then back over and under again. She is a miracle worker! If you find mistakes, it is probably because I slipped something in after she last read the text. Additionally, this manuscript benefitted greatly from the proofreading skills of my other sister, Judi Royer. Both of my sisters are extraordinary in their proofing and editing skills.

Part I

INTRODUCTION (1980)

Behold they that earn wages put them in a bag full of holes¹

Inflation. Interest rates. War. Politics. Foreign aid. Red tape. Bureaucracy. Property tax. Social Security. Bankruptcy. Gas shortages. Campaign speeches. Income tax. Crime. Welfare. Government regulations. Local taxes. Easy credit. Overdue bills. Price controls.

These problems of the United States are inter-related. Sometimes we get so close to the trees we can't see the forest. The purpose of this book is to help you rise up and look at the nation from *above*. If you can call a momentary halt to your seemingly insoluble daily problems, then you can use this book to rise above those problems and look down on them. Only then will the obvious pattern appear.

All these problems stem from fundamental ignorance of the founding principles of America. America's freedoms are rapidly being eroded by a collectivist philosophy that denies individual freedom and personal worth, in favor of a socialistic mob psychology which seems to assume that the free enterprise system that built this nation is no longer capable of working. As we see America supporting more and more Communist nations around the world, while growing more socialistic at home, the threat of creeping Communism has turned into more of a 100-yard dash!

This book is not like any of the doomsday diatribe or conspiracy theory, right-wing paperbacks you may have read. We are primarily interested in solutions, not

problems. That means workable solutions, not tired old cliches, like “write your congressman” or “vote Republican” or “vote Progressive” or “get involved in local politics.” We are offering a solution which is guaranteed to turn this nation around, whether you become a direct participant in it or just a spectator. The individuals who take part in the solution described in this book will comprise an elite group of positive thinking patriots. You can either choose to be a part of them or part of the majority.

These programs are not for everyone. History has always been made by the dedicated few, not the masses. There are three types of people. *Leaders* are those who *make* things happen comprising about one percent of people. Then there are those who *watch* things happen, or *Watchers*. They make up about nineteen percent of the population. The remaining eighty percent are *Sleepers* that *don't know* what's happening. If just one percent of Americans, the Leaders, use the solutions described in this book, they will provide enough leadership to carry the ninety-nine percent into a new and dynamic period of American history.

This book is a product of the entire staff of a unique, new organization called Liberty Ministries International. It is safe to say that there is no other organization on earth like LMI. If you disagree, at least try to keep an open mind as you read this book. Avoid the “Pigeon-Hole Technique” of assigning us to categories based on your previous reading. We offer a money-back guarantee that the ideas in this book, taken as a whole, are unlike anything you've ever read before.

The solutions described herein could very well be America's last chance to survive long enough to reach the year 2000. The solutions will immediately help you personally and financially. Even if you don't want to help yourself, give these

ideas a chance for your children's sake and for the future generations of Americans. You owe it to them, if not yourself. The day will come when you will be proud to be associated with LMI and the ideas we introduced to you.

These are exciting times in which we live. We are on the fringe of a tremendous surge of interest, awareness, and involvement. And you can get in on the ground floor.

This book will be short and to the point. You are welcome to do what most people do: skim the book and find out what the bottom line is at the end. But if you do, you will be missing the valuable background material that helps the bottom line make sense. The search for truth is often more valuable on the journey than at the destination.

If you learned that a long-lost relative bequeathed you a valuable treasure, wouldn't you bother to claim it? What if the directions to the treasure were vague, and you needed to spend many hours hunting for it? I hope you would take the time to hunt for it, for liberty is a treasure worth cherishing. Despite the fact that the treasure map has been with us day and night for two hundred years in the form of the documents you will want to read—The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, The Bill of Rights, and a collection of important American essays—very few Americans have taken the time necessary to locate and study their timeless and priceless treasure of personal religious and economic freedom!

Liberty is like a valuable jewel. It is not a cheap thrill or a passing shiny pleasure. Many people confuse liberty with license or self-indulgent behavior. However, true

liberty is a highly moral and responsible way of life. Most Americans have forgotten how to live as Sovereign American Citizens.

This is *your* nation. It does not belong to the government, unless you define the government as it was originally intended to be: “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Today, it is more “of the Presidential staff, by the tax collector, and for the Federal Agencies.”

Abraham Lincoln once said, “This country belongs to the people. Whenever they grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending or abolishing it.” We believe the current generation of Americans *will* amend or abolish the current form of government in favor of one which is more in the image of America’s founding freedoms.

The next generation will be one of the most exciting in American history. The challenges will be as large as they were in the important decades of the 1780s, the 1860s and the 1930s. We believe the American generation of the last quarter of the Twentieth Century is armed to meet those challenges. They are armed with great reserves of character and will-power. They will soon be armed with the truth about America. And most importantly, they will be armed with the spirit and power of the Creator, who alone is to be praised and worshipped for endowing free men and women everywhere with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

This book is dedicated to the glory of God, to the future of America, and to *you*. As you turn the page to chapter one, prepare for your life to be permanently changed for the better. God bless you in your reading!

CHAPTER ONE: The Proper Sequence of Authority

The United States of America is quite simply the greatest nation on the face of the earth!

On the surface, this would appear to be a chauvinistic, even arrogant statement. America is certainly not the largest nation in square mile area. Russia is more than twice as large. Neither is the United State the most populous nation on earth. India and China have three to four times the population of the U.S. The United States can no longer claim to be the richest nation on earth. Arab states, such as Kuwait and the Arab Emirates, have passed America in per capita income. Neither is America the greatest nation on earth because of the native intelligence or character of its people. America certainly isn't greatest for the strength of its currency or the wisdom of its government.

Then what makes America great?

In a world of political instability, the United States of America has emerged having one of the world's oldest *constituted governments*. In short, America is the greatest nation on earth because of its brilliant Constitution, drafted through the wisdom and foresight of America's Founding Fathers, who alone realized the proper sequence of authority in government.

What Is the Proper Sequence of Authority?

America is the greatest nation on earth because its founders understood the proper sequence of authority. The United States of America is the only modern nation founded by men who believed that God belonged *above* them, that the individual is the sovereign form of government on earth, and that man-made government belonged *beneath* them.

GOD

Endows man with
Certain Inalienable Rights

WE THE PEOPLE

Look to God (above) for guidance
Establish the guidelines for its government
Retain the right to alter or replace said government

GOVERNMENT

Derive their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed

It Began with Columbus

The man credited with discovering America nearly 500 years ago understood the proper sequence of authority. The man whose first name means “bringer of Christ,” Christopher Columbus, said, “It was the Lord who put in my mind (I could feel his hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the

Indies. . . There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit” (“Columbus’ Book of Prophecies,” translated from the Spanish by August J. Kling in “The Presbyterian Layman,” Oct. 1971).

Over a century later, the first permanent English colony in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. Their charter from King James established their purpose as “propagating Christian religion to such people as yet living in darkness and miserable ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God” (*The First Charter of Virginia*, 1606).

The first words of the Mayflower Compact were “In the name of God, Amen.” Their colony was established “for the glory of God and Advancement of the Christian faith” (*Mayflower Compact* – William Bradford, et al, November 11, 1620). One of the pilgrims in his diary wrote, “. . . being thus arrived, the Pilgrims fall on their knees and bless the God of heaven” (*Mourt’s Relation* – Edward Winslow and William Bradford, 1622).

John Winthrop, leader of the Puritan Colony in 1630, preached a famous sermon about America’s role as the modern Israel of God. “We shall be like a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are on us.” Like many colonists, Winthrop believed that the new nation of America was inspired by God to the same extent as ancient Israel, which had been led by God, via a pillar of fire by night and a cloud of darkness by day. By analogy, the new Israel (America) escaped Egypt (England), crossed the Red Sea (Atlantic Ocean), and entered the Promised Land (America).

Clearly, America’s earliest origins were based on faith in God and recognition of His sovereign leadership of the nation. During the drafting of the Declaration of

Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, this religious belief became codified into law as the spiritual foundation of our nation.

The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence begins and ends with God. The first paragraph mentions “The Laws of Nature and Nature’s God,” while the last paragraph honors “The Supreme Judge of the World” and His “divine Providence.” The second paragraph bears a more detailed repetition:

*We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed **by their Creator** [emphasis ours] with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive to these Ends, it is the right of People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles.*

Our Founding Fathers knew the proper sequence of authority. They knew that their Rights came, not from government, but from God. Individual liberty does not come from the kindness of government, but by the grace of God. Any force which has the power to give men their rights, also has the power to take away those rights. God alone has that right. If, however, we give the government the power to grant us our rights, then we must grant them the power to take away those rights. The Declaration clearly states that God alone is the author of man’s rights.

At the very moment the Declaration of Independence was unanimously approved by the colonies, the Spirit of God seemed to move on the hearts of the assembled men. “The magnitude of what they had done began to weigh upon them, and they realized that they and their countrymen were no longer Englishmen, but citizens of a fledgling nation barely a few minutes old. Many stared out the window. Some wept openly. Some, like (Jonathan) Witherspoon of New Jersey, bowed their heads and closed their eyes in prayer. . . and then Samuel Adams rose: ‘We have this day restored the Sovereign, to Whom alone men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven and from the rising to the setting of the sun, may His Kingdom come’” (*The Light and the Glory* – Peter Marshall and David Manuel, p. 309).

The Constitutional Convention

Even before the Constitutional Convention convened in Philadelphia eleven years later, American coins contained the religious motto *In God We Trust*, as they do to this day (although not without some interruptions). The inscription on the Great Seal of the United States also contained religious overtones: “God hath ordained our undertakings.”

In this same spirit of acknowledging God’s guidance in the affairs of state, the ambassadors from the thirteen Colonies met in Philadelphia in May 1787. Despite their unity under God, they quickly divided into contentious factions. The Convention was often in danger of breaking up, until the elder statesman, 81-year-old Benjamin Franklin, took the platform to utter this stirring call to unity:

*In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor. . . . And have we now forgotten this **powerful Friend** [emphasis ours]? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?*

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that except the Lord shall build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this.

I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberation to be in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business. (In God We Trust – quoted by Norman Cousins, p. 42)

From this call to prayer, the delegates set about the business of drafting what Prime Minister William Gladstone later called “The most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.” The first three words, “We the People,” recognize the proper sequence of authority. The *people* ordain the government, not vice versa. That idea has guided America for over 190 years.

The new American government took effect in 1789, when the first President, George Washington, governed from the nation's first Capital, New York City. During his eight years in office, President Washington was not bashful to speak about God at official occasions or in private meetings. It was his earnest feeling that God was at the helm of the new nation. Washington was often seen retiring to private prayer over a national matter. As an aide said, "Washington led us, on his knees."

In his Inaugural Address Washington put God first:

. . . it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official Act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being Who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Council of Nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the People of the United States. . . . No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of Provident agency.

After eight years in office, Washington delivered his famous Farewell Address, which also did not neglect the importance of religion.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. . .

let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. . . reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. (Farewell Address, September 19, 1796)

God First

During Washington’s first term, Congress passed the Bill of Rights, the first ten Amendments to the Constitution. *The first clause of the first Amendment* reads: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

The remarkable origin and impact of those sixteen words will be expanded in Chapter 3. The importance of the First Amendment here is that it is at the *top* of the Bill of Rights. It is one more example of the fact that *God has been first in this nation from the beginning.*

- The **first discovery** of America was guided by God’s hand in the life of Christopher Columbus, whose name meant “Christ-Bringer.”
- The **first permanent English settlement** in America (Jamestown) was dedicated to “the glory of God.”
- The **first words** of the Mayflower Compact, written after kneeling in Thanksgiving prayer, were “In the name of God, Amen.”
- The **first document** of the new nation (The Declaration of Independence) refers to God four times.

- Among the **first spoken words** after the signing of the Declaration of Independence were: “We have this day restored the Sovereign (Who) reigns in heaven.”
- The **first President’s First Inaugural Address** dedicated the future of the United States to God.
- The **First Amendment** to the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion.
- The **first coins** inscribed with “In God We Trust.”
- The **first seal** of the United States says: “God hath blessed our undertaking.”

Is there any question God was first when this nation was born?

But God is not first in America today. The Supreme Court has thrown God out of our schools. Government has gradually usurped the power of God by placing Him *on the bottom* and placing government *on top of the people*. This was neither government’s proper place, as envisioned by our Founding Fathers nor as stated in the Declaration of Independence.

Government’s Proper Place

Just as surely as God was first in the hearts of our Founding Fathers, government was intended to be the *least* in our lives! The newly independent Americans would not allow any new tyranny to easily invade their land. Therefore, the Declaration of Independence stated that governments exist only “by the consent of the governed,” and the Constitution declared that “We the People. . . do ordain the Constitution of

the United States.” The very existence of any government in these United States is through the consent of its people.

The government’s reliance on the will of the people is analogous to the reliance the people should have on God. Instead of fearing government and ignoring God, more Americans need to fear God and ignore government! That is the proper sequence of authority.

It has been said that power corrupts, and *absolute power corrupts absolutely*. The founding fathers, realizing the truth of this statement, set out to severely limit the power of government. The checks and balances they designed were brilliant in their conception. Through a series of cross-indexed elections, appointments, approvals, vetoes, short terms of office and lifetime service, the designers of the Constitution prevented any possible tyrant from taking over the reins of the nation.

A sign of the Constitution’s perfection is that it has worked flawlessly for nearly two hundred years. After the Bill of Rights was passed in 1791, there were only five further Amendments passed in 122 years! The 16th Amendment, passed in 1913, put an end to what might be termed as America’s “Golden Age of Constitutionalism.” Since then, free Americans have been waging a losing battle to win back their original rights.

The Social Contract

Americans were writing contracts (constitutions) with their governments from the day the Pilgrims landed.

Before they land, they this day combine into a body politic by a solemn contract, to which they set their hands, as the basis for their government in this new-found country. (Mourt's Relation – Edward Winslow and William Bradford, 1620)

The Pilgrims' first constitution advocated socialism. They agreed to pool their resources for the benefit of all. After three years of widespread starvation, however, they learned that only capitalism and free enterprise offered them enough incentive to produce enough food for all. The first settlers learned a painful lesson, that *socialism won't work*, a lesson modern Americans seem destined to repeat.

The twelve individual colonies each developed contracts between the people and their chosen government. In Massachusetts, John Winthrop stated, "No commonwealth can be founded but by free consent" (1633), and Roger Williams of Rhode Island wrote, "The sovereign original foundation of civil power lies in the people" (1636). William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania colony, wrote, "Governments, like clocks, go from the motion men give them. Wherefore governments rather depend upon men than men upon government. Any government is free. . . where the laws rule and the people are party to those laws. More than this is tyranny, oligarchy, and confusion" (1682).

In the United States, for the first time in recorded history, a group of free men were in the process of designing government from the top down.

God
The People
The Government

They were paving new political and mental territory, as well as a new physical landscape.

In Europe, a body of philosophy was developing, under the leadership of Locke, Montesquieu, Hobbes, and others, which used the term “social contract” to refer to the agreement between a people and their government. Although these ideas were familiar to our Founding Fathers, the practical experience of 150 years under colonial constitutions was as much an influence on their thinking as the philosophy of Europe’s political thinkers.

[Present day insert]: Each colony operated under a charter from the Crown or a colonial constitution, starting with a colonial compact, much like the Mayflower Compact of 1620. There was a lot of trial and error before the ultimate 1787 Constitution. Even the Articles of Confederation failed during the mid-1780s, so it was “back to the drawing board.”

Some examples: [Colonial government in the Thirteen Colonies - Wikipedia](#)

Thomas Jefferson remains America’s greatest philosopher of freedom. When Shays’ Rebellion broke out in late 1786, many authorities were calling for stronger government to put down the rebels. Jefferson, writing from Paris, had a different approach:

A little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical world. . . . I am persuaded myself that the good sense of the people will always be found to be the best army. They may be led astray for a moment but

will soon correct themselves. The people are the only censors of their governors. . . the only safeguard of the public liberty.

Alexander Hamilton agreed. “Nothing is more common for a free people, in times of heat in violence, to gratify momentary passions by letting into government principles and precedents which afterwards prove fatal to themselves” (“On the Unjust Treatment of Loyalists,” 1784).

Fourscore years later, Abraham Lincoln had the same idea when he wrote that our government is “*of the people, by the people and for the people* (emphasis ours),” and the American government was never intended to rise above the American people. It was never intended to be a power unto itself. It was never intended to take the place of God. Yet the transfer of power has taken place. Who is to blame for this inversion of authority?

The people are to blame for the upside-down American government we now see. Remember Hamilton’s words: “A free people. . . let (power) into government. . .” Many people look to government to perform what only God can do for them. They want financial blessings, not from heaven but from governments on earth. They want divine protection, but they want it from the Department of Defense. They want protection from being hurt, but they leave it up to the Federal regulatory agencies to set up Consumer Protection Bureaus for them. They want *charity*, but not from a sincere Christian heart. They want charity as a *right* from the government which they figure *owes them a living*.

The Proper Role of Government

The American government was created *to protect our rights, not provide for our security*.

The Bill of Rights was drafted to protect us *from government*, not from each other. The right to keep and bear arms, for instance, was included in the Bill of Rights as a protection from *government* thieves rather than from our neighbors. The Bill of Rights, like the Ten Commandments, contains mostly “Thou Shalt *not*. . .” commands. To paraphrase: 1) Government shalt not establish an official American religion or punish free speech. 2) Government shalt not deny citizens the right to bear arms against *it*. 3) Government shalt not break into a man’s house, etc.

The Government does not guarantee your income, protect you from false advertising, or promise a free lunch for your children, as laudable as those goals may seem. Rather, the Constitution keeps government off your back so *you* may pursue an income, choose your purchases wisely, and feed your children a healthy lunch at home.

Whose fault is this switch in the proper sequence of authority—from God, over you, over government—to the reverse order? Is government to blame? Is God at fault? It’s those of us in the middle who have dropped the ball—you and me and millions like us who have looked to government to provide our security, instead of looking *to* God, while looking *out* for government. The kind of person who wants government to check every bite of food to make sure it is safe to eat is the same person who will soon look to government to provide the whole meal. The more

power such people turn over to government, the more power is given to government to control what we do *not* wish.

This inversion of leadership didn't happen in a day. It came about through the sin of "gradualism." Nobody ever got fat with one meal. Nobody ever went bankrupt in one bad business day. A marriage doesn't break up after one argument. It's the same with our social contract with the government. It wasn't violated in one day, in one place. It happened as a part of a long gradual trend.

Rome wasn't built in a day. Nor did it fall in a day. The Republic of Rome lasted nearly 500 years. Rome began as a simple, free republic. But soon, the Romans demanded one small government handout: wheat. This was satisfactory for a time. Then they demanded flour, too. Soon they demanded that the government bake their bread for them. Finally, bread wasn't enough to satisfy them. They wanted "bread and circuses." By the time the circus came to town, the Republic was *dead*. The Roman empire took control of the people, for which the people *alone* were to blame. When they first asked government for wheat, they started down the long slippery slope which leads eventually to despotism, death, and destruction.

America's loss of freedom is also happening gradually. Ideas which seemed good at the time gradually developed into unmanageable bureaucratic nightmares. The Income Tax provision of 1913 was only designed to tax the richest five percent of the population. The Social Security Act of 1937 was originally limited by law to only one or two percent of a worker's income. FDR's plethora of Federal agencies also seemed necessary at the time. Taking the dollar off the gold standard in 1934 seemed like a good idea. None of these *New Deal* government intrusions, however,

make any sense fifty years after the end of the immediate problem they were designed to solve.

Recall Alexander Hamilton’s prophetic words again. He warned Americans not to “gratify momentary passions by letting into government principles and precedents which afterwards prove fatal.” The *people* let government in, and it is proving to be a fatal mistake.

The Parable of the Two Ranchers

To illustrate the current state of the nation, imagine two ranchers in the Old West. Each bought 500 acres of land adjacent to the other. The first rancher made sure of his boundaries by checking the title and surveying his borders. Then he put a fence around his property.

Meanwhile, the other rancher seldom checked on his boundaries. He knew he had 500 acres “out there somewhere.” Before long, the first rancher realized the second rancher didn’t worry about his borders, so the first rancher moved his fence ten feet into the other man’s property. No problem. No complaint. Next year, he moved the fence 20 feet, then 50, then 100. After a generation, the first rancher had 850 acres, and the other rancher had only 150.

The first rancher is government. The second rancher is *you*.

Figure 2a – Original Property Layout

Rancher One 500 Acres (Government)	Rancher Two 500 Acres (You)
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Figure 2b – Government Grabs Your Property

Government	YOU
850 Acres	150
(and growing)	Acres

If you feel pinched by government intrusion into your life and property, you may want to do what the second rancher finally did. He called for a new title search and property survey. The second rancher in our story finally went to City Hall to dig out the old musty documents that spelled out his boundaries. This forced the first rancher back to his own 500 acres.

As an American citizen, you may go back to the original “title”—The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. You may use those founding documents to put government back into its rightful place *under* you! With the Constitution in hand, you become more powerful than all the millions of government officials combined, for you are their rightful boss. They are merely your employees, public servants who have forgotten their place in the hierarchy.

This book will give you precise instructions on how to bring all your property back under your control, where it belongs.

Chapter Two: Democracy – or Republic?

One of the most sacred words in people’s vocabulary today is *democracy*. It ranks above mom, apple pie, hot dogs, and baseball as a tool of political propaganda. When you ask the average American to name his own form of government, he will undoubtedly say, “democracy.”

It might surprise you to discover that the word “democracy” is nowhere to be found in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution or in any one of the fifty State constitutions. In fact, democracy, as a system of government, was unanimously censured by our Founding Fathers. It would be difficult to find a favorable reference to democracy in any official publication dated before 1930. Our greatest patriots condemned the democratic system of government!

Our forefathers founded *a republic*, not a democracy. This is more than a trivial exercise in definitions. The two words are vastly different in their meaning and implication. Without a proper understanding of this difference, you have no constituted rights to protect you from mob rule or government tyranny.

Is there really a difference? Judge for yourself.

The Lynch Mob

SCENE: An accused bandit is riding out of town in the Old West being chased by a 25-man posse. The posse captures him, throws a rope over the nearest tree limb,

and holds a vote to determine the bandit's guilt or innocence. The true difference between a republic and a democracy emerges at this point.

In a democracy, the vote is 25 to 1, and the bandit swings. In a republic, the sheriff rides up and asks, "Has this man had a fair trial under the law?" The answer being, "no," the bandit goes to trial in a courthouse before a judge and jury. Even then, he cannot be sentenced to hang by a simple majority of the jury. It takes a *unanimous* vote of an impartial jury of his peers.

Shift the scene to a more modern example.

SCENE: Your neighbors meet to decide on a fair re-apportionment of wealth within your neighborhood. They decide that charity begins at home. *Your* home! By a *majority vote*, your neighbors decide that your second car is too extravagant. They vote your second car to the man down the street who has no car. "From each according to their ability, to each according to their need." (Phrase popularized by Karl Marx.) You must turn over the keys of your car to a stranger from down the street.

That's an example of democracy—*mob rule*. In a republic, however, you own title to both of your cars. Therefore, the law (the Fourth Amendment) protects you from seizure of your property, either by government or by a majority (mob) of individuals.

America was once a democracy. During the thirteen chaotic years between the Declaration of Independence and the ratifying of the Constitution, America was independent but without a constituted government. Our Founding Fathers became

disenchanted with the fruits of democracy during those years, so they came together in the late 1780s to create a republic under law.

Perhaps the difference between a democracy and a republic will come clear in your mind through the following example of a young child growing up through various stages of “enlightenment” in our school systems.

Confusion in Schools

The true difference between a republic and democracy was widely known and taught prior to 1930. Since then, however, our state-supported schools have fostered a fundamental misconception about our form of government. Imagine for a few minutes that you are a typical child in our modern school system. See if you can understand the following contradictions.

In Elementary School, our children are taught to pledge allegiance to the flag and “to the *Republic* for which it stands,” yet in their history classes they are taught that America is a *democracy*. (Emphasis ours)

In Junior High, the same student would consult the most popular family encyclopedia in America, and he would read this under “Government,” “The United States Constitution established the nation as a republic. But the U.S. is generally called a democracy” (*The World Book*, 1976 edition, volume G, page 276). Our student is pretty confused by now.

In Senior High, our student would consult a more detailed reference work, the 20-volume *Annals of America*, published by the Encyclopedia Britannica. At the

conclusion of a long essay on *Government by the People*, the editors of this prestigious work write:

If democracy means the suffrage of all qualified persons (i.e., adult, sane persons of either sex who have never been convicted of a felony), and the representation of all citizens (by whatever means) in the choice of government officials and policy, then America is now at last a democracy, though it has not always been one. On the whole, we Americans are proud of that fact. (Annals of America, Volume I, p. 199)

Our confused student by now feels he understands the situation thoroughly. Our nation was once a republic, but somehow it became a democracy, about fifty years ago, probably because enough people became eligible to vote. He also understands that every part of the government (that includes the Army) is a democracy. So, he joins the Army and immediately calls for a meeting of the recruits to elect a representative.

The recruits elect our student/soldier as their representative, and they vote a petition by majority vote to:

1. Skip basic training drills
2. Vote the Sergeant out of office
3. Change wake-up time to 9:30 am
4. Serve more liquor and prime rib at the mess hall
5. Raise pay by 25%

Our mythical soldier friend presents his barracks' petition to his commanding officer, along with the *Soldier's Guide*, which gives him his "rights" to do this.

After 30 days in the stockade, our soldier/student learned the truth of the matter. He lives under authority, under law, *not* under a democracy. He learned by bitter experience a fact that evaded him during his thirteen years of public schooling—America is a republic (Rule of Law), not a democracy (Mob Rule). If our schools had done a better job of making this clear, perhaps our soldier/student would also have learned that virtually all of our Founding Fathers were adamantly opposed to democracy.

The Evils of Democracy

George Washington often spoke of the evils of democracy and the virtues of Republicanism (*Maxims of Washington*, p. 6). In his first Inaugural Address he urged "the preservation... of the republican model of government."

Samuel Adams warned, "Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself! There never was a democracy that did not commit suicide."

Alexander Hamilton said, "We are a republican government. Real liberty is never found in despotism or in the extremes of democracy."

(NOTE: please don't confuse the meaning of the words used here by Adams and Hamilton as having anything to do with our political parties of today.)

Hamilton also spoke against democracy at the Constitutional Convention, on June 21, 1788:

It has been observed that a pure democracy, if it were practicable, would be the most perfect government. Experience has proved that no position is falser than this. The ancient democracies in which the people themselves deliberated never possessed one good feature of government. Their very character was tyranny, their figure deformity.

With one voice, the other delegates of the Constitutional Convention agreed. Elbridge Gerry said, “The evils we experience flow from the excess of democracy.” Edmund Randolph said, “In tracing our evils to their origin, *every man* has found it in the turbulence and trials of democracy.” (Emphasis ours)

James Madison wrote, “. . . democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been incompatible with personal security, or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.”

Thomas Jefferson, who became the first President of the Democratic-Republican party (which Democrats claim today as their original party), clearly showed his preference for the Republican half of his party’s name, when, as America’s first Secretary of State, in 1790, he wrote, “A Republic is the only form of government which is not eternally at open or secret war with the rights of mankind.”

John Marshall, who served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1801 to 1835, said, “Between a balanced republic and a democracy, the difference is like that between order and chaos.”

Why haven't our school children been taught these plain facts? Why haven't they been exposed to these eye-opening quotations from our country's founders? Why haven't we all been taught the perils of democracy and the protections of a republic and its form of government? Is there perhaps a conflict of interest between a government-sponsored school system and a government's inherent interest in robbing Americans of their Constitutional rights?

The Perils of Democracy

Why is democracy deficient? Why won't it work? What are the “seeds of destruction” so often mentioned as inherent within a democracy?

Democracy's seeds of destruction are the unbridled passions of an orchestrated mob. Any clever manipulator can cause the public to vote him into office by promising more and more free handouts. Democracy allows a potential despot to promise a “chicken in every pot and a car in every garage.” It sounds appealing, but this same man can then try to bankrupt a nation by trying to purchase 225,000,000 cars and chickens at the taxpayer's expense.

Through majority rule, a potential dictator turns “government by the people” into “government *buys* the people.” The man who promises more favors (always at somebody else's expense) is voted into office to commit legal Grand Larceny. This

precise prediction was made by British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli before the British House of Commons in 1850:

If you establish a democracy, you must in due time reap the fruits of a democracy. You will in due season have great impatience of public burdens, combined in due season with a great increase of public expenditure. You will in due season have wars entered into from passion and not from reason; and you will in due season submit to peace ignominiously sought and ignominiously obtained, which will diminish your authority and perhaps endanger your independence. You will in due season find your property is less valuable and your freedom less complete.

A remarkable prophecy delivered 130 years ago; these words could easily be repeated in the U.S. Congress today. British Prime Minister Disraeli later added another biting critique of democracy, “The world is weary of statesmen whom democracy has degraded into politicians.”

Many noted philosophers also realized the value of a republic over a democracy. In 1795, Immanuel Kant wrote, “Democracy is necessarily despotism.” Around 1850, English philosopher Herbert Spencer wrote, “The republican form of government is the highest form of government.” Thomas Babington Macaulay wrote, “Institutions purely democratic must, sooner or later, destroy liberty or civilization or both.”

Some of America’s and England’s leading creative writers expressed this same anti-democracy theme. James Robert Lowell wrote, “Democracy gives every man

the right to be his own oppressor.” Oscar Wilde wrote, “Democracy simply means the bludgeoning of the people, by the people, for the people.” Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “Democracy becomes a government of bullies. And H.L. Mencken wrote, “The most popular man under a democracy is not the most democratic man, but the most despotic man.”

America was clearly intended to be a republic, and not a democracy. The Constitution is clear. Our Founding Fathers and leading thinkers understood this. Over 200 years of experience have proven that a republic works, and a democracy doesn't. Where then did we get the idea that America is a democracy? And what positive purpose does a democracy serve in a world filled with dictatorships?

Democracy: Better, Not *Best*

Democracy is not the worst form of government in the world, neither is it the best. Democracy is a necessary transition form of government, between the worst (totalitarianism) to the best (a republic). It is important to realize that a democracy is a better system of government than 99% of the people who have ever lived have ever known! Compared to Communism, Democracy is heaven on earth. But compared to a republic, a democracy is a giant step backward.

Nearly all societies of men throughout history have lived under the iron heel of totalitarian rule. Democracy is light years ahead of the Dark Ages. Democracy is a necessary transition stage from a time of totalitarian rule—such as fascism, Communism, monarchy, or any form of dictatorship—to a time of republican law. But if you give too much time to democracy as a transition stage, then democracy can be as tyrannical as any individual despot.

True democratic representation never occurred until the Twentieth Century. All other historical “democracies” were merely aristocracies and oligarchies (rule by the wealthy few) masquerading as democracies. The Greek “democracy,” besides being short-lived, represented only 20% of the adult population of Greece. The Roman Republic represented far fewer than 20%. Only the patricians (high-born males) were represented, not the plebeians (low-born), women, or slaves.

The English Magna Carta (1215), long revered as the origin of Anglo-Saxon democracy, was in fact far from democratic. Only the landed barons, a small minority, were granted any voice in government, and that only at the discretion of the king who was on the throne at the time.

Even the early United States republic granted the vote only to landed gentlemen and merchants. No slaves, women, or transients were represented. It wasn't until 1920 that the majority of Americans had a voice in their representation. At about the same time, Germany (1919) and Great Britain (1928) reached full adult representation in government.

Clearly, democracy itself was a step upward for the majority of mankind. But democracy should not be a *goal*, any more than reaching the age of 21 should be a final goal for a child. Democracy is a stepping-stone, a means to an end, not an end itself.

Born Free

If you've heard the song, "Born Free," you know what a powerful and inspiring message the call for freedom can be. To the billions of human beings trying to escape the Communist countries of Asia and Eastern Europe, freedom is a powerful enough magnet to cause thousands to risk their lives each year to escape.

The words "born free" were first put together in literature nearly 300 years ago when John Locke began his *Two Treatises on Government* with this manifesto on freedom: "Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains." These words were later echoed in America's Declaration of Independence.

Less than one percent of mankind has ever been *born free*. If you live in America, you are among that select one percent. Despite America's problems and its dwindling freedoms, it is still a privilege to be able to write this book and publish it in a free country.

But why cling to partial freedom? Why settle for a better form of government, when the best form of government is still available, in the U.S. Constitution? Your freedom is not just a birthright. It is a duty! If you don't *use* your freedom, you will lose it. The price of freedom is, and always will be, eternal vigilance, which is not a one-time act. It is a way of life.

Many other free nations have lost their liberty through apathy—through a lack of vigilance. The Greek "democracy" quickly became a military state under Alexander the Great, then it died. The Roman Empire became a corrupt Empire. The centuries-old British democracy is fast going socialist. The German Republic

voted Hitler in, then suffered a twelve-year Nazi nightmare. Italy is going Communist, and countless third world republics in Africa and Latin America are rapidly losing their freedoms.

Edmund Burke said, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” This is obvious in hindsight—Greece, Rome, Britain, Germany, Italy, etc.—but don’t point all your fingers at other nations. Take a good look at the United States. Admit to yourself that it is possible for American freedom to perish in the same manner, not in the vague indefinite future, but *in your lifetime*.

The Downside of Majority Rule

The “wisdom” of the majority supported Hitler; most of the Russians supported the Communist Revolution in the beginning; the majority of Americans believed in slavery until after 1865; this same majority also locked up Japanese Americans in the early 1940’s and blackballed loyal Americans in the early 1950’s. The majority supported the Vietnam War until 1968. Any study of history would show *the majority to be wrong most of the time*. That’s why Constitution protects us *from* the majority!

In the latest U.S. Presidential election (1976), *the majority did not bother to vote* in the federal general election. If we had true majority rule, this would mean that most Americans selected *no* government. (In this case, the majority might have been right!)

The purpose of a Constitution is to make the people *safe from democracy*. When Woodrow Wilson coined the phrase, “make the world safe for democracy,” he contributed greatly to the misunderstanding of the word democracy. Political slogans are designed to be simple and catchy—not necessarily truthful. “Make the world safe for a Republic” does not buy any votes for a Democrat like Wilson. If Wilson had not been a Democratic President, he would undoubtedly prefer to qualify his statement to something like this: “Make the warring dictatorships of the world safe for democracy. But make the free nations of the world *safe from* democracy by making them republics.”

A republic is a government under law. Even if a despot were elected to be President, he would be limited by law from taking command of the government. The legislative and judicial branches would check his power until the next election when the people could vote him out. In the meantime, Congress is eligible to impeach the President. The President may be the Chief Executive, but he is also on the same level as all other public servants. He is an employee of the people and a servant of the Constitution.

As Jefferson put it, the purpose of a republic is to “bind men down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.” The ballot box alone cannot bind a President to the will of the people. It is the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the other two branches of government which hold down the Presidency from becoming a monarchy or dictatorship.

Our republic is still the best form of government ever devised by man. It’s time for Americans everywhere to stand up and say, “This is a Republic, not a Democracy. **Let’s keep it that way!**”

Chapter Three: *The Amazing Origin of America's Religious Freedom*

The United States is blessed with a rare commodity in this world—religious freedom. To understand how rare it is, take an imaginary trip around the world. Most nations don't allow religious freedom of any kind. Even some *free* nations have firmly established state religions. In Europe, for instance, England's state religion is Anglican; Italy and Spain ninety-nine percent are Roman Catholic; Germany and Sweden are Lutheran, and so on.

God created man *in his image*² yet each nation on earth (except the United States) has tended to create *God* in its own image! For most human beings, their choice of religion is dictated by the national religion of the nation in which they happen to be born. Such people say, "I was born a Methodist" or "We're a Catholic family," as if their religion were part of their birth certificate, next to their weight, gender, and height.

Should a person's religious beliefs depend on the piece of land where they were born, or on the beliefs of the parent who came together to create the child? In the beginning, God created a world without nations. He created each, individually, to be unique before Him. We were created in His image. Is that image Methodist, Catholic, Muslim, Baptist? What doctrines does God subscribe to? These are pointless questions, for God is creative. He is not tied down to any denominational box of mankind's limited religious system.

Likewise, we human beings, created in His image, are impossible to contain in denominational packages. We are an imaginative and creative species. Our beliefs

grow as we grow. Our relationship to God matures throughout life. We are constantly changing.

If our shoe size, our knowledge base, and personal property can increase, why would it seem strange that our spiritual understanding also might increase? We grow in the spirit from the moment we acknowledge God's presence in our life. No two people believe the same thing, and no one person believes the same thing at different stages of his life. We were created free—free to formulate our own beliefs, within God's guidance, in a creative and highly individual manner.

The Gospel of Liberty

God's message to mankind has always stressed *liberty*. God told ancient Israel to "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof"³. Centuries later, God chastised Israel for not obeying this specific command. "You have not obeyed me by proclaiming liberty, everyone to his brother and his neighbor"⁴.

When Jesus came to proclaim the Gospel, He proclaimed a *new level of liberty*. "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"⁵, and "I am come that they might have life and might have life more abundantly"⁶. The Apostle Paul proclaimed the same Gospel of freedom: "You have been called to liberty, brethren"⁷. The Christian message of religious freedom was a breath of fresh air in the Roman Empire of the First Century A.D., but Rome quite naturally tried to extinguish that flame of freedom. The Christian Church was widely and mercilessly persecuted for three centuries.

Christianity thrived under Roman persecution, but when Christianity finally became the official state religion of the Roman Empire, the Dark Ages began. The best way to kill the spirit of a religion is to *establish it*, and the best way to nourish a religion is to persecute it! An “establishment of religion” is a contradiction in terms because it sets up one pattern of behavior for all. It limits God. It denies freedom. When any religion becomes established by the state, it either declines in true heart-felt support, or become corrupt in its leadership, or both.

All rights come from God. We are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights. Anytime a person or government gives rights, they are able to take those rights away. Freedom cannot be granted except by God, or it is freedom based on the quicksand of human nature.

For over 1400 years, religious tyranny gripped the known world. When news finally reached Europe about a new world to the west, the European victims of religious persecution determined to reach that new world to gain their religious freedom. They did not come to America to find religious freedom for others! They came to set up an established religion of their own. *Religious freedom was still an unheard-of idea.*

Since the Fourth Century, church and state have been nearly synonymous in Europe. Dissenters were bucking a 1400-year-old trend just to profess Protestantism, much less freedom within Protestantism. Each sect believed to the death that theirs was the “one true church.” A noted American historian explains:

There is a widespread notion among Protestant groups that the separation of Church and State, and thus religious liberty, was one

of the immediate products of the Reformation; that the early Protestants were advocates of a large tolerance and that religious liberty was the logical development of the principles held by all reformers.

Historically, of course, the exact opposite was true. The fact is that the rise of Protestantism was accompanied by an unprecedented outburst of intolerance and cruelty in which both Protestants and Catholics participated. To the Catholics, Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and all the other reformers were possessed of devils; to the Protestants, the Pope was the scarlet woman of Babylon, the beast of Revelation, the Romish wolf, the anti-Christ.

One of the most notable outcomes of the Reformation was the rise of numerous National Churches in the several countries of Western Europe where Protestantism gained the upper hand. These National Churches were, generally speaking, not only intolerant of Roman Catholicism, but they were also intolerant of the sects which arose numerously about them.

Everywhere it was thought that national safety and political unity depended upon religious uniformity, and this idea was as strongly asserted in Protestant as well as in Catholic countries. In Spain, Italy, France, Austria, and in Spain's colonies in America, Protestants were put to death in the interest of maintaining religious uniformity. . . .

Throughout the Christian centuries it has been the minority groups that have been advocates of religious liberty, never the powerful State Churches. This does not mean that all minorities have always been tolerant. Frequently small sects are exceedingly exclusive, take pride in their exclusiveness and have developed a superiority complex as a result of it. But being minorities, they do not possess the power to express their intolerance in violent programs of persecution. . . . In the American colonies, for the first time in the history of Christendom, there had come to be a group of civil States in which there was no majority religion. (Religion in Colonial America, Scribner's, 1951 – William Warren Sweet, pages 320-322)

Religious freedom in America gives every indication of being a historical accident unless you believe in God's divine guidance.

Religious Intolerance in the Colonies

Religious intolerance was quite widespread in the American colonies. Dissent or heresy was not tolerated. The Puritan community ousted Roger Williams for religious reasons. Williams then established one of the only truly free colonies of the Seventeenth Century America. In *The Bloody Tenet of Persecution*, 1644, Williams wrote:

God requires not a uniformity of religion to be enacted and enforced in any civil state, which enforced uniformity (sooner or later) is the greatest occasion of civil war, ravishing of

conscience, persecution of Christ Jesus in His servants, and of the hypocrisy and destruction of millions of souls. . . . An enforced uniformity of religion throughout a nation or civil state confounds the civil and religious, denies the principles of Christianity and civility and that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

Nathaniel Ward fled from England to escape religious persecution, but when he arrived in New England, he set up some of the most repressive standards of religion in the colonies. Ironically, his homeland of England was becoming more tolerant of new religions, while the Colonies at the same time were rigorously attempting to set up established churches of their own, punishing heretics. Ward wrote *The Simple Cobbler of Agawam* in 1647, which contains these warnings:

I dare aver that God doth nowhere in his word tolerate Christian states to give tolerations to such adversaries of His truth if they have power in their hands to suppress them. . . . All Familists, Antinomians, Anabaptists, and other Enthusiasts shall have free liberty to keep away from us, and such as will come to be gone as fast as they can, the sooner the better.

In Massachusetts, *freedom* meant the opportunity to get out of town fast! The situation wasn't much better in Maryland, where the Toleration Act of 1649 prescribed death and confiscation of property for those who denied the Trinity, and lesser penalties for those caught breaking the Sabbath or teaching new ideas (heresy). Such penalties for individualism reached their climax in 1692, when seventeen citizens of Salem, Massachusetts, were burned at the stake or pressed to

death for being suspected witches. The Colonies eased up their rigorous standards after the horror of that crime shocked the conscience of the colonies.

Every Man's Hat is His Church

One necessary ingredient for the foundation of religious freedom in America was a healthy spirit of religious independence, mixed with dash of skepticism and a fiercely rebellious spirit. These qualities were the seemingly irreligious but, strangely, necessary ingredients for the formation of the breakthrough in historical consciousness we call “religious freedom.”

After visiting America and reporting its mood back to England, the British philosopher Edmund Burke said, “The people are Protestants; and of that kind which is the most adverse to all implicit submission of mind and opinion. *Every man's hat is his church* [emphasis ours]” (*Conciliation with America* - Edmund Burke, 1775).

Thomas Paine agreed: “My own mind is my church.”

By the end of the colonial period, there had come to be more unchurched people in the American colonies in proportion to the population than were to be found anywhere in Christendom. . . . In Western Europe, on the other hand, Church membership came about as a matter of course and was practically coextensive with citizenship. . . . By the opening of the War of Independence there was an extraordinarily large body of religiously indifferent people in the American colonies. (W.W. Sweet, op. cit., p.334)

One of America's leading religious historians wrote this critique of early American theology/mythology.

Later Americans would often be supplied a mythology which paraded the founding fathers as intensely Christian men. Citizens were often told that there had been a great fall from a golden age when those who formed the nation had all believed and worshipped passionately. Just the opposite was the case. At no other moment in the two hundred years of national experience were religious institutions so weak as they were in the first quarter-century after Independence. It is difficult to establish reliable statistics, but the best guesses suggest that from four to seven percent of the people were formally church members. (The Righteous Empire - Martin Marty, Dial Press, 1970, p.38)

One of the keys to religious freedom, now and then, is the presence of an *unchurched majority*, which serves to discourage establishment of one church or another as “America’s Religion.” As Sweet puts it, “The fact that at least half the people in the nation today are unchurched is an important factor in the preservation of our basic freedom—*religious liberty*” (op. cit., p.336).

In later generations, America would brag of more churchgoing citizens than any nation on earth, but the temporary lack of religious membership during the Revolutionary period was a *necessary ingredient* for the establishment of religious freedom. “And the times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all

men everywhere to repent”⁸. The temporary unbelief of some was necessary for later religious freedom for all.

Jefferson vs “Antidisestablishmentarianism”

It wasn’t a church-going man who brought us the First Amendment. A Deist, Thomas Jefferson, played the greatest role in ensuring religious freedom for the young Republic. Jefferson’s “Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom” (Written 1779, passed 1786) was the first modern law guaranteeing religious freedom. Jefferson had long argued that “It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods or no god. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg.” Jefferson urged a “wall of separation between church and state.” As he wrote in his Virginia Statute:

Well aware that Almighty God hath created the mind free; that all attempts to influence it by temporal punishments or burdens, or by civil incapacitations, tend only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness, and are a departure from the plan of the Holy Author of our religion, who being Lord both of body and mind yet chose not to propagate it by coercions on either, as was in His Almighty power to do. . . . Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia, that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burdened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions of belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no

wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities. . . . We are free to declare and do declare that the rights hereby asserted are of the natural rights of mankind.”

It is no wonder that Jefferson declared this document to be one of his three greatest achievements in life—above being Governor of Virginia, the first U.S. Secretary of State, the second Vice President, the third President, buyer of the Louisiana Purchase, and many other notable achievements. Jefferson saw the historical importance of this Virginia Statute as being greater than political offices or international renown.

But it took more than Jefferson’s reasoning to sculpt the First Amendment into the Constitution. His Virginia Statute was so revolutionary that it took seven years to pass the Virginia Assembly. (Nearly 200 years later, Virginia still leads the nation in religious freedom. Churches are not allowed to incorporate in Virginia, thus allowing complete separation of church and state.)

Almost out of a sense of religious tradition, many States had already established an official state religion. In fact, at the time of the Constitutional Convention, *nine of the thirteen colonies had an established state religion*. After interminable arguments about which religion should become the Federal religion, the drafters of the Constitution hit on a perfect compromise in the First Amendment to the Constitution, “Congress shall make *no law* respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof (emphasis ours).”

Religious freedom was truly a revolutionary idea, even during revolutionary times. As late as 1818, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Massachusetts retained

Congregationalism as their state religion. (This was entirely legal, as the Constitution forbade the *Federal* government from establishing religion, but states were not forbidden this right.) Massachusetts didn't relent from its established religion until 1831, following more than two centuries of rigorous theocracy.

After the states granted complete religious freedom, churches began to blossom in America. When people became free to express their true feelings of reverence toward God without fear of reprisal, America became the most godly, church-going nation on earth.

Various European observers noted how pervasive church buildings had become. The noted French author, Alexis de Tocqueville, wrote in 1835, that "there is no country in the world where the Christian religion remains a greater influence over the souls of men than in America."

In 1843, Robert Baird, a visiting Presbyterian minister from Scotland, wrote, "In no other part of the world, perhaps, do the inhabitants attend church in a larger proportion than in the United States; certainly, no part of the Continent of Europe can compare with them in this respect."

In 1855, two German observers noted the same trend. An agnostic, Karl T. Greisinger, grudgingly wrote, "Churches and chapels are legion, and nowhere are they more frequented than in this land of tolerance and freedom. . . . Church attendance is more common here than anywhere else in the world." The other visiting German noted, "There is more sacrifice for religious purposes, proportionally, than in any other country in the world."

This Renaissance of Religion in America was based on the twin pillars of freedom found in the U.S. Constitution: Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press.

Jefferson's Beliefs

Over the centuries, much controversy has swirled around Thomas Jefferson's personal religious beliefs. Like Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson was a spiritual enigma—at times deeply religious, at other times content to fly in the face of traditional religion. This confusion exists because, to Jefferson, his beliefs were nobody's business but his own. He refused to jump on any denominational bandwagon just to please the voting public. In 1816, he wrote, "I never told my own religion, or scrutinized that of another. I never attempted to make a convert, nor wished to change another's creed. I have never judged the religion of others by their lives. By the same test the world must judge me."

Behind his public "wall of separation between church and state," however, the private letters of Jefferson show a devout man with a gentle spirit, a man in constant communion with his Creator. Writing to John Adams, he referred to "The God you and I adore, the Creator and benevolent Governor of the World."

While President, Jefferson wrote to Dr. Benjamin Rush (a co-signor of the Declaration of Independence), "I am a Christian in the only sense in which He (Jesus) wished any one to be: sincerely attached to His doctrines, in preference to all other." On another occasion, he wrote, "Had the doctrines of Jesus been preached as pure as they came from his lips, the whole civilized world would now be Christian."

In later life, Jefferson became a Unitarian, and he believed that the Unitarian church would eventually become the most widely accepted religion in America. But the important fact about Jefferson is *not* his denomination or his beliefs. The importance of Jefferson's contribution to religion in America is his foresight in allowing you and me to have our *own* religion—not his. In this sense, Jefferson has contributed more to true heartfelt religious belief in America than any famous preacher or teacher could ever contribute.

Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, exactly fifty years to the day after signing the Declaration of Independence. John Adams, his lifelong compatriot and the second man on the three-man committee charged with writing the Declaration, died on the same exact day. The chances of this are approximately one in 333 million. If you're looking for a physical sign of God's blessing on Jefferson, Adams, and the Declaration of Independence, this amazing miracle of "time and chance" seems to put God's stamp of approval on the miraculous origin of the Declaration.

Just ten days before he died, Jefferson was as lucid and eloquent as he was fifty years previously. He wrote the following letter about the importance of the Declaration of Independence to America and the world:

May it be to the world, what I believe it will be (to some parts sooner, to others later, but finally to all), the signal of arousing men to burst the chains under which monkish ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to bind themselves and to assume the blessings of security of self-government. That form which we have substituted restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of

man. The general spread of the light of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth, that the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them.

Ten days later, Jefferson's eyes closed, and his earthly life ceased. But wherever freedom rings, Jefferson's words are eternal. All who cherish their religious freedom owe Jefferson a deep debt of gratitude.

YOUR Religious Freedom

From the preceding overview of American religious liberty, you should begin to see what a precious and rare commodity we Americans have at our disposal. Religious freedom was not available to the early Christian who died for his or her beliefs. Religious freedom was not widely available until less than 200 years ago.

If there had been religious freedom in Jerusalem 1950 years ago, Jesus would not have been arrested, tried, and executed for speaking the truth of God. Christian martyrs would not have died by the millions perfecting the faith of God in their lives and by their deaths.

Religious oppression has been used by God through the ages as a testimony of the unity and faith of the believers. God can transform any evil system for the greater glory of His Kingdom. But in this modern era in the "land of the free," man has freedom at last. He must be brave enough to guard that freedom for future generations!

Instead of rushing headlong into some form of spiritual bondage (this time of our own free will), use this precious religious freedom to build a personalized spiritual relationship one-on-one with God Almighty.

In a time when churches and denomination proliferate freely, don't despair. Rejoice in the fact! Consider the alternative. Would you rather be born into a land with an established religion that dictates your beliefs and church affiliation from birth until death? Be willing to tolerate the thousands of religious fanatics, the millions of non-Christians and cultists, which populate our land. They represent the price of freedom for yourself, your family and America's future.

CHAPTER FOUR: The State of the Union

The past three chapters have explained the origin and ideals of our American nation. So much for history. Now it is time to look at how far we've come down the road leading *away* from those founding principles.

The pervasiveness of big government is more than a cradle-to-grave proposition. It's even more than womb-to-tomb. With government sponsored abortion, birth control, and prohibitively high inheritance taxes, you might say that our welfare state has reached the level of “conception to resurrection.”

In our daily life, it has become impossible to escape Big Brother. Although we haven't reached author George Orwell's dreaded year of 1984, the police-state tactics are already in force to make Orwell's 1984 seem a realistic prediction of life in America in the 1980's.

Government pervades every moment of our daily lives. When you wake up to a clock radio, you listen to programming approved by the Federal Communications Commission. If the government becomes displeased with your favorite station, their FCC license to broadcast may be summarily revoked. Everything you touch each day—your toothbrush, towel, water, clock, breakfast, clothes, car—is regulated by governmental standards.

Your breakfast is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Your car beeps or buzzes at you if you don't fasten your seat belt. If you drink sugar-free soft

drinks you are warned, whether you like it or not, that you are doing bad things to your body. This nagging is courtesy of the Surgeon General of the U.S.

Your mail is handled by a government-controlled monopoly, the U.S. Postal Service. The greatest amount of your newspaper and radio/TV news programming consists of press releases from government offices. You drive to work on state-controlled highways at a ridiculous, impractical Federally mandated speed limit of 55 miles per hour, shadowed by numerous government officials (in police cars). The Interstate Commerce Commission publishes 40 trillion tariffs to control truckers on those same highways.

(Note: there was indeed a Federally-mandated national maximum speed limit imposed during the 70's and early 80's, for those readers who weren't born yet at that time and have never heard of it.)

Your paycheck at work is fractured into bits and pieces payable to Federal, State, and local taxes, plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, state disability, and more. If you win a bet on a horse race, the tax man is right there to lighten your load. If you win prizes in a game show, the tax man forces you to sell the prizes at a loss to pay taxes on them. If you start a small business, the tax man ensures that most of your time and money go toward government paperwork, not your business interests and activities.

If you try to transact any business, you are forced to give out a Social Security Number, in spite of the fact that early Social Security cards said, “*not* to be used for identification purposes” (emphasis ours). Even if you choose to deal entirely in

cash, you are constantly dunned for information about your home, job, income, and personal life. The situation is perfectly suited to Orwell's predictions for 1984.

Government by Agencies

A new form of government has evolved in the last 50 years. You might call it "Agentocracy," or government by agencies. These massive federal bureaucracies are run by career pencil-pushers who were never elected or even wanted by the people. Nevertheless, they make up the vast majority of the federal government payroll. The Judicial Branch employs nine Supreme Court Justices and few hundred legal assistants. The Legislative Branch employs 535 elected representatives and few thousand assistants. But the Executive Branch is composed of two elected officials and millions of hired and appointed bureaucrats.

America could never have been discovered and built if these bureaucracies were in existence at the time of their founding. Can you imagine the Environmental Impact Statement for the Lewis and Clark expedition? Would the Agriculture Department tell the Pilgrims what crops to plant or pay them for crops they didn't plant? Would the Donner Party's wagons need to pass inspection for safety devices? Would Columbus even bother to discover America if he had to hire a racially balanced crew? Can you imagine the slow westward growth if Ralph Nader insisted on approving the safety of the trains and rails that built America?

Instead of relying on the inventive genius of individuals who built America, today's Americans are content to let Government provide their security. If a federal agency doesn't check it out, we don't want it. One begins to wonder how the nation ever survived for 150 years without these agencies to protect us. The truth is

the nation not only survived, but also *thrived!* More than half of all the important inventions of all human history were invented in the United States in the last 200 years—most of those with no aid or interference from government!

These agencies not only get in the way of business, but they also actually tend to produce the opposite result. The Minimum Wage Law, intended to promote well-paying work for the poor, results in fewer jobs and thus more welfare for the poor. Equal Opportunity Employment, however noble in its conception, is now designed to promote unequal opportunity for whites. The Department of Energy doesn't produce a drop of oil, yet it costs the taxpayer more money than the windfall profits of the top seven oil companies combined. The DOE admittedly caused the latest oil crisis by forcing oil companies to ship oil to the wrong locations.

More examples: rent controls were meant to help the low-income renter, but they end up creating a shortage whereby no apartments are available to rent, and prices go up. Social Security was designed to help the elderly, but it ends up robbing them of more money in their productive years than they will earn in retirement. A simple savings account would have benefitted them many more times over. Income tax was originally designed to *soak the rich*, yet today the rich avoid paying proportionate taxes and the middle-class American is soaked to the saturation point.

The list goes on and on. One government agency promotes an anti-smoking campaign, another promotes the tobacco industry, while a third agency sells cigarettes on the Food for Peace program. One welfare program gives more money for each child born, while another welfare program finances abortions. The President calls for conservation of heating oil by Americans, yet he ships refined

oil back to Iran at five dollars per barrel less than the crude oil America bought from Iran.

The Force is With You

Surely, the Force (farce?) is with us in the form of the Federal government. Its weapon is not a magic sword, but a ream of forms and a book of regulations. The new Federal rules and regulations for one year alone took up 57,027 pages of fine print in the Federal Register. If you want to buy a new car, for instance, the car must first pass 780 governmental tests adding hundreds of dollars in cost to the sticker price. If you want to ship your merchandise between states, the Interstate Commerce Commission has 40 *trillion* rates for you to choose from.

Businesses are drowning in a sea of red tape. For instance, the Affirmative Action forms filled out by General Motors in one year would make a stack of paper twice the height of their New York headquarters building. The Standard Oil Company of Indiana needs 636 miles of computer tape to store data for the Federal Energy Administration. The Eli Lilly company needed 120,000 pages to secure approval from the Food and Drug Administration for a single drug for the relief of arthritis. They need two small trucks to haul all the necessary copies to Washington, D.C. What's more, Lilly must spend more money on Federal paperwork than on pure research, which causes each dose of the drug to cost about 50 cents more than it otherwise would.

OSHA, the Federal safety agency, can literally close down a business on one minor infraction, which is often phoned in by a disgruntled employee. OSHA may enter

without a search warrant and without warning, defying Fourth Amendment rights to individuals or businesses.

Other agencies express their power in more subtle ways. One of the most popular ways is to write regulations that defy the most brilliant businessman to decipher them. This gives the bureaucrat a feeling of superiority. One man we are acquainted with worked for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. His job was to write the regulations for indirect cost accounting for private colleges and universities wishing to receive government aid for research grants. He wrote the regulations in such a complex manner that only *he* could understand them. He then quit HEW to become a private consultant to colleges, charging \$3,000-per-day to interpret his own regulations.

For all practical purposes, the Federal agency explosion began in 1933, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked for, and Congress speedily granted, a bevy of organizations which now virtually run the country. In Roosevelt's first three years alone, he gave birth to countless "Alphabet Soup" agencies.

1933	AAA	Agricultural Adjustment Act
	FDIC	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
	NIR	National Industrial Recovery
	SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
	TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority
1934	FCC	Federal Communications Commission
	FHA	Federal Housing Administration

1935	NLRB	National Labor Relations Board
	SSA	Social Security Administration

The shocking fact is that the United States government has created more agencies in the decade of the 1970's than in the entire 28 years (1932-1960) of the Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower presidencies. The grim record of control in the first half of the 1970's includes the following acts of Congress and their effect on business.

1970	Clean Air Environment (EPA)	Emission standards for industry Environmental Impact Statements
1971	OSHA	Regulation of safety and health
1972	Consumer Products Water Pollution	Mandatory product safety standards Regulation of all water purity
1973	Emergency Oil Bill	Price Control for oil
1974	Commodities Trading ERISA Motor Vehicle Safety	Federal control of all exchanges Control of private pension plans Right to force auto and bus recalls

The cost of running these and countless other new agencies is *only* about \$6 billion per year, a minimal amount compared to the gigantic cost the industries must shell out to comply with the flood of new regulations. Economist Murray Weidenbaum estimates industry's cost of compliance at \$120 billion per year. These costs, of

course, are passed on to the consumer in higher prices. These higher prices, or “hidden taxes” run about \$550 per person per year, or about \$2200 for a family of four.

Unbelievable Statistics

You are about to be exposed to some unbelievable numbers that are painfully true and important to understand. Since 1930, the yearly Federal budget has multiplied 110 times over and the national debt has multiplied 45 times over. By comparison, the American population has not even doubled yet.

It took the United States from 1789 to 1954 to spend its first trillion dollars. It now spends over a trillion each two years. Furthermore, it took the nation over 60 years to spend its first billion. It now spends more than a billion-and-a-half per day. Finally, it took the U.S. 60 years to accumulate its first million dollars of deficit spending. Today the U.S. government spends *a million dollars a minute* and goes a million dollars further into debt each ten minutes!

Federal, state, and local government spending was \$330 billion in 1970, but it increased over 150% to \$830 billion in fiscal 1980. That represents \$3,800 per person, or \$15,200 for a family of five. Government costs are increasing ten times the speed of population increase, and almost double the speed of runaway inflation.

There is a tendency to blame this increase on FDR’s New Deal programs. But the total Federal budget was only \$13 billion in 1940. The real increase has come in the last twenty years. The 1960 budget was \$80 billion, the 1970 budget was \$220 billion, and 1980 budget was \$550 billion. Likewise, the national debt has skyrocketed from \$16 billion in 1930 to \$370 billion in 1970,m and over \$800

billion in 1980. In times past, war was the cause of deficit spending. But there was recently a doubling of federal spending in peacetime (1974-1979).

Year	Federal Budget	National Debt *	Per Person
1789 – 1899 (110-yr total)	\$16.5 Billion (\$0.15 Billion/yr.)	\$1.1 Billion (0.01 Billion per/yr.)	\$
1900	.07	1.2	25
1910	1.0	1.1	23
1920	6.5	24.3	291
1930	4.6	16.2	169
1940	13.3	43.0	428
1950	52.9	256.1	2,042
1960	80.1	284.1	2,031
1965	107.6	313.8	2,218
1970	222.2	379.1	2,915
1975	324.6	533.2	4,027
FISCAL			
1975-1976	365.6	620.4	4,586
1976-1977	401.9	698.8	5,072
1977-1978	452.3	740+	5,444
1978-1979	501.2	770+	5,752
1079-1980 (est.)	550+	800+	6,108

**National debt does NOT include Social Security or other pensions, and contracts, which are not kept on the books as*

debts. If these were kept, the number would multiply about 10 times!

**Debt estimates are projected, conservatively, at \$30-\$40 billion per year for 1978 through 1980.*

Taxes are now the largest single expenditure in the average American home, more than housing or food. The total tax bill now stands at 4% of national income. This includes hundreds of hidden taxes on every item, from the egg (75 different taxes) to a new home (600 taxes). Government is now the largest single employer in the nation. More people (88 million) now receive government checks of some kind than receive checks from private industry (71 million).

It is a measure of the sickness of our nation that such numbers fail to shock us anymore. Billion rhymes with million, which rhymes with jillion. The numbers are so large that they have lost all meaning. But let's take a moment to examine just what a *billion* really is.

A billion hours ago, no man was alive. A billion minutes ago Jesus walked the earth. A billion seconds (31 years) ago, the nation of Israel was born. A billion dollars ago was this morning in the Federal government.

If you spent \$1,000 an hour, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, it would take you 114 years to spend *one billion* dollars. If you dropped a dollar bill into the Grand Canyon every second, 14 hours per day, it would take 48 years to drop a billion dollars. If you spent \$1,000 per day, beginning the day Christ was born, you wouldn't spend a billion dollars until the year 2740 A.D.

The Federal government spends a billion dollars before lunch, each business day. And then they spend a second billion dollars after lunch! State and local governments spend an *additional* billion dollars each business day. If you paid over \$2,000 in Federal income tax last year—as most Americans did—you may be shocked to find out that your contribution was devoured by the government in less than one-tenth of a second!

If you think you can picture a billion dollars, try a trillion dollars on for size. The total cost of government is nearing a trillion dollars per year, and the total national debt, including Social Security and pension obligations, is around ten trillion. A trillion is a number we all need to become acquainted with, if government spending continues with its current course.

A trillion is a million, million, or a thousand billion if you prefer. A trillion dollars, evenly divided, would give each of us \$4,500. But they aren't giving a trillion, they're taking it away. Ten trillion dollars in debt means that your share of the national debt is \$45,000. The proverbial family of four would owe \$180,000.

Ten trillion dollars would pave the entire state of Ohio in dollar bills. It would make a two-mile wide band of bucks long enough to stretch around the world. It would make a flat-out stack of dollar bills high enough to reach the moon and back, twice. In short, it is *a totally inconceivable amount of money*. Yet it is the amount our government has managed to sink into future obligations for us, our children and our grandchildren, to pay.

What is all this money going for? And why do they call it “uncontrollable spending?” Isn’t there some way to bring this wheezing money machine to a halt before it bankrupts us all?

Welfare—Socialism on the Installment Plan

The largest governmental expenditure is for welfare payments—transferring money from one person’s pocket into another person’s pocket. These “transfer payments” amount to over half the Federal budget. In the 1976 budget of \$365 billion, these payments amounted to \$198 Billion (54% of the budget).

Broken down by category

• Social Security	\$ 81.3 billion
• Interest payments	37.0 billion
• Pensions for Gov’t workers	31.2 billion
• Disability payments	25.0 billion
• Unemployment insurance	15.4 billion
• Aid to families	<u>8.3 billion</u>
Total:	\$198.2 billion

This does *not* include other forms of welfare, which in fact represent the same kind of transfer payments. These include aid to farmers for not planting crops, aid for troubled corporations (such as Lockheed Aircraft), aid to troubled cities (such as New York City), aid to troubled nations (such as every two-bit dictatorship in the world), or aid to anybody else who holds out their hand long enough.

All of these programs and handouts stem from a fundamental misunderstanding of Americanism. America stands for free enterprise and individual initiative. The American government was founded to protect our rights, not provide our income. There is not now, and there never will be, a “free” lunch. Somebody must pay for it. Anytime somebody gets something they didn’t work for, then somebody else works for something they didn’t get.

The liberal/socialist philosophy is best expressed by the Democratic Party Platform of the Kennedy/Johnson administration of 1960-1968. Although the party later made minor changes to this platform, both the Democratic and Republican parties have supported this kind of “Good Society” program for the last 20 years. The Party Platform of 1960 declared the following “rights” of all Americans:

1. The right to a useful and remunerative job
2. The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation
3. The right of every farmer to raise and sell his products at a return which will give him and his family a decent living
4. The right of every businessman to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies
5. The right of every family to a decent home
6. The right to adequate medical care
7. The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accidents, and unemployment
8. The right to a good education

Ask yourself one question for each of these rights: *At whose expense?* Who will pay for the “adequate recreation,” “decent home,” and “protection from old age and unemployment?” The answer is: the person who provides for his own recreation, home, and old age. He pays for his own, plus an amount that changes from administration to administration for someone else he’s never met. Such a program is designed to *make the weak stronger by making the strong weaker.*

The Democratic Party platform is strangely similar to two other documents—one written in 1948, the other in 1848. In 1948, the United Nations proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It states, in part, that “everyone has the right to social security” and “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family.”

The other document, written in 1848, is the Communist Manifesto, by Karl Marx. This pamphlet of socialist principles guarantees to all people the same “rights” the United Nations and Democratic Party later promised to America and the world.

The only difference between the Communist Manifesto and the welfare state in America is *gradualism*. The Communist desire is to establish socialism immediately by violent revolution. American bureaucrats wish to establish it gradually—by the installment plan. If you want to see where America’s creeping socialism is leading, look at some nations who have made a few more payments on their installment plan.

Welfare States Around the World

Britain. Great Britain joined the welfare wagon early in 1911 under the leadership of Prime Minister Lloyd George. Today, Britain's welfare state will provide anything from a pair of pants to a house. One laborer bought *two* houses on national assistance! All told, Britain spends one-fourth of her entire Gross National Product on welfare programs. This amounts to four times as much as defense spending.

If you earn the equivalent of \$40,000 in England, you are taxed 83% (this leaves you \$6,800). Taxes on profit are up to 98%. Thousands of Britons make more money on national assistance than by working, so they simply don't work.

Britain's Welfare State has actually lowered the British standard of living. Only one percent of Britons now earn what the *average American* earns, although the two nations were once nearly equal. When Winston Churchill was voted out of office in 1946, he predicted the Labour Party, and their welfare programs would bankrupt England to the point that it would be a "stone dead island" in 100 years. He may have been optimistic.

Sweden. The most complete welfare state in Europe is Sweden, where the state dictates the color you paint your house (you may choose among various shades of tan). The state has declared that it is "morally objectionable" for one worker to earn more than another. But for those who do earn a large sum of money, the tax rates go up to 102%! That means you turn over all your income to the state, *plus* two percent more from your savings account.

In Sweden, the state may take away your children if you spank them or employ “mental cruelty” (such as taking away their TV rights). These children are then transferred to state camps outside the major cities of Sweden.

In both Sweden and Great Britain, the government has the right to raid your home at any time, day or night, in order to confiscate your tax records. The governments in both nations control the air waves, and they are seeking ways to control the newspapers as well. Both countries are suffering from a long term “brain drain,” as the skilled workers and tax victims abandon their homeland for a safer tax haven.

Uruguay. The most “advanced” welfare state in the Western Hemisphere is Uruguay. The small nation once had everything going for it—arable farmland, 90 percent literacy, thriving industry, full employment, excellent ports, middle class wealth, and political stability in an unstable continent. This was when Uruguay enjoyed free enterprise. The country began to adopt socialistic policies around 1919 and by the 1950s, this was said, “Uruguay today offers the sad spectacle of a sick Welfare State.” (Karel Norsky in *The Manchester Guardian Weekly* of July 12, 1956)

By the early 1970’s, however, fully 40 percent of the population was supported by welfare. Unemployment hit 30 percent, and inflation topped 100 percent. More than half of all workers were employed directly by the government, and over half the population is over 50 years of age, due to the emigration of younger talent to safer shores. Uruguay finally realized the folly of its welfare ways. They are currently trying to return to their “primitive” capitalistic state. They stand today as a symbol of what the welfare state can become.

Russia. The most dramatic example of a socialist failure, however, is in the oldest socialist state on earth, Soviet Russia. In 1921, just four years after taking over Czarist Russia, Vladimir Lenin decided that that socialism could not work. The Communist state was on the verge of collapse. He therefore instituted an “emergency cohabitation with capitalism,” which has been going on for 60 years now. During that time, Communism has not contributed a single technological innovation, unless it was borrowed or stolen from the West. Reason? There is no incentive for individual excellence or financial improvement under Communism.

Russia was virtually built by capitalistic know-how. Every time the USSR seemed on the verge of financial collapse, Western businessmen saved it by building factories and training the staff to run them. When Russia had a bad crop year, America sent wheat at a bargain price. When Russia could not mount a war effort in 1940, the U.S. built armaments for them under the Lend Lease program. And the examples go on and on.

The Russians people don't come close to the level of affluence as those in the capitalist nations. The waiting list for a poorly designed ugly Russian automobile is about four years. Books and records are either banned or impossible to find. The median income in Russia is below the officially designated poverty level of the United States. And Russian artists escape to the West during every new cultural exchange. They're trying to tell us something: *socialism doesn't work!*

The United States. Yes, it is now time to include the U.S. in any list of worldwide welfare states. The U.S. Congress has proposed a welfare bill guaranteeing an annual income of \$4,700 per person, or a guaranteed public service job, at \$7,200 per year. This same program provides welfare benefits for pregnant teenagers, or

abortion at public expense. And the whole program goes under the name “Welfare Reform.”

The Challenge of the 1980’s

America is fast becoming a welfare state, which is a polite term for socialism. This sad situation is the true “State of the Union” in the 1980’s. It is like the American eagles have flown into cages to be canaries for their keepers. The spirit that built America is beginning to suffocate under the onslaught of programs which punish all incentive to produce.

A government which started under true principles of God-centered liberty is devolving into a godless state which denies individual liberty. The story has been repeated countless times in history. But one perfect example bears repeating. In ancient Israel, the nation was founded by God. But the people came to Samuel and said, “make us a king to judge us like all the nations”⁹. God’s answer to them, through Samuel, was prophetic for modern America and every other welfare state:

This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them to serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your

*vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves **will become his slaves** [emphasis ours]. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.¹⁰*

The people of Israel were presented with the exact future of their nation. No other nation has been given such a clear warning. They were told that the king would start small, with military conscription, and work up to the point where he would take from some of you 100% of your fields, herds, and employees, plus at least a 10% tax on the rest of the people.

“Nevertheless, the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel, and they said, ‘Nay, but we will have a king over us; that we may be like the other nations’”¹¹ The bulk of Americans have made the same judgment. They have voted for the false security of the present welfare state.

Many American have voted socialistic (that is, Republican or Democrat) because they didn’t realize the choices available to them. We have faith that the American people would vote for themselves—for liberty—if they were presented with a *clear option*. Most Americans reading this book are upset with the current situation and are seeking an answer. Other books simply don’t give them alternatives. The rest of the book will be devoted to the solution that is already working.

CHAPTER FIVE: Slaying the Federal Dragon

If an individual were in the same financial situation that America's Federal government is in now, that individual would have little choice but to declare bankruptcy. The reason Uncle Sam has not declared bankruptcy already is that he doesn't play fair with our money. When he overextends our finances, he prints money for himself, thus cheapening our remaining money. If he can't balance the budget, and he hasn't for over twenty years, he inflates the money supply to match his deficit. You and I can't do this. Not even New York City or Chrysler Corporation can print money, so they must beg the Federal government to print it for them.

Every unit of the Federal government is bankrupt or careening rapidly in that direction. The Social Security Administration is admittedly bankrupt. They have no money. They have spent every cent you've given them. Your own retirement depends on future generations being rich and gullible enough to support you when you retire. This is a doubtful proposition if deductions continue to increase at their current rate. Your maximum contribution in 1978 was \$1,087. By 1987 it will be \$3,046. That's a tripling of your Social Security costs in just nine years. Your willingness to pay for this grand larceny is the only thing keeping Social Security afloat.

Controlling the Uncontrollable

Economists agree on one fact (which is a miracle in itself!) and that is this: seventy-five percent of current Federal expenditures are uncontrollable. That

means the Social Security payments, the Federal pensions, military pensions, contract payments, interest on the national debt, dividends on Savings Bonds, research contracts, and so forth. To breach any one of these contracts would be an admission of fiscal and moral bankruptcy.

Therefore, politicians reason, we are stuck with at least \$400 billion per year in Federal expenditures. That much is “uncontrollable,” whereas the other \$150 billion or so is theoretically “controllable.” They have already given up. They have admitted defeat. “There’s nothing we can do about it,” the bureaucrats say. “Like it not, big government is here to stay.”

That sort of reasoning does not account for the power of the people to control the purse strings of the nation. Nor does it account for the unlimited creativity of mankind when it comes to solving problems. So many people have said “uncontrollable” for so long that they have come believe it. The way to control the uncontrollable is to *deny* control to the one that is out of control—the government!

It is our patriotic duty, when and if necessary, to find legal methods for avoiding payment of outrageous taxes. It is our patriotic duty to cry out for the renovation for our government to live by its original ideals. The Declaration of Independence is clear on this patriotic duty of Americans to resist future attempts at tyranny.

*Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive to these ends, **it is the right of the People to alter or abolish it** and to institute a new Government [emphasis ours].*

The original rallying cry of independence was “No Taxation Without Representation.” In plain point of fact, however, modern Americans are taxed at a far higher rate than our forefathers were taxed by Britain. The Tea Tax that instigated the Boston Tea Party is far less than the hidden taxes American currently pay on tea. Compared to modern taxation, the colonists had nothing to complain about! But they did. They complained on principle, the principle of taxation without representation.

Modern taxation is also without adequate representation. The average American is not represented by any of the thousands of Federal agencies which govern his life. Do you feel represented when you are confronted by a tax collector or Federal regulator? These people are not elected. They don't represent you or your neighbor. Do you feel represented by your Congressman? Chances are he campaigned for your vote promising to lower taxes, abolish busing, and cut Federal spending. In most cases he hasn't represented you very well on these issues, has he? Have you ever bothered to find out how he voted, to see if he is truly representing you? How does the average American decide whom to vote for? By posters, by speeches and promises, by ethnic background—very seldom by their actual voting record in Congress.

The plain fact is very few people have taxation with representation in today's government. Elected representatives are mere figureheads. The real government is unelected, unseen, unknown, and unlimited by any popular representation. We have a pure case of taxation without representation again, and it is the “right of the people to alter or abolish it and to institute a new government.”

Tired Old Solutions

The tired old solutions we've heard for years haven't worked. "Write your congressman," say the lobbyists. It doesn't work. Millions of letters are thrown in the trash unopened. "Vote the rascals out," they say, but new rascals are waiting in the wings to take their place. "Get involved in local politics," others say, but this is a shattering experience. Soon you find the truth of the old adage, "You Can't Fight City Hall," at least on their terms you can't. Others say "vote," but voting has become a pointless exercise of choosing the lesser of two evils.

The political process is the disease, not the cure. Most men or women running for national political office have already been corrupted beyond redemption. When an idealistic young man, let's call him Mr. Smith, first runs for office, he needs friends, backers, and contributors. He begins making promises and giving favors. As he climbs the political ladder the supporting cast grows, hence the commitments grow bigger. By the time Mr. Smith goes to Washington, in all likelihood he is bought and paid for by those who bankrolled his election.

H.L. Mencken defined an election as "An advance auction of stolen goods." How true! In order to get elected in one state, a politician must promise to rob the taxpayers of another state to pay for government programs in his own state. At the same time, he must promise to "lower taxes," while also promising to spend more in order to meet the desires of his voters. This is nothing but doubletalk!

Such campaign speeches reveal stupidity or lying, or both. It would be impossible for any one politician to make any measurable difference in government even if he tried. If the combined power of a President and a majority in Congress of the same

political party cannot stop runaway spending, how much less can one newly elected Congressman help?

It's time to forget political utopias. Attempting to work through the system has produced endless years of pointless arguments. Government obviously isn't listening to the voice of the people. Instead of holding a dialogue with a deaf government, apply some new solutions to an old problem. If government won't listen, you'll need to find new ways to explain it to them, maybe even like the Missouri farmer who hit his mule over the bridge of the nose—"to get his attention."

The Solution That Works

Joining a political party or special interest group isn't the answer. You may not be able to reform this nation single-handedly, but at least you can control what you decide to do. The key is start small. *By an inch it's a cinch, by the yard it's hard.* To change this world, first change yourself. That's the beginning. Define what you believe, what you stand for. Then express these ideas to others, then to your community.

If enough other people express their individuality, the entire government will be forced to change. In short, you must get the government's attention by exercising your rightful authority over it. A government of, by, and for the people cannot work without the people's involvement. Realize that you are the government, whether you become an elected official or not.

The federal government must soon wake up to the realization that their golden goose may no longer lay golden eggs for them. When enough people practice their Constitutional rights, government will be forced to re-evaluate their “uncontrollable” spending and begin to control it.

The British government of 1775 thought they could ignore America’s cry for change. But *freedom was a precious jewel* for those early colonists, a dream worth dying for. The same fire of freedom should burn in the hearts of today’s Americans, when they see their freedoms gradually being eroded away by a runaway government.

Where is a modern Nathan Hale who would say “I regret that I have but one life to give for my country?” Where is a modern Patrick Henry who would shout “Give me liberty or give me death?” Where are fifty-six modern businessmen who value freedom more than their businesses or lives? Men patriotic enough to sign a death warrant for themselves in the form of the Declaration of Independence? Do we have such patriots, or is our land populated with summer soldiers and sunshine patriots?

We believe that the same patriotic spirit is now stirring the hearts of today’s Americans. We believe that it is a privilege and an honor to be an American. But until government learns its place, patriotic Americans must unite to become a vital force for solving America’s problems.

There is a solution. This may sound impossible at first, but that’s only because we’ve put blinders on our eyes. We’ve put limits on our thinking. We’ve ignored the *big solution* in favor of long time-consuming complex compromises which

haven't seemed to work. We've opted for the easy way out, which turns out to be harder in the long run. We've lost our individual sovereignty under the boot-heel of government. In short, too many of us have given up. Like Esau, we've sold our birthright for a free lunch. In all too many cases, we've become fat and spoiled. We've been coaxed into cages with sweet promises. Our freedom is still out there, waiting for us. But first we must take down the artificial barriers in our mind and go pursue it.

Let's learn to break these barriers by examining some examples from the animal world and from human history.

Escaping Mental Traps

The following are descriptive stories, theories or analogies used to give extra context in explanation of more complex situations.

The Monkey Trap Theory. Native tribes in the Amazon jungle of South America catch a certain species of monkey by filling a cage with assorted nuts. The monkey will come along to the cage, put his hand sideways between the narrow slats, then will try to pull out a handful of nuts. But his fist is now too fat with nuts. It won't fit through the slats of the cage. Instead of dropping his meal, or taking the nuts out slowing, one at a time, he'll struggle to get the entire fistful out.

When the natives return to the trap, they capture the monkey. The monkey's false sense of security cost him his freedom and his life. Could we Americans also be holding on to government handouts due to a false sense of security? Are you

trapped on the *outside* of the cage, not realizing you could escape any minute by just letting go?

Taming the Mighty Elephant. You've probably seen circus elephants tethered to a small stake by the thin piece of rope. Surely the mighty elephant could escape such flimsy shackles but, alas, all the fight has gone out of the beast. When he was first captured, trainers bound him by a heavy rope or chain to a thick tree. The elephant would struggle until he gave up all hope. Then the heavy rope could be replaced with a piece of twine, and it would be sufficient to hold him.

Are you a meek slave to the false belief that government has the power of life or death over you? Have you been programmed to believe you *can't* help yourself, you *shouldn't* speak out, or you *won't* be able to escape government's power? Are you in fact tethered by a slender thread which you imagine to be a rope?

The Barracuda's Barrier. An experiment was once made with a fierce barracuda and school of smaller fish. The barracuda was put in one half of a large tank, with a glass partition separating him from the school of fish. The barracuda would ram his head into the glass partition, and the smaller fish would scatter to escape him. This same scene would be repeated dozens of times, until the barracuda finally gave up, and the smaller fish learned to ignore his mad plunges toward them.

In the same way, we have forgotten how to express our own inherent power over public servants, or the school of fish. Government has trained us to imagine there is a barrier between us and them, when in fact we could penetrate that barrier any time we choose.

Pavlov's Dogs. The Russian scientist Ivan Pavlov trained dogs to come to dinner at a certain time ringing a dinner bell. After enough time had gone by, the dogs began salivating at the sound of the bell rather than the aroma of the food. The bell caused their digestive systems to secrete enzymes, their mouths to water, and their tails wag. Pavlov called this reaction a “conditioned reflex.”

We humans have also been programmed to believe that the government rings our dinner bell for us each night. At the sound of their bell, we salivate for our retirement check, our monthly unemployment payments, our welfare check, our mail service, our trains, our electricity, our protection, our total package of economic and personal security. When someone challenges our thinking, we make knee-jerk reactions with statements such as “Nothing is more certain than death or taxes,” or “You can’t fight City Hall,” or “There’s nothing *I* can do about it.” These answers are merely conditioned reflexes. The government is our Pavlov, and we are its dogs.

The Gordian Knot. In ancient Greece, there was a knot of rope that was so complex in its twists and turns that nobody could unravel it. The greatest thinkers of the day labored for years to find the solution for untying the knot. In time, the legend arose that “He who unravels the Gordian Knot will rule the world.” One day, young Alexander rode up to the knot. He took one look at it, then he cut it apart with one stroke of his sword. The mystery of the knot was solved! True to the prophecy of the Gordian Knot, Alexander the Great went on to rule the known world.

Our complex American government has become a modern Gordian knot. It is too complex to be unraveled by conventional political means. It takes men and women

of imagination to see the simple solution which the wise men ignore. It takes free-thinking Americans who are willing to slash through the Gordian knot of government red tape by using the sword of the Word—the words of the Bible and the U.S. Constitution.

The Painful Medicine

Sometimes the solutions are more painful than the problem. In the short run, a return to the Constitution and the proper sequence of authority would be more painful for the nation than continuing down the road toward socialism. But in the long run, the disease would certainly kill us, while the medicine could cure us. It's a matter of paying the piper for past sins. It must be done sooner or later, the sooner the better.

It's possible that a slowing of government spending will cause a short-term panic, perhaps even a financial depression. But in the long run, more money in the hands of people who earn it means more money available for spending in a free market economy, therefore more business.

Realize that a temporary depression is far better than permanent slavery. A temporary trauma can be good for a person or a nation. As painful as it was, the Great Depression taught many valuable lessons to a generation of Americans. These lessons have been largely forgotten!

The Bible says, “Whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son He receives. . . no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous:

nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby”¹²

The same kind of chastening is good for nations. Every 70 years, America has suffered a major trauma. These growing pains were necessary “spankings” for the humbling of the nation. Seventy years after the forming of the nation in 1789, America endured the Civil War. Seventy years later, the Great Depression struck the nation. Both of these major traumas resulted in a restructuring of the Federal government. The next major trauma may strike between 1980 and the year 2000 (which is 70 years after the Great Crash). This third trauma may also result in a restructuring of the Federal government by eliminating 90 percent of its current functions. This coming tax revolt may be similar to the Revolution that spawned this nation in 1776. It may be painful, perhaps violent, revolution, but it will be necessary.

America will survive any future upheaval. She has survived her past problems, even though the outlook for survival of the nation looked bleak at the time. Going back to the very first American colonies, our people have made countless serious mistakes. They didn’t give up. They repented, turned their heart toward God, and then blossomed forth again in freedom and personal expression. (For a description of these events read *The Power and the Glory*, by Peter Marshall and David Manuel.)

We Can Do It!

If any people on earth can meet the challenge of the future, it is the American generation of the 1980’s. Government cannot do it for us. They will not voluntarily

choose to stop overspending. They will inflate the money supply instead. The people must force the government into changing its ways.

A single thread is not very strong, but if you put millions of them together, they form a strong rope. A few vocal patriots will be ignored by the government. But if thousands, then millions, band together to proclaim their economic and personal liberty, nothing can stop them from forcing government to restructure its spending.

Uncle Sam needs to lose weight, and we have just the right diet for him. He is a compulsive overeater of your wealth. He is cannibalizing your earnings. The only diet that works is to cut calories from 5,000 a day to 1,500. It's painful for the first few days, but then it feels good, and the pounds begin to melt off your body. The same will be true of Uncle Sam when we finally put a lock on his refrigerator.

Many signers of the Declaration of Independence were just like you. They were wealthy businessmen who had no interest other than to be left alone to pursue their wealth and their interests. They didn't throw tea into the Boston harbor or goad the Redcoats in the market square. They absorbed greater and greater taxation without complaining, until there was *no choice left*, but to declare their independence from the crown.

The signers of the Declaration were not your common rabble or stereotyped revolutionaries. Of the fifty-five men who signed the Declaration, thirty-three (sixty percent) were college graduates, in an age when a college education was rare. Five were doctors, eleven were merchants, and twenty-two were lawyers. Three were ministers and twelve were sons of ministers. Four of them owned large plantations. These men had the most to lose by starting a revolution.

The same is true 200 years later. The modern tax revolt has already begun, and the pioneers of the movement are successful businessmen, middle-class professionals, homeowners, heads of families, and independent entrepreneurs. In short, they are the same kind of people who signed the original Declaration, only they are living by its words instead of writing it. No flaming radicals, no leftist students, no wild-eyed pamphleteers, no religious fanatics—just good solid American citizens.

To quote Napoleon Hill, “When any individual reconciles himself to the state of mind wherein, he is willing to accept largess from the government, instead of supplying his needs through personal initiative, that individual is on the road to spiritual decay and blindness. When a majority of the people of any nation give up their inherited prerogative to make their own way through struggle, history shows clearly that the entire nation is in a tailspin of decay that inevitably must end in extinction.” (*You Can Work Your Own Miracles*, p. 79)

It is time for Americans to take back America from a renegade government. The only thing we have to fear is fear of government itself! We must break the chains of thinking they have programmed into us. Realize that they are not an authority over us. We are an authority over them. Our rights and freedoms do not come from government. They come from God. Human rights are natural rights, born in every human being, inseparable from life itself. They originate from heaven, not earth.

When just two million Americans—one out of a hundred of us—believe this totally and proclaim it, the Federal government will then return to its original purposes. Good government should exist for our benefit. It should not be in an adversarial position with its citizenry which, unfortunately, is exactly where it is.

People don't trust government, and government insults the intelligence of its people.

Neither should government be our number one concern in life. It seems, however, that on every street corner, at the barber shop, in the marketplace, on the radio, the number one topic of discussion is the government and where it is leading us. This should not be the case. A government that is doing its job will not be overly visible and obviously dominant. A people that fears God, loves neighbors, and expresses self has little room left for big government. There are many better things to fill our minds with.

While patriotic Americans bring federal government back to its rightful size and place in life, they also need to be rebuilding the *ideal government*. The best form of government must be built from the inside out.

We feel the need to add some humor if it weren't so sad. (Author unknown)

Tax his land,
Tax his bed,
Tax the table,
At which he's fed.

Tax his tractor,
Tax his mule,
Teach him taxes
Are the rule.

Tax his work,
Tax his pay,
He works for

peanuts anyway!

Tax his cow,
Tax his goat,
Tax his pants,
Tax his coat.

Tax his ties,
Tax his shirt,
Tax his work,
Tax his dirt.

Tax his tobacco,
Tax his drink,
Tax him if he
Tries to think.

Tax his cigars,
Tax his beers,
If he cries
Tax his tears.

Tax his car,
Tax his gas,
Find other ways
To tax his ass.

Tax all he has
Then let him know
That you won't be done
Till he has no dough.

When he screams and hollers,
Then tax him some more,
Tax him till

He's good and sore.

Then tax his coffin,
Tax his grave,
Tax the sod in
Which he's laid...

Put these words
Upon his tomb,
Taxes drove me
to my doom...'

When he's gone,
Do not relax,
It's time to apply
The inheritance tax.

This may seem funny to us, but not one of these taxes existed a hundred years ago and our nation was the most prosperous in the world. We had little national debt, had the largest middle class in the world, and Mom was free to stay home and raise the kids.

What the heck happened? Can you spell “politicians?”

Additional taxes in force now:

- Accounts Receivable Tax
- Building Permit Tax
- CDL license Tax
- Cigarette Tax
- Corporate Income Tax
- Dog License Tax

- Excise Tax
- Federal Income Tax
- Federal Unemployment Tax (FUTA)
- Fishing License Tax
- Food License Tax
- Fuel Permit Tax
- Gasoline Tax
- Gross Receipts Tax
- Hunting License Tax
- Inheritance Tax
- Inventory Tax
- IRS Interest Charges IRS Penalties (tax on top of tax)
- Liquor Tax
- Luxury Tax
- Marriage License Tax
- Medicare Tax
- Personal Property Tax
- Property Tax
- Real Estate Tax
- Service Charge Tax
- Social Security Tax
- Recreational Vehicle Tax
- Road Usage Tax
- Sales Tax
- School Tax
- State Income Tax
- State Unemployment Tax (SUTA)
- Telephone Federal Excise Tax
- Telephone Federal Universal Service Fee Tax
- Telephone Federal, State, and Local Surcharge Taxes
- Telephone Minimum Usage Surcharge Tax
- Telephone Recurring and Nonrecurring Charges Tax
- Telephone State and Local Tax

- Telephone Usage Charge Tax
- Utility Taxes
- Vehicle License Registration Tax
- Vehicle Sales Tax
- Watercraft Registration Tax
- Well Permit Tax
- Workers Compensation Tax

We're pretty sure there are some we've missed! It is time to do all we can to help curb the mounting forms of taxation. We think enough is enough!

Part II

CHAPTER SIX: Preserving Our Freedoms

Inherent in the forming of our country was understanding the need for government to be checked up on periodically. Politicians must be stridently questioned, have their wings clipped, or be totally over-ruled. Thomas Jefferson once said, “The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its *natural manure* (emphasis ours).”

The Vision of the Founding Fathers

To get into the minds of the Founding Fathers now, much later in history, is nearly impossible. Much of what follows has been based upon a “National Review” article from 2015 on the “Vision of the Founding Fathers,” by Myron Magnet. It is quoted in part here because it so closely conveys our understanding in the early days of LMI.

It is safe to say that the founders based their actions on three revolutionary ideas: an intense *thirst for liberty*, elected representatives are no guarantee of *liberty*, and that a democratic republic requires a special kind of culture—one that nurtures *self-reliance and a love of liberty*.

The thirst for liberty was an idea that came from people who had a keen understanding of the opposite. The Plymouth Pilgrims and the hordes who followed came to America to escape tyranny, especially of religious worship.

The English Puritans of 1605 had come to believe that their Christian faith was incompatible with the Church of England. They believed that the official church was too similar to the Roman Catholic church, and they wanted forms of worship that would, in their opinion, be closer to what the Bible taught. They refused to attend their parish churches and, when the government-imposed fines upon them, threatened imprisonment and even death, some decided to leave the country.

When the early colonists arrived on the shores of America, they brought various dissenting views of what constituted the purest form of religious living. However, they nearly universally believed that they each had a direct relationship to God and his word, independent of worldly institutions, often including government authority. Many developed a deeply rooted culture of individualism and personal responsibility and shared the common underlying value of *self-government*.

Whatever the differences held among the early American Protestant sects, Edmund Burke, an Irish statesman, economist, philosopher, and member of the British Parliament, once said, they “all agree in the communion of the spirit of liberty.”

In Virginia the official established religion until after the Revolutionary War was Anglican and its dogmatic leaders jailed a group of Baptist preachers for their unorthodox religious writings. As a result of this, James Madison fumed, “If you aren’t free to think your own thoughts and believe your own beliefs, you aren’t free, period, since freedom is seamless.”

Not just without religious freedom, but without intellectual freedom, a society will never grow. Each must be free to think what his reason convinces him is true, government or no government.

Elected representatives are not a guarantee of liberty. Taxation even with representation can become its own kind of tyranny.

The Revolutionary War was almost lost by the young American republic because there was no central government with the authority to tax the people in order to pay soldiers and buy arms and provisions. When the forward-thinking Founders set out to write the Constitution granting the federal government powers sufficient for this purpose, they did so with great caution. They strictly limited those powers to what they deemed absolutely essential, and they carefully spelled out what those powers were. They divided and subdivided power and made each branch of government a check on the others to guard against overreaching. Elections, veto, and impeachment were among the brakes they installed into the Constitution.

“A democratic republic requires a special kind of culture, one that nurtures self-reliance and a love of liberty,” George Washington quite explicitly stated.

*At the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Benjamin Franklin was queried as he left Independence Hall on the final day of deliberation. In the notes of Dr. James McHenry, one of Maryland’s delegates to the Convention, a lady asked Dr. Franklin, “Well Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?” Franklin replied, “A republic . . . if **you** can keep it [emphasis ours].” (Tempest at Dawn - James D. Best)*

The Constitution, being merely paper, can be easily breached if demagogues subvert the spirit and intent of the document. It doesn’t have to take a dramatic

revolutionary coup, but rather can be a “death by a thousand cuts,” gradually persuading citizens that the Constitution can be construed or interpreted to mean something different or even something quite opposite of what was intended.

It takes diligence and discernment for the citizens to value their own rights and know how to preserve and guard against “listlessness for the preservation of natural and unalienable rights” (*Vision of the Founding Fathers* - Myron Magnet).

Freedom of the Press

That the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments. Virginia Declaration of Rights (1776)

The founders of the United States believed a free press was a prerequisite for a free society. James Madison, often called the Father of the Constitution, said it was “one of the great bulwarks of liberty.” Thomas Jefferson said if he had a choice between government without newspapers or newspapers without government, he would choose newspapers. It was not mere coincidence, then, that the First Amendment guarantees the right to a free press—“Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of the press”—and links it closely to the right to free speech. To the founders, they were twin pillars of American freedom. (“Annenberg Classroom,” Chapter 7, Annenberg Public Policy Center in Philadelphia, PA)

We must guard and protect these important freedoms. Freedom of speech and freedom of press are greatly infringed upon in this time we live in now.

Governments, organizations, publications, media and corporations are seemingly colluding to choke out our abilities to say, speak, and print the truth as we see it. This must be changed.

The American Experiment is the hope of the world. It is the beacon to all countries and all governments of the proper form or structure: God first, then the people, and lastly the government. As American patriots, we must continue to be vigilant and ready to defend our hard-won republic, including some very important symbols that are under siege at this time.

The American Flag

The flag is an important *symbol of that hard-won independence* gained by our forefathers in the Revolutionary War of 1775 to 1782. The first flag, adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, was created to represent the original thirteen states with thirteen stars and thirteen stripes. Between 1777 and 1960, Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag and allowed for additional stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

That flag is a representation of the ideals of freedom, independence, and self-government that our forefathers fought for, and it continues to stand as a symbol of these values today. It behooves each citizen to look within and dedicate himself to these same principles and ensure that children are instructed about what the flag means to us and to appreciate and revere it.

The Story Behind the Star-Spangled Banner

Here is the story of our flag as you've maybe never heard it. A recording of the true story of how and why Francis Scott Key wrote the Star-Spangled Banner—the United States' National Anthem—can be found on the internet. A transcription here follows (exact link appears at the end). The words inspire renewed respect and love for both our flag and our national anthem.

There was a lawyer once that was named Frances Scott Key. He penned a song that I am sure your aware of. It is in the hymnals of most of our churches. It is called the National Anthem. It is our song as Americans. We go to a ball game, or we stand in our churches and we sing the words of that song and they float over our minds and our lips and we don't even realize what we are singing. Most of us memorized it as children, but we never have really thought about what it means. Let me tell you a story.

Frances Scott Key was a lawyer in Baltimore. The colonies were engaged in vicious conflict with their mother country Britain. Because of the protractedness of this conflict, they accumulated prisoners on both sides. The American colonies had prisoners and the British had prisoners. The Americans went to the British and said, "Let us negotiate for the release of these prisoners. We want to send a man out to negotiate this with you."

They were holding the American prisoners in boats about a thousand yards offshore. They said, "We want to send to send a man named

Frances Scott Key and he will negotiate and see if we can make a mutual exchange.” On the appointed day he went out in a rowboat to this boat, and he negotiated with the officials and they reached the conclusion that men could be exchanged on a one-for-one basis.

Key, jubilant with the fact that he had been successful, went down below in the boats and what he found was a cargo hold full of humanity—men. And he said, “Men I’ve got news for you. Tonight you are free!” He said, “Tonight I have negotiated successfully for your return to the colonies. You’ll be taken out of this boat, out of this filth, out of your chains.”

As he went back up on board to arrange for their passage to shore, the Admiral came to him and said, “We have a slight problem. We will still honor our commitment to release these men, but it will be merely academic. After tonight it won’t matter.”

Key said, “What do you mean?” He said, “Mr. Key tonight we have laid an ultimatum upon the colonies. Your people will either capitulate and lay down the colors of that flag that you think so much of, or you see that fort over there? Ft. Henry? We are going to remove it from the face of the earth.”

Key said, “How are you going to do that?” He was told to scan the horizon of the sea. As he looked, he saw hundreds of little dots. He was told that was the entire British war fleet. He was told that all of the gun power, all of the armament, was being called upon to

demolish that fort. He was told that it would be within striking distance in about two and one-half hours. It was claimed that the war was over, and the men would be free anyway.

Key said, “You can’t shell that fort. It is a large fort, and it is full of women and children. It’s predominantly not a military fort.”

The Admiral replied, “Don’t worry about it. We’ve left them a way out. Do you see that flag way up on the rampart? We have told them that if they will lower that flag, the shelling will stop immediately. We will know that they have surrendered. You’ll now be under British rule.”

Key went down below and told the men what was about to happen. They asked, “How many ships?” and he answered, “Hundreds.” The ships got closer, Key went back up on top and he said, “Men, I’ll shout down to you what’s going on as we watch.”

As twilight began to fall, as the haze began to come over the ocean as it does at sunset, suddenly the British war fleet unleashed. The sound was deafening. There were so many guns. There was no relief. It was absolutely impossible to talk or hear. The sky, although dark, was suddenly lit.

From down below all he could hear was the prisoners saying, “Tell us where the flag is. What have they done with the flag? Is the flag still flying over the rampart? Tell us!”

One hour. Two hours. Three hours into the shelling. Every time a bomb would explode, and it was close to the flag, they could see the flag in the illuminated red glare of that bomb. Key would report to the men down below, "It's still up! It's not down!"

The Admiral came to him and said, "Your people are insane. What's the matter with them? Don't they understand this is an impossible situation?"

Key said he remembered George Washington saying, "The thing that sets the Americans apart from all other people in the world, is that they will die on their feet before they will live on their knees!"

The Admiral said that they had instructed all of the guns to focus on the rampart and take that flag down. "We don't understand something. Our recognizance tells us that flag has been hit directly again and again and again, and yet it is still flying. We don't understand that. Now we are going to bring every gun for the next three hours to bear on that point."

The barrage was unmerciful. All that he could hear was the men down below praying. The prayer, "God keep that flag flying where we last saw it."

Sunrise came. There was a heavy mist laying over the land, but the rampart was tall enough. There stood the flag, completely

nondescript. The flag was in shreds. The flagpole itself was at a crazy angle. But the flag was still at the top.

Key debarked and went to see what had happened. He found that the flag and the flagpole had suffered repetitious direct hits. It would have fallen, but men—fathers who knew what it meant for that flag to be on the ground, although knowing that all of the British guns were trained on it—walked over and held it up, humanly, until they died. Their bodies were removed, and others took their place. What held that flagpole up at that unusual angle were patriots' bodies.

The debt was demanded. The price was paid.

Key penned the words to the song, 'Oh say can you see, by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming, whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight, o're the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming. And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh say, does that star spangled banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRMdBNRJEPw>)

The historical information backing up this story can be found on The Smithsonian Magazine website (<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-story-behind-the-star-spangled-banner-149220970>).

The Pledge of Allegiance

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation, under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

Earlier versions of this Pledge of Allegiance had slightly different wording. The first version (Bellamy version) came into use in 1892 and there were four more revisions until 1954. This has remained the wording since that time, when the words “under God” were added.

Because this new culture of freedom was and is considered to be the most precious inheritance bequeathed to future generations of fellow citizens we are, therefore, required by our very citizenship to be alert, aware, and determined to defend and protect our Constitution and our Rights, to respect our flag and all that it stands for.

The First of the First Amendments

The Founding Fathers knew that absolute religious freedom had to be guaranteed. The governments, whether state or federal, could not be allowed to establish a favored church organization. This was the FIRST FREEDOM that was set in stone in the Bill of Rights:

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of
religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the
freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people*

peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. [Emphasis ours]

Freedom of religious beliefs was named first, even before freedom of speech, press, or the right to assemble. It is stunningly clear that Congress, or any government agency on behalf of Congress, has no authority to say who can form a church, what that church believes, or what the church does as “free exercise thereof.” Church formation cannot be restricted and freedom of speech and of the press are not to be abridged. (Definition of *abridge*: to lessen the duration or scope of, to curtail, as in “abridge a person’s freedom”)

America’s First Freedoms—freedom of religion, speech, press and free assembly are *irrefutable*.

Keeping the Government True to Its Founding Documents

The basis of the founding of our country—The Declaration of Independence—bears repeating, in part, here with respect with what happens when the government becomes destructive to our freedoms

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That **whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to***

alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness [emphasis ours].

This part of the Declaration is well-known and often repeated. However, if one reads just a little further, this amazing document goes on to say, “All experience hath shewn, that mankind is more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.”

This important document says strong leaders must step forward to *alter their former Systems of Government* when it gets out of hand, since the tendency of the populous is to let even adverse situations continue. When one compares our present-day government’s actions to the original intent, we can also say today this suffering and abuse have become a history of repeated injuries to and usurpations upon American citizens!

These men, gathered back in 1776, ended the Declaration with these final words, “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

The Declaration of Independence exhorts us to always be wary of letting government get out of control. Has our country become destructive to these ends of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? When and how did that happen? How can we protect our constitutional rights if we are oblivious to the erosion of our freedoms? And if we become aware, what can we do about it?

CHAPTER SEVEN: Expressing God-Given Freedoms

We believe part of the purpose of our ministry is to educate and inform people about our eroding freedoms. We believe that there is an avenue to express freedom, individuality, and patriotism in a very unique and principled format. We urge people to search within and find their own *ministry* that could help turn the country around. Following are some of the philosophies we espouse, taken from some of our literature.

God Centered

Liberty Ministries is a God-centered church. We do not worship men or the writings of men. We require all our members and ministers to worship God as they perceive Him. Anything less would be unacceptable.

When we refer to God, we are referring to a higher power, Source, and Creator of All That Is. We believe that we each have the same ability to reach that higher power and are able to communicate and interact personally with that power. While organized religions and their writings serve powerful purposes, we believe that we each can have contact with a personal, higher consciousness that is not limited to access through organized religions or their books. For our purposes here, however, we most often turn to the Christian references because these are the documents with which we, and most of our readers, are most familiar. We mean no disrespect to other philosophies.

Our primary purpose at LMI is to help put God back at the head of America—before it’s too late. We believe that America was founded with God at the forefront and has a special spiritual destiny to fulfill in the world. The United States of America is the only modern nation founded by men who believed that the Higher Power/God belonged *above* them, that the individual is sovereign *on earth*, and that man-made government belonged *beneath* the people.

Many people today fear government more than they fear God. We at LMI believe man should revere and honor a supreme being instead of fearing government. The more we love and respect our God, the less reason we have to fear governments, institutions, or other human beings.

The First Amendment to the Constitution declares the primary importance of freedom of religion in America. The First Amendment was never intended to separate God from government. It merely stated that there should be no establishment of any sect or denomination as the “official American religion,” and that diversity in religious matters should be tolerated. It is important to note that there is a definite distinction between “God” (a supreme intelligence) and “church” (an institution created by men). When we hear the importance of separating church and state, it does *not* imply separating God from the nation!

The very day that Congress approved this First Amendment, the Congress also asked President George Washington to proclaim, “a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging, with grateful hearts, the many signal favors of the Almighty God.” The first Congress realized that America was a nation founded under God and by His grace and guidance. Many years later,

President Abraham Lincoln established Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday, evidence of the continuing reverence of a higher power in this country.

Our God-Centered Culture

Compared to twenty other developed nations, more Americans claim to believe in God than any comparable people on earth. America has fewer atheists and more religious organizations than any other nation.

- 94% of Americans believe in God
- 84% believe the Ten Commandments are valid today
- 81% believe that Jesus Christ is divine
- 70% believe in a literal Devil or “force of evil”
- 67% belong to an established church or synagogue
- 51% believe the Bible is totally without error

Consider these historical precedents showing that worship of God has been first in the hearts of our countrymen from the very beginning of American history.

- The *discovery* of America was guided by God’s hand in the life of Christopher Columbus (whose name means “Christ-bringer”). Columbus claimed to feel the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit in making his historical journeys westward.
- The *first permanent English settlement* in America (Jamestown) was officially dedicated to “the glory of God.”
- The *first words of the Mayflower Compact*, written after kneeling in thanksgiving prayer, were “In the name of God, Amen.”

- The *first document* of the new nation (The Declaration of Independence) refers to God four times.
- Among *the first spoken words* after the signing of the Declaration of Independence were: “We have this day restored the Sovereign (who) reigns in heaven.”
- The *first President’s First Inaugural Address* dedicated the future of the United States to God.
- The *First Amendment* to the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion.
- The *first Seal* of The United States says: “God hath blessed our undertaking.”
- *In God We Trust* is on our coins and bills, the instruments of measure for our entire economic structure.

The First Amendment prohibited official sectarianism. It did not put a Constitutional ban on the mention of God in schools, as the Supreme Court decision in 1962 claimed. The denial of the right to pray is a serious breach of the God-centered heritage of our nation, and a dangerous sign of an encroaching trend that God is no longer welcome in our society, our schools, or our government. We would like to see God put back at the head of our country, prayer returned to the classroom, and a reawakening of the nation to the laws of God and the religious heritage of America. Our ministry seeks to help reverse these disturbing trends and we invite those who so desire to join us.

Minister In The Community

To enter the full-time ministry in service of a supreme power is the noblest of motives. We realize, however, that all occupations in life require a full-time commitment to God, not just the ministry. Jesus himself was a carpenter until He reached the age of 30 and the Apostle Paul was a tent maker before *and during* his

full-time ministry. No matter what our calling in life may be, no matter how mundane the nature of the work may seem, the Spirit of God is present as we follow that direction.

Jesus charged His disciples with being the light of the world. He said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”¹³

Throughout the Bible, we find men and women of God remaining in their worldly professions in order to be a *light* to those around them. For those who remain in full-time employment in the secular world, the minister’s duty is to be a shining example of the light that abides within. His or her job is to share the truth of God with those in places of employment as well as to realize that a light doesn’t speak. It *glows*! It shines “that they may *see* your good works”¹³ [Emphasis ours]. The verse doesn’t say anything about hearing our good works.

Furthermore, Jesus asked the following for his followers, “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil. They are not *of this world*”¹⁴ [Emphasis ours]. Jesus would have us remain *in* this world, but not be *of* this world and its evils. We need to seek, rather, to express the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, meekness, faith, and temperance.

The spiritual benefits of joining a God-centered group of people, while retaining individual religions if desired, are the greatest gifts we at LMI can offer. True happiness is God-centered service of mankind.

The Responsible Individual

The second goal of Liberty Ministries is to bring out the latent genius that resides in each individual. Individualism before God is one of the golden threads running through the Bible. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Roman church, “Every one of us shall give account of himself to God . . . for there is no respect of persons with God.”¹⁵

Note that Adam was given dominion, authority, over the animal kingdom, but he was *not* given dominion over other human beings. God never intended one human being to make another man’s decisions for him. Each human being was created to control his own life and stand as an individual before his creator.

The importance of individualism is evident in the Biblical doctrine of free moral agency, often referred to as free will. Everyone must *choose* to accept God’s forgiveness. A God-fearing individual must make wise decisions each day of his life, whether to do good or evil in various situations. This is the core of our personal responsibility.

At the time of the founding of our country, it was understood that self-government would only work if the population was composed of “men of responsible action.” It was understood that freedom—liberty—comes with a huge obligation of responsibility, or “need or ability to respond.” Respond to what?

- Revering the liberty so dearly won
- Preserving it in the face of those who would undermine it

- Guarding against those who would shift responsibility from each individual to themselves
- Allowing all others the space to hold different opinions
- Valuing the uniqueness of each individual
- Taking measures to correct the situation when we have erred or have caused pain to others.

Our founders also understood that just as responsibility is *inherent* in freedom, so too are consequences—outcomes—inherent in decisions and their subsequent actions. They knew that when we engage in a series of irresponsible decisions that lead to actions that produce poor, or devastating, results, we have no one else to blame but ourselves. This underscores the wisdom of creating a nation “under God,” with strong moral values as the foundation for all forthcoming decisions and actions. This was the basis underneath the entire experiment!

The Golden Thread of the Bible

“There are different gifts, but the same spirit. There are different ministries, but the same Lord. There are different operations, but it is the same God that works all in all . . . God has set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased him. If they were all one member, where is the body? Now there are many members, yet one body”¹⁶

“Every one of us shall give account of himself to God . . . for there is no respect of persons to God”¹⁷

Individualism before God is the Golden Thread of the Bible.

The magic of the American Dream has always been the opportunity our nation offered to any individual, from anywhere on earth, to achieve abundant success—if they would but *work* for it. Whatever happened to the rugged, responsible individual that this American Dream spawned? Unfortunately, we see him going the way of the bald eagle, dangerously close to extinction. We at LMI are trying to reverse that trend by changing America one American at a time.

USE IT OR LOSE IT

The early Americans were an independent lot. Most were self-employed and self-sufficient with strong values of right and wrong. Most chose their own path in life with little or no help or hinderance from government. We at LMI do not believe that the era of the rugged individual has ended. We believe that the *responsible* individual is still the key to a New America, based on the principals of the original intent.

We also believe that individuals are more effective if we group together in a loose-knit network of other freedom-loving Americans. That is why Liberty Ministries International is a decentralized church. There is no one dominant doctrine, creed or collective belief. We believe that the bonds between individuals can only be strong when each part respects the dignity of difference in each other individual.

We urge you to *use* your God-given individualism. We call this “the dignity of difference.” The dignity of difference allows two people to disagree without becoming disagreeable about it. The dignity of difference allows two friends to

debate instead of arguing, to seek the same truth from two different perspectives. Every person is delightfully different. No two fingerprints are alike. Even each voiceprint and tongue print are measurably different from any other human being. Your face, your personal tastes, your mannerisms—all are unique creations of God.

To most Americans, responsible individualism is a dormant muscle. It needs exercise. If we don't exercise it, it will grow weaker and eventually atrophy from lack of use. We exercise it when we use as much wisdom, derived from our strong moral foundation and values, as possible in our decision-making process. We exercise it when we do what is right, not what is easiest or what produces the most income. We exercise it when we have compassion for those who are hurting. We exercise it when we allow others their right to pursue different paths and ideas, and when we respect them even when we disagree. Individualism is our heritage as an American. We will lose it if we don't use it!

Where It Breaks Down

The third goal of Liberty Ministries International is to stop the excessive growth of an increasingly socialistic federal government. America is fast becoming a *cradle-to-grave* state. The spirit that built America is beginning to suffocate under the onslaught of programs which punish all incentive to think rationally and to produce creatively, as shown in Chapter 4. The Federal budget in 1976 was \$363 billion, with \$198 billion for welfare programs alone.

[Editor note 2021:] The numbers exhibited in chapter 4, because they were numbers from the late 1970s, pale in comparison to the recent numbers of 2021.

America's religious or spiritual "silent majority" is slowly being throttled by the irreligious minority and by a federal government which has denied God in favor of establishing itself as a god-like authority over the American people. When we remove God from our schools, our thinking, and our lives, we *devalue and lose the foundation of our moral compass*. We lose touch with what is truly right and wrong for us as individuals. In short, we lose our way in life and our ability to successfully navigate through it.

Once that is done, we lose our sense of the value of life itself, the dignity inherent in every individual we meet, and our own individual value as human beings. Losing sight of our personal value leads to uncertainty, doubt, depression, irritability, competitiveness, anger, bullying, violence, road rage . . . we could go on, but you get the picture.

We then want to stick our noses in other people's business and judge them as wrong or ignorant or incapable so we can gain superiority for ourselves over the imagined shortcomings of others. We erroneously translate freedom to mean self-indulgence at all costs or to mean power over others. And we sadly become susceptible to anyone who comes along with a story that *sounds good*, without bothering to discern whether it really is good for everyone for the long haul.

There are those who want to control our spirit of independence. They want to make us surrender the power of *choice* in every aspect of our lives. By subjecting us to

over 77,000 fine print pages of new restrictions each year—rules and regulations which are usually too complicated to understand—they keep telling us that we are incapable of making wise decisions for ourselves. The hook they use is the promise of cradle-to-grave security. Sadly, many of us eventually give up and believe them, and in the process often also give up our dreams.

Government has enlisted millions of volunteer agents: your accountant who is intimidated by the government into making you pay more taxes than required; your employer who is forced by the government to deduct taxes up front from your paycheck; your lawyer, who must be licensed by the state (government) in which he works; your favorite radio, television, and newspaper reporters, who dutifully report the government's press releases.

If current trends continue until the year 2000, government will take over half of the nation's income in taxes, pay welfare checks to two out of three adults and employ one out of three workers—all at the expense of hard-working American taxpayers.

(NOTE from 2021: This previous comment turned out to be prophetic!)

Any genuine reform seems doomed if the nation's citizens continue in a mental prison of relying on government for basic security, health, wealth, and happiness. True security does not come from government. It comes from God. True freedom is nurtured in the individual minds of a free people. Until this basic truth is recognized, the welfare state will continue to feed the indolent conformity of a captured people.

At Liberty Ministries we don't offer a new welfare state to replace our individual responsibilities. We don't offer a cure-all pill for personal, financial, and spiritual problems. What we do offer is a staff of concerned individuals offering righteous solutions to many of America's problems. LMI wants to teach American how to regain our Constitutional rights and personal independence.

The Proper Role of Government

The American government was created to protect our rights, not to provide for our security. The Bill of Rights was drafted to protect us from government, not from each other. The Bill of Rights, like the Ten Commandments, contains mostly "Thou shalt not . . ." commands aimed at government. To paraphrase:

- Government shall not establish an official American religion or deny free speech.
- Government shall not deny citizens the right to bear arms against it.
- Government shall not break into a man's house to search it, and so forth through the Bill of Rights.

The Constitution does *not* guarantee our income, protect us from false advertising, or promise free lunches for our children. As praiseworthy as these goals may seem, the Constitution was written to keep our government off our backs so that *we* may pursue an income, choose our purchases wisely, and buy our own children's lunches.

The person who wants the government to check every bite of food to make sure it's safe to eat is the same person who will soon look to government to provide the whole meal. The more power we turn over to government, the more power they

will have in overriding what power we have left. In the end, they will control everything, and we will control nothing.

It didn't happen in a day. Nobody ever got fat with one meal. Nobody ever went bankrupt in one bad business day. A marriage doesn't break up after one argument. It's the same with our *social contract* with the government. It wasn't violated in one day. America's loss of freedom has happened, and continues to happen, gradually.

Ideas which seemed good at the time have gradually developed into unmanageable bureaucratic nightmares. Look at the Income Tax Amendment of 1913. It was only designed to tax the richest five percent of the population for 1% of their income. The Social Security Act of 1937 was originally limited by law to only one percent of a worker's income. FDR's plethora of Federal agencies also seemed like good and necessary ideas at the time. Taking the dollar off the gold standard in 1934, U.S. citizens could no longer redeem their paper currency for gold and dollars were converted to silver certificates. Then in 1971 Nixon said that other nations could no longer redeem our paper dollars for silver. The U.S. dollar became, officially, *fiat* money.

Recall Alexander Hamilton's prophetic warning to not "gratify momentary passions, by letting into the government principles and precedent which afterwards prove fatal." The people have *let government in willingly*, and it may very well prove to be a fatal mistake.

Retaking Control

As American citizens, we must go back to the original contracts—the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. We may use these founding documents to put government back into its rightful place, *under us*. With the Constitution in hand, we become more powerful than all the millions of government officials combined, for we are their rightful leaders. They are merely our employees, public servants, many of whom have forgotten their rightful place.

The key is to start small. To change this world, we begin by first changing ourselves. That’s how it starts. Become independent, step-by-step, from government control and influence. By taking the second step in proclaiming liberty—forming a nonprofit organization to spread our message of Liberty—we begin to reach out to share that message with our friends and neighbors.

If enough others express their unique individuality this way, the entire government will be forced to make changes. We must get the government’s attention by exercising our rightful authority over it. A government of, by, and for the people cannot work without the people’s involvement. We *are* the government, whether we are elected officials or not.

We each have a large personal and financial stake in this purpose. As former Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon wrote, “Personal liberty without economic liberty is a contradiction in terms.”

We must break the chains of the thinking the mushrooming system has programmed into us. The media television, newspapers, magazines, along with our education system and universities are its biggest tools for programming.

CHAPTER EIGHT: Establishing a Legal Church

Liberty Ministries seeks to empower individuals to be more independent, freedom-loving patriots. By selecting the avenue of forming a church we feel people could have a two-fold advantage. They could focus and dedicate their lives to something bigger than just their drab everyday lives. Secondly, they would have a vehicle to avail themselves, legally, of ways to avoid huge tax obligations and to be able to divert these funds into their sincere religious purposes. While many volumes of material might be applicable, we include herein the suggestions we feel are most critical.

LMI is a church. Anyone can be a minister in an auxiliary chapter of that church. Dictionary definitions are helpful, but the meaning of these terms goes far deeper than any dictionary definition. A proper understanding of these terms helps us determine the purpose and the nature of our individual religious purposes in life.

Definition: Minister

A minister is a *servant*. On an individual level, for instance, a nurse *ministers* to a patient. On a national level, a Defense Minister of a nation *serves* the defense needs of the nation. *Ministries* and *services* abound in our nation—even the IRS is called *The Service*. Have you noticed how rare it is in society to find a truly sincere spirit of service? Wouldn't the world be a wonderful place to live in if every person on earth considered themselves a minister, not just as a title, but from a willingness of heart?

There are absolutely NO qualifications to serve people in everyday life except to have *the willingness to serve*. A minister does not need to pastor a congregation. Jesus said, “Where two or more are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” One’s first responsibility is to minister to his or her own family. After that is established, the ministry can spread to one’s neighborhood or larger community.

Definition: Church

There is a great misconception that the word “church” refers to a building. People say they *are going to church* or *are at church*, in reference to the building called a church. They should more accurately say, “I am going to *meet* the church,” which is in fact the group of people who come together to worship God. The word “church” comes from the Greek word “ecclesia.” Literally translated, ecclesia means “called-out ones,” which means a group of individuals called to perform a certain task, individually or collectively, to fulfill a purpose.

More than one hundred metaphors are used in the New Testament to describe the Church. The most widely used Biblical metaphor is that of a body. As a body is composed of many members, so is the church. The smallest unit of the body is the cell. Your body has over 30 trillion such cells. Spiritually, your particular church organization is one such cell of the spiritual body called the church.

We at LMI often refer to the “church-in-home” concept. We are referring to a small local church that meets in a home. Historically and theologically, this is a *valid church*. Early New Testament churches usually met in homes. The Apostle Paul closed many of his Epistles with “greetings to the church that meets in your

home,” and Augustine, the fourth century saint, wrote of the Domestic Church which met in a Domestic Sanctuary. In today’s vernacular, that’s a *home church*.

Religion

Religion refers to any set of beliefs, or any object of conscientious regard. Any definition of religion in the dictionary or in theology is by necessity vague, because individuals select their own set of beliefs and “object(s) of conscientious regard.”

Beliefs are ideas that we hold to be true about ourselves and our world. These beliefs might include: *our universe is the expression of a creative intelligence, or all life proceeded from that intelligence, or a human contains the means of influencing his earthly experience*. Even a seemingly irreligious person has beliefs. They might be such “secular” ideas as: *charitable deeds help make a better world, or that developing one’s own potential furthers social evolution, or that being kind to one another is important to the survival of humankind, or that one’s body is sacred*. Whatever becomes a guiding set of beliefs, even if it is secular or physical, must be held *sacred* to be a religion. Even if the belief does not involve God, *per se*, or another higher power, it must still be held as sacred as God to be a religion. This is why the courts have accepted Humanism as a religion.

Also examine any “objects of conscientious regard.” These are the noblest of one’s motivations in life, those social or spiritual aspirations which produce particular energy or passion. If it is too easily accessed it is insufficient to fulfill the deepest spiritual needs. Some examples: *moving my community closer to the original intent of our Constitution; or finding lessons for today from holy writings; or improving*

early childhood education; or finding solutions for (take your pick) homelessness, fair elections, political corruption, pollution, etc.

There is a God-shaped vacuum within each of us that cries out for the best and the brightest beliefs the universe has to offer. True religion is not a mirage that satisfies secular standards nor is it “Fourteen Guidelines” from the IRS. Only by reaching for our highest can we know we’ve reached our best religious purpose. When we seek and allow our individual inner guidance, the still small voice, we can be guided to good works and to genuinely loving our neighbors as ourselves. The world doesn’t really need more religious organizations, churches, or dogma. The world needs more of us to care for ourselves, our families, and each other.

Mental Laziness

One of the most chilling tragedies we encounter is people wanting someone else to help them decide what to do in their lives. They seek out experts, and, rather than taking their advice as *part* of the picture, they often let that expert have the final word. This is a bad habit of mental laziness that leaves us vulnerable to ideas that don’t really line up with our own deepest beliefs. We go along rather than thinking it through and thus become prey to the hidden agendas and mental programming of those we listen to. This is a serious yet, sadly, way too common breach of personal freedom, one to be diligently guarded against.

We urge people to seek advice from various sources, to do independent research, and to look within for guidance when making decisions. The truth is, *nobody will ever watch out for you as well as you will*. Use a professional to give you facts, but make your own decisions based on those facts and the facts you gather from doing

your research. Better yet, compare the opinions of several professionals to get a range of perspectives before formulating a plan. Yes, it takes time and effort. But wouldn't you rather spend some energy formulating a plan that serves you and your ideals, rather than serving someone else's agenda?

But, what About The IRS?

Because we teach our ministers how they can reduce or eliminate their tax burden through a proper and legal utilization of a 501 (c)(3) organization, we feel the necessity of giving as much support and documentation as we can. While a church can legally be established without asking for IRS to approve it, the IRS has Fourteen Guidelines to help their employees determine which ones are valid churches. We urge our members to mold their individual church to as many of these guidelines as possible, keeping in mind the First Amendment: *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or denying the free exercise thereof.*

Five of the Guidelines The Parent Church Fulfills

In the Fourteen Guidelines, the IRS writes that, “a separate organization (your chapter) affiliated with a church (Liberty Ministries) will be considered an integrated auxiliary if the principal activity of the organization is exclusively religious.”

The following five activities of Liberty Ministries parent church protect your auxiliary church from the burden of redundant work, that is, the literature from us can become *your* literature, our church government is *yours* and so forth.

1. **A distinct legal existence** – your local church documentation and the parent organization’s documents meet this guideline more than adequately.
2. **A definite and distinct ecclesiastical government** – Liberty Ministries has a very distinct form of government: a Board of Trustees that governs a body of independent auxiliary ministers who are then divided into ministerial rank, and an official Advisory Board of Elders to communicate with the parent church.
3. **A Literature of its own** – If you compare the type of literature produced by most churches, LMI’s literature exceeds the norm in both quality and quantity. Most of our literature is produced so you can take it as your own, if you so desire, amplify it, and publish it for your church outreach.
4. **A complete organization of ordained ministers ministering to their congregations** – Liberty Ministries is fully authorized to ordain ministers and has ordained hundreds of ministers all over the world.
5. **Schools for the preparation of ministers** – Liberty Ministries has a distinct training program for ministers. LMI will continue to refine and improve it over the years.

The IRS developed these guidelines with the intent of limiting the number of organizations that might qualify. They base them on already established and recognized organizations or churches. In the process they come dangerously close to, if not outrightly, contradicting the intent of the First Amendment.

Five Guidelines That Infringe Upon the First Amendment

6. **A recognized creed and form of worship** – We believe in the dignity of difference between individuals and churches. We will not publish a creed that binds our auxiliaries to believe the same as we do. You may wish to state that the Bible or the Koran or the Book of Mormon represents *your* recognized creed. It is an excellent idea to draft *the creed of your church*, however, each chapter's creed is not binding on the parent organization nor on our auxiliaries.

7. **A distinct religious history** – This is an impossible request to comply with. Does this guideline mean that no new churches may be instituted? Must they all begin with an already existent history? If so, we can all trace our religious history back to Jesus, or Abraham, or Mohammed, or Adam? It is absurd to think that governments of men can require us to show that our legal church entity has existed 20 or 200 or 2000 years when it must, of necessity, begin with its first year!

8. **A formal code of doctrine and discipline** – This is almost identical to guideline #6 in this section. Instead of *creed*, however they say, *code of doctrine*. Instead of *ecclesiastical government*, they refer to *discipline*. The same objections that apply to #6 also apply to this section

9. **A Membership not associated with any other church or denomination** – Isn't it possible to be a member of two churches or 20 religious organizations at once? Are some Baptists, for example, denied the right to be members of the YMCA, World Vision, the 700 Club, the Full Gospel

Businessmen’s Fellowship, and non-congregational religious organizations just because they are already members of the Baptist Church? Obviously not.

10. Established place of worship – This concept is unconstitutional as well as unbiblical. It is unconstitutional because it violates our freedom to worship where and when we please (constituting *free exercise thereof*), and it is unbiblical for a number of obvious reasons. Adam worshipped in a garden. Abraham worshipped in the desert. David worshipped in a cave. Job worshipped in sackcloth and ashes. Jesus preached at the seashore and in the mountains. Paul sang hymns in jail and in a shipwreck. Most of the New Testament churches worshipped in the homes of the believers.

In addition, the entire Bible points to worship as a spiritual activity, totally unrelated to physical place and time. Jesus said that wherever two or three people are gathered together, there he is also. He said that the day is coming when men will not worship him on one mountain or another, but in *spirit and truth*.

Four Guidelines Our Chapters Can Improve Upon

11. Ordained ministers selected after completing prescribed courses of study – This is similar to guideline #5, but this requirement is more applicable to the local chapter’s goals than just being restricted to “official” church schooling. Liberty Ministries is working on a correspondence course for ministers, along with our Ministers Manual and other various training

tools, but it behooves individual ministers to study beyond these minimum requirements

Our local ministers should also set up training courses for themselves. This might include a Bible Study—perhaps a program of reading the entire Bible (or other religious text) each year, or college courses on freedom and religious topics, or a program of related reading. You could also buy religious books and courses at your local religious bookstore, check out religious training courses at a local seminary or send away for a Bible Correspondence Course.

12. A Regular Congregation, and

13. Regular Religious Services – With deference to the word “regular,” it is nevertheless important to begin some kind of religious services with some kind of congregation. For many family-oriented churches, this guideline could be satisfied by holding weekly Bible studies or daily devotionals. Once you are a fully qualified missionary or teacher, consider holding scheduled meetings for your family, neighbors, and friends. Many Liberty Ministries missionaries already hold regular religious services to proclaim liberty to their community. It is important that activities be done for the good of the public and with a sincere heart.

14. Sunday Schools for the religious instruction of the young – With deference to the word “Sunday,” which is an unscriptural and unconstitutional establishment of one day over another, it is nevertheless important to instruct the young in spiritual matters *every day*. It is the

responsibility of LMI ministers to teach their children (and other young people in the community who desire to learn) spiritual principals and truths for the next generation. This is a perfect outreach for any LMI chapter: helping the younger generation learn how to live uprightly and successfully.

We at Liberty Ministries feel *Sincerity* is actually the KEY to all of the other guidelines, a fifteenth guideline, so to speak. If you just state your religious purpose clearly in your By-Laws and minutes, and practice what you preach, there is nothing that anybody else can do to question the validity of your church. Project this sincerity in all that you do—truly believe in what you do—and you will find that others will believe you, too.

What the Courts Have Said

“Neither this court nor any branch of this government will consider the merits or fallacies of a religion. Nor will this court compare the beliefs, dogmas and practices of a newly organized religion with those of an older, more established religion. Nor will the court praise or condemn a religion, however excellent or fanatical or preposterous it may seem. Were the court to do so, it would impinge upon the guarantees of the First Amendment” (Judge Battin, U.S. v. Universal Life Church, 1974).

“Anyone may so arrange his affairs that his taxes shall be as low as possible; he is not bound to choose the pattern which will best pay the treasury; there is not even a patriotic duty to increase one’s taxes” (Judge Learned Hand, U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals).

“The legal right of a taxpayer to decrease the amount of what otherwise would be his taxes, or altogether avoid them, by means which the law permits, cannot be doubted” (Gregory v Helvering, 293 US 495).

With all this said, we firmly believe that under the original Bill of Rights a church should not have to go through any such scrutiny nor try to meet certain requirements set out by government agencies.

Thus, with our legal ducks confidently in a row, Liberty Ministries forged ahead in 1979 and 1980, preaching to members and forming new affiliate churches. Little did we suspect that our ministry was being monitored and marked for further investigation.

Part III

CHAPTER NINE: Attacked!

Liberty Ministries enrolled about 3,000 chapters and ordained 3,000 to 5,000 ministers during 1979 and 1980. We had a staff of workers ranging from seven to twelve. Our chapters were all over the United States. We were developing the systems and support for future growth. Things were going nicely. We were excited about the impact that this ministry and religious organization was having on people's lives. It would be nice to be able to report that Liberty Ministries went on to enjoy a long and satisfying existence, but this, unfortunately, is not the case.

The IRS and Grand Jury Investigation

Right before Christmas, 1980 (they love to do these things around holidays and mid-April), we were informed that the Justice Department was setting up a Grand Jury to investigate our organization and its activities.

We then entered a world we knew *nothing* about—the criminal legal world. This world, we would learn, has its own vocabulary, actions, and desired outcomes. We weren't worried. We felt we had done our research and had legal opinion letters from lawyers and CPAs. We had hired a CPA from one of the big, local accounting firms to be full time on our staff. We had the retired head of the Virginia State Patrol, a former judge, and many lawyers and CPAs who were forming chapters with us. We *knew* we were on solid footing.

We soon learned that the Justice Department seeks anything but “justice.” We were forced to hire criminal lawyers, one for each of us. The IRS investigators used unbelievably devious and nasty means to intimidate members and staff, who were sincerely trying to establish a religious organization, by threatening them with prison and ruined lives—the same strategy that almost all law enforcement agencies use. They intimidated anyone remotely involved to agree to plea bargain for their own security and testify against the “big fish,” or targets of the investigation. This was and is the standard operating procedure for almost any prosecutorial body. Without someone testifying against others, they often don’t have a case at all. It is a tactic widely used to this day.

The focus of the investigation was to use any perceived situation in the most negative light, no matter how innocent it was. Often words and intentions were twisted, exaggerated, and even lied about for the benefit of building the case. Any new organization is going to have growing pains and will learn better ways to operate as it grows. This was true with Liberty Ministries. The government seized upon our lack of experience or history as an additional tool to insinuate that we weren’t a “normal” church, but rather a fraudulent mail order ministry.

One of the first things we learned was how federal Grand Juries are generally empaneled. Officials go out on the street and find people who will be happy to serve for the pittance paid per diem. These are rarely a panel of one’s peers because businesspeople and upstanding citizens frequently aren’t willing to take so much time out of their lives. As a result, unfortunately, this duty is left to those who have nothing but time on their hands.

The IRS agents who were gathering the evidence were allowed to present the evidence to this body of people. Normally, at the end of eighteen months, if a decision cannot be made, the grand jury (hereafter called, GJ) must be dismissed. It is not usually allowed, but in our case a second GJ was empaneled after the first one failed to recommend prosecution.

On the very last week of the second GJ, after the IRS Special Agent summarized the evidence from GJ #1, the jurors finally agreed to recommend indictments. This is illegal and was brought up by our lawyers but ignored by the court. We realized that the DOJ prosecutors played fast and loose with what is legal. The news hit the papers and television. The Feds had uncovered a “dangerous Mail-Order Ministry” and were going after them (us!) with guns ablaze, figuratively speaking of course.

The entire time of the investigation from the search and seizure at our home through the two Grand Jury investigations, indictments, arraignment, trial, and sentencing took nearly five years! It was difficult to do anything productive with all of that looming over our heads. Needless to say, we suspended operations at the LMI office until the matter could be resolved. We didn't want to further involve or implicate our staff or chapter members. We had had our hands full figuring out how to pay extremely expensive lawyers, while at the same time trying to keep a semblance of normalcy at home for our two children.

The Charges

The bottom line is that three of us who were not willing to plea bargain were taken to federal court on forty various counts including mail fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy. This was condensed by the media to simply “tax fraud.” One of the

most interesting charges was “aiding a third party to evade tax,” yet not one person was charged with evading tax! Go figure. But it certainly served their ends of giving the perception, publicly, that we were guilty of serious tax charges.

We realized then that the US Government, IRS, and the Department of Justice were after one thing at all costs. *They had to stop us!* One of our lawyers was informed by someone from the Justice Department that we were a major threat to the voluntary taxation system. The government had to squelch us because, not only were their salaries paid by the taxes from citizens, but such independent, sovereign thinking and behaving could not be allowed to exist. A movement of such nature was a threat to the entire system—including judge’s salaries! Does anyone see any conflict of interest there?

The Trial

At the beginning of our three-week trial, the Federal judge announced from the bench that this was *not* to be a trial about a religion or a church, this was a “tax case.” The prosecution knew if we were allowed to bring the church into our defense, they would not be able to successfully convict. The fact that we were ministers and operated a valid church had to be kept silent during their prosecution case.

Everything we had done and were teaching others was completely accurate under the law. But we were banned from presenting any of the defense about our religious background and experience (Tom had previously been a minister for ten+ years) or our sincere beliefs. That was not considered material to the case. The jury never knew any of our background. The prosecution used code words to make

everything we printed sound like *we* were using *code words* to hide our intentions. It was so twisted I had to shake my head and wonder what rabbit hole it was that we had fallen down.

The government used another clever technique to prevent us from being able to mount an effective defense. Every member of LMI and our staff was contacted and given the choice to either be charged with a felony themselves or agree to testify against us. Some were threatened with multiple felony charges but offered reduced charges for agreeing to testify during the trial. Most of our members were added to a list of “unindicted co-conspirators.” These folks were basically told that they could not testify for the *defense*, or they would risk indictment themselves. They were forbidden to speak to us for the duration of the legal proceedings. We certainly have never held any hard feelings for any of the decisions people made at that time. Everyone was in a very difficult spot, many of whom had young families to support.

Our lawyers also advised us that under no circumstances should we agree to testify in our own case. They claimed that the prosecution had not proven we were guilty and by taking the stand we could unintentionally incriminate ourselves. After watching them in operation for a couple of weeks it was not hard to believe that this could happen. It was a catch-22. We spent a couple of sleepless days trying to decide.

Tom felt he wanted to take the stand. Having a more reticent personality, I did not. After prayerful consideration we decided to take our lawyers’ advice. After the prosecution rested their case, our lawyers announced that we would not mount a defense. Only later did we realize that part of the motivation of the lawyers was to

end the trial quickly and not spend any more billable time on it. They discovered they would not make much money on our case, because of our financial situation. They were anxious to move on to something more lucrative.

We were instructed by our lawyers that during the trial we were to remain expressionless in our faces and our body-language. Any expressions or movements could be considered “testimony” and was not allowed unless we were on the stand and under oath. We had to sit stone faced, no matter what lies, and untruths were being said. It was the hardest thing we ever did! If you’ve ever wondered why people shown on TV who are convicted on various charges are so stoic, this is probably the reason!

During the trial it became obvious that a couple of the jurors were very bored. They kept falling asleep. The judge even reprimanded them on several occasions. It is disturbing to find your fate in the hands of people who are so disinterested and unconcerned that they fall asleep!

The instructions to the jury delivered by the judge were another education all its own. Based on what the judge stated, the jurors had little option but to find us guilty. Memory fades as to the exact words. We just remember how we felt, and it was pretty hopeless.

The jury deliberated for over three days. There were conversations back and forth between the lawyers and the judge about what the jury requested and what needed to be done. Eventually, we were informed that one juror had become ill. He was released from the jury and one of the substitute jurors was added. We found out later that this gentleman was a hold out for a not guilty verdict. He was under so

much pressure he became ill. It was a clever way to get him out of the way. In a short amount of time after that, it was announced they had reached a verdict.

The Verdict and Sentencing

Our two young teenage children sat through much of the trial. They were front and center for the reading of the verdict. It was a feeling that cannot be described to have our fate announced in a court room in front of our children. Tom and I were found guilty on all counts. Our co-conspirator (a dear minister friend) was found guilty on the main charges, but not guilty on several of the others. His lawyer made some pretty outrageous comments during the trial and was to enter a mental hospital two weeks later. We were represented by ineffective counsel, but that didn't matter. We were to be sentenced in a couple of weeks.

We were tried and found guilty based on illusion, insinuation, and innuendo. There were never any hard facts to find us guilty. But, sadly, in our justice system, true facts aren't always required. They just need to convince twelve basically uninformed people that somebody did something they shouldn't have done. Somebody didn't pay their "fair share."

When the time for sentencing came, we were informed that new laws had recently been enacted—then-Senator Joe Biden being the main driving force to get them passed. These laws gave parameters for sentencing that the judge had to stay within. The guidelines were intended to get "tough on the drug war." Judges previously had been given leeway and discernment in sentencing someone with no criminal record, white collar, and in a victimless crime. We were sentenced according to the new guidelines. Our lawyers were aghast at how severe the

sentences were in comparison to historical instances of these same types of charges. Tom received a five-year sentence, and I would serve eighteen months. The biggest change in these new guidelines was that we would *not* be allowed to remain at home until all the appeal processes were exhausted. We had to serve our time while any appeals were pending. If the verdict was ever reversed, well, that was just too bad for us.

The judge and the Bureau of Prisons allowed us to stagger our sentences somewhat. Linda went to FCI Alderson, West Virginia, on December 31, 1984. Tom would begin his sentence seven months later in August 1st, 1985, in Petersburg, Virginia. Living through that chapter of our lives was difficult, but it was something that ironically brought our family closer together.

Why Tell This Story Now?

For many years since, friends and acquaintances, upon hearing our story, have urged us to write about it. In the beginning we had been warned that any books written about a “felonious conviction” could be confiscated and any proceeds could possibly be seized by the government. It seemed totally futile. But, more importantly, we just wanted to get on with our lives, what was left of it, and take care of our family. Our children lived almost five years visiting their parents in prison visitation rooms. That time, added with the years of the investigation and trial, totaled nearly ten years stolen from our lives. When it finally reached its conclusion, all we could say was enough was enough. Writing a book seemed like going backward to us. So, the obvious question now is: Why tell it at all? Why now in 2021?

You may recall we talked earlier about the “sin of gradualism.” Most government agencies, when first established, had lofty and seemingly harmless goals and directives. It was over time that they incrementally gained the stranglehold on the population that was exhibited in 1980 when they convicted us of the general crime of “tax fraud.” We can see now that there was far more behind the scenes than we realized.

Events occurring in the United States over the past forty years have been progressively slip-sliding into socialism and even communism. It has concerned us, but we feel it has now come to a head like a serious boil. We came to the point that we could not just sit quietly. The lockdown that occurred in 2020 gave time for research and a deep dive into the real problems in our country—really in the entire world—today.

We have now come to believe that the attack on Liberty Ministries was part of a bigger agenda, and we unknowingly were a casualty of a grand scheme to control the world, keeping the masses in virtual slavery.

History or Conspiracy Theory?

For a long time, much of this we now believe to be true, was clouded with the label of “conspiracy theories.” Our own CIA coined that term to denigrate anyone who varied from the narrative they were trying to perpetuate or to cover the truth regarding events such as the JFK assassination. We fell for this for many years. The last thing we wanted was to be “conspiracy theorists” What a horrible label. Which, of course, was the idea. But, incredibly, theory after theory appear to have

come true. The real government conspiracy was to silence people like us and have us fall in line with their plan. Events have proven that we were ahead of the times.

What we offered people as a solution in 1980, we aren't suggesting today. Times have changed. Our last chapter will give you suggested actions you can take to help return our country's freedoms to its citizens—without any legal challenges.

But first, we want to fill in some gaps of little-known history. Much of this information has remained cleverly hidden from obscure history books and media. We were aware of only the tip of the iceberg in 1980, but now much more is now revealed through the wonders of the internet. In the next chapter we will continue the story about the dark, hidden forces that pull the strings from the shadows and how that affects our country—and ultimately each one of us.

As you proceed to the next chapter, we urge you to open your mind to at least consider some new possibilities.

THE MIND, LIKE A PARACHUTE, WORKS BEST WHEN OPEN!

CHAPTER TEN: While America Slept

Over the past hundred and fifty years of the history of the United States, there have been a series of influences and events that have incrementally degraded our individual sovereignty. These influences and events have been kept hidden from public knowledge, for the most part, by design of the influencers. We were aware of only a tiny fraction of this history in 1980, most of it related to income tax, but thanks to the advances of the internet, we have since managed to flesh out more of the hidden story that was already in play even at that time.

Powerful Controllers in the Shadows

It is purported that there are thirteen bloodlines of powerful families that have essentially ruled the world for centuries from behind the scenes. These families and the organizations they formed have made decisions effecting the entire world. They have used religion, gold (money), oil, and national extremism to gain the power they craved. They are rich beyond comprehension. The entire story of this nefarious cabal is too entangled, twisted and convoluted to go into here. We will just follow down one path for the purposes of this book.

The elite families have profited from the banking systems that fund world governments, from currency manipulation, from earth's natural resources, and from war machines and arms sales. They were often responsible for inciting wars and funding the armaments for *both sides of the conflict*, profiting no matter who won.

As Nathan Mayer Rothschild, second generation in the Rothschild banking dynasty, said, “I care not what puppet is placed on the throne of England to rule the Empire. The man who controls Britain’s money supply controls the British Empire and I control the British money supply.”

When the United States gained independence from England, it was to break the chain of control these families had over us. But our individual and fiscal independence wasn’t to last for long.

When Our Republic Changed

After the end of the Civil War, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and the ensuing challenges to “bind up the wounds” of that terrible conflict, the Republic was facing mounting piles of debt.

Congress realized that the country was in dire financial straits, so they made a deal with the international bankers, in those days mainly the Rothschilds of London, thereby incurring a massive debt to said bankers. These savvy bankers were not about to lend the floundering nation any more money without attaching some serious conditions. What they devised was a way to take complete control of the United States.

The Organic Act of 1871 was passed. With no constitutional authority to do so, Congress created a separate form of government for the District of Columbia, the seat of our national decision making. Since then our nation has been controlled by the UNITED STATES CORPORATION, which is owned by certain international

bankers and aristocracy of Europe, primarily British/German. How easily and cheaply we sold our birthright of liberty!

At the same time, in 1871, the name of the original Constitution was changed with a *single word*. Most people do not understand that a change of only a word or two in any legal document can and does make a critical difference. But Congress knew it then and still does now.

The Act of 1871 formed a corporation called THE UNITED STATES. The corporation, owned by foreign interests, moved in and shoved the original Constitution into the dustbin. With the Act of 1871, the organic Constitution was defaced—in effect vandalized and sabotaged—when the title was capitalized and the word ‘FOR’ was changed to ‘OF’ in the title.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is the constitution of the incorporated UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. It operates in an economic capacity and has been used to fool the people into thinking they govern the Republic. They do not!

*What Congress did by passing the Act of 1871 was create an entirely new document, a constitution for the government of the District of Columbia, an **incorporated** government. This newly altered Constitution was not intended to benefit the Republic. It benefits only the corporation of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and operates entirely outside the original (organic) Constitution. [Emphasis ours]*

Instead of having absolute and unalienable rights guaranteed under the organic Constitution, we the people now have 'relative' rights or privileges. One example is the sovereign's right to travel, which now have been transformed (under corporate government policy) into a 'privilege' that requires citizens to be licensed. (Editor's note: this license being a passport.)

By passing the Act of 1871, Congress committed TREASON against the people who were sovereign under the grants and decrees of the Declaration of Independence and the organic Constitution. The Act of 1871 became the FOUNDATION of all the treason since committed by government officials. (From the website www.federaljack.com)

What exactly did the Act of 1871 achieve? It effectively put the United States back under British rule along with a cabal of very nefarious actors. *The people of the United States lost their hard-fought independence in 1871.* We kept it less than one hundred years. The people were not being vigilant, trusted their elected leaders, and were led like sheep to the slaughter.

Why does this assault on our sovereignty matter? It matters because assaults on sovereignty destabilize, impoverish, and eventually enslave the people. The stakes are extremely high and we cannot let ourselves become numbed by the habit of mental laziness! Our government betrayed us one hundred and fifty years ago, and we have been living a nightmare ever since.

Birth of the Federal Reserve

In 1910 an important—yet highly-secret—event occurred that completely devastated our freedoms. Prior to this the nefarious banking moguls had engineered a run on the banks based on unfounded rumors as such causing a serious banking default and financial crisis for Americans. This prepared the masses for what was to follow.

On a cold, dark night, November 10, 1910, a very small group of wealthy and powerful men rode in private rail cars to Jekyll Island, Georgia, for an extremely high stakes meeting. Among the men involved were banking families and representatives such as Rockefeller, Rothschild, J. P. Morgan, Warburg, and others.

The secret meeting on Jekyll Island in Georgia at which the Federal Reserve was conceived; the birth of a banking cartel to protect its members from competition; the strategy of how to convince Congress and the public that this cartel was an agency of the United States government. (The Creature from Jekyll Island, Sub-heading from Chapter 1 – G. Edward Griffin)

These men then set about to convince Congress that this banking system would be helpful. By 1913 they had accomplished their goal with the quasi-passing of the Sixteenth Amendment.

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumerations.

It is important to note one other seemingly insignificant event at this time in history. Those banking giants who attended the meeting in Jekyll Island had some rather significant opposition to their plan in the form of several other incredibly rich men. These men, specifically, were John Jacob Astor, Isidor Strauss, and Benjamin Guggenheim. Cumulatively, these men represented the largest single block of wealth in America. They were all solidly opposed to these plans for a European-orchestrated central bank. JP Morgan had invited them all to join him on the maiden voyage of the Titanic to discuss an acceptable solution for all. Except at the last minute, JP Morgan failed to board the ship and it sailed without him. The story of what ensued that night is well-known.

The unsinkable Titanic went down in the cold Atlantic waters on April 14th, 1912, and the three opposing titans were conveniently lost. That surface story is well known, and the subject of many books and movies that romanticize the event. In truth, the intrigue and planning that preceded the voyage is a well-covered up story that has kept the true facts mostly hidden from the public. In the meantime the rest of the nefarious bankers proceeded to establish, without further opposition, both the Federal Reserve and eventually an individual income tax.

Individual Income Tax and the IRS

How and when did Uncle Sam create tax collectors?

There is quite a controversy regarding the ratification of the Sixteenth Amendment. It appears that it was never properly ratified.

*After an exhaustive year-long search of legislative records in 48 sovereign states (Alaska and Hawaii were not admitted into the Union until after 1913), Bill Benson wrote his fact findings in “The Law That Never Was,” Volumes 1 and 2. **He was able to unequivocally prove that the 16th Amendment was never constitutionally, properly, or legally ratified.** [Emphasis ours] The only record of the 16th Amendment having been confirmed was a proclamation made by the Secretary of State Philander Knox on February 25, 1913, wherein he simply declared it to be in effect, but never stating it was lawfully ratified.*

*Even if the 16th Amendment were properly ratified, the judges of the US Supreme Court rejected any claims that the 16th Amendment changed the constitutional limits on direct taxes in *Brushaber v. Union Pacific R.R. Co.*, 240 U.S. 1, when they ruled that it ‘**created no new power of taxation**’ and that it ‘**did not change the constitutional limitations which forbid any direct taxation of individuals.**’ [Emphasis ours] (<https://famguardian.org/>)*

Federal Individual Income Tax is Voluntary

There are many, many quotes from IRS directors, commissioners, and former agents, not to mention all the quotes from congressmen and women. *Federal Income Tax is voluntary!* These are easily found on the internet.

Income Tax is a voluntary system that encourages, but does not mandatorily require, your participation. The IRS deliberately tries to deceive and confuse people with its overuse of the phrase “voluntary compliance.” This term is a classic oxymoron or contradiction of terms. You don’t voluntarily comply with anything. You do something voluntarily or you are required to comply, in which case it is, therefore, mandatory.

Justice Hugo Black declared in United States v. Kahriger, 345 U.S. 22 (1953): ‘The United States has a system of taxation by confession.’ Your tax return is your confession, and by filing one you cede your 5th Amendment right to not incriminate yourself.

‘Our system of taxation is based upon voluntary assessment and payment, not upon distraint’ ruled the US Supreme Court in Florida v. United States, 362 U.S. 145, pg. 176. Distraint means seizure of property.

<https://thefreedomarticles.com/income-tax-is-voluntary-says-irs-chief>).

But it is clearly stated that the US federal income tax is both voluntary and mandatory. How can that be? This is one of the biggest jokes played on the citizens of America. It all depends with which constitution you are complying.

The Position Taken by Liberty Ministries

We were shocked in 1980 to learn about the voluntary nature of income taxes and wondered why we all citizens didn’t know about it. We also learned that the

federal court system had become quite skilled at debunking this argument made by many tax “protestors” as they were called at that time. And while we realized there might be some argument to opting out of the federal tax system, our goal was to form an organization whereby people could legally reduce or avoid tax liabilities, while declaring their own personally-held conscientious beliefs. This could be done legally by forming a church using that section of the IRS Tax Code as it applies to churches (501 (c)(3)).

Our government had strayed so far from its original purpose and intent of what “We the People” meant that we were just plain flabbergasted. As we dug deeper we found limited information about the elite families—the shadow government, today called the Deep State—and how they continued to spread their tentacles into all parts of our society and our personal lives.

Coming up against knowledge of powerful forces running behind the scenes, we became convinced that we wanted to try to do our part to *stand up and fight for our freedoms*. We believed that we, each of us, must stand up to claim our rights, and that if enough of us took positive action it would bring about real changes in our country. We were convinced that this might be a way to bring about such positive change. Upon these deeply held beliefs and personal convictions we formed and built Liberty Ministries International.

We were young, inexperienced, and *so very naïve*. We believed we were living under the original Constitution, never dreaming we were actually being judged and punished under the CORPORATION OF THE UNITED STATES (hereinafter referred to as the US Inc.), rather than the original Constitution *for* the Republic of the United States! We knew so little about forces operating behind the scenes. We

didn't understand that the people who actually owned the US Inc. were planning a world takeover in our lifetimes.

The New World Order

The term “New World Order” is borrowed from the eponymous non-fiction book by H. G. Wells, published in 1940. To further their control, the elite families banded together to control politics, governments, and the money supply. The plan was that this body of elite individuals would govern the entire planet by sitting on top of the food chain, leaving the masses they govern to fight over about 1% of the entire global economy. For a better grasp of the New World Order and its timeline go to the Thuletide website or do a general internet search.

<https://thuletide.wordpress.com/2020/09/02/timeline-of-the-new-world-order>)

In the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations was founded to “maintain international peace and security.” At least that’s what was made public. It has been proven that the real purpose was to influence the launching of a New World Order.

The master planners devised the strategy of a merger—a Great Merger—among nations. But before such a merger can be consummated and the United States becomes just another province in a New World Order, there must at least be the semblance of parity among the senior partners in the deal. How does one make the nations of the world more nearly equal? The Insiders determined that a two-pronged approach was needed: use American money and know-how to build up your competitors while at the same time use every devious strategy you can devise to weaken and impoverish this country. The goal is not to

bankrupt the United States. Rather, it is to reduce its productive might, and therefore the standard of living, to the meager subsistence level of the socialized nations of the world. The plan is not to bring the standard of living in less developed countries up to our level, but to bring ours down to meet theirs. . . . It is our standard of living which must be sacrificed on the altar of the New World Order. (The Rockefeller File – Gary Allen)

Scarier is the fact that they apparently also want to keep control of the global population. They want the global population to be just under a billion, leaving the Earth's resources for their own exclusive use. And to keep the population in check, they are willing to go to any extent, even planning scientifically engineered global population control methods like viruses, vaccines, genetically modified food and more.
www.indiantimes.com

The NSA and the CIA

Following the Second World War, the US Inc. adopted the role of global mediator and enforcer, not only by bulking up our military but by creating organizations to influence other nations. The National Security Act of 1947 established the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency, America's spying arm. Congress would allocate the CIA billions of dollars annually in its budget that has never, to this day, been publicly disclosed.

During its early years, the CIA's main focus was on battling Communism: spying on the Soviets, carrying out armed operations in Korea, Viet Nam, Laos,

Cambodia, and Indonesia, and helping overthrow Iran's government in 1953. The Company, as it was called in-house, was particularly busy in Latin America, backing coups or rebel groups in Brazil, Chili, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay.

In his farewell address upon leaving the Oval Office in 1961, President Dwight Eisenhower warned, "The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our democratic liberties or processes." He very wisely warned specifically against the *military industrial complex* and the great possibility of it becoming too powerful. Eisenhower felt strongly that there was a critical difference between being *prepared for* and being *in the business of war*.

There is a large group in Washington that is immune to elections and who exercise enormous amounts of power. Many leaders within the military, CIA, FBI, NSA, and other organizations such as the IRS have been there for twenty, thirty, even forty years or more. They know that while Oval Office occupants and individual parties come and go every four to eight years, many are in fact entrenched for decades.

This is something we should be concerned about. Those given a great deal of power without regular turnover providing new blood and perspectives will tend to want to hold on to that power as long as possible, and herein lies an atmosphere conducive to corruption and abuse of said power.

The news outlets essentially have merged with these agencies. Broadcasters and pundits purport to give information as truth on said outlets. Yet these very agency

leaders the reporters are so happy to interview and quote are masters, specializing in misinformation, disinformation, and propaganda. That has been their mode of operation for their entire careers.

Operation Mockingbird and the Media

In the 1950's the CIA began a covert operation, both in the US and all over the world, called Operation Mockingbird. It was a large-scale project undertaken by the CIA in which they recruited American journalists into a propaganda network. The recruited journalists were put on a payroll by the CIA and *instructed to write fake stories that promoted the views of the intelligence agency*. Student cultural organizations and magazines were allegedly funded as fronts for this operation.

*Operation Mockingbird [was] a domestic propaganda campaign aimed at promoting the views of the CIA within the media. **Reporters shared their notebooks with the CIA. Editors shared their staffs. Some of the journalists were Pulitzer Prize winners, distinguished reporters who considered themselves ambassadors without portfolio for their country.*** (From "Lifting the Veil," Chapter VII, *Operation Mockingbird*) [Emphasis ours]

Operation Mockingbird subsequently expanded to thoroughly influence foreign *and domestic* media. You may have noticed how consistently the media seems to parrot whatever narrative they've been given to report. You hear the same thing on all the major channels. Parrots. Or mockingbirds!

About a third of the whole CIA budget went to media propaganda operations . . . We're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars a year just for that . . . close to a billion dollars are being spent every year by the United States on secret propaganda. [Emphasis ours] – Testimony of William Schaap to Congress.
(https://www.wanttoknow.info/mass_media/operation-mockingbird)

A new agency, headed by Frank Wisner, called the Office of Policy Coordination within the umbrella of Operation Mockingbird, was created. As Evan Thomas reported in “[The Very Best Men](#),” the OPC’s charter gave it responsibility for “propaganda, economic warfare; preventative direct action, including sabotage, antisabotage, demolition and evacuation measures; subversion against hostile states, including assistance to underground resistance groups, and support of indigenous anti-Communist elements in threatened countries of the free world.” The U.S. government would ‘disclaim any responsibility’ of the OPC’s missions.
(<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/48959/retrobituaries-frank-wisner-father-american-covert-operations>)

This shows how often intentions or directives were created for one publicized objective, such as controlling the rise of Communism in other countries, but eventually were bent toward a more nefarious purpose: spying and trying to control the citizens of America.

Journalists were reportedly blackmailed and threatened into joining this network. The CIA’s financing of independent and private organizations originally wasn’t

just meant to create favorable stories. It was also a means to covertly collect information from other countries that were relevant to America's national security. And it was bent to become a propaganda outlet for the government to control the narrative that Americans are fed. But were journalists complicit?

*It is a false belief that the CIA 'infiltrated' unwitting media institutions. **The recruitment of journalists was frequently done with complicity from top management and ownership . . . among the organizations that would lend their help to the propaganda efforts was the New York Times, Newsweek, Associated Press, and the Miami Herald. [Emphasis ours]** Providing cover to CIA agents was a part of the New York Times policy, set by their late publisher, Arthur Hays Sulzberger.*

https://www.wanttoknow.info/mass_media/operation-mockingbird

Times That Try Men's Souls

It is almost too much to believe, all that has happened to our innocent, ground-breaking Republic, all that has been kept hidden from public view. What will it take for us to wake up and demand a return of our rightful position as sovereign citizens?

Many of our parents and grandparents—the *Greatest Generation*—knew firsthand the cost of freedom. They survived unbelievably hard times, including the Great Depression with thirty-five percent unemployment, widespread food shortages, and the terrible Dust Bowls for 10 years in the mid-west. This was immediately followed by the anxiety and loss of lives in World War II. They paid their dues and

fought to preserve the American way of life. They were deeply engrained with appreciation for what we have in this country. They knew all the words and sang the National Anthem, right hands respectfully over hearts and eyes on the flag, at the start of every ball game or event where it was played. They proudly flew the American flag on national holidays. They cherished all that they fought and bled for, and for them the flag was the symbol of their pride in their country.

Then came the most productive years in America's history. People had good jobs and could afford to own the houses they lived in. The biggest jump in population ever resulted in the mighty generation called *the Baby Boomers*. We grew up having an easy life and most everything we ever wanted. Somewhere along the line we lost track of how precious America's freedoms truly are.

Our children and grandchildren are no longer taught the words to our National Anthem, and at major events we rely on celebrities to outdo each other on how flamboyantly they perform the song—and rarely (or never) does anyone in the bleachers or on the sidelines sing along or have their hand over their heart. Civics just isn't emphasized anymore. A recent poll found that nearly 70% of those asked could NOT name the 3 branches of government!

We have lost our deep appreciation for our country and what it stands, or originally stood, for. This apathy is our greatest enemy. It lulls us to sleep, where we float through a technological and sensory dream world, complacently gulping down whatever we are asked to swallow. And thus the shadow influencers will have won, without firing a single shot. Unless the Baby Boomers and subsequent generations can shake ourselves awake, we will have been the ones to drop the ball that was passed to us, a precious gift from the Greatest Generation.

The Declaration of Independence states

*We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, **deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive to these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness.** [Emphasis ours]*

Benjamin Franklin wisely said, “We’ve got a republic . . . *if you can keep it.*”

Thomas Paine eloquently wrote in 1776 (and it’s more meaningful in 2021 than ever)

These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

*Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. **What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price***

upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated. [Emphasis ours] (“The Crisis No. 1,” 1776 – Thomas Paine)

Most of us can at least sense, if not wholeheartedly agree, that we are living in a time of tyranny now in 2021. We have obtained our prosperous, and mostly peaceful lives, too cheaply. Some very destructive things have taken place while we have slept. It is imperative to wake up and make some changes!

In our next chapter we will present some amazing events that could possibly be right on the horizon. While much of this is assumption, hearsay, and theory—mixed with a solid dose of *hopium*—we are becoming more convinced day to day of the *great possibility* it will turn out this way.

These events, though, will only take place if “We the People” care enough to take action. We cannot sit around and wait for someone else, a Savior in the form of a politician or celebrity, to fix all the ills.

It behooves us, we the American people, to step up and become the Saviors of the American Way of Life!

CHAPTER ELEVEN: A Much-Contested Glimmer of Hope

As we discovered in 1980, there have been forces far greater than we ever realized operating in secret and yet controlling nearly every aspect of our lives. In all our recent research, we've also discovered an exciting and optimistic possibility that exists and may be running concurrently with all this evil mischief.

We are not able to say definitively that all this is true or whether any of it will come about. Our research has left us with a strong intuitive feeling that some significant changes are underfoot soon. By the time this book is published, we may know some of the answers.

We are becoming more aware of many facts of history, even though most of it has not been widely known. A great deal of information has been deliberately suppressed, passed off as “conspiracy theory,” or hidden behind gag orders, NDAs, and a deliberate effort to keep the public from being able to research this. These are our gleanings from many who have thoroughly researched the facts and events.

Unfortunately, contributing sources are not always clearly available. Even after your own research, you may feel that this is all just conspiracy theory. That is your prerogative, and you might be right. We'll have to wait and see what happens. We only ask that you allow yourself to entertain the possibility that at least some of what we present herein might be true. Whether it is or not, it makes fascinating reading!

As we continued our research, even some of what was labeled conspiracy theory began to appear to us to be accurate. In recent months so much has been revealed around the edges that it has emboldened us to share what we have learned. Our desire is that it will give you hope, as it does us.

Another Point of View

Here's an alternative point of view to what we've all been taught in school. Down through history, many have seen the evil that exists and have plotted to overturn it along with the perpetrators behind it. Even before his death, Abraham Lincoln became aware of the plots to destroy our republic and turn our country into a chattel of the cabalistic forces in Europe. He was taking steps to reveal this plot of tyranny and *was assassinated before he could do so*. Coincidence?

President John F. Kennedy, upon becoming painfully aware of the forces of evil during the Bay of Pigs fiasco, particularly the CIA, spoke out against them. He often is quoted as saying, "There's a plot in this county to enslave every man, woman and child. Before I leave this high and noble office, I intend to expose this plot." (Fact checking websites deny these words were ever spoken in a public speech, although many feel it was the belief and conviction of Kennedy at that time and spoken openly, if not in a speech before the public. Others believe the speech has been expunged from the internet and history books. Likely or unlikely?)

He was determined to put the country back on the gold standard as a protection for our financial systems. Kennedy signed the Gold Standard Agreement *eight days before he was assassinated*. The Agreement was never implemented. Another coincidence? Many believe that President Kennedy actually was planning to

institute NESARA at this time. His version was called the National Economic Stabilization and Reformation Act. The New World Order powers could not allow this to happen. Later you'll learn NESARA stood for different titles at different times and by different groups.

Kennedy had been asked by the American voters to rein in the government. His Deep State opponents decided he had to go because the American people might start thinking they can run the country. Heaven forbid the citizens ever take control! "They didn't want the cows to think they were running the barnyard."
(The Kid by the Side of the Road - Juan O. Savin)

Years later, in 1992, a task force was put together consisting of over three hundred retired and thirty-five active US military officers who strongly supported returning to the original constitutional law. This task force, known by some as the White Knights, was responsible for investigating government officials, congressional officers, judges, and the Federal Reserve.

They uncovered the common practice of bribery and extortion committed by both senators and judges. The criminal activity was so rampant that only two out of 535 members of congress were deemed honest! But more importantly they carried out the first-ever audit of the Federal Reserve.

The Federal Reserve was accustomed to giving orders to politicians and had no intention of being audited. However, after they were informed their offices would be raided under military gunpoint, if necessary, they reluctantly complied with the investigation. After reviewing their files, the military officers found \$800 trillion dollars sitting in accounts which should have been applied to the national debt.

And, contrary to federal government propaganda, it is reported that they also discovered that most nations, in fact, owed money to the United States instead of the other way around.

These hidden trillions were then confiscated and transferred into European bank accounts to generate the enormous funds needed to pay the farmers' claims in a class action lawsuit. (This is another complicated story that had been running concurrently since about 1892 and was coming to a head in the 1980s and 1990s. We won't even try to go into the farmers' story here, but it is readily available if a person is interested.) Suffice it to say that these events are all connected in the story. More of this story can be found on our website. More complete pdf version is available to download at the bottom of this page.

<https://www.libertyministries2021.com/nesaraquantum-financial-system.html>).

In August 1992, the military officers confronted President George H. W. Bush and demanded he sign an agreement that he would return the United States to constitutional law and ordered him to never use the term *New World Order* again. Bush pretended to cooperate but secretly planned to bring about the New World Order anyway. He planned to sign an Executive Order on December 25, 1992, that would have indefinitely closed all banks, giving Bush an excuse to declare martial law. Under the chaos of martial law, Bush intended to install a new constitution which would have kept everyone then in office in their same positions for twenty-five years, removing all rights to elect new officials. This White Knight military task force intervened and stopped Bush from signing that Executive Order. Despite the blows inflicted by these "White Hats", President George Bush, Sr. and the Illuminati continued with their plans for global enslavement under the New World Order.

In 1993, members of the Supreme Court, certain members of congress, and representatives from the Clinton government met with high-ranking US military officers who demanded a return to constitutional law, reform of the banking system, and financial redress. These patriots would not be dissuaded or stopped. They continued to plan, using military precision to execute it.

The Birth of NESARA

In 1998 the military generals who originally participated in the farmer's claims process realized the only way to implement the reformations was through a law passed by congress. In 1999 a 75-page document known as the National Economic Security and Reformation Act (NESARA) was submitted to congress where it sat with little action for almost a year.

Many felt strongly that NESARA needed to be formalized as the law of the land. Late one evening on March 9, 2000, a written "quorum call" was hand-delivered by Delta Force and Navy SEAL personnel to the fifteen members of the US Senate and the US House who were the sponsors and co-sponsors of NESARA. They were immediately escorted by the Delta Force and Navy SEAL agents to their respective voting chambers where they passed the National Economic Security and Reformation Act.

These fifteen members of congress were the only people lawfully allowed to hold office in accordance with the *original* Thirteenth Amendment. Remember British soldiers destroyed copies of the Titles of Nobility Amendment (TONA) in the war of 1812 because it prevented anyone who had ties to the crown of England from

holding public office. In the US Inc. system today, lawyers are sworn to a “bar” that is beholden to the British Crown. Aren’t most of our elected officials lawyers?

President William Jefferson Clinton signed NESARA into law on October 10, 2000. George W. Bush replaced Clinton as President in January 2001. On September 9, 2001, after much negotiation, the Supreme Court justices ordered the 107th Congress to pass resolutions approving NESARA. News of the passing of the Act was to be announced to the public on the morning of September 11. On September 10, 2001, George Bush, Sr. moved into the White house to guide his son in blocking the announcement.

The next day, on September 11, 2001, at 10 am Eastern Daylight Time, Alan Greenspan was scheduled to announce the new US Treasury Bank system, debt forgiveness for all US citizens, and the abolishment of the IRS as the first part of the public announcements under NESARA

We find that almost all our elected Congressional members, House and Senate, our judges up to and including the Supreme Court, our various agencies (DOJ, CIA, NSA, DOD, etc.) are compromised and corrupted. Our media likewise is controlled by these compromised forces, referred to as the Deep State. These forces are not looking out for the citizens of America, rather they consider us enemies of the US Inc.

What May Have REALLY Happened on September 11, 2001?

(NOTE: The following is a speculated scenario but believed by many to be what happened that day. It is never spoken of in the major media outlets, without

surprise. While for years we personally heard whispers of this theory, we always just wrote it off to “kooks.” Only in the last few months has data been revealed that makes us think, “Hey! Maybe this *is* the way it happened.)

Important to note is that George Bush Sr. had moved into the White House on about September 10, 2001, to help his son weather through the events about to unfold. While Bush Sr. played a major role and had long been a proponent of the New World Order, we are not implying that he, alone, perpetrated what was about to happen. He was the figurehead or captain, so to speak, at the helm while long-planned events unfolded. Time will tell and history will reveal whether this is a true or even partly true explanation of what caused the events of 9/11.

Another purposefully timed announcement was made by Donald Rumsfeld revealing that more than \$2.3 trillion in Pentagon funds had gone missing. He made this astonishing statement on September 10, perfect timing to keep the story from making any news and risking being further analyzed. It was lost in the shocking news that would come the next day and never really investigated or questioned. At this point it is probably a moot point to wonder what that money was used for.

Just before the planned announcement of NESARA at 9 am, the order went out for the demolition of the World Trade Center’s Twin Towers. This was done to stop the international banking computers on Floors 1 and 2 in the North Tower from initiating the new US Treasury Bank system. It is obvious that this was planned well in advance. Explosives in the World Trade Center were planted by operatives and detonated remotely from Building 7, which was demolished later that day to cover up crimes, including records of the missing \$2.3 Trillion from the Pentagon.

Building 7 is also reported to have contained large amounts of gold bullion, surreptitiously removed before the bombing. And, of course, in the chaos and confusion that followed, the announcement and implementation of NESARA was conveniently postponed and never mentioned.

Deeper research will show serious questioning by builders, engineers, and others about what may or may not have happened that day in New York City. Raw film footage can be found showing the explosion of the second tower without any plane involved. Many witnesses reported they heard a series of explosions at the basement levels in both towers. There are many structural experts who have had serious concerns about the story that has been fed to us regarding how or why these buildings could collapse as they did.

Remote pilot technology may have been used in a flyover event to deliver a payload of explosives into the Pentagon at the exact location where the White Knights at their new Naval Command Center were coordinating activities supporting NESARA's implementation nationwide. Many questions remain about the entire event. Hopefully, over time, a truer picture will emerge.

With the announcement of NESARA being stopped dead in its tracks, George Bush, Sr. decapitated any hopes of returning the government back to the people at that time. This event and whoever was behind it led the way to American losing more of what remained of our privacy with the passing of the Patriot Act—a landmark Act of the United States Congress, signed into law by President George W. Bush. The formal name of the statute is the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001.

For the past 20 years life in the USA and numerous other countries, has been dictated by the *fear* generated from these staged terrorist attacks and their repercussions. Seldom does a day go by that we do not hear mention of 9/11 or how terrorist organizations threaten our very existence. Soon after 9/11, fear of terrorists was used as the *excuse* to pass the Patriot Act, giving the government permission to spy on and/or enter the homes of American citizens—the tragic loss of the rights of Americans to personal privacy.

We had heard these kinds of rumors for several years and just figured they were bogus. Recently we found information has shown that much of what we thought we've known as fact-of-history, in fact, may not be true, but rather propaganda!

The White Knight Alliance

Sometime around 2014 or 2015 these same military generals (aka, The White Knights), and supporters of returning to the original Constitution and re-establishing our Republic, approached Donald Trump, and requested that he run for office. They guaranteed he would have the very best military protection for himself and his family members. They laid out the plan for enforcing NESARA and bringing the US back to a free and flourishing Republic. It was to be a precise Military Operation.

Donald Trump won the Presidential election of 2016. The Deep State didn't like that at all. He wasn't *supposed* to win. The Cabal with its oligopolists, including a vast cast of characters, have been working diligently to take this country and the entire planet into the New World Order. Trump's election created an obstacle to

their plans, and his term was rocked by unrelenting opposition from his first day in office through his last (and will continue until he is no longer a threat to run the country and WE THE PEOPLE quit questioning our officials).

The White Knights have not been discouraged from their mission. They continue with exquisite military precision. Whether or not they can bring about the implementation of NESARA, we don't know, but time will tell. There are powerful forces banded together to prevent it, and they will stop at nothing to prevent our country from returning to being a Republic under the precepts of NESARA. We have it from pretty good authority, though, the good guys are winning. *But don't take our word for it. Do your own due diligence.* Most of all – KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!

NESARA

NESARA is the most ground-breaking reformation to sweep not only the United States of America but—combined with the Global Economic Stabilization and Reformation Act (GESARA)—the whole planet in its entire history. To understand the history of the concept, you must go back to the late 1890s, too long and detailed a story to cover here.

One of the most thorough papers on the recent history of NESARA was compiled by Nancy Detweiler, M.Ed., M.Div. We refer to sections of her work here.

Writing a history of NESARA requires locating the separate dots and attempting to put them together to create truth. The original documents are sequestered, and those individuals directly involved

are still under a strict gag order. . . . My research set out to prove NESARA by locating original documents and articles written by reputable people that illustrated each of the tenets. . . . In my seven plus years of research, I have found nothing to disprove the existence of NESARA being made a law of the land. The internet is loaded with disinformation that can be easily dismissed by research.

All the members of both houses of Congress know about NESARA. They are all operating under a gag order by the Supreme Court forbidding it to be discussed. It is a gag order with very serious consequences if broken—that of being guilty of treason. No Congressional or Supreme Court member will either confirm or deny.

Why is a gag order in place? It is to protect our politicians from ever having to tell us the truth. Why? Almost all our delegates have been corrupted and probably would not have jobs once NESARA is enacted. It is that simple. Indeed, many might end up in jail if the public were to demand the enforcement of the Act.

NESARA is being intentionally and fiercely hidden from us in every way possible. It is being buried, occluded, and hidden from our sight. That is why it is not in our mainstream news. NESARA returns this county to the *original Constitution*, not the corporate instituted CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The one that our founding fathers created originally was titled thus: “the Constitution *for* the United States *for* America.” Note the words *of* and *for* are inter-changed in the two versions and the second corporation version uses capitalized letters.

NOTE: As time and further research has shown the NESARA Act has had several reiterations and versions. Depending on what time in history, until now the “S” has stood for *Security* or *Stabilization*, while the “R” stood for *Restoration* or *Reformation*. Even the Deep State has made their version to confuse the issue. It really is not important in the long run. Just remember that NESARA as implemented by the White Hats will only have hard currency backing their money (whether actual coins and notes, or digital). The Black Hats, on the other hand, are issuing a digital currency back by NOTHING, so they can continue to make more of it whenever they wish.

How Implementation of NESARA Might Look

NESARA calls for the following changes:

- *Zeros out all credit card, mortgage, and other bank debt* due to illegal banking and government activities. This is the Federal Reserve’s worst nightmare, a “jubilee,” or forgiveness of debt. (Interestingly, there are Biblical references to the Year of Jubilee and debt forgiveness.)
- *Abolishes personal income tax.*
- *Abolishes the IRS.* Employees of the IRS will be transferred into the US Treasury national sales tax area.
- *Creates a 10-14% flat rate non-essential, new items only sales tax* revenue for the government. In other words, food and medicine will not be taxed nor will used items such as pre-owned cars or homes.
- *Increases benefits to senior citizens.*
- *Returns Constitutional Law to all courts* and legal matters.

- *Reinstates the original Title of Nobility Amendment* (the original Thirteenth Amendment) that forbids lawyers to serve in Congress. NOTE: the wording of the original 13th Amendment was changed—by lawyers in congress.
- *Establishes new Presidential and Congressional elections* within 120 days after NESARA's announcement. The interim government will cancel all National Emergencies and return us to constitutional law.
- *Monitors elections* and prevents illegal election activities by special interest groups.
- *Creates a new US Treasury rainbow currency backed by gold, silver, and platinum*, ending the bankruptcy of the United States initiated by Franklin Roosevelt in 1933.
- *Forbids the sale of American birth certificate records* as chattel property bonds by the US Department of Transportation.
- *Initiates a new US Treasury Bank System* in alignment with Constitutional Law.
- *Eliminates the Federal Reserve System*. During the transition period the Federal Reserve will be allowed to operate side by side with the US Treasury for one year in order to remove all Federal Reserve notes from the money supply.
- *Restores financial privacy*.
- *Retrains all judges and attorneys* in Constitutional Law.
- *Ceases all aggressive US government military actions* worldwide.
- *Establishes peace* throughout the world as guaranteed by each government that signs onto GESARA for their country.
- *Releases for humanitarian purposes enormous sums of money* that was stolen from the people over the years.

- *Enables the release of over 6,000 patents* of suppressed technologies that are being withheld from the public under the guise of national security—including free energy devices, antigravity, and sonic healing machines.

Where Does This Leave Us?

This story, unveiled through our internet research of world-wide corruption and the potential of NESARA/GESARA, is truly fantastic! Whether it will prove to be true or not, we do not know. We are filled with hope, looking forward to seeing how it all plays out.

If any part of this becomes reality, our children and grandchildren would enjoy a better world than the one we have occupied. That was and is our goal at this time, reviving the essence and spirit of Liberty Ministries International. It is our hope that the future gives all people worldwide new-found freedom and prosperity.

No inference of any political position is intended here. I (Linda) have never joined either of the political parties, instead purposely remaining Unaffiliated on the voter rolls. We do not like the implications or proven outcomes of socialism or communism. Many positions taken by both parties are not acceptable to us. We didn't like the New World Order when we first heard about it in 1980, and we like it even less now.

We are, however, staunch supporters of our original Republic, founded in 1776. We want to play whatever tiny role we can in supporting a return to that form of government.

If nothing else, we hope we have stretched your mind and given you perspectives you've not contemplated before. In our last chapter we'll explore ideas of what individual citizens can do to make our communities better no matter what!

CHAPTER TWELVE: What Can We Do TODAY?

It will be a very sad day if all we have, out of this current turmoil, is a bunch of sheep bleating and looking around for the new shepherd or master, who's going to lead us out of this. If that's what we do, then we have failed, and we're doomed. We must each grow up, rise to the occasion, and become leaders ourselves; each ready to take a position at the helm. It's the only way we survive. (Kid By the Side of the Road - Juan O. Savin)

We have ended several of the last chapters urging our readers to do research, to take positive action, and, as patriotic citizens, to make a difference in our own lives and the lives of our families and communities. As an echo of our message in 1980 with Liberty Ministries International, we again urge you to get involved and make local improvements wherever you can. Whether you consider it a ministry, a calling, or fulfilling your purpose, *do something!*

We are not recommending that anyone establish a church or ministry strictly for the advantages of being able to redirect money from taxes paid to doing good in your community. We never taught people it was a tax avoidance strategy (although legally avoiding tax wasn't supposed to be illegal). But twenty years later we are merely providing educational and inspirational material to help Americans become more connected to their Creator, to have stronger families, to take better care of ourselves and to always stay vigilant to what governing bodies are doing.

There are many things that each of us can do to help improve our situations. All change begins first with self, then family, then community. Once communities begin to change, so will the world.

Heal the Divisions

Our nation is deeply divided by about every kind of issue you could mention. This has been a concerted, deliberate effort on the part of those who wanted to reduce our nation and her people to a camp of slaves.

But we are Americans! We are free, sovereign beings!

It is our desire to personally, as much as we can, begin helping to bind up the wounds of the psychological warfare we have recently endured. We urge all to join in this same pursuit. Make no mistake, we are coming to the *ending of WWII*.

As President Lincoln said at the end of his 2nd Inaugural Speech:

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 up 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.

That is our task at hand. Each of us is responsible for healing these wounds.

- Our own inner wounds—where are we hurt, blameful, unforgiving?

- What wounds still exist in our families—where do we have divisions, misunderstandings, painful memories, and lack of forgiveness within and toward our immediate and extended families (aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, etc.)? What can we begin to offer them instead, and how would that change the relationship?
- What division and wounds exist in our local neighborhoods and communities? Where can we help smooth the hurts and bind up the wounds?
- At the national level, where are the divisions we have participated in and therefore encouraged? Do we have feelings regarding race, gender, ethnicity, politics, or other issues that we need to heal within ourselves and help others heal? Ranting and making accusations against each other seem to be the norm today but is counter-productive in healing the division.
- In each of these areas—self, family, community, nation—where could we show more understanding? More kindness or patience? More respect for the rights of others to their differing opinions? One doesn't have to agree with someone, or even like them, to treat them with respect and kindness.

This is a big job and one that will remain a lifetime endeavor. We must start sometime—*now*. And we must start somewhere—*here*. If it is to be, it is up to me! This is a worthy motto to adopt. Where can we help? Where can we sit and listen without offering an opinion of our own? Or hold the hand of someone who is suffering? Or offer words of encouragement instead of judgement? Remember the adage—If not now, when? If not me, who?

It is time to *talk* about issues that we have avoided. It is time to feel better about ourselves, our families, and others. One doesn't have to agree with someone to

treat them the way we would like to be treated ourselves. One doesn't have to be like everyone else to have value. In fact, it is frequently in our differences where our individual genius is to be found and where we have a chance to shine.

Here are some additional suggestions of things we can do, starting today, to help restore our own lives, our local areas, and our country to one of integrity, freedom, and prosperity. It is not too late. We can each do our own small part which can add together with other small parts to become a tidal wave. It requires all of us to become involved, knowledgeable, and active.

Start at Home

When we have good spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health, we are better equipped to live a happy and productive life. If our well is dry, however, we won't have much energy available from which to give anything to anyone else. One must begin taking care with the self, first, so there is plenty in there for sharing with others. Self-love is *not* the same thing as self-indulgence. Self-indulgence is doing whatever feels good or eating whatever tastes good or buying whatever we think we want—whether those choices serve us well in the long run or not. (Usually not.) Self-love is all about nurturing oneself so we can operate at an optimal level now and in the future.

Attend to your spiritual needs. This doesn't necessarily mean going to church or a place of worship. Meditation is a wonderful way to slow down the monkey brain and establish inner tranquility. There are many teachers and practices of meditation. The goal is to sit quietly, with no outside distractions, and let go of all the mental chatter. In this quieted mind one can feel the vibration of love and to

receive messages from deeper within oneself. This is a way to establish a regular communication with the Inner Knower (or whatever you call God). This is not just a whimsical pastime. *When the mind finds tranquility, it can function more productively.* When the mind is full of chaos it leads to unwise, often harmful, and certainly to choices that are counterproductive to well-being.

Listen for the still, small voice within. It is only possible to hear this voice when the mind is quiet, so learn which activities allow one's mind to slow down. Connect with the spiritual center to be sure our inner compass is properly calibrated. If our path is generally one of peace, joy, and love, our compass is working. If our life is full of drama, anger, and turmoil, our compass is leading us astray. Learning who we really are, in all our inner glory, is a good place to start getting it back in line. Belief in God is primary. This is not necessarily about going to church or church activities. It may be, but we can decide for ourselves whether those leading our chosen church are in alignment with our family and our values.

In order to do this, we suggest you must *turn off our TV* and limit time spent on social media and peering at our computers and smart phones! We have frequently been misled and programmed by the media. That regained time can be spent reading, researching, and enlightening oneself on a wide array of uplifting subjects. Another productive activity is to contemplate introspective subjects.

- What are the ten (twenty?) best things about me? About my spouse? My children? My friends? That person at work who irritates me? You would be amazed at how powerfully this exercise can change for the better your perspective in personal relationships and thus the relationships themselves!

- If I found the ideal church I would love to attend, what would be its creed and discipline?
- What is the difference between a right and a privilege?
- What important lesson did I learn from the last book I read?
- What are the core differences in our political parties? What does each seek, and how does each, generally, go about achieving its objectives? How are they *like* each other? (We all know well how they differ!)
- How can I better show my spouse and my children my love for them?
- What amazing thing did my child say today?

Verbal types can discuss ideas with someone close. Writing types can use a daily journal to hash out interesting thoughts. Introverts can find a special place to sit and ponder deeper questions. Social types can join a discussion group if it has similar objectives. The point is, take care to feed the mind and spirit with the best quality of food to enhance one's vitality.

Begin a journey to *know thyself*. One of the best ways we've found is to begin understanding at the personality level and then go from there. Each of our *personality style* is a good place to begin, because it is how we've learned to present ourselves to the world. Most of us don't really understand our *be-ing*. We think we should always be *do-ing*. We often judge ourselves and others as *right or wrong*. Be loving and accepting of one's own strengths and weaknesses and do the same for others. See the link on our website to an online personal profile survey.

Take good care of the physical and emotional bodies. Just as what goes into

the mind and spirit affects mental and spiritual health, so what goes into our bodies and emotions reflects in the quality of our health. Junk in, junk out, so to speak. Seek the best quality of physical and emotional food.

- Eat nutritious foods and drink plenty of clean water. The cleanest and most nutritious foods and water we can afford will pay big dividends in better health and energy levels. Educate oneself about good nutrition and don't just follow the fads.
- Breathe clean air (do the best you can with this one). Get outside and avoid masks.
- Rest, exercise, and love.
- Keep company with those who freely offer encouragement and uplifting insight and offer the same to those in our lives.
- Learn to be more self-sufficient.
- Start a little garden to grow good food or buy organic food from local vendors, farmers, and neighbors, or go to the local Farmer's Market if you have one.
- Join a local gym or Rec Center. Exercise is one health practice that gets most easily overlooked or postponed yet yields some of the most powerful and long-lasting benefits.
- Learn the best supplements to help support your body. Everyone is different, so what helps one person may not help all. Learn your own needs.
- Get plenty of sleep, take naps!
- Laugh often and freely. We tend to take ourselves way too seriously and thus end up missing out on the humor life can throw our way.

- Those without pet(s), enjoy your neighbors' dogs, cats, or whatever, to give love and affection. There is plenty of benefit to receive back from them!
- Lists of suggested reading, videos and livestream classes will be on our website eventually.

Take good care of our families. Your spouse or significant other and children, if any, should be the very next most important thing. This is where one begins to share outwardly from the well that has been filled from above.

- Reserve and spend quality time with family, without interruptions. This lets them know they are important in our eyes. It isn't easy to let go of other obligations for a period, we have so many of them these days, but it is critically important for the nurturing of a healthy, happy family.
- Show your love and devotion in ways meaningful to each individual. Learn what each like best—little gifts, deep conversations, affectionate touches—and give that back to them.
- Spend time playing and talking with the family members. Remember when families ate dinner at the same table, at the same time, and *talked* to each other? *Laughed* together? Played board games *together* on Saturday nights after dinner? *No phones? No social media?* Perhaps we have lost something precious, but it's not too late to recoup some of what was good about that way of life. If you think that you don't like board games, consider that the activity itself is not what is important. *The important part is finding out what lights up those children or that spouse and doing more of that activity!* Isn't time spent igniting that light way more important than one's own degree of interest or lack thereof?
- Listen to your spouse and children without judgement. Realize they are spiritual beings just as you are.

- By limiting the mindless media, one may find you have more time for getting better sleep, taking walks, and spending quality time with loved ones.
- Become and remain aware of what the schools are teaching your children. Visit the classroom. Express your opinions about what is being taught. Teach them the truth about the founding of our country and the importance of our founding documents. Teach them values like honesty, truthfulness, caring about others, loving, and sharing. Whatever we value is something we can talk with your children about. Let them begin to share what they value with you, as well. They can have surprisingly deep opinions and insights!
- Seek out the very best educational opportunities for our children. Don't let someone else decide what they are taught and led to believe. Many children thrive with online or at home schooling. Supplement with lots of interaction with other children. One of the biggest reasons for going to school is not the book knowledge, but for children to learn how they want to *be* in the world. Don't be afraid to try new ways of learning.

Get to know and help one's neighbors. One of the most useful tools of social media are the *neighborhood groups* available on them. Many of us live our lives knowing very little if anything about the people who live on each side or across the street. To help if and when needed, each little pod of neighbors needs to get to know each other first. Start with saying hello when passing a neighbor while walking. Ask them about what flowers they grow or compliment them on the yard. It's easy from there to ask their name and to find out if they would like to come over for a glass of wine or cup of coffee sometime, if you are so inclined. Over a

nice beverage one can find out more about them and what challenges they might be facing at a given moment.

- Become one who helps others out.
- Be part of neighborhood social activities.
- Form neighborhood work groups to help the elderly, disabled, or ill neighbors. You might think there is little you can do but sharing a homemade pie or sack of groceries or mowing a lawn or shoveling snow or just sitting and listening can go a long way to brighten someone's day and to create stronger bonds in our neighborhoods.

Become aware of local, national, and world issues and stay informed. Stay vigilant of the news consumed. Be aware that input coming from media and other sources is very often corrupted and biased. Be constantly on guard for propaganda being fed as gospel. Listen to a variety of viewpoints to broaden one's perspective.

- If you would like more information about what has been written here, we suggest that you do your own research. While it is a bit painstaking, it is worth it. We each need to become involved in what is happening in our communities and our world. We all need to form our own decisions. On the heels of writing about LMI, we found many subjects that are quite riveting.
- Be aware of local issues and participate whenever possible. Learn to be a-political (unaffiliated) in seeking the best solutions for issues, regardless of the source of good ideas. Keep party politics from dividing our communities. Realize that we can have different perspectives without judging or condemning those who see things a little differently. Spend time talking

about what is the common goal and solutions for challenges we face. Work in cooperation, not competition. Run for school board, city council, etc. if interested in shaping these areas of the community. Whether elected or not, attend local meetings, hearings, and discussions to hear what's going on and to give your input.

- Educate oneself about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in order to hold communities to the law of the land. See the drop-down tab on our website with the Man of God documents. Find out how our laws are made and how to stop bad ones. Following are a few good references to get you started.
 - ✓ Hillsdale.edu—Offers many free online courses to learn about the Constitution and much more. Donations welcomed.
 - ✓ Constitutionreader.com—Provides free in-depth understanding of the Constitution and other important documents.
 - ✓ Cspoa.com—Sheriff Mack offers a six-week Constitution Course (\$129). Excellent source for educating and vetting your own county sheriff. Donations welcomed.
 - ✓ Prageru.com—While advertised as conservative, it is a great source for a more balanced understanding of many subjects. Donations welcomed.
 - ✓ Annenberg Press—Understanding our Rights as Americans
<https://www.annenbergclassroom.org/resource/our-rights/>

Continue to seek out teachers, groups and friends who can help us develop ourselves spiritually, emotionally, physically, and mentally. We grow and improve ourselves based upon who we are surrounded by. Successful businesspeople have

realized this for years. Look for like-minded folks to share ideas and inspiration. Access uplifting videos, books, and podcasts to fill the mind with expanding concepts. It is said that we will rise to the spiritual and moral level of the five people we spend the most time with. Look for places and ways to *have fun, laugh and share joy!*

More Things You Can Do

This may all sound like a lot of work—and it is—but nothing worthwhile comes without a price. Following are more ideas of things that can be done to help ourselves, our communities, and our world. The connection might seem vague, but all things in this universe are ultimately connected, and what each one of us does has an amazing ripple effect that spreads far beyond what we might be able to see at first glance.

- Choose bank and credit card companies carefully, if we are concerned about supporting the elite families we have discussed previously. Smaller, locally owned banks might be better choices and many offer credit cards. Credit unions are owned by the members (us).
- Limit debt exposure. Every dollar we spend on interest charges and bank fees is a dollar we could have spent on something of our own choosing. Likewise, every dollar we spend on interest charges and bank fees is another dollar in the pockets of those who own the banks. Position oneself where we can pay off our credit cards in full each month. Start by paying off the smallest balances first, then add that monthly payment to the next smallest balance and work up until the total number of dollars first paid on all the

credit accounts is going toward paying off one's mortgage. Once we are debt-free, we are no longer the slave of the banks—true freedom!

- Seek investments in commodities or companies that are not owned by the elite families. Precious metals, oil, and cryptocurrencies all exist outside the “system.” Of these, cryptocurrencies are the least stable, being relatively new on the scene, but also frequently offer some of the highest yields. Think about what forms of investment would be most likely to survive if the world were to find itself in turmoil. And don't put all one's eggs in one basket, so to speak. Spread out the risk exposure.

REMEMBER: You can't go wrong with gold and silver!

The people of America are the savior of America!

These are some of the areas to get us started thinking about changes and improvements we can make. Our website will continue to share information, history, business ideas, and any other subjects that people are interested in learning about. We will give links to others who are doing amazing things in their communities and endeavors. We urge your participation and welcome suggestions.

We envision the website becoming more of an organic vehicle to share our continued ideas of the revival of Liberty Ministries!

As we write this ending chapter, we have begun work on the website. Please be patient as we build it. Visit often to see what new things are being added.

APPENDIX

Scriptural References By Footnote Number

1. Page 6 – Haggai 1:6 “he that earns wages to put it into a bag with holes.”
2. Page 41 -- Genesis 1:26 “let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
3. Page 42 -- Leviticus 25:10 “Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land.”
4. Page 42 -- Jeremiah 34:17 “You have not obeyed Me in proclaiming liberty, everyone to his brother and everyone to his neighbor.
5. Page 42 -- John 8:32 “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
6. Page 42 -- John 10:10 “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.”
7. Page 42 -- Galatians 5:13 “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’.”
8. Page 49 – Acts 17:30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent”
9. Page 73 – I Samuel 8:5 “now make us a king to judge us like all the nations
10. Page 73 -- I Samuel 8:11-18 “And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and *to be* his horsemen; and *some* shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and *will set them* to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. And he will take your daughters *to be* confectionaries, and *to be* cooks, and *to be* bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive yards, *even* the best *of them*, and give *them* to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put *them* to his work. He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.
11. Page 73 -- I Samuel 8:19-20 “Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.”

12. Page 85 -- Hebrews 12:6-11 “For whom the Lord loveth he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives.”
13. Page 111 – Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine. . . .”
14. Page 111 – John 17:15 “They are not of this world.”
15. Page 112 – Romans 2:11 “There is no respect of persons with God.”
16. Page 113 -- I Corinthians 12:4-20 “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.”
17. Page 113 -- Romans 14:12 “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

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