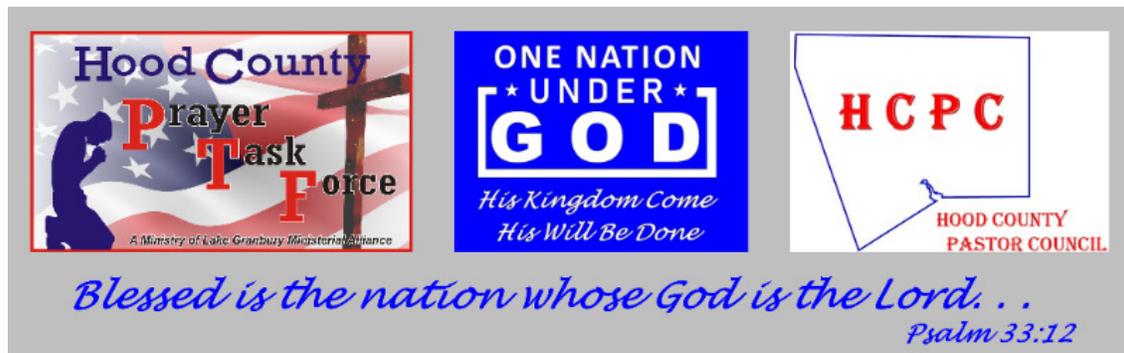


Fred Orcutt

From: Hood County Prayer Task Force <ptf@granburyministries.org>
Sent: Saturday, November 3, 2018 1:59 AM
To: fred@orcutfamily.net
Subject: ONE NATION UNDER GOD Devotional - November 3, 2018

ONE NATION UNDER GOD Devotional

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The Dawn's Early Light!

Our Father who is in heaven, holy is Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6.9-15

Reflections

The English churchman, scholar, and politician William Wilberforce, living during the extraordinarily nationalistic late eighteenth century, defined patriotism as "a quality that bound men and women to their homeland without confining philanthropy to a single nation." "Of this patriotism," wrote Wilberforce, "Christianity is the copious source and the surest preservative."

Christians cannot count it as a sign of weakness or fanaticism to

Challenge

This, the disciple's prayer, is our model. We know that in all things we must pray that God's will would be done just like it would be done in heaven. What

feel a special bond to a specific place. Persons not able to love their country are seriously handicapped, for it is this same preference for the particular that inspires the ability to love our husbands and wives, our children, our homes.

Daring to love and serve both God and country with integrity was a risk Francis Scott Key was willing to take. The author of the words to our national anthem took seriously his responsibilities as both a Christian and an American.

It was in the midst of the highly unpopular War of 1812, Key stepped out of obscurity and into American history. On the night bridging September 13 and 14, 1814, Key found himself in a boat on Chesapeake Bay on a mission of benevolence. Key had volunteered to take part in a not-very optimistic prisoner exchange attempt - trading a captured British officer for the release of an aged, but highly respected American physician, Dr. William Beane. With the approval of President Madison, Key began a two-week voyage down the Bay searching for the already departed British fleet.

Key's negotiating abilities were apparently good enough to return with Dr. Beane, and "The Star Spangled Banner," a poem he had composed during his mission of mercy. It was originally intended to be sung as a hymn of thanks for the rescue of the city of Baltimore from bombardment from the British fleet. Unlike other national anthems, "The Star Spangled Banner" does not extol the glories of battle, instead it offers up gratitude for the event of an *unexpected salvation*.

In the national anthem all eyes are focused on the Flagstaff, hoping against hope that as dawn breaks, the light will reveal that our flag will still be flying there. Today as we face the dawning of a new day of challenges and opportunities, what will we be able to see in the first glimpses of that light?

would be different about this gathering if we would all desire God's will in our life? Can it ever be like Heaven on earth? Maybe it begins with us!

For Discussion

How can my participation in my community and in my government become a witness to the power of transformation in Christ?



Mark Forrest has been the Pastor of Lakeside Baptist Church since 2008. Mark is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, but has lived in Texas since 1988 when he began his seminary training. He has

Prayer

Lord, may our hearts be united in our desire to see your will be done in this worship gathering, in our community, and in our nation. May we love you Lord and reflect your love to others. May we humble ourselves in every situation. May we consider our words, attitudes, and practice and how they would reflect upon You. May we resist seeking glory for ourselves in the organizing of this event or any other situation. May we always be grateful for You, our Savior and Lord!

been a missionary in Malawi, Africa and pastored three churches. He and his wife, Gina, have 6 children.

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