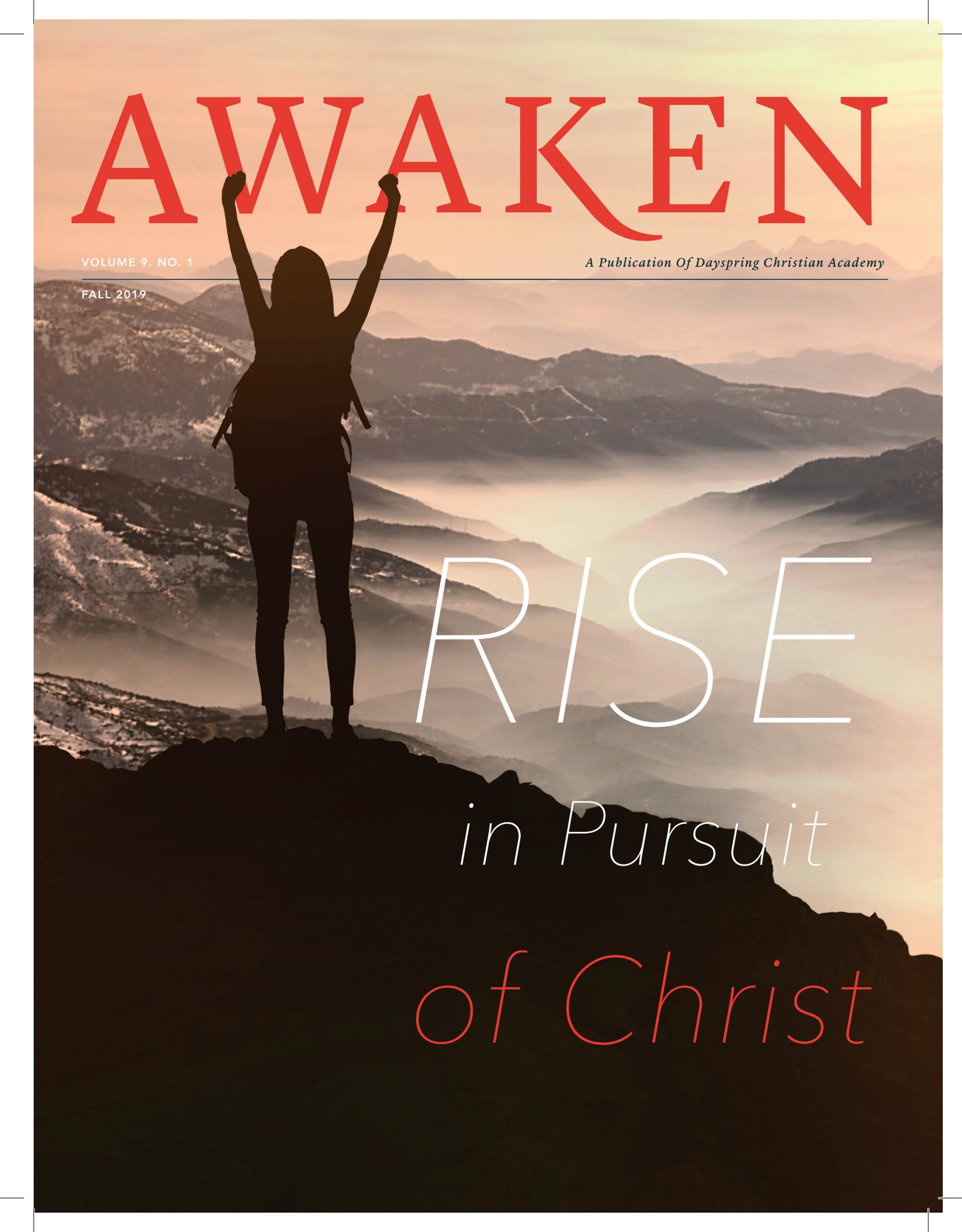


AWAKEN

A person with a backpack stands on a mountain peak, their arms raised in a gesture of triumph or prayer. The background is a vast, hazy mountain range under a warm, golden sunrise or sunset sky. The overall mood is one of spiritual awakening and achievement.

VOLUME 9. NO. 1

A Publication Of Dayspring Christian Academy

FALL 2019

RISE

in Pursuit

of Christ

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we equip students to rise
in pursuit of Christ to fulfill their
God-given destiny. To become

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communicate confidently,
innovate purposefully,
and live courageously as
tomorrow's leaders.



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Awaken magazine is published annually by Dayspring Christian Academy. Dayspring Christian Academy is one of about 25 Principle Approach® schools in America. Of those, Dayspring is one of five model demonstration schools. The mission of Dayspring Christian Academy, through the Principle Approach, is to partner with families and churches in equipping students to:

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

For more information on the school, please visit www.dayspringchristian.com or call 717.285.2000. If you would like to submit comments or letters to the editor of *Awaken*, please email Lisa Becker at lbecker@dayspringchristian.com.

Dayspring Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, or national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

AWAKEN

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RISE in Pursuit of Christ



What Really Matters in Life



BY MIKE MYERS, Ed.D.
Headmaster
Dayspring Christian Academy

It is not unusual for young people (and older ones, as well) to ask the question, “How can I know God’s will for my life?”

As is often the case with humans, we tend to focus on the specifics when the larger picture is in plain sight and is very instructive in helping us find what we are truly looking for. We see this is the book of Micah in the Old Testament, where God is chiding the people of Israel:

He has told you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice, to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?
(Micah 6.8)

This passage captures what is clearly expressed in the Ten Commandments, is reiterated in what Jesus called the First and Second Great Commandments, and is frequently presented in countless other

Scriptures throughout the Bible—that we should love God and love our neighbor.

These two ideals capture the perfect will of God for each and every human being. They are the launching point as we rise in pursuit of Christ and seek to follow His plan for our lives. Contained within them is a most powerful principle: the Principle of Christian Character.

Becoming like Christ is the goal to which all believers aspire, but, notably, cannot attain without the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. In actuality, Christian character is not an end in itself. It is the supernatural effect of a greater cause: a deepening, abiding love relationship with Christ. Over time, as our relationship with Him matures internally, its effects are increasingly evidenced externally. What begins in the heart is expressed in words and actions (Luke 6:45).

Noah Webster defined character as “the peculiar qualities, impressed by nature or habit on a person, which distinguish him from others.”¹ Webster traces the root of the word to mean “to scrape, cut, engrave,” which portends the process by which character is formed in young and old alike.

In truth, there is no shortcut to Christian character development. Founding Father John Adams wrote a letter to his home-schooling wife, Abigail, advocating the primary importance of character training in the upbringing of children:

It should be your care therefore, and mine, to elevate the minds of our children, and exalt their courage, to accelerate and animate their industry and activity, to excite in them an habitual contempt of meanness, abhorrence of injustice and inhumanity, and an ambition to excel in every capacity, faculty, and virtue. If we suffer their minds to grovel and creep in infancy, they will grovel and creep all their lives.²

For believers in Christ, the development of Christian character is a lifelong process, which begins in the home and the church. The Christian school and Christian college are very valuable supports in this process as

the child grows to adulthood. This home-church-school concept is embodied in the three-stranded partnership espoused in the mission statement of Dayspring Christian Academy.

The mission of Dayspring Christian Academy, through the Principle Approach, is to partner with families and churches in equipping students to:

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

Pointedly, the third tenet of Dayspring's four-pronged mission addresses the aim of equipping students to be “citizens of excellence in Christian character and scholarship,” and for good reason.

As contemporary American culture increasingly distances itself from an attachment to a biblical framework for life and liberty, what Principle Approach architect Rosalie Slater called “the gold of Christian character” is disappearing.

Young people are adrift in a morass of conflicting and ill-tempered sentiments. Role models of ennobling and self-sacrificing biblical virtues are fading from the public consciousness, being supplanted with crass celebrity that bursts onto the scene, capturing the attention and hearts of our youth. Prophetically, right has become wrong and wrong has become right; truth lies bleeding in the streets (Isaiah 59.14).

How can one know the will of God for one's life? What does Christian character have to do with that? C. S. Lewis provides an apt answer to these questions:

Now the whole offer which Christianity makes is this: that we can, if we let God have His way, come to share in the life of Christ. ... If we share in this kind of life, we also shall be sons of God. We shall love the Father as He does and the Holy Ghost will arise in us. He came to this world and became a man in order to spread to other men the kind of life He has—by what I call “good infection.” Every Christian is to become a little Christ. The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is simply nothing else.³

Now more than ever, we must rise in pursuit of Christ. It is, after all, what matters most to God. It is His ultimate purpose for His children. Only in Christ will we find fulfillment in this life and the next. What a powerful concept for our young people as they “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:14). ▶

Now more than ever, we must rise in pursuit of Christ. It is, after all, what matters most to God.

It is His ultimate purpose for His children.

¹ Webster, N. (2006). Noah Webster's first edition of An American dictionary of the English language. Anaheim, CA: Foundation for American Christian Education.

² Hall, V. M. (1976). The Christian history of the American Revolution: consider and ponder (p. 606). San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education.

³ Lewis, C. S. (2001). Mere Christianity (p. 177). New York: HarperOne.

Portrait of a Dayspring Graduate

At Dayspring Christian Academy, we equip students as faith-filled, biblical thinkers who pursue Christian character, communicate confidently, innovate purposefully, and live courageously as tomorrow's leaders.

Faith-filled

*... Nothing will be impossible to you.
(Matthew 17:20)*

With the understanding that there is nothing that is separate from God's providence, students are able to follow God's plans and purposes for their lives with hearts yielded to the authority of Jesus Christ. Students recognize God's connection with their lives and recognize their reciprocal connection to God; students acknowledge that both connections work in tandem to create lifelong stability.

Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language Reference:

FAITHFUL:

Firm in adherence to the truth and to the duties of religion.

Reason Rightly and Apply Biblical Thinking

Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. (Joshua 1:8)

Students are learning to think creatively to be problem solvers and thoughtfully defend reasoned positions. With a high level of social, emotional intelligence, students can discern truth and meaningfully engage in persuasive discussions. Students understand the character and nature of God, while understanding the condition of man. As students mature in their handling of the Word of God, they learn to apply biblical principles to every area of their lives.

1828 Reference:

REASON:

A faculty of the mind by which it distinguishes truth from falsehood, and good from evil, and which enables the possessor to deduce inferences from facts or from propositions.

APPLY:

To fix the mind; to engage and employ with attention.



WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM A DAYSPRING EDUCATION?

We call it our “portrait of a graduate.” It answers the question, “What is a Dayspring education designed to do for my child?” By the grace of God, we equip students to rise in pursuit of Christ to fulfill their God-given destiny.

Hold Christian Character with Excellence

But we urge you... to excel still more. (1 Thessalonians 4:10)

As we watch students learn through the Principle Approach and follow God as graduates, they serve with a strong work ethic and godly character. Their politeness and respectfulness set them apart as their diligence and high standards cause them to stand out. While others may boast in self-esteem, Dayspring graduates are confident in Christ.

1828 Reference:

EXCELLENCE:

In persons, any thing highly laudable, meritorious or virtuous.

CHARACTER:

By way of eminence, distinguished or good qualities; those which are esteemed and respected.

HONOR:

Reputation; good name; distinction; true nobleness of mind.

Confidently Communicate and Purposefully Innovate

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

Through a Dayspring education, students learn to search original sources. They are inquisitive and desire to understand not just what but why. With God’s Word as the center of all knowledge, they learn to view the world through that lens. They learn to see God in everything and to rely on Him to point to Truth. They are biblical thinkers and spiritually minded. They are grounded with a strong foundation of biblical knowledge and learn to articulate truth in writing and speech. This gives them a confident readiness as faith defenders and enables them to share the Gospel. They take initiative and live purposefully to fulfill the plans God has for them wherever they go.

1828 Reference:

COMMUNICATE:

To impart, as knowledge; to reveal; to give, as information, either by words, signs or signals; to deliver.

INNOVATE:

To bring in something new.

Live Courageously as Tomorrow’s Leaders

Proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. (Leviticus 25:10)

We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5:20a)

Understanding that the Gospel can only go forward where there is freedom to do so, Dayspring students understand that self-governance is required for liberty to endure. They learn history by studying original and primary sources and view it providentially as God moving people and nations for His plans and purposes. In doing so, students learn that God has a plan for them and their lives, which enables them to live with courage and possess an enterprising mind to create, serve, and lead. They take initiative and live purposefully to fulfill the plans God has for them wherever they go.

1828 Reference:

COURAGEOUSLY:

With courage; bravely; boldly; stoutly.

LEADER:

A guide; a chief; a commander; a captain. One who goes first.

The Value of a Principle Approach Education at Dayspring



2019 Salutatorian Address

BY ISABELLA JOHNSON

Good morning, friends, family, faculty, and my fellow graduating class of 2019. I am honored to have the opportunity to stand in front of you today, conveying the uniqueness of a Dayspring education, illustrating 12 years of cherished memories, and representing my class on this celebratory occasion.

Fourteen years ago, my parents began researching Christian schools in Lancaster County for their 4-year-old daughter. Without understanding the nuances of a Christian curriculum, my parents narrowed down their list to two options, and Dayspring was not one of them. In fact, my parents had never heard of Dayspring or the Principle Approach method of education. This set the stage for a key event several months later. As my mom stood in a Thanksgiving buffet line, she just happened to strike up a conversation with a Dayspring parent. The conversation turned to school, and my mom began explaining our family's dilemma. This individual emphasized the importance of investigating Dayspring Christian Academy

and the Principle Approach curriculum. By the end of the buffet line, my mom recognized that God was directing her to Dayspring's doors.

Dayspring fosters a biblical worldview within its students through a Principle Approach

**“Graduates, as we enter
a new season of life,
let us preserve and
protect the legacy we
have in Jesus Christ.”**

education. I would like to highlight the following quote from The Foundation for American Christian Education:

Biblical-Classical Education, the Principle Approach, America's historic method of

Biblical reasoning, places the Truth of God's Word at the heart of education in every subject.¹

It is a statement we hear time and time again without fully grasping its magnitude. Our biblical worldview has been carefully constructed within us through the Principle Approach and has carried itself into every aspect of our reasoning. Dayspring has ingrained biblical truths such as God's providence, omniscience, and creativity deeply within us since age 5 through classroom instruction and life-changing field studies. During my 12 years of developing this view, I did not always recognize the work God was performing in my heart every day as I absorbed new information from a biblical perspective.

How does an individual with a biblical foundation view crises and conflict? How have his personal aspirations been impacted by his worldview? These questions must be considered in order to properly evaluate how a biblical worldview equips one for his

future endeavors. Dayspring equips students with the absolute truth of Scripture. As Dayspring students, when we face tumultuous events, we recognize that our understanding as humans is extremely limited; therefore, we surrender fear and anxiety to the Creator Himself. Our personal aspirations mirror our biblical worldview, for we desire to pursue the things in life that fulfill our God-given purpose.

Shockingly, 68 percent of teenagers abandon the church following high school graduation.² Our biblical worldview is a part of us, but if we do not nurture it, it will not continue to flourish throughout our lifetime. Classmates, let us maintain the biblical worldview we have developed through our Dayspring education and not fall into this high percentage of those who have abandoned the faith. Dayspring, thank you for establishing in us a worldview that provides eternal peace and comfort, as well as establishes our purpose as children of God. Our parents entrusted us seven hours a day to expose us to biblical truth. When the

church, home, and school unite, the student fully thrives. We will forever appreciate your incredible work as you partnered with our parents in this endeavor.

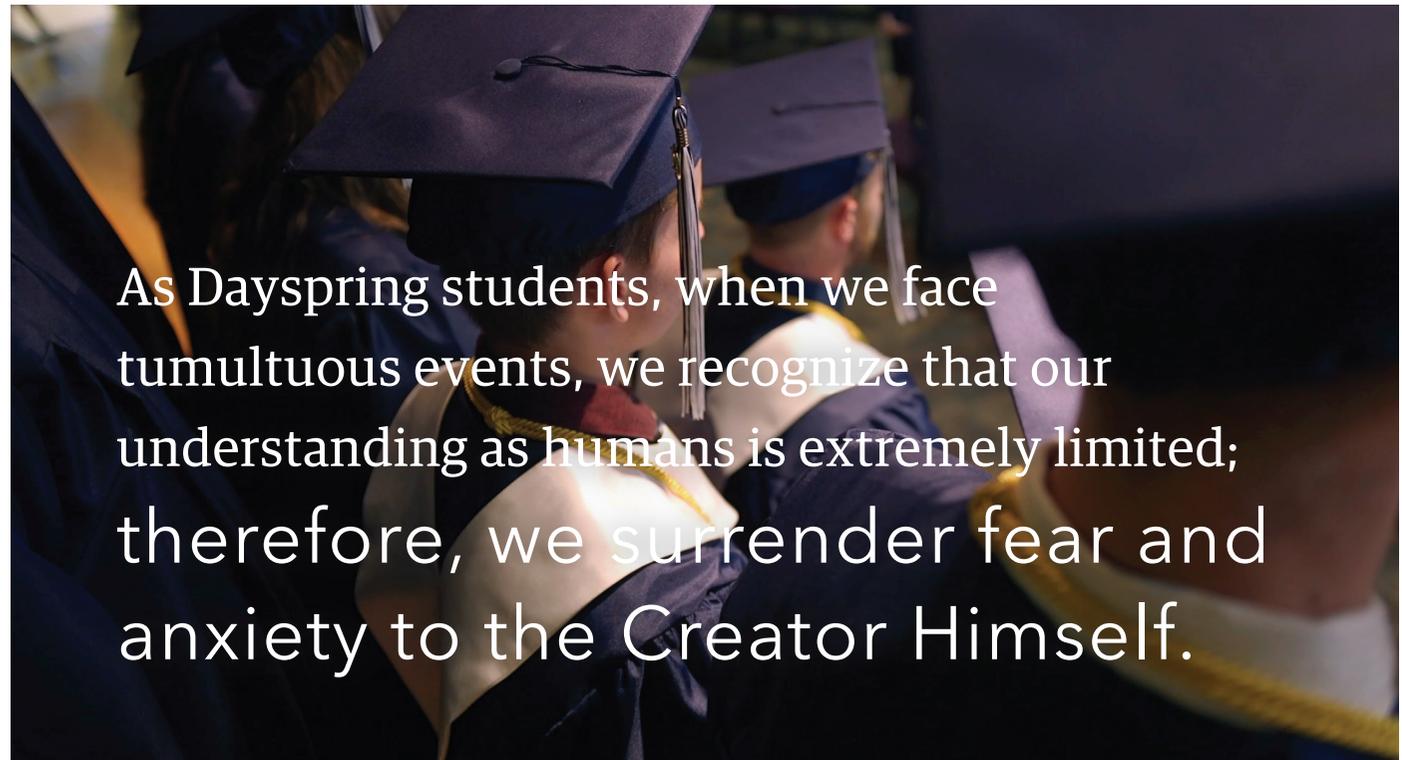
In closing, Dayspring has given us the lifelong gift of a biblical worldview, influencing every event and decision in our lives. As we depart from these halls, let us be reminded today that we may choose to embrace the gift that has been given to us, this biblical worldview, or we may choose to abandon it. If we choose to abandon our biblical worldview, we are susceptible to the darkness that occupies our cultural landscape. If we choose to embrace it, we will be equipped to recognize and pursue those things of eternal value as stated in Philippians 4:8: “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Graduates, as we enter a new season of life, let us preserve and protect the legacy we have in Jesus Christ. ➤

Isabella Johnson attends Liberty University, where she is studying Law and Policy: Pre-Law.

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¹“The Principle Approach.” The Foundation for American Christian Education, *The Foundation for American Christian Education*, 2019, [face.net/why-the-principle-approach/](https://www.face.net/why-the-principle-approach/). Accessed 13 May 2019.

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As Dayspring students, when we face tumultuous events, we recognize that our understanding as humans is extremely limited; therefore, we surrender fear and anxiety to the Creator Himself.

Character *in the* Classroom

Reshaping the Heart of America



BY LISA BECKER

Civility cannot be mandated. It is an outflow of the heart. It is a measure of the character of the common group, which is shaped by the character of the individual. When it is distilled down to this consideration, one can better see the value of character education in reshaping the heart of America.

In the classroom today, there is the opportunity to educate children in such a way that they may learn to impart the salt of Christian character and the light of the Gospel. The question then is, are schools equipping children to do this?

The modern public-school teacher can be concerned for the well-being of the student in terms of qualities such as “academic performance, mindset, well-being, and readiness for their future” or “helping students learn and become healthy, happy adults.”¹ But many Christians seek more from their child’s education. From a look at recent headlines, it is clear America needs it.

A FOUNDATION OF VIRTUE

The nation was not designed to run on empty from the perspective of virtue and character. In fact, in a letter from Founding Father Samuel Adams to James Warren, president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, dated February 12, 1779, Adams saw these things not just as a matter of manners but as a matter of liberty. He bluntly stated, “While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue then will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader.”

“The battle today is for men’s hearts and souls.

It is not a battle for men’s minds.

The mind will believe only what the heart, the character, the conscience, of an individual dictates.”

ROSALIE SLATER

Founder of the Principle Approach

We have allowed our treasure to be robbed and pillaged of its gold—the gold of Christian character.

In so doing, we have lost our vision of the destiny and purpose of God's America.

ROSALIE SLATER

Teaching and Learning America's Christian History

This understanding ran deep in America's founders. Benjamin Franklin wrote this in a letter to Dr. Samuel Johnson, a clergyman, educator, historian, and philosopher in colonial America: "Nothing is more important for the public weal than to form and train up the youth in wisdom and virtue."

WHAT ABOUT CHARACTER EDUCATION TODAY?

The Principle Approach to education that is used at Dayspring Christian Academy sets character development, founded on the Bible, as the centerpiece to education for the individual, the family, the community, the nation, and beyond. The Principle of Christian Character is one of the seven pillar principles of the Principle Approach,

and character education is built into the curriculum for all grade levels.

From an individual perspective, the Principle of Christian Character states, "As my character is forged by Christ, I reach my fullest expression and enjoy harmony with others. My character predicts the success and happiness of fulfilling my destiny."² Drawn from Adams' understanding of the impact of personal character on a nation, this principle extends outward with the understanding of individual character: "A self-governing republic requires a virtuous people in order to endure."³

Rosalie Slater, founder of the Principle Approach to education, understood this:

"The battle today is for men's hearts and souls. It is not a battle for men's minds. The mind will believe only what the heart, the character, the conscience, of an individual dictates. We cannot rely alone on information, but we must depend upon consecration, as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."⁴

GOVERNMENT EDUCATION FORGES GROUP CHARACTER, NOT CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

As Slater studied the founding era of America and the history of education in the nation, she witnessed the extinguishing of the development of Christian character. "Yielding to the arguments of secularism in the 1830s, '40s, and '50s, we permitted our churches to relinquish their leadership of Christian education," she noted. "In making this change into the government-sponsored schools, we closed our Bible as the educational and political textbook, and we shifted our level of education from the building of individual Christian character to the building of a group character, conformable to society. As we shifted from a God-centered republic to a man-centered democracy—we began to flounder."⁵

HOPE FOR TODAY

This is precisely the reason the Principle Approach to education was born. Character education at Dayspring begins in early childhood education, which includes preschool, Developmental Kindergarten, and Academic Kindergarten.

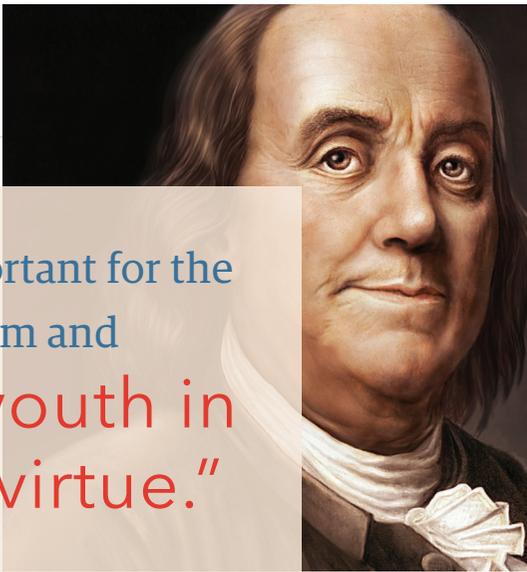
"We focus on character development from day one," said Academic Kindergarten teacher Donna Osborne. "We learn about



Character development is central to learning at Dayspring from the beginning in the early childhood education programs.



To understand the Christian character of the Pilgrims, Dayspring students study the first-comers in field studies in third and ninth grades.



“Nothing is more important for the public weal than to form and train up the youth in wisdom and virtue.”

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

obedience, kindness, patience, gentleness, and several other positive character traits. We discuss what each of these character traits means and what they would look like in the students’ lives. Each child learns and touches on the characteristics of God and how to build those characteristics in their own lives.”

According to Osborne, lessons are always steeped in Scripture. “We always try to have the students think about the consequences of their choices, and we bring them back to answering questions like ‘How would God want you to behave?’ or ‘What choice will honor God?’” she noted. “As a result of this approach, students are able to reason through the choices and even mistakes that they make. In a public-school setting, you do not see the focus placed on honoring God with every choice and action. We can remind students of Scripture, biblical accounts, and specific principles in the Bible that relate to their situation and their character. God’s Word is laid at the foundation of all that we do. It is how God asks parents to instruct their children in Deuteronomy 6.”

CHARACTER TAUGHT THROUGH LITERATURE

All Dayspring students learn character through the study of literature. Each literature report that students write begins with a consideration of the internal and external character of the characters in each book or story. One such example is the fourth-grade study of Nathaniel Bowditch and his persevering character in the book *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch*. Bowditch is credited as the father of modern maritime mathematics.

“Nathaniel Bowditch’s biography has had an impact on me by teaching me to never give

up and also to persevere,” said student Kylie Smucker of her fourth-grade literature study.

Students experience this type of character study throughout their Dayspring education in books including *Little Women*, *Hans Brinker*, *Ben-Hur*, *The Great Gatsby*, and others.

CHARACTER LESSONS FROM HEROES IN HISTORY

History is not just a scan of dates and men but of the character that made the individual and how God used the person for His purposes.

CLASSROOM CONSTITUTIONS REFLECT CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AND SELF-GOVERNMENT

To demonstrate that character education at Dayspring is more than a character-trait-of-the-month approach, classroom constitutions are constructed, utilized, and valued. Students from preschool through high school play a role in developing each classroom constitution, which becomes a lesson in Christian character. It is an exercise in learning self-government, which is necessary for a people to be free. Shown here is an example of the most recent third-grade class constitution:

I want to learn to submit to God in governing myself from the heart. Therefore, I want to do what is right in our class. By doing so, I am showing respect to my teacher, to others, and to God. I will try to always do my best to:

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Raise my hand and wait to be called on.
3. Show kindness to others in what I say and do.
4. Leave my seat at appropriate times in an appropriate manner.
5. Keep my hands and feet to myself.
6. Make no unnecessary/unusual noises.

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Romans 12:10

“Be kind and compassionate to one another.” Ephesians 4:32

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.” James 1:19

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to those in authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” Hebrews 13:17

“We teach internal (characteristics) to external in all subjects, and this manifests itself naturally in history studies, which include government, civics, geography, economics, sociology, etc.,” said Dan Stone, history teacher and Upper School principal. “When we are teaching the Principle of Christian Self-Government, we teach students that one has to govern himself or an external governor will be necessary. This connects directly to how we teach civics and government as well as how we teach sociology and anthropology. There is also a direct connection between internal self-government—or lack thereof—to a society or nation’s economic systems.

“The writings from the founding generation are replete with the connection between Christian morality and civic, political, economic, and sociological virtue,” Stone continued. “A self-governing republic relies heavily on the character of the individuals in the republic.”

Students in ninth grade travel to Massachusetts for a field study that highlights this teaching well.

“Probably my favorite example is the Battles of Lexington and Concord. In (these battles), the minutemen of New England rose in defense of their liberty,” Stone said. “There were thousands of regular farmers who had the virtue, dedication, discipline, and bravery to answer liberty’s call. This had been instilled in them by their parents, teachers, pastors, and political leaders. Generations of Christian self-government from the 1630s up until the 1770s produced these people.”

Stone sees the lessons sink into the students as seeds that are planted and bear fruit over time.

“The most meaningful impact I see is not in our students while they are here at Dayspring,” he said. “It is when I see or hear from our alumni and learn of how their Dayspring education is influencing the decisions they make, the careers they have chosen, and the way they are now training their own children.”

IF WE EDUCATE THE MIND BUT NOT THE HEART

Character education is intentional. Is it possible our nation is seeing the fruit of educating the minds of our youth while the pillar of Christian character has been withdrawn and the heart ignored? Character in our children that is forged by Christ is the greatest hope for reshaping the heart of America and restoring its biblical foundation.

If you want to learn more about the Principle Approach at Dayspring, please visit DayspringChristian.com. ➤

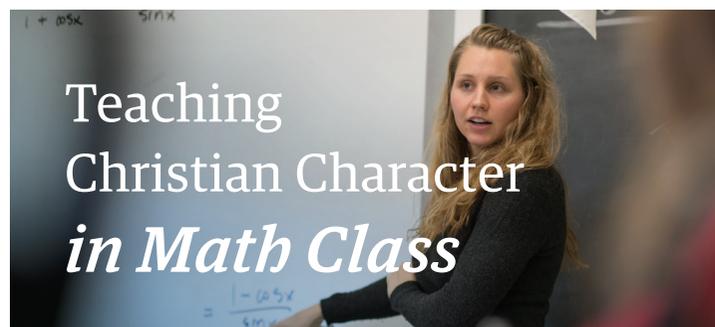
¹ <https://www.teachthought.com/pedagogy/11-priorities-for-the-modern-public-school-teacher/>

² <https://face.net/the-seven-principles/>

³ <https://www.dayspringchristian.com/about/our-vision-history/the-principle-approach/>

⁴ Slater, Rosalie J. *Teaching and Learning America’s Christian History*; San Francisco, CA; Foundation for American Christian Education; 1965.

⁵ *Ibid.*



Teaching Christian Character in Math Class

WHY DO WE STUDY MATH?

Upper School math teacher Rebecca Detweiler shares elements of character instruction through math.

- *To admire and cherish the beauty in the exactness and perfection and experience the greatness of God when facing the depth and complexity of math (Psalm 8:3-6)*

Math is beautiful, and math is a beautiful reflection of who God is. He defines what it means to be orderly and logical.

- *To adequately develop the reasoning talents given by God (I Peter 4:10)*

Since math is worthy of our study, we are called to study it well in order to steward the abilities given to us by God our Creator.

- *To exercise diligence and practice to develop a skill to the glory of God (Proverbs 12:24, I Corinthians 10:31, Hebrews 5:14)*

Sometimes, especially at the end of a school year, it’s hard to remember the beauty of math, the way it reflects our good Creator, and the way it helps to train our minds in logic. Sometimes learning is hard and maybe a little boring. Even then, the study of math can help to mold us into people of diligence and skill who do their work to the glory of God with excellence, even when it is challenging or mundane.

- *To instill order and thorough procedures when encountering unknown situations that require the use of reasoning skills (I Corinthians 14:40)*

Math is directly applicable to the world we live in. But some will not need to use advanced algebra in the future. So why bother learning it? We already know it is beautiful and worthy of our study, but it also develops us into logical thinkers and problem solvers. We can practice orderly processes and problem solving in math class and then take those skills to our future jobs, the way we maintain our homes, and corporate worship in the church.

Building Christian Character

The Bible:

The Primary Textbook at Dayspring Christian Academy

BY JILL DIFFENDERFER



What does it mean when Dayspring emphasizes that the Bible is its central textbook, the source for all learning? What does that look like for a Dayspring student? Will my child spend time in God's Word at Dayspring? Is it simply memorization and recitation that my student encounters when it comes to God's Word? How does one learn to apply the Bible to every area of life, and how can Dayspring confidently state that its students become capable of doing this?

Let's start at the beginning. Why would Dayspring Christian Academy want its students not only to read and memorize verses from the Bible, but to have the Bible

as their primary textbook? 1 Corinthians 3:11 says, "For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." In other words, as Christians, we cannot have a foundation other than the one that is already in place. That foundation should be Jesus Christ. He is the source from which we should educate and build our lives. It is this foundation that keeps us from falling in a chaotic and sinful world. It is this foundation in Christ that forms our worldview.

As Verna Hall and Rosalie Slater of the Foundation for American Christian Education (FACE) declare, "Without the Bible, the Pilgrims, Puritans, and [p]atriots would not have learned how to govern their families, their churches, their towns, their colonial assemblies—all in preparation for the establishment of a new nation under

God—the United States of America. Without the Bible, the [p]ioneers moving westward would not have practiced the voluntarism which built homes, churches, schools, communities, businesses, and new states for the Union."¹

The same is true of us today. Without the Bible, we cannot lead God-honoring and productive lives. The Pilgrims, Puritans, and patriots all received a supreme education, for the Bible was their primary textbook. All other sources were secondary to its greatness.

John Jay, president of Congress and author of the Federalist Papers, stated, "The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life

by its precepts. [T]he evidence of the truth of Christianity requires only to be carefully examined to produce conviction in candid mind ... they who undertake that task will derive advantages.”

What are the advantages of which John Jay spoke? If we look back to the Israelites, we find that their model of education had a distinct purpose. This purpose was to “train the whole person for lifelong, obedient service in the knowledge of God ... and transmit a historical and ethical heritage.” Instead of “knowing oneself,” which is the goal of the Greek (Classical) model of education, the Hebrew system of education had the objective of knowing God as the primary purpose of education.²

Using the Bible as primary textbook gives us the ability and the advantage of knowing God. From this, we can view the rest of the world through His eyes.

Why does this matter? As stated in a recent blog, “When we hold ideas up to biblical truth, we can stop being confused and tricked by bad ideas. When we hold ideas up to biblical truth, we can find answers to our big questions. Then, we can relate confidently to others without judgment, and we can learn how to truly make a difference.”³

In recent years, the Barna Group has conducted several studies on the worldviews of Christians in America. A study done in partnership with Summit Ministries found that only 17% of practicing Christians have a Christian worldview on the key statements that were surveyed. Twelve of the statements posed to these Christians analyzed their worldview. Statements such as “meaning and purpose come from working hard to earn as much as possible, so you can make the most of life,” and “all people pray to the same god or spirit, no matter what name they use for that spiritual being” were a part of the survey. Sadly, these worldview statements resonated with many of the Christians taking the survey.

What does this mean for America? Brooke Hempell, senior vice president of research for Barna, noted, “This research really crystallizes what Barna has been tracking in our country as an ongoing shift away from Christianity as the basis for a shared worldview. ... It is striking how pervasive some of these beliefs are among people who are actively engaged in the Christian faith. The challenge with competing worldviews is that there are fragments of similarities to some Christian teachings, and some may recognize and latch on to these ideas, not realizing they are distortions of biblical truths. The call for the Church, and its teachers and thinkers, is to help Christians dissect popular beliefs before allowing them to settle in their own ideology. Informed thinking is essential in developing and maintaining a healthy biblical worldview and faith as well as being able to have productive dialogue with those who espouse other beliefs.”⁴

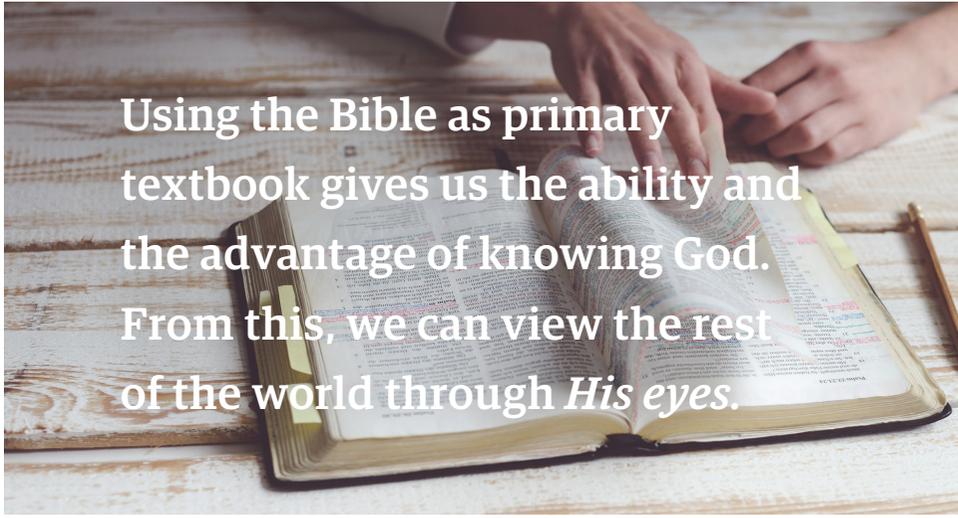
Without the Bible as our foundation for education, we allow ideas from the many pervasive worldviews to enter in.

At Dayspring Christian Academy, the Bible is paramount in every classroom. Every subject is taught through the lens of biblical Truth. The Bible is used in every course, not just in Bible class. Beyond

HOW DOES USING THE BIBLE AS PRIMARY TEXTBOOK WORK?

FACE offers the following explanation:

- First and foremost, the Bible teaches the child to fear the Lord.
- The Bible is the highest model of the English language.
- The Bible imparts the knowledge of God to the reader.
- The Bible impresses truth on a child’s mind.
- The Bible contributes to self-government, producing useful citizens and respectable members of society.
- The Bible enlivens the reader.
- The Bible builds a moral, noble, and elevated vocabulary.
- The Bible provides models (role models) and lessons of godly character.
- When used as primary reader and textbook, it inculcates a lifelong habit of reading the Bible.
- The Bible consecrates the child’s mind.
- The Bible reveals God’s promises of longevity and prosperity.
- The Bible develops Christian scholarship, thinking, writing, and reasoning.
- When used as primary textbook, it cultivates an enlightened reader.
- The Bible as primary textbook builds a biblical, Christian worldview.



Using the Bible as primary textbook gives us the ability and the advantage of knowing God. From this, we can view the rest of the world through *His eyes*.

that, students are challenged in weekly chapels, where a new book of the Bible is studied each month. To carry their exposure to God's Word even further, students are challenged to read the book of the Bible being studied in chapel on their own.

Noah Webster declared, "The great source of all truths by which men are to be guided in government, as well as in all social transactions ... the Bible is the instrument of all reformation in morals and religion." Similarly, James McHenry, signer of the United States Constitution and the eponym of Fort McHenry, stated, "Bibles are strong protections. Where they abound, men cannot pursue wicked courses and at the same time enjoy quiet conscience."

As educators, our desire is to see every child who comes through our doors develop a biblical worldview that will serve them well and protect them their entire lives. For the Dayspring student, the Bible is a companion in every class. Further, unique to Principle Approach schools is student engagement in the 4Rs of learning—Research, Reason, Relate, and Record—as a methodology that builds a biblical worldview.

The first step in the 4R process is researching God's Word to identify the basic principles that govern a particular subject by searching the Scriptures for the vocabulary used in the subject and deducing its biblical source and purpose. The next step is reasoning. Using the Principle Approach, students learn to

reason from biblical principles or truths and identify them through each subject, thereby concluding from Scripture the biblical significance and government importance of the subject. After researching and reasoning is relating.

Within the Principle Approach, the purpose of relating is to expound or explain thoroughly the meaning and application of biblical truth—it lays open the meaning of the subject and makes clear the student's understanding of the subject. The final R, then, is recording. The student creates a written record of the individual application of the biblical principle. This process enables the truth to be deeply imprinted in the student's mind and more easily remembered. The 4R method of learning takes students far beyond memorization and rote recitation of the Scriptures. Within the Principle Approach, the Bible becomes relatable and applicable to every area of life.

Elias Boudinot, framer of the Bill of Rights, described the Bible with these words:

For nearly half a century have I anxiously and critically studied that invaluable treasure [the Bible]; and I still scarcely ever take it up that I do not find something new—that I do not receive some valuable addition to my stock of knowledge or perceive some instructive fact never observed before. In short, were you to ask me to recommend the most valuable book in the world, I should fix on the Bible as the most instructive both to the wise and ignorant. Were you to ask me for one affording the most rational and pleasing entertainment to the inquiring mind, I should repeat, it is the Bible; and should you renew the inquiry for the best philosophy or the most interesting history, I should still urge you to look into your Bible. I would make it, in short, the Alpha and Omega of knowledge. ▶

¹ <https://www.face.net>

² <https://www.face.net>

³ <https://www.dayspringchristian.com/blog/truth-changes-everything/>

⁴ <https://www.barna.com/research/competing-worldviews-influence-todays-christians/>

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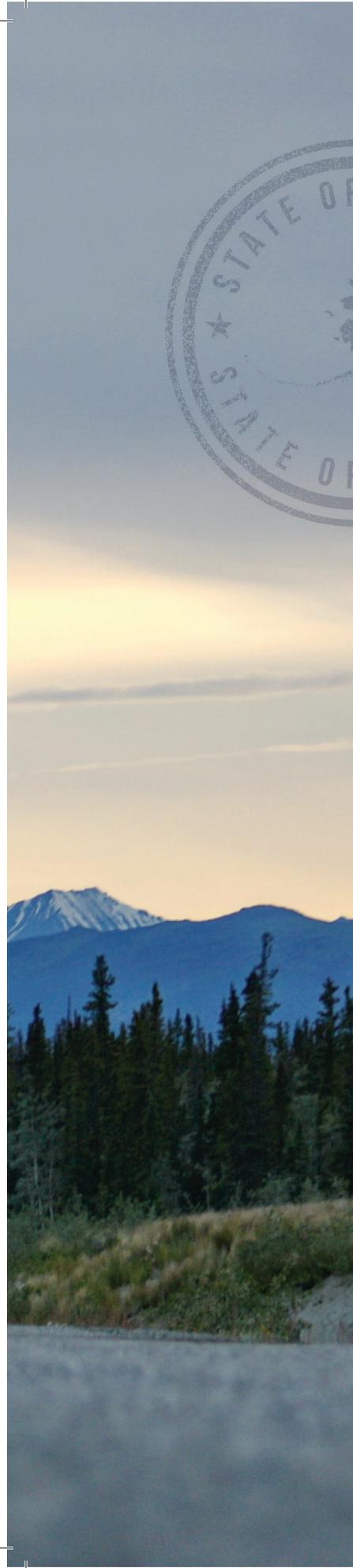


Extreme Pursuit *of* Christ

Alumnus Follows Calling to
the Alaskan Wilderness

"Dayspring taught me to see God in everything."

JASON MELLINGER
Dayspring Class of 1999



Before Jason Mellinger '99 found himself in the Alaskan wilderness as a missionary serving missionaries, he used his mechanical abilities for less savory things—like stealing cars from his classmates at a school he attended in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, through 10th grade.

“When I was 16, I started stealing, because we couldn’t afford to buy food in the school cafeteria,” Mellinger admitted. “I used to steal cars and skip school. I wanted to fit in. I was bullied from kindergarten on up, so I hung out with all the other kids who were bullied, and they were all out for revenge.”

It was only after he came to Dayspring Christian Academy in 11th grade that Mellinger began to see that God had something planned for his life that he could never have imagined. “When I first came to Dayspring, that was the first time I ever really had a friend,” Mellinger shared.

About that time, God further got Mellinger’s attention. “In the summer between 11th and 12th grade, because I wasn’t allowed to drive, I rode my bike everywhere and was involved in a bicycle accident,” Mellinger said. “I was going about 50 (miles per hour), and I hit a pole with my face. There was a lot of head trauma and skin loss, and I was in the hospital for a while.

“At the time, I had worked at a funeral home, and my plan was to go to mortuary school,” Mellinger recalled. “Because of my accident, I couldn’t continue my job or go to mortuary school. That enabled me to move toward God.”

Mellinger’s life plans changed after the accident. He was a finalist in the annual Headmaster’s Oration Competition at Dayspring that fall, presenting an oration on “biblical worldview” at the Patriots Ball, now known as the Patriots Celebration Dinner. He also decided to attend Word of Life Bible Institute following graduation.

“I didn’t have a direction at that point but knew God wanted me to work in aviation,” Mellinger said. “I was at Word of Life and

they had a college fair in the first couple of months that I was there. I told God, ‘I remember you want me to do aviation. I’m going to go in (to the fair) and I want to go to one table and if they have a flight program, I’m going to go there. If they don’t, then I’m just going to be a truck driver or something.’ I went in and the school (at the first table I went to) had a flight program, so I signed up for it. I finished Word of Life and then I went there right away.”

“There” was Piedmont Baptist College in Winston Salem, North Carolina, where Mellinger started in the aircraft maintenance school. However, after he attended the college for only one year a missionary from Alaska spoke in chapel, and Mellinger felt a tug on his heart. By the next fall, Mellinger found himself in an Alaskan village assisting with maintenance and construction projects. At that point, he felt God wanted him to stay.

“I drove back to Pennsylvania long enough to get my truck and load up and drive back (to Alaska) in January,” he said. “This was the first time I felt like I was intentionally pursuing what God had called me to do. I wasn’t just thinking about things. I was actually doing it.”

FOLLOWING JESUS IS NOT ALWAYS AN EASY ROAD

Part of Mellinger’s extreme pursuit of Christ includes a few harrowing experiences. One such experience occurred when he drove back to Alaska during January, which he says was “a terrible idea.”

“I had a 1979 Ford pickup truck with no heat,” he recalled. “We bought a case of windshield de-freezer so we could get the ice off the windshield and could see where we were going, but my friend (who rode out

with me) drove us off the road somewhere in Alberta or British Columbia (Canada). Someone in a truck had seen us go off the road and told us there was only one truck big enough to get us out and it was three hours away.”

Just then, the truck that the passerby had mentioned appeared.

“This truck with a humongous plow on the front, wings on both sides, just happened to come around the corner. We hooked up every chain that we had and got (my truck) up,” Mellinger recalled.

While the assisting truck hauled Mellinger’s truck back up to the road, there was so much snow packed under the hood that it wouldn’t start. The fact that the temperature was 52 degrees below zero didn’t help.

“We dragged it up onto the road, got all the snow out from under it, got it started, but then the fan belt had broken,” Mellinger recalled. “I went to put a new fan belt on, and it was so cold that the power steering pump, which tensions the belt, just shattered in my hands. So, we had no power steering on top of no heat.”

The truck driver who hauled Mellinger’s truck back to the road let him know about a construction camp not far away. However, even though the temperature was dipping to 60 degrees below zero, he and his travel companion decided instead to try and make

Jason Mellinger and his children enjoy life as missionaries in rural Alaska



the hour-and-a-half drive to the town of Watson Lake (Yukon), spend a couple days there, get the truck fixed, and thaw everything out.

“It was about midnight and we hadn’t seen anyone on the road since the snow plow came and dug us out of the snow,” Mellinger said. “We were going up this hill and all of a sudden, the carburetor started to freeze up on the truck. I asked my friend if he had put anti-icing stuff on the last time he had filled up (the gas tank). He had forgotten.”

About halfway up the mountain, the truck finally stalled.

“We could not get it started,” he said. “We had a trailer on the back, so we couldn’t get the truck turned around to go back down the hill to try and jump start it. And we had killed the battery. So we had no battery, the truck wouldn’t start, and it was 60 below zero. We couldn’t feel any part of our bodies, and I just gave up. I lay down in the road and I told my friend (that) if he gets out alive, just tell everybody I tried but I have nothing left to give.”

Amazingly, in this desolate, frozen place in the middle of the night, as Mellinger lay on the road, a semitruck came down the mountain and stopped next to him.

“There was no reason for him to be out there. Nobody leaves Watson Lake in the middle of winter at that time of night. It’s foolish. So, this guy pulled next to us, looked down at me, and said, ‘Do you need help?’” Mellinger recalled.

Mellinger explained his circumstances to the driver, who said, “Get up. Start your truck.”

Though he knew that the car was previously unresponsive, Mellinger got up and crawled on his hands and knees over to the truck. Mellinger recalled that it started up like it would on “a beautiful summer day.”

After the driver helped to get their frozen vehicle turned around, he led Mellinger to the construction camp, keeping Mellinger on CB radio for more than 5 miles to keep him awake. Once at the camp, Mellinger sent

his thanks over the radio, but, according to Mellinger, the driver was just gone. Mellinger never heard from him again. He believes divine intervention spared him.

At the construction camp, tubs of water had been drawn to warm up the weary travelers and hot spaghetti was served. Mellinger was examined by a doctor and slept for almost 20 hours. Meanwhile, the truck thawed and was repaired, and Mellinger continued the final leg of the journey to Fairbanks and on to his career as a missionary.

ARRIVING IN ALASKA

Mellinger rejected the lure of material success for sure as his first home in Alaska was an unheated tool shed. He installed insulation and an old wooden stove that he found in a dump.

Despite the rustic accommodations, Mellinger got a job right away working on airplanes at Tanana Air Service in Fairbanks, which carried supplies and mail to remote parts of Alaska.

“I worked for them for about six months,” Mellinger said. “I told everybody I worked for, ‘I’m going into the mission field. I need experience. I’ll work for you for six months, but no longer than a year because I don’t want to get comfortable in this.’”

Mellinger then began flight school. However, he realized he loved fixing even more than flying. Shortly thereafter, he got a call from New Tribes Mission (now Ethnos360) to be a maintenance specialist. He was well on his way to fulfill the calling God had placed on his life not long before.

IMPROVING LIFESTYLES OF MISSIONARIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

After initial training with New Tribes Mission, Mellinger married wife Jonie (pronounced “Johnny”), and they went through additional training in Arizona before heading out as missionaries to the Philippines, where Mellinger spent much of his time rebuilding airplanes. The planes were in such condition, however, that the salvaged pieces were shipped back to the United States. Mellinger also traveled there,

where he had access to necessary equipment and resources to rebuild the planes. From there, the Mellingers went back to the Philippines to serve full time.

“That’s when we started doing language study in Manila,” Mellinger said. “We learned (to speak) Tagalog. At that time, we would just go out and visit people in the tribe. We really wanted to make people know that we cared about them. Then the next trip, we went into another village. The missionaries there were almost done with the Bible translation and (one of the missionaries) had been hauling water from the river two or three times a day for 27 years. They had all the pipe under their house that they needed to put plumbing in their house and no idea how to do it. So, within two days, I had plumbed their house and now they had water at their sink. (The missionary) didn’t have to haul water anymore.”

TRAINING MISSIONARIES BACK IN THE STATES

After serving in the Philippines, the Mellingers came back to the United States and began to train new missionaries in Missouri.

“I built a class based around the struggles that I found missionaries having in all the villages that we had gone to,” Mellinger said. “For two weeks, we would train new missionaries on something as simple as building a fire and putting a shelter up, because when you show up in a (remote) village you’re sleeping in a tent or under a tarp and you’re cooking over a fire, until you get your house built. It might be months that you’re doing this. We taught them how to troubleshoot and repair generators, how to do their solar systems and water treatment, how to get their water from the river, and how to work with all the pumps and the plumbing. What we were doing in the Philippines was now being requested by (missionaries in) other countries.”

HELPING HANDS ALASKA TAKES SHAPE

In recent years, the Mellingers created their own missionary organization, Helping Hands Alaska, to serve again in America’s

49th state. It wasn’t long before Mellinger had more work than he could handle.

“We were going out to villages regularly, fixing stuff (for churches) that had been broken for years,” Mellinger said. “We worked consistently for about nine to 11 organizations or individuals, like the Covenant Church. They’ve got many churches along the coast, and they don’t have anyone that does maintenance for them. So, also the parsonages and church buildings I would go in and make sure they’re all operating and running.”

Mellinger found that missionaries in these remote areas had no one to help with similar issues that were a distraction from their service. “I do a lot for the interior missionaries,” Mellinger said. “Whether it is just repairs or building new buildings or helping with plumbing, just shopping and supply buying, whatever they need that is distracting them from what they are supposed to be doing.”

Mellinger, his wife, and their three daughters continue serving missionaries in Alaska through Helping Hands Alaska. According to helpinghandsalaska.com, the Mellingers seek “to help any missionary, mission, or pastor that is working in unreached, least reached, and hard-to-reach places.”

“If their purpose is to reach people with the Gospel and their mission statement and doctrine aligns with ours,” the website notes, “we will work with their physical needs and problems to do whatever we can to make their lives and ministry easier, more efficient, and less hindering to the goal of new believers, discipleship of existing



Jason Mellinger and wife Jonie created the organization Helping Hands Alaska to serve missionaries in remote parts of the state.

believers, and a mature, healthy New Testament church.”

WHAT DID YOU TAKE FROM DAYSPRING?

Working in maintenance, Mellinger notes, there are plenty of jobs that need to be done. He believes his time at Dayspring helped him to have a proper view of work, from the glamorous to the not-so-glamorous.

“There is a church in Alaska that had seven toilets and only one was working, but they kept using it after it quit working,” he shared. “When you walked into the church, the stench burned your eyes. As I was squatted over the toilets trying to work on them, I realized that God chose me to do this job. He could have chosen anyone to fix those toilets. He could have chosen anyone, but he chose me. That is humbling. Dayspring taught me to see God in everything. I don’t think I would have thought that about fixing those toilets if Dayspring hadn’t taught me to see God in everything.” ▶

Alumni, do you have a story to tell or updated information?

Are you or your child a Dayspring graduate who has recently moved? Keep us up to date!

We offer several ways for Dayspring alumni to remain in touch with us. You can find our alumni page on Facebook or connect with us and other alumni on LinkedIn. Keep your contact information up to date as well at DayspringChristian.com/alumni.





HONORED GLORY
AN AMERICAN
SOLDIER
KNOWN BUT TO GOD

For the Honor of 21 Seconds

BY DAVID LANDON
*Upper School Teacher
Dayspring Christian Academy*

This article was written by Upper School history teacher David Landon, who leads the 10th grade field study to Washington, D.C., each year. The two-day study includes time at Arlington National Cemetery, where students reflect on the character of the sentinel guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

In 1921, an unidentified World War I American serviceman was interred in Arlington National Cemetery. A 56-ton white marbled sarcophagus was set in place and inscribed with these words: “Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.” Since the tomb’s early days, a guard has been placed at the tomb on watch 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. No sentinel has ever abandoned his post despite weather, temperature, or terrorist attack.

I didn’t realize what the honor of just 21 seconds could mean until I reached the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

For 21 seconds, the only thing that moved was a trickle of sweat on the brow of a solitary sentinel.

For 21 seconds, the tomb guard stood as immovable as the marble monolith that marked the spot of the interred.

For 21 seconds, serenity was suspended in hallowed silence before ...

“Snap!” The click of the sentinel’s plated shoes broke the stillness as he swung a 90-degree turn, standing respectfully for another solemn 21 seconds before walking 21 steps at a pace of 21 seconds, repeating the process once again 21 seconds later.

Why 21 seconds? A 21-gun salute symbolizes the highest military honor that can be given. Many volunteer to have the honor of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, but few are chosen. The execution and timing of each step must be meticulous. Training requires the memorized recitation of 35 pages of the history of Arlington (including being able to locate the burial spot of 300 veterans). “Walking the mat” with precision, maintaining uniform standards (two minor infractions and you’re out. These guys don’t

complain about their dress code or uniform), and meticulously executing outside ceremonial drills are all tested. Failure in any one test results in a transfer back to one's company.

Only 20% pass. Once you've graduated from Airborne School, you can keep your wings forever. Once you've graduated Ranger School, you can wear your tab forever. Unlike any other badge and identifiers in the Army, sentinels can have their badge revoked for improper personal conduct.

Even if a former sentinel has long since retired, if they commit a felony, receive a DUI, or are convicted of any other major crime, their name is stricken from the record and they lose their badge.¹

For the sentinels, nothing short of the pursuit of perfection will satisfy. Line six of the sentinel's creed is the tomb guard's motto: "My standard will remain perfection." There's a reason that volunteers from the 3rd Infantry are known as the Old Honor Guard.

This reminds me of James 1:4: "But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." That word "perfect" means to be brought to one's intended end or purpose.

Christians honor God and fulfill their intended purpose with consistent exercise in the habits of grace, which include discipline in Bible reading, regular fellowship with the body of Christ, and the practice of prayer. The sentinels pursue their intended purpose in order to honor the Unknown Soldier, but in doing so they are honored, for in their

This reminds me of James 1:4:

"But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

That word "perfect" means to be brought to one's intended end or purpose.

discipline and devotion to the unknown, they make known to the nation and to the world what it takes to honor those who fought and died for our freedom.

At Mars Hill, the Apostle Paul came across a marbled stone to the "unknown god," and he made known to the world the one, true God. Despite persecution, ridicule, shipwreck, and imprisonment, Paul was honored to live and die in the presence of the Ultimate Sacrifice, who died to set the captive free. May we too take our calling as that sacred and pour out our lives with as much devotion. In light of eternity, our lives are those 21 seconds, to make known to a dying world the living Christ.

All this, for the honor of 21 seconds.

Arlington is a picture of sacrifice, not self-indulgence, and selflessness, not selfies. May we be inspired all the more to honor

the living Christ by how the sentinels honor the dead. As Thomas Jefferson said, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." If this statement is true, may we find it an honor to daily die to self and live for Christ; share in the affliction of presenting Jesus, the "unknown god," as the only One who is worth knowing; and stand as a living stone to a lasting liberty and freedom that will be engraved on the hearts of generations to come deeper than any inscription that can be carved into stone. ➤

¹ <https://www.wearthemighty.com/tomb-of-the-unknown-misconceptions?rebellitem=7#rebellitem7>



In light of eternity, our lives are those 21 seconds, to make known to a dying world the living Christ.

Joshua Achey, STEM director Mary Stauffer, Gavin Knolle, Andrew Keener, Ben Granby, and Tim Horst created a project that placed second in a regional competition. The team created the Roadway Flood Monitor System, a device to monitor flooded road conditions and alert drivers of a potential hazard.



STEM Project Places in Regional Competition

Five Dayspring Christian Academy STEM students recently took second place in the regional competition for the 2019 Governor's STEM Competition, which is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Led by Dayspring STEM director Mary Stauffer, the team included Joshua Achey, Ben Granby, Tim Horst, Andrew Keener, and Gavin Knolle, who were all high school freshman at the time of the competition.

Stauffer, who worked with the team in preparation for the competition, recently took time to answer a few questions about the project and the results of the competition.

Awaken: What is the title of the project that you created?

Stauffer: It is the Roadway Flood Monitor System, and it is a device to monitor flooded road conditions and alert drivers of a potential hazard. The design competition challenged students to research, present, and design a device or project that can make the quality of life better for citizens of Pennsylvania. The device will accomplish a series of practical tasks that can be translated into real life needs.

Awaken: What is the problem that system was designed to alleviate?

Stauffer: Drivers can be caught unaware of standing water that can quickly accumulate during heavy rains. There is currently no

warning system to alert drivers of flooded roadways, which can be difficult to see, especially at night.

Awaken: How does the project work?

Stauffer: The project uses two pressure sensors to monitor atmospheric pressure; one is at ground level, and the other is located a few feet in the air. When water rises above ground level, the pressure will increase. Through a Bluetooth communication system, the data between the two sensors is communicated and compared using an Arduino platform. When the pressure difference is greater than the mass of an accumulation of five inches of water, a signal is sent to turn on a flashing sign, warning of conditions ahead. The project is solar powered and designed in two small

modules, each costing less than \$100, making it an affordable solution for the state and municipalities.

Awaken: What was most inspirational about the students' work?

Stauffer: I was inspired by the dedication they had to show up every day and work on the challenge; they were so excited to work on the challenge and apply their research. Also, I appreciated the way they collaborated, allowed each student to contribute from their area of strength, and the way they worked together to do whatever was needed for the success of the project. They truly took on a team mentality. I was so impressed with how the students took ownership of the project. I was merely the guide by the side. They researched and applied some complex technology. They didn't let the fact that they didn't know how to do something stop them. They researched, asked people, and figured it out.

Awaken: What did they learn going through the process?

Stauffer: The learning that occurred through this project was tremendous. Students learned about problem solving and product development, as they addressed failure along the way. They learned how to conduct themselves in a meeting as they worked with an engineer, a software developer, and the municipality to develop the final solution. They learned to apply their research and to solve problems. The boys sharpened their skills of writing about technical issues and

presenting in front of adults. They learned how to use a Gantt chart to plan their time and meet deadlines. They created a budget as they kept track of their expenses and stayed under the funds allotted. They improved those soft skills of working together as a team, truly listening to one another's ideas, and allowing other team members to use their strengths as part of the team. They could also tell you more than a little bit about PennDOT requirements for signs and Arduino programming. I could go on and on about what they learned. The boys probably summed it up best when they told me, "I learned way more through this process than I could ever learn in a regular classroom!"

Awaken: How many schools participated in the competition?

Stauffer: I think there were seven schools in the regional competition.

Awaken: Where were the schools from?

Stauffer: The schools were from all over the IU 13 area, which is Lancaster and Lebanon counties.

Awaken: Were the others public or private schools?

Stauffer: The others were all public schools. Some came from the school's technology program; others were from the gifted program in their school. Our team consisted of five ninth-graders while the other teams brought much older students.

Awaken: How did we do in the competition?

Stauffer: We placed second in our region. The judges were 10 minutes late in coming back with their decision because they couldn't decide between first and second place. I was just hoping to go to the competition and find out how it all works so the next year the boys could really compete. They far exceeded my expectations.

Awaken: What is your goal as our STEM director?

Stauffer: My goal is for students to become critical thinkers. To become problem solvers and know that failure is not the end; it is the beginning. I want them to grow in confidence in their abilities to innovate and take on the challenges of life.

Awaken: What is the most valuable lesson students learn from STEM?

Stauffer: A major component of STEM is learning how to use the engineering design process, but my goal is not to produce engineers. Through it, students learn a logical way of thinking through a problem and arriving at the best solution. STEM fosters critical thinking, decision making, leadership, entrepreneurship, learning from failure, the application of science and math into real world situations, and enables the next generation of innovators.

From a Student's Perspective

Team member Tim Horst shares his thoughts on the team's work and success in the competition. "We learned a lot about how to collaborate effectively and how to adapt and combine ideas to get to the end result," Horst said. "We put in the hours, and it was cool to see it pay off (in the competition). I was very happy with how we did and enjoyed the creative freedom and unique style of the class." ➤

My goal is for students to become critical thinkers. To become problem solvers and know that failure is not the end; it is the beginning.

The Foundation for American
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Resolute in teaching Biblical principles that sustain liberty



Replicating Principle Approach Schools

As a Principle Approach demonstration school, Dayspring Christian Academy is pleased to share plans from the *Foundation for American Christian Education* to form additional Principle Approach schools over the next five years.

The Foundation for American Christian Education (FACE) is launching a five-year plan to facilitate the establishment of 50 Principle Approach demonstration schools before 2024 as anchors in local communities of a multi-generational plan to rebuild the American culture through Christian education.

Communities rest on the strength of three institutions—the family, the church, and the school. God has always used individuals in these institutions to bring about His purposes, growing the strength of local communities in truth and understanding, to implement righteous change.

Clearly seen today, secular state education in America aims at 'owning' the children in the nation's decline away from God. The means

of reclaiming the nation for Christ through education, is to patiently and consistently nurture biblical principles, generation to generation, to empower Christian leadership in the family, the church, and the nation.

The success of an emerging K-12 Principle Approach school depends upon a strong adult support community. To equip adult Christians with godly wisdom concerning the education of their children, the FACE Plan includes an ambitious "Enlighten the Nation" adult study initiative. Through "Enlighten" study groups, parents, grandparents, church leaders, and community leaders are equipped to understand and give support to Principle Approach education. The influence of teaching and learning communities over time impacts lasting, multi-generational change.

The goal is to rebuild the community upon America's founding biblical principles, ensuring both the spiritual health of communities AND the sustenance of America's religious liberty.



Forming principled thinking and biblical worldview in children is at the heart of the FACE five-year plan as the future status of the church and the Republic depends upon today's children. Yet today's adult generation, presently responsible to make education choices, must also be educated.

You may be called by God to step forward in leadership. In starting the necessary study groups, there are roles for leaders and for facilitators—both are essential for communities to shake off the shackles of progressive agendas and be reborn in truth through Christ. We are with you heart and soul. **The goal is to rebuild the community upon America's founding biblical principles, ensuring both the spiritual health of communities AND the sustenance of America's religious liberty.**

**PRINCIPLE APPROACH
"DEMONSTRATION SCHOOLS"**

What qualifies a Principle Approach demonstration school? The criteria of "demonstration" status is simply that the school exhibits Principle Approach philosophy, methodology, and curriculum to the community and produces measurable results. Such schools will consistently demonstrate PEERS Test scores of biblical worldview in the biblical range. We work with emerging schools newly founded and with existing schools that purpose to cultivate "demonstration" status. Here's how:

In an 18-month program of mentoring, training, and helping build a support community, FACE invests in qualified schools in an individualized program. To qualify, schools must present the essential components of entrance into the program:

- A visionary leader to speak the vision to draw support in the community.
- A small, firmly committed group of people who will pray and study together to form the core leadership of the school's mission and to walk it out with the visionary leader.
- A detailed plan to equip the school with the location, business model, and financial support. The FACE publication *How to Establish a Christian School and Restore the Republic* by Dr. Max Lyons outlines the plan and answers many questions.

ENLIGHTEN STUDY GROUPS

Principle Approach schools need community support for founding and growth. "Enlighten" study groups are essential to cultivate a community in support of a school OR as a step toward *seeding a K-12 school* in the community. "Enlighten" study groups bring truth and understanding to Christians in any community by calling friends together—yes, to study together—to learn the solutions to the cultural crisis that surrounds us all.

Seeds are small power houses that faithfully produce fruit. Complimentary from FACE, the "Enlighten the Nation: The Group Leader's Guide" is designed to enable a facilitator, who may not be a

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for

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Replicating *the*
Principle Approach

Enlightening
the Nation

Strengthening *the*
Foundation

teacher or leader, but who has a heart to gather a study group in a church, Sunday school class, neighborhood group, Bible study, or any good ground for planting seed. Luke 8:4-18

Our heart-mission is to educate the rising K-12 generations in truth, yet it necessitates teaching two generations—the parents as well as the children—to take responsibility for the nation. All great movements of the Spirit begin with the Word of God. **The Principle Approach is America's historic method of biblical reasoning that places the Word of God at the heart of every subject in the school curriculum.**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Where can we see a “demonstration school?”

Go to the websites of some of the schools with whom we work most closely: We suggest Dayspring Christian Academy near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Stone-Bridge School in Chesapeake, Virginia.

2. How will FACE work with leaders and facilitators?

We will coordinate experienced Principle Approach school leaders and teachers to mentor, train, and develop community support for your work.

3. What is the benefit of being a “demonstration school?”

The school will perform at an excellent level of authentic Christian education. The faculty will grow in competence, exert influence in your local community, and make an effective contribution to restoring the nation. Demonstration schools are nationally recognized, have a distinct mission distinguishing them locally, receive benefits from FACE, and establish a high level of accountability.

4. Where do I begin?

How to Establish a Christian School to Restore the Republic, by Max Lyons, is available through FACE. *The StoneBridge Standards: Essential Practices that Produce Principle Approach Education*, by Carole Adams, is also available. Principle Approach demonstration schools offer themselves as models. Call FACE for a “school planting” document that lists resources.

5. What does it take to start a school?

Starting a school requires many resources: a building, budget to hire faculty, donors, qualified teachers, business practices—in other words, a viable plan to govern a successful planting. FACE will help develop the plan and mentor the process.

6. How do we start an “Enlighten” study group?

Ask FACE for a free leaders’ guide that gives you a step-by-step plan and a suggested curriculum, “Enlightening the Nation: The Group Leader’s Guide.” Visit face.net. ▶



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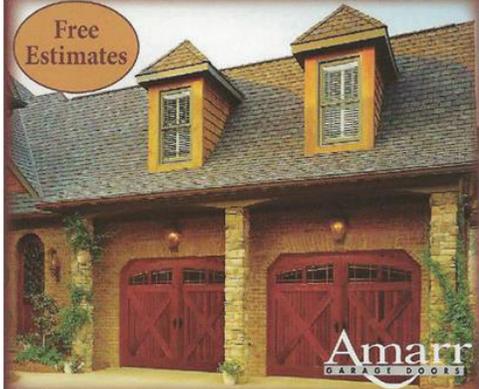
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How Can You Play a Role in

Raising Up the Next Generation?

There are only 25 schools in America designed to educate students through the Principle Approach. The Principle Approach is the method of education used to raise our nation's founding generation, and it is in place today at Dayspring Christian Academy, one of five model demonstration schools in America.

What will you do to help raise up these children and restore the foundations of our country?

Ways to Give

TYPES OF GIFTS

GIFTS OF CASH

Monetary gifts are always appreciated. These gifts can be made by check or credit card. Go to dayspringchristian.com and click on "Support."

GIFTS WITH TAX BENEFITS

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

MATCHING GIFTS

Some companies offer to match gifts their employees make to a charitable organization. By completing your company's application and informing Dayspring Christian Academy of this match, you

can significantly increase, and sometimes double or triple, your gift.

Inform the Dayspring Christian Academy Development Office about your company match! Just email Joanne Martin at jmartin@dayspringchristian.com for information.

PLANNED GIFTS

Please consider including Dayspring in your legacy plans. Remember that planned gifts can be structured to provide benefit for not only Dayspring, but also yourself and your family. Maybe you are considering a deferred gift, such as a bequest in your will or trust or a beneficiary designation on a retirement account, charitable trust, or life insurance policy, or maybe you are seeking to maximize tax efficiency through a current gift of appreciated assets. Either way, planned giving demonstrates a special commitment to Dayspring and its future students. These gifts strengthen Dayspring

Christian Academy's capacity and lessen its dependence on annual giving. Have you been looking for a place to give a lasting gift? Contact Joanne Martin in the Development Office at 717-285-2000 or jmartin@dayspringchristian.com to learn more about how you can enrich the lives of future students at Dayspring. You may also reach out to the planned giving specialists at Ambassador Advisors for more information.

IN-KIND GIFTS

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

GIVING CAMPAIGNS OF DAYSPRING

ANNUAL FUND

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

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

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

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

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

EITC/OSTC

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

school. Contact Dayspring to learn more about how your business can support Dayspring through these programs.

SPECIAL PURPOSE ENTITY (SPE)

A Special Purpose Entity (SPE) is a new class of pass-through partnership that exists solely for the purpose of earning Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) or Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits (OSTC). It is easy to get tax credits by simply joining an SPE by signing a joinder agreement, which reserves your tax credits for the year. You complete the process by investing with the SPE after the SPE receives its award letter from the state. These contributions need to be made within a relatively short window of time from the receipt of the SPE notice (generally 60 days).

An SPE allows a new group of individual donors to participate and receive EITC/OSTC tax credits while also serving as an alternative way for business owners to receive individual EITC/OSTC tax credits. These EITC/OSTC tax credits can offset an individual's joint or single PA tax liability, allowing the individual to redirect his or her personal PA taxes to Dayspring Christian Academy as tuition scholarships.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

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

Dayspring Christian Academy holds premier events in Lancaster County that share its mission and educate the community.

These events support the school in raising up the next generation of leaders for its Constitutional Republic. Additionally, more than 17,000 people have attended these outreach events. Many corporate sponsorship opportunities exist for local businesses to advertise and market their company as Dayspring reaches a wide audience through these events and programs. The Development Office would be very pleased to talk with you about how Dayspring can advertise your business and reach a captive audience.

EXTRAGIVE.ORG FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

Each fall, Dayspring participates in the Lancaster County Community Foundation's 24-hour ExtraGive.org campaign, which maximizes donations made to local organizations using a \$500,000 stretch pool. In 2018, Dayspring raised more than \$127,000 in a 24-hour period, while overall \$10 million was raised for more than 400 Lancaster County organizations. Those interested in supporting Dayspring's mission can make an online gift of \$10 or more at ExtraGive.org at any time on November 22 and help Dayspring raise awareness and funds. Check the Dayspring website in October for more information, including how to give. With your support, you can help Dayspring benefit from the \$500,000 stretch gift being provided by Lancaster County Community Foundation and its presenting sponsors, Rodgers & Associates and The High Family Foundation. ▶

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Tickets are available at DayspringChristian.com



Twice a U.S. presidential candidate, Mike Huckabee is the host of the TV show *Huckabee* on TBN each weekend and is a Fox News contributor, *New York Times* best-selling author of 12 books, and a frequent speaker for corporate, civic, and non-profit groups all over the world.

He was the 44th Governor of Arkansas from 1996 until 2007, becoming one of the longest serving governors in his state's history. He left a legacy of tax cuts, job creation, the reconstruction of his state's road system, K-16 education reform, and a nationally heralded and duplicated health initiative that focused on prevention. His administration fought long-standing corruption in the state's political machine, resulting in numerous indictments and convictions of powerful legislators and other

elected officials. In 2008 and 2016, he ran for President of the United States, finishing second in the Republican primary in 2008.

Governing Magazine named him as one of its "Public Officials of the Year" for 2005, and *Time* magazine honored him as one of the five best governors in America. He served as the chairman of the prestigious National Governors Association as well as the Education Commission of the States, the Southern Governors Association, and the Interstate Oil and Gas Commission. He has been nationally recognized for his advocacy of the arts in education and raises money to provide musical instruments for children.

Huckabee, an avid musician since age 11, is a bass player and often joins guest artists on his weekly television show, having played

with Willie Nelson, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Toby Keith, the late George Jones, and many others. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and music. He was named one of the 25 Most Influential People for Conservation by Outdoor Life Magazine, and was named Man of the Year by the American Sportfishing Association in 1997. He is on the board of CMA (Country Music Association) Foundation, and is co-owner of radio stations in Arkansas, Texas, and Missouri.

The former governor and his wife, Janet, spend time in Florida and Arkansas and have three grown children—John Mark Huckabee; David Huckabee and his wife, Lauren; and Sarah Sanders and her husband, Bryan—and six grandchildren.

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