



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” MARK 16:15

## MID AUTUMN 2017

## SPECIAL EDITION

Although the full issue of our next newsletter won't be out until December, we felt that, with all that is going in the media these days, we should encourage our readers who want to live for Christ. For it is easy to become disillusioned as this world drifts further and further away from the light of Christ. One topic that seems to be on the minds of many Americans lately is the controversy over the “Star Spangled Banner” being played during sports events. What's scary for some is that this once united country has become very divided. People hear one thing and then another and wonder what to believe.

Even some ministers who are supposed to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ are becoming so preoccupied with what is considered “politically correct” that they are going off in a wrong direction. So let us bring some clarity to these issues and put them in their proper perspective.

Because there are many who are supposed to be doing the work of God, but are more interested in pushing their own ideology instead. *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve”* (2 Corinthians 11:13-15 NIV).

Also, remember the Lord's admonition, *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves”* (Matthew 7:15 NIV).

Let's start with a little history of how we got our national anthem. It was during the War of 1812 between the new American colonies and Great Britain. As far as the colonists were concerned, the Revolutionary War was over. Thomas Jefferson had written his Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. And British troops had left the colonies and returned home. For England was much more concerned with its battles against France, which was far closer to its own territory. Therefore, England considered America to be less important, but still part of Britain. Needless to say, the colonists didn't agree! There were many things that led up to the war. But one of the most annoying was the impressment of American men from United States merchant ships. The British took them by force and drafted them into their military to aid in their war against France. In 1804, Secretary of State, James Madison, told Congress that more than 2,000 American seamen had been seized in just one

year alone. Three years later President Jefferson halted all trade with Britain and France. At that time, the United States had sixteen heavily armed ports that stood guard along the Atlantic seaboard.

Other grievances also continued to grow, such as a series of economic sanctions taken by the British and French due to the Napoleonic Wars. It must have seemed like a David and Goliath decision at the time, but in 1812, President James Madison declared war against Britain. The Americans were greatly outmatched. The British had a far more superior fleet. American's navy, at that time, was only eighteen years old and had barely a dozen ships. The British navy had been operating for centuries and had over five hundred active warships. Yet a series of such astounding events took place during the war that they can only be described as miracles from God!



One such miracle occurred involving the USS Constitution. Originally launched on October 21, 1797, the ship had been built to protect American merchant fleets from attacks by pirates and harassment from British and French forces. Then on July 16, 1812 she encountered a squadron of five British ships off Egg Harbor, New Jersey. Suddenly the American ship became surrounded and greatly outnumbered.

The Constitution attempted to escape. But the wind had died down and it was not possible. A slow chase began. Then, thirty six hours later, a breeze sprang up and the Constitution made its escape. However, a month later, on August 19, the ship encountered the British warship Guerrière alone just 600 miles east of Boston.

Consequently, a battle ensued. The Constitution delivered its first broadside. And for twenty minutes the American and British ships bombarded each other at close range. Each ship fired its twenty-two cannons directly at the other. Yet, miraculously, the American ship suffered no serious damage. The cannon balls seemed to bounce off of the rugged oak sides. One of the crewmen shouted that it seemed as if the Constitution's sides were made of iron. That's how the ship got the nickname, “Old Ironsides.” The Constitution went on to defeat or capture seven more British ships during the war of 1812. It also ran the British blockage of Boston twice. Yet the war continued.

On August 24, 1814 twenty British warships, carrying

4,000 soldiers, landed at Benedict, Maryland. Major General Robert Ross led the British troops on an infamous march into Washington D.C. In five days British soldiers marched fifty miles to the capital. They destroyed a flotilla of U.S. gun boats and defeated the American army. In fact, they took over Washington D.C. When they arrived at the White House, they saw the table was set with fancy china and lots of food. Dolly Madison had planned a formal dinner party. The British troops sat down and gorged themselves on the fine food before trashing and then burning down the White House on August 24, 1814. Ross and his men not only burned the White House and Capitol, but many other important government buildings. The fires could be seen from over 60 miles away. It was a fierce blow to the American morale. And Baltimore knew that the British would be heading for their city next.

However, it's as if God said, "That's enough." Because the British army finally encountered a force that they could not control. For such a severe rain storm developed at that time that it helped to change the course of the war. To quote the [Boundary Stones blog](#), "Those few residents of the capital, who hadn't already fled, may well have prayed for anything that could stop the flames. What they got, however, was something far more than they were hoping for: a "tornado" more powerful than any storm in living memory."

Yet it was the Battle of Baltimore, which took place between September 12th and 15th in 1814 that inspired our national anthem. General Ross had led the landing of his troops in Benedict, Maryland. He marched them through Upper Marlboro to attack the American forces in the Battle of Bladensburg. The hastily formed American militia was not prepared for the attack and quickly collapsed. Then things began to change. For Ross landed at North Point beach, Maryland, on September 12. His troops were hungry and stopped for breakfast. Ross was riding among them when they suddenly found themselves under attack. Ross was shot twice in his left arm as well as on the left side of his chest. General Ross was one of the most prestigious of British troops. But the shots that caused his death came from two American privates, Daniel Wells and Henry McComas, who were also killed. However, that ended the British land strategy. Despite their loss, fifty British ships continued heading for Baltimore.

Francis Scott Key was an American attorney who had been sent to negotiate the release of a physician who had been arrested in Upper Marlboro. It was a small town fifteen miles from Washington D.C. However, the British would not allow Key to return to Baltimore until the battle was over. Fifty British ships headed for the port. They fully expected their attack on the city to be a success. But it did not turn out that way. The British ships had already entered the mouth of the Potomac on September 11. The U.S. alarm guns had sounded and Baltimore church bells called the militia to prepare for the attack by sea. They were mostly men who made their livelihood by shipping.

But rather than lose their city, they deliberately sunk their merchant ships on the Patapsco River, blocking the harbor. Consequently the British ships were unable to land.

Francis Scott Key's ship was stuck in the middle between the British ships and the city. A small flag was hoisted above McHenry Fort. The assault on the fort was expected the same night because they had seen a number of barges and knew the situation of the enemy. One thousand U.S. soldiers waited behind fifty-seven naval guns, which were mounted on the fort. The guns on the British ships had a range of two miles. The fort was only one and a half miles away. The Americans at the fort felt like the proverbial "sitting ducks" as the shelling lasted for twenty-five hours. The British bombs left red trails of light as they headed for the fort. One hundred and ninety cast iron bombs burst in mid-air, sending heavy fragments down upon the fort. (Remember the anthem, "rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air"?)

Francis Scott Key was on his ship, eight miles away, helplessly watching the battle as bombs flew past him toward Fort McHenry. He could not see if the U.S. flag was still flying.



Then, in the early morning of September 14, 1814, after over 15,000 shells and seven hundred rockets had been fired, the British warships turned away from the fort. The land troops at North Point went back in retreat to the water's edge. The assault on Baltimore had failed! Francis Scott Key heard the soldiers at the fort triumphantly fire the morning gun. The small American flag was taken down and replaced with a 42x30 ft. flag (which is on display at the Smithsonian museum in Washington D.C.). As he watched in amazement, the U.S. soldiers at the fort began to play the music to "Yankee Doodle Dandy." Eight miles away Key looked through a telescope toward the fort. To his amazement, it had survived, and a huge American flag was

flying in victory. Greatly moved, and aware that only the hand of God could have made such an outcome possible, he began to pen the words to the first stanza of the "Star Spangled Banner."

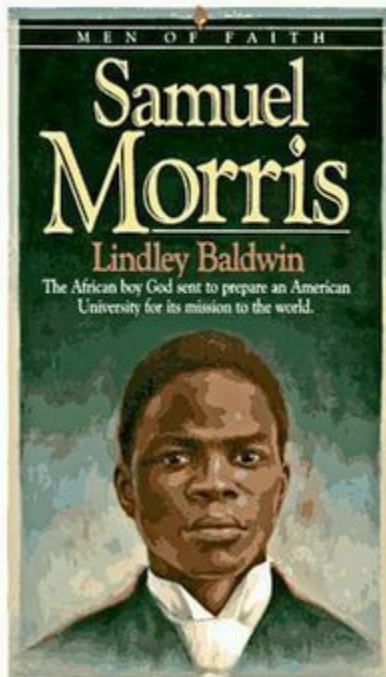
At Ft. McHenry, the troops were celebrating the miraculous victory. Only four men had been killed and twenty-four had been wounded, but the fort was still standing! Despite many problems, including the burning of their own White House, the United States had won again. Then, in December 1814 the Americans and British signed a peace treaty. It showed Europe that the United States of America would not be conquered or intimidated. National pride spread across the country. And in 1889 the Secretary of the Navy decreed that the "Star Spangled Banner" would be played at the morning flag waving ceremonies. The Secretary of the Army chose to do the same. He said soldiers were expected to stand at attention when the song was played. President Herbert Hoover made it the national anthem on March 3, 1931.

However, there are some in our country who don't share our national pride. Some African Americans, especially sports

players, are still angry about slavery. The assumption seems to be that American slave ships arrived in Africa finding happy, peaceful native families. And that they enslaved them, put them in chains, and brought them to America. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. Slavery had existed in Africa for a long time prior to the arrival of any Americans there. There was no Christianity on the continent except that which had been brought there by American and European missionaries. A tribal culture existed where the stronger and more aggressive tribes turned other Africans into slaves.

God loved the African people, but they didn't know the joy (Philippians 1:26 NIV), hope (1 Peter 1:3, 13 NIV), peace (Philippians 4:7, 9 NIV), and eternal salvation (2 Timothy 2:10 NIV) that comes with knowing Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior. There was great cruelty on the continent at the time. This is discussed in the book "Samuel Morris," about a young African prince who was saved from a horrible death by the Holy Spirit. He came to the United States as a reverse missionary to tell of his horrendous torture and miraculous deliverance from it by the God he had never known. Back in the nineteen nineties this ministry purchased at least 26,000 copies of the book and has been distributing them in correctional facilities ever since. We have very few copies left and cannot order more as our funding dropped off significantly during the Obama years.

The Lord had sent many missionaries to Africa, trying to reach the African people. Some of them were killed in terrible ways. They had been able to reach some of the natives for Christ. But Africa had remained a very dark continent spiritually (see Acts 26:18 NIV). So God, in His great love for the African people, changed His strategy. Instead of sending missionaries to Africa, He decided to bring Africans, as slaves, to America (Romans 6:6, 17 NIV). Whatever you may have heard about American slave masters, nothing they did could compare to the suffering black men and women endured at the hands of their own people, who had enslaved them. American slave traders never turned contented Africans into slaves. They purchased them from other Africans who had turned them into slaves! It's symbolic of how Christ purchased us back from the clutches of Satan (see Ephesians 2:1-5 KJV, 1 Peter 1:18-19 KJV). This also brings to mind the story of Joseph, who was made a slave, taken to a different country in chains (Psalms 105:17-19), and learned a foreign language. But Joseph never complained about it or got angry at God or the people who had enslaved him. He told them, "...God meant it unto good... to save much people alive" (Genesis 50:20 KJV). The slave traders brought the Africans to America where, in most cases, they were educated, learned the language, and taught about Jesus Christ. There are many African Americans who are in Heaven today, who would have died in their sins and ended up in the fires of Hell (1 Timothy 2:5-6 and Revelation 20:10-15) if it were not for slavery!



Of course, the culture difference made it impossible for the slaves to become easily assimilated into the American culture. So they remained in bondage to American families for a number of years. However, God allowed a white American Christian named Abraham Lincoln, to fight so hard to deliver Africans from slavery that it cost him his life. About 620,000 white American men died in the Civil War as well. The Union lost around 360,000 (killed 110,000 in combat) and the Confederacy lost around 260,000 (killed 93,000 in combat). Many white men were wounded and suffered greatly. Some had limbs removed without anesthesia in order to save their lives.

The primary excuse for the disrespect some in the NFL have shown for our flag is that they believe the police (including black officers) have killed black suspects needlessly. Granted, there are "bad apples" in every profession, and the police are no exception. But those officers who have intentionally done so have been prosecuted and sent to prison! As for the others, in every case there has been one common denominator. The

suspect has chosen to resist arrest. When you do that, the police are always going to become more aggressive! It's not a smart thing to do. You are more likely to get killed that way! Even if you feel totally innocent and that your arrest is unjustified, do not resist arrest! You can always sue the police for false arrest if you feel your rights have been infringed upon.

Keep in mind that 135 U.S. police officers were killed while on duty in 2016, a 5 year high. So far this year 75 officers have been killed in the line of duty, 28 of them by gunfire. And the police know that someone resisting arrest is more likely to attack, and possibly kill them! But, if they operate within the law, the police not only have the government on their side, they have the Word of God as well. "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors,

who are sent by Him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right" (1 Peter 2:13-14 NIV). "But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God" (1 Peter 2:20 NIV).

As for the "Star Spangled Banner," did you know that Francis Scott Key wrote four stanzas to it? They are seldom sung publicly because some of the words glorify God. But here is the last stanza:

*O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

In the Lord's Service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*  
Most information was from the History Channel ("The Star Spangled Banner" video).