



4th IN A SERIES ON 'AMERICAN REFORMERS'

During 2017, a group of pastors and lay persons, the *Cincinnati Reformation Team*, introduced readers to The Great Protestant Reformation. 500 years ago in the 15th and 16th C, God chose Martin Luther and men and women from England to the Czech

Republic to the shores of the New World to “turn the world upside down.’ They were referred to as Reformers.

These Reformers were ‘flesh and blood’ people like us. What set them apart was God’s re-forming and empowering of them from the inside out. Times change but the God of the Reformation does not. The Age of God’s Reformation is far from over.

To emphasize this, during 2018 readers will meet Christian men and women who profoundly formed and reformed America. Some are simple folks who covenanted together. Others were genteel women who affected morals and rights with a pen, a ballot and a hatchet. Still others were great preachers and teachers whose work formed the spirits and minds of generations to come.

NEXT MONTH: The 2nd Great Awakening

The two previous articles in this series focused on widespread local spiritual revivals by George Whitefield (1714-1770) and Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) that sprung up in the colonies. Known as the *First Great Awakening*, God used these events to rekindle and mobilize the spiritual energies unleashed by the 16th Century Reformers in Europe. This article addresses the question:

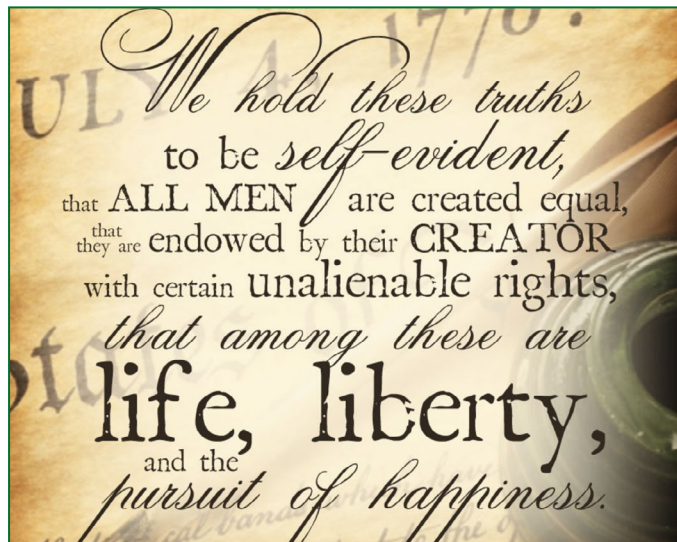
AWAKENED FOR A PURPOSE

BY ELDER SHARLYN STARE — COLLEGE HILL PRESBYTERIAN

In planning this series on American reformers, there was the temptation to skip directly to the *Second Great Awakening* and all the fruit that came from that period in the early 1800’s. If we had done so, we would have missed a major biblical theme — God brings revival and reformation *for a purpose*. He touches the deep heart of men and women to prepare them ‘for greater works’ than have ever been done...so that God gets the glory.

So it was that in the New World, a diverse group of people were brought to gather to participate in the greatest social experiment in history. We know it as the United States of America. Three major foundational documents define it: the Declaration of Independence of July 1776; the Articles of Confederation, drafted 1777/ratified 1781; and the Constitution of 1789. The documents had 118 different signers who are often referred to as ‘our *Founding Fathers*.’

Behind those *Founding Fathers* were mothers, families and communities who pledged their lives as well. All were people of deep faith in the God: Anglicans 54.7%, Presbyterians & other Calvinists 24%, Congregationalists 16.8%. Quakers, Lutherans, Catholics, Methodists and Unitarians made up the balance. The notable Deists* were Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Charles Carroll. Four of the signers of the Declaration were current or former full-time preachers, and many more were the sons of clergymen. The signers were members of religious denominations at a rate that was significantly higher than average for the American Colonies during the late 1700s.



*Deists believe in God the perfect Creator but reject His active involvement, the Trinity, the inspiration of the Bible, the deity of Christ, divine revelation and miracles.

The signers were very different in background, education, experience, and accomplishments. Practically all were men of means and represented an elite cross section of 18th-century American leadership. They were prominent in their own colonies, but few were nationally known. Only eight were not American-born and of Anglo-Saxon origin. Ben Franklin was the oldest at 70; the youngest was 26. Most were political non-extremists, and were cool to the idea of separation from England let alone rebellion.

I urge you to read the *Declaration of Independence* and the *United States Constitution*. Then ask yourself, “What prompted this heterogeneous, conservative group with a lot to lose personally to sign these world-transforming documents?”

The words that birthed the Nation inspired and continue to inspire people around the world — both secularists (who appreciate the non-denominational nature of the *Declaration*) and by traditional religionists (who appreciate the *Declaration’s* recognition of God as the source of the rights listed the document). In other words God entrusted words to the drafters that resonated in the souls and spirits of the readers: “We hold these truths to be self-evident...” They were ‘self-evident’ because the words fell on *fertile ground* well prepared by God during the previous Great Spiritual Awakening.

The *Declaration of Independence* was signed by 56 men and the *Constitution* 39. Some who wanted to sign the *Declaration*, couldn’t. For example, Washington was busy leading troops into the early battles of the American Revolution. He did however sign the *Constitution*.

Signers understood the risks of their actions. *The American’s Creed* (often recited in schools) says it well:

“I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity *for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.*

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its *Constitution*, to obey its laws, to

respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.” The Great Awakening laid the foundations for the Nation and such sacrifice. With each signature, God continued *His Reformation* anew.



MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Citizens On Patrol (COP) are looking for new member.
You could be one of them.

Like the trio pictured above with the Cincinnati Mayor Cranley, they walk in small groups along the College Hill Business District ("The Avenue") and in your neighborhood, wearing their distinctive blue jackets. They may also travel together from street to street in a well-marked car. Citizens on Patrol is making a difference...and they've got the statistics to prove it.

WHAT IS IT? The Citizens On Patrol (COP) Program has gained tremendous momentum nationally as a way of preventing crime. As the name implies, it is Citizens who, after being screened, background checked, and trained by their local law enforcement agency, patrol their communities acting as "Eyes and Ears" for law enforcement. It has proved to be a successful tool to help improve the safety of communities.

COLLEGE HILL College Hill is served by District 5 of the Cincinnati Police Department. At the April College Hill Forum meeting, Sergeant Jason Voelkerding and Officer Nicholas Hageman both *commended The CH Patrol as the most effective group in all of District 5.* That's saying a lot. District 5 serves a large area: Clifton Heights-University Heights-Fairview, Camp Washington, Clifton, Northside, Winton Hills, Winton Place, Mt. Airy and the University of Cincinnati main campus.

HISTORY IN CINCINNATI In 1997, the Cincinnati City Council approved a COP pilot program, modeled after one in Ft Worth TX. In 2000, Jim Bodmer, who was active in the community was asked by the police to begin a COP group in College Hill. 31 neighborhoods are now involved and operate under their District Police Commanders.

EYES AND EARS...

Jim Bodmer said, "Our patrols are the Police Dept eyes and ears in the area. We report suspicious/criminal activity and quality of life issues [abandoned cars, overgrown lots, unsightly litter, defective street lights and missing/damaged street signs]." We do not intervene nor go toward a crime. We are respected and have the complete support of the police, so we just call them. When we walk in the community, we demonstrate *by our presence* that we see and care about what's going on in the neighborhood. No one in College Hill Citizen on Patrol has ever been threatened by any *bad guys.*"

At one time drug deals were rampant on Hamilton Avenue. Even College Hill residents didn't feel safe walking or parking in the CH business district. Now people from all over Cincinnati are discovering College Hill's restaurants, its high quality and unique businesses and its fun micro brewery.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PERSONAL BENEFITS?

Jim said, "That's easy. I met my best friend through Citizens on Patrol — Amos Robinson. [No one messes with Amos!]

Carol Baker and her husband Carroll have been part of COP for 15 years. They are retired, and decided to make their community a better place to live. "The patrols have allowed us to exercise together and share walks with friends. We're still involved during special College Hill events like the Community Block Party and the Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival."

June Elwood joined COP to see what was going in College Hill and to meet new people in the racially diverse area. She's experienced lots of change. "The [trouble-makers] we used to see on the streets aren't there anymore. It feels good to have College Hill

residents say to our patrols,
Thank you, we appreciate you!"

Recently June's COP group worked with other citizens to consider sites for the new District 5 Police Station.



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO JOIN COP?

1. Be an adult willing to serve the community and to make it a safer place to live. You do not have to live in College Hill to participate.
2. Enjoy walking, observing and making new friends from the community on a regular basis. [Schedules are adjustable and Patrols are a minimum of 3 people.]
3. Complete a 12-hour COP Program training seminar at the Police Academy. Typically 20 students are required for the training session to be cost effective. "The training makes you safer wherever you are...even when you're on vacation."

TO START: Contact the COP Program coordinator, Officer Princess Davis, (513) 352-3533, Princess.davis@cincinnati-oh.gov. Questions about CH's group? Contact Jim Bodmer (513) 541-1631, jimbodmer38@gmail.com.



SOME OF COLLEGE HILL'S CITIZENS ON PATROL AT THE 2017 BLOCK PARTY