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Dear Co-worker:

As I write this month's newsletter I note tomorrow is Independence Day, so we shift our focus to the USA rather than PNG.

For lo, the wicked bend the bow ---
They fit the arrow to the string ---
To shoot in the dark at the upright in heart ---
If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? (Psalm 11:2-3)

I also note, after some research, that the devil has been hard at work to discredit the faith of the Founding Fathers. The record shows that more than 92 percent of the Founders were devout Congregationalists, Episcopalians (The Church of England), or Presbyterians. (Let's label them the CEPs but also note this does not include the Dutch Reformed and Quakers.) Some were pastors or sons of ministers. *Later, scores of the signers were brutally persecuted by the British.* Today, those on the left label Benjamin Franklin a deist. But I have a difficult time understanding a deist calling men to prayer to enable the assembly to get together to sign the Constitution, which Franklin did.

Let's apply some facts and common sense to this subject. We know people are a product of their culture. And the prevailing character generator of American culture in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were the catechisms. How do we know this? In 1643 the Parliament of England, recognizing the need for a creed that summarized and systematized the Christian Faith, established and authorized the Westminster Assembly "of learned and godly divines." The result was their seminal work: *The Westminster Confession of Faith* and the *Larger and Shorter Catechisms*. These documents became "the most logical and most complete" and the "most Biblical and noblest creed ever yet produced in Christendom." These catechisms became the instrument the three CEPs used to educate their young folk.

Continuing to quote from the forward of the Presbyterian's *The Confession of Faith*: "Puritanism had been doing its work of making great men in England for a century...The middle of the seventeenth century was, from a moral and spiritual point of view, the greatest age in the history of England to the present." In short, they saw a need for a statement of belief, a *creed*, to summarize Scripture that provided a text for instructing the young.

The catechisms became the base for religious teaching in America in both church and school. We can rightly assume that the majority of the Founders were taught and trained in (and some even themselves taught) the catechisms of the reformers, be it British, Dutch, French or German. They thoroughly understood the premise, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." We can assume the catechisms taught by the schools and churches became the foundation for establishing Christianity as the religion of America. One of them has said that democracy is only going to work when the populace is generally Christian.

A few days ago I was told by an in-law that his father and he himself were required to stand up in front of their congregations and recite the answers to the questions of their church's catechism before they could become members. Needless to say, this requirement shaped character that enabled

the offspring to become highly successful in the business world. I was brought up on the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and it provided for me a base whereby God gave me opportunities and open doors to bear fruit I never had the slightest notion were to come about.

How many churches in this country these days teach a catechism? How many believe that failing to teach the young the catechisms the Founders were reared on has resulted in the horrendous problems America faces today? Young minds are open and waiting for the implantation of the truth. What a pity the Body of Christ does not take full advantage of the opportunity presented. And how sad it is it's not believed that when the catechisms are taught, Almighty God is there to support and grant much fruit.

Has anything been done in PNG to catechize the young? By your support, love, and prayers, close to 42,000 copies of *With All my Heart*, a student text of the essentials of the Christian faith, have been sent to hungry hearts at the ends of the earth. Many are being used in both private and government schools, in churches, and individual homes. Distribution is planned for many more, and our God will accomplish much more through our unified endeavors.



School girls sharing a *With All My Heart* text book.

In His grace,

Orneal Kooyers

Format and photo by Doug Heidema