

March Edition: The Importance of Education and Freedom



The Importance of Education and Faith

George Washington Carver. This name should be one which every American and every young person should know and readily recognize with admiration. Born into slavery in the 1800s, young George had to overcome tremendous adversity. Yet he did not use the adversity as an excuse for sub-par living. Rather, he kept learning and putting his faith in God.

While many would have used segregation and discouragement as a reason to quit, George Washington Carver kindly and strongly took one step at a time. He steadily stepped forward into a bright future. It was far from easy. But it was worth it.

George Washington Carver broke ground when he became the first African American student at what is now Iowa State University. He was brilliant and was able to study botany with depth of insight. Ultimately, he earned degrees and became Dr. George Washington Carver. And he courageously pursued his education until he attained his doctorate. In fact, Dr. Carver became a professor at the Tuskegee Institute (which is now Tuskegee University) in Alabama.

As the gentle man blazed a trail for others, he never became bitter. He was a man of grace and became more Christ-like in every place he served. The world took note.

In the secular world, his teachings and research made an exponential impact. Thanks to Dr. Carver, improved agricultural practices became the norm (i.e. implementing crop rotation). His most famous work revealed the many uses of the common peanut.

"When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way,
you will command the attention of the world."-Dr. Carver

With a gentle yet vivid manner, Dr. Carver was a vocal follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, he taught a Bible study for several of his students. (Would that more professors today would do likewise!) Today, we must learn from Dr. George Washington Carver's example of the importance of education, hard work, perseverance, and faith in Christ.

George Washington Carver believed in education, faith, and freedom. Those qualities provided the key to his success. Dr. Carver once said, "Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom." Indeed.

We need to encourage kids to be like Dr. Carver and embrace those values. We need to point out how exceptional people do not make excuses. They make headway.

Sadly, public education lacks true freedom because government excessively controls public education. Teachers need more freedom to teach. Children need more opportunities to learn and rather than endure a broken system. We need the Golden Rule back in schools.

Dr. George Washington Carver would nod his head in agreement. It's time to encourage choices for children to be educated well instead of forced through a broken system. Every child deserves the best. Ideally, parental involvement should be a norm in education. (Schooling decisions are best made at the local level instead of by Washington bureaucrats.) Parents and local educators know the unique needs of their children far better than the federal government. (Our friends who teach in schools know this well.)

This month, the featured article is by Star Parker on the importance of school choice and parental involvement in children's education. It is time for parental responsibility to be a priority until it becomes the norm.

Today, it is our responsibility to make sure America's children have quality education, opportunities, and Christian values. We need to follow Dr. Carver's advice. As Dr. Carver wisely said, "When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world."

In God we still trust,

Carrie and Stacie Stoelting

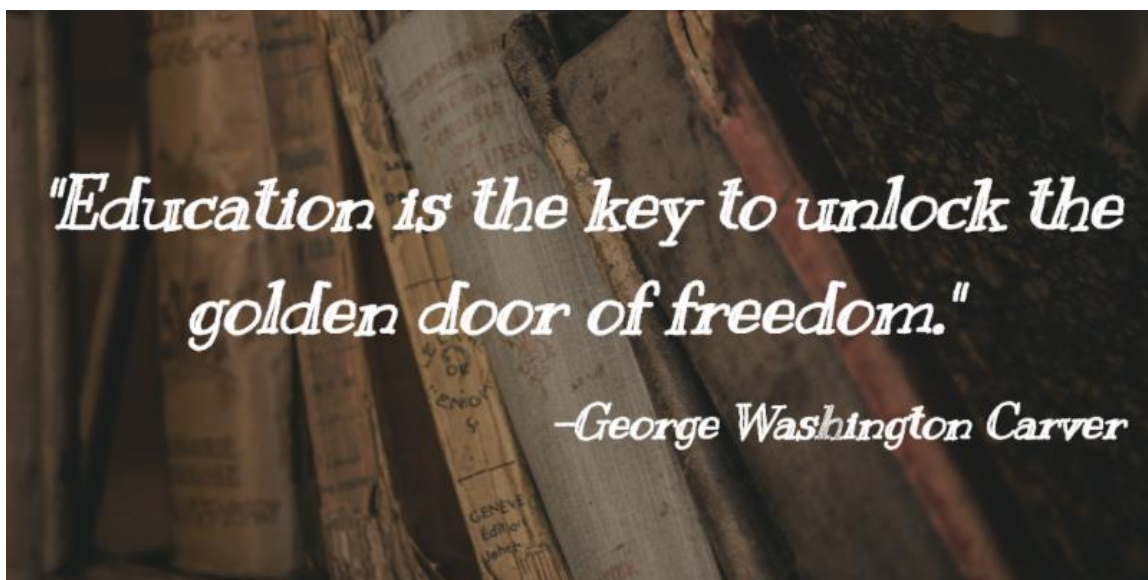
Co-Founders of UnitetheUSA.org

This Month's Bible Verse

". . .Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

-Philippians 3:13-14

Featured Quote



This Month's Historical Video



George Washington Carver (1937)

This month's historical video features rare video footage of the great scientist and inventor George Washington Carver. The footage was filmed in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1937. This footage was filmed in color through Kodachrome by Dr. C. Allen Alexander.

Parental Choice In Education Is Vital

By Star Parker

Did removing the Bible from education improve our public schools, making them more value neutral? Certainly not.

President Donald Trump issued a proclamation declaring Jan. 20-26 as National School Choice Week. The proclamation expresses concern about performance of U.S. students in international surveys: 24th in reading; 25th in science; 40th in math.



And it ascribes the cause of these disappointing statistics to the "consequences of the limitations imposed by a largely one-size-fits-all approach to education."

It makes all the sense in the world to appreciate the value of bringing the marketplace and competition to education. Free markets serve us extremely well in delivering goods and services.

Why shouldn't one of our nation's most important institutions - education - also benefit from competition?

It is ironic that the political left extols the importance of diversity while also wanting government monopolies.

The conclusion should be the opposite. The more diverse a customer base, ethnically or any other way, the more diversity you need among suppliers to meet and serve the unique needs of different communities. This can only be achieved in free, private markets.

Statistics on the changing ethnic profile of the students in our public schools speak for themselves.

In 1997, 63.4 percent of the students in our public schools were white and 36.6 percent were minority - black, Hispanic, Asian and multiracial - students. By 2014, 49.5 percent were white and 50.5 percent were minority. The projection from the National Center for Education Statistics is that by 2026, 45 percent of public school students will be white and 55 percent will be minority.

Parents of these different communities should have freedom to choose an educational framework for the diverse needs of their children.

Suppliers in a dynamic marketplace will listen to those parents, try to understand the unique needs of their children and serve them. This is exactly the opposite of what you get with a government-controlled monopoly and union bureaucrats.

However, the country is not just becoming increasingly ethnically diverse. It is also becoming increasingly diverse regarding values.

At the nation's founding, it was almost universally accepted that education would include the Bible. "One great advantage of the Christian religion," said John Adams, "is that ... the duties and rights of the man and citizen are thus taught from early infancy to every creature."

The Northwest Ordinance, passed in the America's first Congress in 1789 said:

"Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

This sentiment carried well into the 20th century, until court decisions began, step by step, purging any presence of the Bible in public education.

Did these decisions improve our public schools, making them more value neutral? Certainly not. They simply politicized education, replacing Judeo-Christian values with prevailing politically correct secular humanist values.

Currently, 24 states and the District of Columbia mandate sex education in their public schools. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 72 percent of schools in large urban districts provide education regarding pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

What exactly are the values, the worldview, through which issues such as marriage, sex and pregnancy are being taught in these schools?

Black communities have already been hurt by the secular humanism of the welfare state. Since the 1960s, the incidence of single-parent black households has tripled.

It makes sense that black parents would want to send their children to Christian schools so that these values are transmitted as part of their education. Shouldn't parents have this right?

In a country with widely growing diversity in religious identification and values, the only answer is parental choice in education. It brings the efficiencies of the marketplace and the principle of religious freedom to schools.

Parents must fight for the right to choose where to send their children to school.

About Star Parker

Star Parker is the founder and president of the Center for Urban Renewal and Education, a Washington D.C. based Public Policy Institute that fights poverty and restores dignity through messages of faith, freedom and personal responsibility.

Star consulted on federal Welfare Reform in the mid-90s and then founded CURE to bring new ideas to policy discussions on how to transition America's poor from government dependency.

In 1996, she was a featured speaker at the Republican National Convention.

Today, Star regularly consults with both federal and state legislators on market-based strategies to fight poverty.



Her organization CURE has three programs:

-- A Policy Program that works directly with the White House and the Congress on Welfare Policy ideas;

-- A Media Program that includes rapid response and the daily news blog, blackcommunitynews.com;

-- And a Clergy Program that umbrellas a national network of more than 850 clergy who serve in various hard-hit zip codes around the country.

In 2017, Star joined the White House Opportunity Initiative advisory team to share ideas on how to best fix our nation's most distressed zip codes.

In 2018, she was appointed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to the U.S. Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission.

Star has a bachelor's degree in Marketing and International Business from Woodbury University and has received numerous awards and commendations for her work on public policy issues.

Many of national acclaim would agree that Star Parker has established herself as a thoughtful and energetic leader in Washington D.C. - and her CURE advisory board includes folks of note such as Generals John Ashcroft and Ed Meese; Drs. Marvin Olasky, George Gilder and Walter E. Williams.

In 2016, CPAC honored her with the "Ronald Reagan Foot Soldier of the Year".

In 2017, Star was the recipient of the Groundswell Impact Award; and in 2018, Bott Radio Network presented Star with its prestigious Queen Esther Award, and nominated her to the National Religious Broadcaster Board of Directors.

To date, Star Parker has spoken on more than 225 college campuses, including Harvard, Berkeley, Emory, Liberty, Franciscan, UCLA, and UVA.

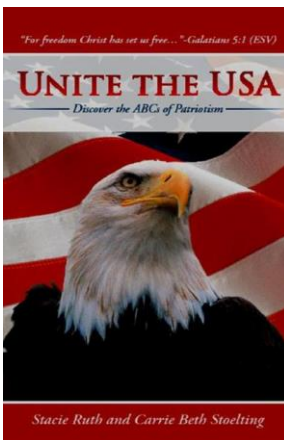
She has authored several books; is a regular commentator on national television and radio networks including the BBC, EWTN, and FOX News; and is a nationally syndicated columnist with Creators, which carries in some of the largest newspapers and news websites in the country, reaching 7 million readers weekly.

Featured Founding Father



As a representative of Pennsylvania, James Smith (September 17, 1719-July 11, 1806) was a signer of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. Mr. Smith was a lawyer and later became captain of the militia in York. He also served in the Continental Congress.

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Unite the USA: Discover the ABCs of Patriotism is a new book by **Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth Stoelting**. It's a book that empowers patriots to make a big difference in the land we love. With 100+ ways to make a positive difference in America, *Unite the USA* is a must-have tool for patriots. *Unite the USA* will inspire and educate Americans to defend faith and freedom. (Important Note: All proceeds go to fund the mission of UnitetheUSA.org.) [Order it here today!](#)

In God We Still Trust

an inspiring album dedicated to God and veterans
by Stacie and Carrie Stoelting



Per request from veterans who love patriotic and inspiring music sung by Stacie and Carrie, [In God We Still Trust](#) was recorded. From the National Anthem to "God Bless America" you will be inspired and uplifted about our God-given freedoms. All proceeds go to Unite the USA. Help promote faith and freedom in America. Your support is important and appreciated. [Buy or download a copy today.](#) God bless you as you celebrate the red, white, and blue!

In God We Still Trust Video

Our country needs to turn to Jesus. Listen to "In God We Still Trust" for inspiration to keep "fighting the good fight". For hope and encouragement, listen to Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth sing "In God We Still Trust".



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