

POLITICAL POSITIONING—

& Christian faith

In this Presidential election year (in the US, if you haven't noticed) more people are interested in the political process for the first time since the Kennedy/Nixon race. The recession, the rising price of food, fuel, and household energy, the cost of medical insurance, the housing market downturn (putting it nicely) and the imbalance in trade are all putting the squeeze on the everyday citizen to a point of frustrated exasperation. Then there are the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, global warming, and the environmental issues. The list goes on and on.

It is TIME FOR A CHANGE. But what kind of change?



Though much of the world may perceive the United States as a Christian nation, to be sure, we are not. We have a Christian/Deistic heritage, founded on religious tolerance, separation from the kingdoms of Europe, at the expense of the Native American peoples. At the time of the signing of our Declaration of Independence approximately 17% of America's citizens attended church. At this writing, some 232 years later, church attendance is on the order of 23%; although upwards of 50% of Americans claim to be Christians. We are *not* a Christian nation.

Nor should we be. At best the United States is a pluralistic, liberal, democracy: that is, *all* points of view have equal value (supposedly), all points of view are tolerated without threat of recrimination (also supposedly) and every point of view has a voice and a vote.

So, in one way, choosing the best candidate for the presidency, or any public office, is of critical importance to the future of this country's philosophical basis and governing process. But in another way choosing the right candidate for office is far more personal than that.

In voting, we have a voice: *our* vote does count: in voting, we give voice to *our* point of view, *our* philosophy of life: in voting we exercise a sacred right without any fear that we will be punished for our political position.

Some people are so fed up with our political system that they are refusing to vote in this upcoming election; nor do they like either the Democratic or Republican candidates. Their political philosophy is to drop out of the political process altogether. Giving up a voice amounts to no more than giving more of a voice to others, with whom you might not entirely agree. Duh.

For genuine followers of Christ, being actively involved in the political process is **not** an option. We are commanded to support our local governments and obey the authorities (unless they totally counter Christian beliefs). How much more of an imperative do we need!?

A lot of what we're about at NEEDinc is being Christians *in* our society. Not in church or in small groups, nor in Bible study or in individual or group prayer..., but *in* society.

There are just a little over 3 months until this country chooses a new Commander-and-Chief. Since the Kennedy/Nixon Debates of 1960, the first ever to be televised, so much of the political process has been about image. But it is also about positions on issues, ability to deal with world situations, resetting the course of our homeland economy, integrity in relationships, and so much more.

So, get involved! Learn about the issues. Learn about the candidates' positions on the issues. Who do you trust? What idiosyncrasies can you tolerate in whomever is elected? How do you sense God is directing you to vote? [God remains in charge no matter who gets in, remember?]

This election is more personal than you think.

Forging Faith: how personality filters your faith

A new series is emerging. Our traditional Faith Factors Cube is evolving into a NEW series on the factors that shape the expression and communication of our faith.

The first course in the series, How Personality Filters Your Faith, will be offered this October, in Northampton, MA. Place yet to be determined.

Stay tuned to our next issue of NEEDNEWS, or tune into our newly revamped WEBSITE (needinc.org) for further information.

SUMMER*T*ips

~culture clues that click

[Vol. 6, #4.]

1. People are out more—you should be too.
2. Be friendlier, it's catching.
3. Protect *your* environment!
4. Stop watching TV for a week.
5. De-clutter your life..., a little.
6. Hiking? Take extra power-bars for people you meet.
7. Read a Best Seller.
8. Turn off your mobile phone for a whole day.

NEED/INC IN PROCESS ~another morphing?

NEED was founded with the intention of creating culturally-sensitive models for Christian evangelism specifically geared to the New England area of the USA. In the last 20+ years we have changed, grown, expanded internationally, and morphed our refinements until we "got it."

Today, **NEED's MISSION is to train Followers of Jesus to express their faith in ways that are appropriate to their surroundings—their culture, sub-culture, region of the world, and generation.** It has taken quite some time for this mission to come to the surface; we've learned through thinking, talking with others, and "field-testing," also know as making a lot of mistakes. Hey, statistically you can't get it **wrong** all the time. Eventually we knew we would get it right.

As you may have noticed, we're going a lot more with internet communications these days. "emPulse" (our weekly brain-blast) is having more impact than we ever imagined. We are also tying up loose ends in our Training Courses for video production. Our **NEW WEBSITE** should be up and running by the time you get this NEEDNEWS. Check it out.

In early July a local minister at the university offered us his entire ministry. It fits what NEED is doing so well that we are actually considering it. It's really a manpower issue at this point. Is this another morph God is leading us into? Stay tuned.

Another issue we are facing is the president's vision vs. energy levels. Do we look for someone to take on the mantle of leadership? Do we feed Gary more Shaklee products (protein shakes) and demand he exercise at least twice a year? Do we find more NEED Associates and train them? Do we cut back? (Arg!)

Then there is the whole question on funding. Hummm.

Please lift us up in your prayers as we look at our future to see how it must morph to meet the call of God on us. "What is God designing us for in the next phase of our life?" Any ideas?

Sign up for emPulse... **NOW**

Do you get NEED's weekly emPulsive, electro-magnetic-pulse mind bender? It's a great way to distract yourself, to focus your thoughts, and to challenge yourself to think about who you are and what you are doing in life. You *really* want this!

If you want it, sign up at— admin@needinc.org.

RENOVATION— *inside and out*

Mold, water damage, rotten siding, floor-views of our basement. What to do with money you don't have?! Yes, this is the excitement going on around the Davis homestead this summer. Did you say "vacation?" What vacation? You're looking at it!

There are certain times in the life cycle that, not only do you need to take care of a little soul renovation, but actual material renovation as well. Neither come at the most opportune times. They just show up.

So "the swarm of locusts" de-the way-overdue roof, while Starr and I were waterlogged and moldy. Oh, such a things just cannot be put off any longer.

We thought we had kept up with things we found that the damage had

More money.

Of course, the work had to be most humid, rainy summer we have had

When this is all over our home should be tight as a bug-in-a-rug. Oh, that reminds me..., I need to vacuum up the sheetrock dust ☺ !



The Fifty Year Roof— REPLACEMENT

scended upon our house in early July to replace ripped apart some floors and interior walls that glorious way to spend a vacation! But some This was one of them.

the place pretty well; not so. Once we got into advanced far more than we had anticipated.

done in the hottest, in a long while.

Honor God, honor people, and be a pain in Satan's butt,

Gary & Starr

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