

Who Were They?—Have you ever asked yourself, so just who is that? Who is that who said, “I shall return”? or Who said, “I only regret that I have one life to lose for my country”? How about, “First in War, first in Peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen”? Finally, “We the people”? Are you aware that September 17-24 is called Constitution Week? So who were those that framed, drafted and approved the US Constitution?

John Witherspoon was a Scottish Presbyterian Minister. He and his wife came to America at the urging of Benjamin Rush in 1768. Witherspoon was the only active preacher to sign the Declaration of Independence. He taught James Madison, the fourth President of the US, 9 Cabinet members, 21 Senators, 39 Congressmen, 3 Supreme Court Justices, 12 State Governors, and 5 delegates to the Constitutional Convention. Some believe that he alone was the single most influential person in the shaping of the United States.

James Madison, the student of John Witherspoon, was first taught by his mother. By the age of 16, Madison was fluent in five languages. His tutor, Rev. Thomas Martin, encouraged and influenced Madison to attend the College of New Jersey under the direction of John Witherspoon in deference to the College of William and Mary which had a “party-school” reputation. Madison was the college’s first graduate student focusing on Hebrew and political philosophy. Witherspoon’s spiritual influence shaped Madison’s philosophy of government. Madison, a delegate from Virginia to the Constitutional Convention, was the first to arrive in Philadelphia, the only delegate to attend all of the meetings, led in drafting the new government and urged the States to ratify the Constitution. He will always be remembered as the Father of the Constitution.

Another spiritual influence for the Constitution came from Isaac Backus. Backus, a Baptist preacher, along with Dr. James Manning of Brown University, Dr. Samuel Jones and Rev. John Leland, traveled to Philadelphia to remind the delegates of the need to protect freedom of religion within the nation’s documents. Backus was one of the early preachers to set the precedent for influencing political leaders to defend religious freedom. In 1786, Thomas Jefferson wrote the “Act for Religious Freedom” which passed the General Assembly of Virginia. John Leland stepped out of the race to be a delegate to the Convention allowing Madison to go. They had an agreement that Madison would somehow work religious freedom into the document that was to be drafted. It was the influence of Isaac Backus and John Leland that the Bill of Rights were drafted and passed just five months after George Washington was elected as the first President.

The Constitution is considered to be the Supreme Law of the Land. It takes approximately 30 minutes to read all seven articles as well as the 27 Amendments. Sadly, there are those who represent us that have never even read this document (we have been told so by some on Capital Hill). Deuteronomy 1:13 admonishes us to choose wise leaders. “Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make

them rulers over you.”

Ramen and the Romans Road—Days after the Hurricane Helene made her presence felt in Western NC, The Voice team took the opportunity to drive some of the back mountain roads over to Greeneville, TN, to pick up much needed supplies for the office, our families and community. We distributed 20 cases of water, bread and peanut butter to our church, another 18 cases of water for bank co-workers and we assembled over 300 food kits including Ramen noodles, crackers and other goods for those of another local ministry in the area. Some time ago, we had printed specialized John/Romans Scriptures with a cover stating “Jesus Loves Madison County” (which is our home county). Recently we found a remaining box of these (for such a time as this) and took the opportunity to add that in with the Ramen. Please pray for those who received these food kits - that some soul would be saved in the midst of all this destruction.

Special THANK YOU to all
 The Voice in the Wilderness
 supporters who have faithfully
 given to help this faith ministry
 carry the Gospel to precious
 souls around the world.

*The Voice in the Wilderness is also
 appreciative for those who immediately
 responded and gave online for
 Hurricane Helene Relief*

*As the days progress, much rebuild-
 ing will be needed. If you would like to
 specifically give to help the needs in our
 area, please note that on your
 correspondence or give online at
www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org
 (Click on : Hurricane Helene Update)*

Hurricane Helene—The aftermath of the storm revealed the devastation that was left. The little town of Marshall, NC was covered with water. On one side of Marshall is the river and the other is a mountain. The water had no where to go but up as it came raging through. It covered the streets and downtown area up to the second story of buildings (about 19 feet). As the flood waters receded, businesses were caked in mud and sludge. In Asheville, the businesses along the French Broad river were completely destroyed. Biltmore Village, the entrance to the famous Biltmore house, was covered with water. East of Asheville are Swannanoa and Black Mountain. Both of those faced extreme devastation. I was finally able to text a Christian brother

NEWS BITS FROM HERE AND THERE

who lives in Swannanoa, and he described 3-4 feet ruts in his driveway (praise the Lord that he is safe).

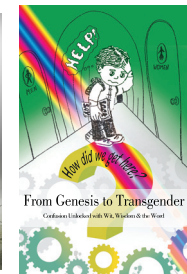
The power on The Voice property was finally restored about 48 hours after we lost it. Internet connection and cell phones came up about the same time. Family and friends had been trying to contact us, but we had been completely disconnected from all service. The local electric co-op has done a great job at restoring power in our area; however, there are those throughout the mountain communities, up hollers, and on remote ridges that have been entirely cut-off and will not get power/water back for weeks, maybe longer. In locations all around the mountains, bridges are washed out, trees are down (some trees look as if they simply exploded), roads are washed away and some towns like Chimney Rock are gone. Down river from Chimney Rock, the beautiful Lake Lure, where we enjoyed our honeymoon has been filled by the debris of the town of Chimney Rock. Our cell phone service is still spotty at times around the area. USPS has suffered severe impairments. Banking has been strained to supply cash since any business that was able to open could only accept cash (So much for the idea of becoming a “cash-less” society). Grocery supply was spoiled, and healthcare was put on hold. Our own local hospital had already been under fire for poor management and inadequate staffing, and now is operating without water. Just over the mountain, a new hospital had been built, but that was overcome by the raging Nolichucky River, all patients had to be evacuated by helicopter and the building is now a complete loss.

As we left our property in search of food, water, banking, and mailing services, the atmosphere reminded us of when we spent time serving in Venezuela. The gas lines were long, the ATM was crowded, some people waited 30+ hours in line for groceries at the store. How quickly the America we know can change. In a blink, we all were looking for the old timey radios, using walkie talkies, pulling out the propane grill, and counting our cash.

The clean up from this devastation in Western NC and Eastern TN will take years. Interstates will need to be restored. Business will need to be rebuilt. Trees will grow up in places that they were torn down. People will mourn the loss of hundreds of lives. You may be asking yourself, **what can I do?**

Pray—pray for those in Western NC to be saved. I had talked with a friend from Raleigh and told her that Asheville is a wicked city, most recently known as “Beer City USA.” On a side note: Many of those beer joints were washed away...perhaps to never open again. May God use this tragedy to save some soul. I asked my friend from Swannanoa what he needed. He replied, “Revival”something that we all need. In the midst of the rebuilding of the wall Nehemiah asked God to listen to the prayers of those that feared him. Nehemiah 1:11 “O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and

Don't Forget to request these resources when you give an offering to The Voice in the Wilderness.



Why Vote? - brochure

Truth or Myth - book

From Genesis to Transgender - book

Mission @ Risk - book

Heritage Lapel Pin

Enjoy more articles, sermons and other resources at www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org

prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.” #ButGod

Participate—through your local church. Many have sent needed supplies. Some have given online to meet specific needs. (On our website, click on “Hurricane Helene Update.”) Ephesians 4:16 “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” #GodCan

Provide—the work of the Lord is still going on around the world. This ministry has existed for over 70 years from faithful servants who have prayed and given sacrificially. Extra expenses will be incurred due to our current situation, and some who normally give will not be able to give because of the devastation of Hurricane Helene. Will you consider stepping up in their place? Due to the strain on our local USPS service, please consider using our online giving options found at www.thevoiceinthewilderness.org. You may also call our office at 828-649-1043 to complete the transaction by phone. Writing to the Philippiian church, Paul said, “For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.” #GodWill Amen!

You see what they want you to see - For probably more than a decade, The Voice has had an online presence for those who utilize the internet. Prior to COVID, online activity, especially on social media networks was high with much engagement. After COVID, participation and viewership dwindled to almost nothing. We have researched and talked with the “experts” about how to obtain a better online reach, but to no avail, things remained stagnant. Until....Helene! We posted a video of our travel over the mountain for supplies and a tractor trailer truck loaded with generators that had taken a curve too tightly, blocking traffic. In three days, the video was viewed by over 100,000 people! And they say that the internet doesn't choose what you see!



Listen Daily on our website & Podcast Platforms
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