

Kamrath's Book Emphasizes Historical American Ethic

Interview with Angela Kamrath



Studies show that Americans today are largely ignorant about the principles and ideas that have shaped our nation. As a result, we have become more fragmented as a nation and unclear and divided about what our nation stands for and where it is headed—or where it should be heading. Without citizens' learning of America's positive founding principles and values, the American idea is rapidly weakening.

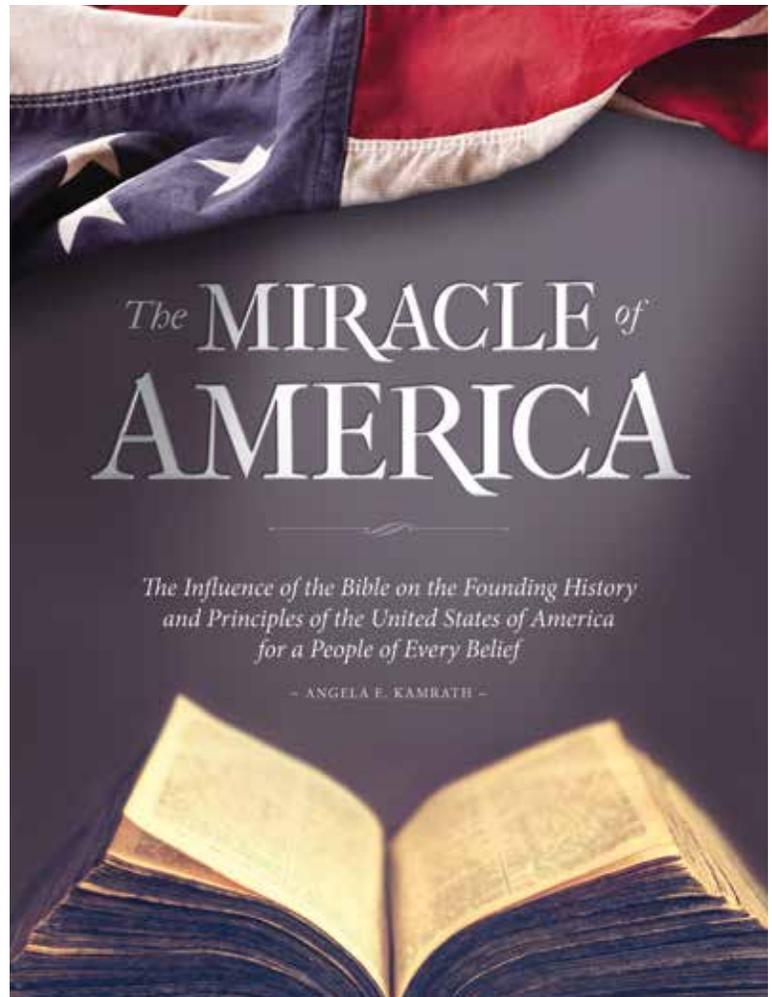
Even fewer Americans understand or agree that the United States is founded on principles largely rooted in Bible-based or Judeo-Christian thought. Some call ours a Christian nation, yet we have no national religion. Others call it a secular society, yet we pledge "one nation under God."

This seeming contradiction is often misunderstood and misrepresented. What is the American ethic? Where does it come from? How would we present American ideals to a foreigner?

Angela E. Kamrath's new book, *The Miracle of America*, is a comprehensive study of America's philosophical origins or founding ethic and its relation to the Bible. She examines and presents documents, thinkers, and events in history, specific Bible references and scriptures as cited historically, and relevant scholarship. In doing so, the book uncovers and articulates much of our nation's philosophy, values, and founding principles as they are rooted in Bible-based or Judeo-Christian thought.

Ultimately, it shows how the Bible and Judeo-Christian thought are arguably the nation's most significant foundational root and its enduring source of strength.

The Miracle of America is for all citizens, teachers, students, and



professionals to whom the American Founders have entrusted our self-governing republic. It is vital that Americans learn, understand, discuss, share, teach, apply, and preserve the American idea—the great principles and values of our country—so that it may endure. This book is for people of all nations who would endeavor to preserve and promote Freedom, Unity, Progress, and Responsibility in America and the world.

Kamrath is part of the American Heritage Education Foundation (AHEF), is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization (501.c.3) dedicated to the understanding and teaching of America's factual and philosophical heritage to promote constructive citizenship. In the following exclusive interview, she tells us about how her new book came about.

When will your book be published and by whom? Where can our readers get a copy?
The book will be out in 2014 by Xulon Press. For more information and to order, go to www.miracleofamerica.net.

UMS: Obviously penning something like this is a labor of love. What was your impetus or inspiration for writing this book?

It started with a family passion, a question, and a faith. A family passion: My step-grandfather, Dr. Richard J. Gonzalez, and my grandmother, Jeannie Gonzalez, were passionate about America and very concerned about our nation's future given the lack of education and unbiased, pro-American texts on America's heritage in schools. In response, they co-founded AHEF to promote constructive citizenship and the teaching of our heritage. Richard, who came from a very modest, hard-working family in San Antonio, TX, was raised to appreciate the importance of education. At 21, he became the youngest student ever to achieve a Ph.D. at UT Austin and went on to become Chief Economist for Humble Oil (now Exxon Mobil) in Houston. He deeply appreciated the opportunities that America provides. He also appreciated the American view of God as the source of our unalienable rights. Richard and Grandma Jean have often talked about how the Declaration mentions a Creator God, and the importance of Christian principles in our country. My family stirred in me a love of country and an awareness of America's unique idea.

A Question: I have often been in discussions with others about the need to return to or to uphold the principles of America. I've heard many similar discussions in the public square. I started to ask myself, Do I really know what those principles are? I wasn't sure that I did. And if I was asking that question, maybe others were asking the same question. I also wondered whether and how the Bible specifically shaped America's ideals. While I had a general awareness that Christianity is important to Western Civilization, I wanted to know, in a specific way, whether and how the Bible connects with America's founding ideas. Since I couldn't find a book that answered all these questions, I set about to find these answers. My aspiration is that Miracle of America helps people

to understand and articulate America's founding ethic and its relation to the Bible and Judeo-Christianity. This knowledge is essential, I believe, to perpetuating the American idea among future generations. I also hope that the book increases readers' patriotism and appreciation for America. It has definitely done this for me.

A Faith: One of my strongest inspirations for writing this book has been my Christian faith and love for God. On a very personal level, it has been a labor of love. Faith and love have propelled me throughout this process, in showing to readers—regardless of their beliefs—how the Bible has profoundly affected human history, relates to everyone, and holds inestimable value for society. The process has involved a lot of prayer—seeking the Lord's wisdom, guidance, strength, and swiftness and giving the endeavor all to Him. My hope is that Miracle of America opens up and sheds light for the reader on the greatest book in human history. Finally, I hope it glorifies God.

UMS: What two or three main points do you hope readers take away from your book?

The main point or argument of the book is that the Bible is one of the most influential sources of ideas and thought in the foundational history, philosophy, values, and principles of the United States of America.

One main idea in the book is that the American idea is based on a God-oriented worldview. More specifically, it is based on a Judeo-Christian worldview. T

he Creator God in the Declaration of Independence is the source of our natural, unalienable rights as human beings. Without God in America's political philosophy, we lose the basis of our freedoms and rights.

Another main idea is that freedom—including religious freedom—and equality progressed in early America, in large part, due to the Judeo-Christian values of early Americans and their understanding of the Bible.

The early Americans and Founders, even the rationalist ones, highly esteemed the Bible and looked to it for guidance in all aspects of their lives, in building a civil society, in everything they did.

Ultimately, they looked to it when they fought for independence and formed a new nation.

UMS: Did you leave much on the cutting-room floor, or did all your research make it into the book?

A lot of my research did not make it into the book. The process of revising and editing seemed like an endless one, and it was sometimes difficult to take out material. My goal was to pull together what I thought was most relevant and most important.

UMS: How long did this take you? Were there any unique challenges along the way?

The total process took about 5 years. Since the book deals intimately with the teachings of the Bible and religious history, I took careful steps to make sure that it is historically and educationally sound so that it can be taught in schools—even in public schools. The book is for all citizens and families, but it can also be used by high school and higher ed teachers and students in courses and group studies. With its academic rigor, the book still does not shy away from the content of the Bible, its values and moral teachings. It dives right in. That coordination is what I have aimed to accomplish.

UMS: Have you authored other titles?

I am co-writer and co-editor of AHEF's teacher/parent resource, *America's Heritage: An Adventure in Liberty*.

UMS: What is your opinion of University-Model education, regarding where it fits in today's educational paradigm?

Education faces many challenges today. Public schools often do not line up with what many parents believe their children should learn. Many parents also want to see better learning outcomes. Parents often seek alternatives. I think it is beneficial that parents have choices when it comes to learning environments and what they have their children learn. I have always liked the model that colleges and universities practice because it offers a lot of opportunity for student reading, research, and study. For younger students, such a model requires strong parent involvement.

I also think that education programs that build and reinforce Christian values and character in students are sorely needed in schools today. The American Founders, I have no doubt, would agree. UMS