

"And who knows whether you have been brought here for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14

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Legacy Quote

"We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."

James Madison,
4th President of the U.S.
"Chief Architect of the Constitution."

From The Director's Chair

Sabrina Carlson - Director of Operations

In February we honor the birth dates of two of America's great Presidential leaders, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. If you were to ask a number of people, why these two men have been singled out for national celebration, you are likely to get a myriad of responses. From responses such as "because they were Presidents", to "it's a great sales opportunity for the retail industry", the average person hasn't given a lot of thought to the original reason for this February holiday. As a company, we would like to ensure that students and adults alike that tour with us, will conclude an ACTS tour with a more thoughtful and accurate response.

Our country began celebrating President Washington's birthday during his last year as president. President Lincoln's birthday never became a federal holiday, but formal observance began after his death. In 1971, Congress decided to honor all Presidents by celebrating the 3rd Monday in February as "President's Day". It would be safe to say that our very first President set the stage for this holiday.

What kind of man was this to have earned the respect of an entire nation to celebrate his birth? Pastor Henry Muhlenburg had this to say of then General Washington in 1777:

"I heard a fine example today, namely, that His Excellency General Washington rode around among his army yesterday and admonished each and every one to fear God, to put away the wickedness that has set in and become so general, and to practice the Christian virtues. From all appearances, this gentleman does not belong to the so-called world of society, for he respects God's Word, believes in the atonement through Christ, and bears himself in humility and gentleness. Therefore, he Lord God has also singularly, yea, marvelously, preserved him from harm in the midst of countless perils, ambuscade, fatigues, etc., and has hitherto graciously held him in His hand as a chosen vessel."

If one were to research the life of George Washington, it would be easy to conclude that he was a man of great character. A man that believed that his faith and morality were intertwined and indispensable to every aspect of his life. He was a man who humbly believed that the Providential Hand of God had ordained him for "such a time as this". I am proud to be celebrating the birthday of our first President. I only hope and pray, that with God's help, we can raise up a generation of young people who model the same type of character for such a time as this!



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*Kevin and Rachel
Muramatsu*

Wedding Bells Ring at ACTS!

On January 10th, 2004, family and friends of Kevin Muramatsu and Rachel Swan, joined together to witness as Kevin and Rachel took each other's hands in marriage. The ceremony was beautiful and focused strongly on the love of Jesus Christ.

What made this marriage special for the ACTS office staff was that Kevin and Rachel met each other working at American Christian Tours. It was fun to watch their friendship develop into love and then continue into marriage.

Kevin joined ACTS in 1998. Among his different responsibilities, Kevin is the D.C. Coordinator at our primary Washington, D.C. hotel location. Kevin also reserves and schedules motorcoach transportation for ACTS' tours.

Rachel joined the ACTS team in 2002. She is a recent graduate of Northwestern College in Roseville, Minnesota. Rachel is a Tour Consultant Team Advisor.

Kevin and Rachel will be located out in Washington, D.C. during ACTS Spring of 2004 tour season. The staff of American Christian Tours wishes them God's continued blessings as they enjoy their new life together.