



CHURCH COMMUNICATION NETWORK
PRESENTS

The Better Hour Gatherings

Sonnet to William Wilberforce, Esq.

Thy country, Wilberforce, with just disdain,
Hears thee, by cruel men and impious, call'd
Fanatic, for thy zeal to loose th' enthrall'd
From exile, public sale, and slav'ry's chain.
Friend of the poor, the wrong'd, the fetter-gall'd,
Fear not lest labour such as thine be vain!
Thou hast achiev'd a part; hast gain'd the ear
Of Britain's senate to thy glorious cause;
Hope smiles, joy springs, and tho' cold caution pause
And weave delay, **the better hour is near,**
That shall remunerate thy toils severe
By peace for Afric, fenc'd with British laws.
Enjoy what thou hast won, esteem and love
From all the just on earth, and all the blest above!

—William Cowper, 1792

Featuring

Sheila Weber

*Vice president and spokesperson,
The Wilberforce Project*

Dr. Cornell “Corkie” Haan

*President, Kingdom Connections
Co-founder, Presidential Prayer Team*

Chuck Stetson

*Managing director, PEI Funds
Chairman, The Wilberforce Project
Founder and chairman,
The Bible Literacy Project*

Dr. Geoff Tunnicliffe

*International director,
World Evangelical Alliance*

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Introduction: Sheila Weber

“... the better hour is near”—William Cowper, poet

William Wilberforce’s “two great objects”

The abolition of slavery and the reformation of manners

Engaging the Culture

Dr. Haan

Dr. Tunncliffe

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
—Micah 6:8

William Wilberforce

Chuck Stetson

The Bible and Its Influence

- 75% of the American public wants the Bible taught in school. Only 8% of public high schools offer such a course.
- 98% of high school English teachers surveyed believe Bible literacy gives a distinct academic advantage.
- 90% say Biblical knowledge is crucial for a good education.
- 100% of English professors surveyed agree: “an educated person needs to know about the Bible.”
- More than 60% of allusions in an AP prep course are Biblical phrases

Modern-day Wilberforces

Chuck Colson, Founder, Prison Fellowship

Baroness Caroline Cox, MP, activist and abolitionist

The Better Hour Gathering

- Pray
- Get involved
- Get informed: county manual of needs
- Don't go it alone: network

Overwhelmed?

We don't have to do everything...

but we do have to do something

¹³“You are the salt of the earth...¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”
—Matthew 5:13-16

Resources

Amazing Grace

directed by Michael Apted
www.amazinggracemovie.com

The Bible and its Influence

by Cullen Schippe and Chuck Stetson
www.bibleliteracy.org

“The Better Hour: The Legacy of William Wilberforce”

to be broadcast February 2008
www.thebetterhour.com

Creating the Better Hour: Lessons from William Wilberforce

edited by Chuck Stetson
www.amazon.com

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