

(Continued)

Reports surfaced of 8th graders moving from class to class lugging huge family Bibles under their arms. On a recent **Sunday afternoon the city square swelled with hundreds of supporters for a public rally in support of their "Teacher of the Year" and his Bible.**

No one can predict the end result of the controversy. John Freshwater continues to teach with a "monitor" present in every class to make sure no one is injured by the Book on the corner of the desk. The School Board has launched a full scale investigation into the "allegations," The Columbus Dispatch has launched a vicious campaign to malign the Christian teacher and the ACLU is standing in the wings like a bunch of hungry jackals waiting to devour this good man, his reputation, his family and the well-being of his students. Sadly, the large Christian civil liberty organizations that often help in cases such as this have been strangely silent. Sadly, it would seem that this battle is not a "slam dunk" and is not worthy of their attention.

In many respects, Mt. Vernon, Ohio is America—a microcosm of everything that makes up the USA. The battle unfolding there should interest every one of us. **The city was named after George Washington's home** and is nicknamed "Colonial City". Think of that for just a moment—a city with historic ties to George Washington just might declare it illegal to have a Bible on the corner of a teacher's desk.

How does this mesh with history? It doesn't. **The McGuffey Readers used for generations in America's public schools were filled with Bible references and Bible stories.** The school day began with prayer. In his famous farewell address, George Washington wrote eloquently about the role of religion in our form of government: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." If the School Board of Mt. Vernon bans the Bible from even the corner of a teacher's desk—it would seem they were defying the wisdom of their namesake.

You probably have never heard of John Freshwater. He is comfortable with that. This is a battle he did not choose, but one he has chosen to fight. **If John Freshwater's Bible is taken off of his desk, will yours be next? Pray for this man and his family. They will have enormous legal bills and unbelievable stress placed upon them. John Freshwater deserves the support of every American who loves liberty.**

KYOWVA Evangelistic Association
1541 S. 7th Street * Ironton, OH 45638
Web Page: www.kyowva.com
Free Bible Course Upon Request