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An ever-increasing number of educators in America are becoming more concerned with the place and adequacy of religious education in our times. Perhaps this is a reaction to the secularism that has pervaded education generally in decades past. More substantially, this concern for religious education stems from the growing conviction that the spiritual values that highlighted the stirring documents of our Founding Fathers are even more important today if young Americans are to be prepared to carry to the world the God-given heritage of human dignity and freedom which our Founding Fathers brought to the birth of this nation. Indeed, our cherished American way of life is unintelligible apart from God and spiritual values. To divorce this precious heritage from its inner core, to infer by absolute neglect that religion has no place in American Education, would be to deprive Americans of what has, from our earliest days, been typically American.

Our greatest American leaders have been humbly great in their common acknowledgment of God's blessings upon our land and our people. They have not been ashamed to ask for a continuation of these divine blessings, for they have realized that, "Unless God keeps the city, they labor in vain who build it."

The Religious Education Association of the United States and Canada has certainly understood these basic truths. Perhaps the highest praise for the Association today is that it has spent these past fifty years trying to keep first things first in the educational endeavors of our times.

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