

INTRODUCTION

by Allan A. MacRae, Ph.D.
President

Faith Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The United States of America was settled, to a very large extent, by people who crossed the seas in order to have freedom to worship God according to their understanding of the teachings of the Bible. Leaving the tyranny of Old World countries, they came here to find a refuge where they would not be ordered to carry on their religious duties or to conduct their lives in ways that seemed to them to be contrary to the teachings of the Word of God. It is this combination -- strong desire for personal liberty, joined with overwhelming love to God, and with determination to do His will that has produced the kind of people who have made America great. Out of this combination has been forged a mixing caldron such as the world has never seen elsewhere. The antipathies and hatreds of the various countries of Europe have been forgotten. Dislikes and oppressions of disparate religions, races and viewpoints have largely disappeared as people have blended together in this great melting pot which has become the United States of America.

What Americans desire is not toleration, but liberty. We do not think that all religions are equally true, or that it is an indifferent matter what one believes. We believe it to be vital that a man should fight and work for the views which he considers to be in line with eternal truth. We do insist, however, that such activity should be upon the basis of reason and peaceful discussion and should not be backed up with violent or authoritarian measures of any kind.

We do not believe in an irreligious state. It is our contention that the state should help its people to live in accordance