

# Christian Church of God Magazine

Summer Issue 2015

## FATHERS ARE EXCEPTIONAL CREATURES

Who inhabit armchairs and hammocks and bleachers.  
Never placid or acid or humdrum,  
It's the male of the species they come from.  
That is to say they're of the masculine gender—  
The sex which denies that its nature is tender.  
Fathers are a credit to all Homo sapiens—  
Indians, Spaniards, Germans and Lappians.  
They hail from such places as Portland and Macon  
And work very hard to bring home the bacon.  
You can tell that they're different from mammas  
By the size of their hats and pajamas.  
They're tougher and stricter and stronger  
And the reach of their arms is much longer.  
These grown-up Tom Swifts and Tom Sawyers  
Make excellent doctors and lawyers,  
Tailors and sailors, whalers and

draftsmen,  
Salesmen, accountants and all kinds of craftsmen.  
All fathers have whiskers and some have mustaches.  
Theirs are the pockets where all the loose cash is.  
Theirs are the heads where most of the brains are.  
Theirs are the backs where most of the pains are.  
No one is better at fractions and numbers.  
No one is sadder at waltzes and rhumbas.  
They're handy with hammers, chisels and pliers,  
Bevels and levels and barbecue fires.  
A father's the whole family's hero—  
Part Lindbergh, part Tarzan, part Nero.  
He has, it is clear, the patience of Job  
And he's happiest wearing his slippers and robe.  
As head of the house, he foots the bills  
For chops and tops and coated pills,  
For lamps and stamps and towels and sheets |cont. pg. 5>



When they said, "Let's go to the house of God,"  
my heart leaped for joy.  
Psalms 122:1 (MSG)

Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping  
out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring  
each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.  
Heb 10:24-25 (MSG)

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**Inside this issue:**

<i>LifePoints/ Liberty</i>	8
<i>America the Beautiful</i>	9
<i>A Moral Compass</i>	10
<i>Independence Day</i>	11
<i>Heartbeats</i>	7
<i>Celebrations</i>	4
<i>Salt Shaker</i>	6

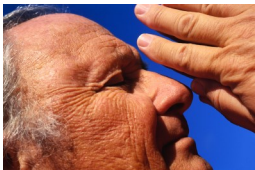
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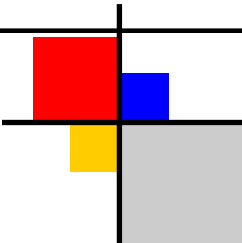


# Prayer Requests

“ . . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed.” — James 5:15-16.

3

<b><u>Francis Carlson</u></b> : Has been diagnosed with Chiari Malformation (portion of brain protrudes into spine).
<b><u>Amber &amp; Dylan Clark</u></b> : Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.
<b><u>Vickie Crevoi</u></b> : Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS. Growing weaker.
<b><u>Elisabeth &amp; Simon Desmond</u></b> : Health & family issues.
<b><u>Velvet Green</u></b> : Suffers from schizophrenia and is responding sporadically to medications.
<b><u>Harry Gonzales</u></b> : Diagnosed with Lupus & debilitating arthritis.
<b><u>Victor Holleman</u></b> : Vanessa Lawrence’s brother injured in a fall, is improving slowly.
<b><u>Manuel Salazar</u></b> : He has suffered 2 strokes and an embolism. He is back in his home in Portales but is doing poorly.
<b><u>Shannon Stephens</u></b> : Daughter of Darrell & Linda Sehorn, recently diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, which is very debilitating.



Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name! <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: <sup>3</sup> Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, <sup>5</sup> Who satisfies your mouth with good *things*, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle's. <sup>6</sup> The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed. Psalms 103:1-6 (NKJV)

*A Psalm of David.* —Doubtless by David; it is in his own style when at its best, and we should attribute it to his later years when he had a higher sense of the preciousness of pardon, because a keener sense of sin, than in his younger days. His clear sense of the frailty of life indicates his weaker years, as also does the very fulness of his praiseful gratitude. As in the lofty Alps some peaks rise above all others so among even the inspired Psalms there are heights of song which overtop the rest. This one hundred and third Psalm has ever seemed to us to be the Monte Rosa of the divine chain of mountains of praise, glowing with a ruddier light than any of the rest. It is as the apple tree among the trees of the wood, and its golden fruit has a flavour such as no fruit ever bears unless it has been ripened in the full sunshine of mercy. It is man's reply to the benedictions of his God, his Song on the Mount answering to his Redeemer's Sermon on the Mount. Nebuchadnezzar adored his idol with flute, harp, sacbut, psaltery, dulcimer and all kinds of music; and David, in far nobler style awakens all the melodies of heaven and earth in honour of the one only living and true God. Our attempt at exposition is commenced under an impressive sense of the utter impossibility of doing justice to so sublime a composition; we call upon our soul and all that is within us to aid in the pleasurable task; but, alas, our soul is finite, and our all of mental faculty far too little for the enterprize. There is too much in the Psalm, for a thousand pens to write, it is one of those all-comprehending Scriptures which is a Bible in itself, and it might alone almost suffice for the hymn-book of the church. —Treasury of David, The

4

# Celebrations

**JUNE**  
**Anniversaries**

Jeff & Linda Booth	6-1
Ken & Joan Westby	6-1

**Birthdays**

James Bailey	6-2
Henry Sellers	6-10

**JULY**  
**Birthdays:**

Teresa Cryer	7-10
Jo Beth Vines	7-10
Shannon Stephens	7-16
Julie Ford	7-23
Gary Green	7-27

**AUGUST**  
**Birthdays:**

Reba Bailey	8-10
Savannah Sellers	8-18

**Anniversaries:**

Candace & James Sellers	8-15
Jody & Joe Kirkpatrick	8-15
Jerry & Martha McClenagan	8-26



And hats and bats and parakeets.  
 Give him a gift—say a pipe or a belt—  
 And right on the spot a father will melt.  
 He'll listen in silence to most people's views,  
 But he'll argue like mad at the six o'clock news.  
 Fathers are sometimes extremely outspoken,  
 Especially on days when they're rudely awoken,  
 But soon as they see that chip off the block  
 They're inclined to forget the hands of the clock.  
 Though they can't ever find their sox or their specs,  
 Fathers are really a marvelous sex,  
 Happy-go-lucky, thoughtful of others,  
 The very best thing to be married to mothers.

—Leonard Dowty

{Fanfare for Father appeared in a little book called Dear Father/ Warm and Witty Writings about Fathers by Hallmark Editions, 1970. The following is from the same book.}

Statesman Adlai Stevenson stated in an address before the National Father's Day Committee in 1961: I have come here today not so much to accept an award as to strike a much-needed blow for fatherhood in America.

There was a time when father amounted to something in the United States. He was held with some esteem in the community; he had some authority in his own household; his views were sometimes taken seriously by his children; and

even his wife paid heed to him from time to time.

In recent years, however, especially since World War II, father has come upon sorry times. He is the butt of the comic strips; he is the boob of the radio and TV serials; and the favorite stooge of all our professional comedians.

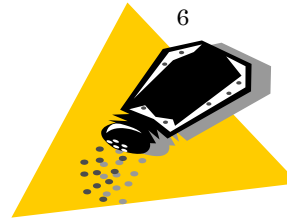
In short, life with father seems to have degenerated into a continuous sequence of disrespect or tolerance at best. It appears that the poor fellow is unable to hang a picture or hit a nail without some mishap; no radio or lock will ever work again after he fixes it; he can't bill water or even barbecue a steak, at least not without burning it.

Every time the so-called head of the household attempts to assert himself or express his opinions, the whole family is convulsed with indulgent if not scornful laughter.

Personally, I think all this has gone far enough, and father certainly needs his Day! So all of us fathers should be grateful to you for contriving this brief hour of recognition. I am honored that you have chosen me, a father and a grandfather.



OUT OF THE



AND INTO THE

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage." ~ Jesus, Matt 5:13 (MSG)

How can I be an influence for Christ? That is the question we should ask ourselves each day.

Those who had repented and suffered for righteousness were linked to the prophets of old ([Matt. 5:12](#)). The message that God called them to proclaim was the message of the gospel to all the world ([28:19-20](#)). The fact that believers were to be like "salt" ([5:13](#)) communicated the prophetic function of living righteous lives and calling others to repentance. It meant having an impact for God and not being ineffectual. Salt, by its very nature, flavors and preserves everything that it comes in contact with. If it did not do these things, then it would not be salt. Salt, a valuable commodity in the dry Middle East, was used in the biblical period for barter. In fact the word

"salary" comes from the Latin *salarium* ("salt"). A person lacking integrity might have mixed white sand with the salt and then had more for trade. But salt mixed with sand lost some of its salty quality and became useless.

The fact that believers were to be like "light" ([5:14-16](#)) emphasized the aspect of visibility. As light attracts people and dispels darkness, so believers were to illumine the way to Jesus the Messiah, the true source of light. The doing of good works was a form of that light. Good works would inspire others to believe in and glorify God. Putting light "on a stand" and letting "shine for all" ([5:15](#)) looked ahead to the final mission to go into all the world ([28:19](#)).— Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary



# Heartbeats

Editorial  
Jerry McClenagan

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Prov 4:23 (NIV)

BACK TO BACK events on our calendars—Memorial Day and Independence Day—are both sobering and celebratory events. We celebrate our freedom, but are sobered by its cost. Our freedom has been purchased with the blood of our Armed Forces and the sacrifices of many of our citizens.

In the words of John F. Kennedy, “The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission.”

That price has been paid over and over again down through the centuries. I only hope that we Americans shall never lose sight of that fact.

The words of Thomas Paine are equally true today: “These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country, but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”

In spite of the somber, negative tone of the free verse below, my hope and prayer is that this nation blessed of the Creator God, will maintain true freedom under His direction and provision. ■

*Let Freedom Ring*  
  
*not long it seems*  
*those cherished liberties*  
*of ours remain*  
*when we*  
*with trepidation*  
*watch disturbed the changes*  
*wondering if or when*  
*the rattle of the shackles will impede*  
*the feet shod with gospel's peace*  
  
*peeling bells of freedom*  
*receding long since*  
*leaving hollow sounds*  
*dim in the distant memory*

*is somehow that cracked bell*  
*exploding in a final burst of*  
*freedom lost*  
  
*can we evade the death knell*  
*of our nation*  
*if we remove its founding stones*  
*are we to think in moments of delusion*  
*our God in whom we trusted*  
*ignores our mocking of his laws*  
*how long does freedom ring*  
*can we sit idly by*  
*while captivity of our souls*  
*is apt*  
*must we with glibness*  
*so aloof and callous*

# Life points on Liberty

8

Liberty is the only thing you cannot have  
unless you are willing to give it to others.  
—William Allen White

Let every nation know, whether it wishes  
us well or ill, that we shall pay any price,  
bear any burden, meet any hardship,  
support any friend, oppose any foe, in  
order to assure the survival and the suc-  
cess of liberty.

—John F. Kennedy

**WHEN LIBERTY DESTROYS OR-  
DER, THE HUNGER FOR ORDER  
WILL DESTROY LIBERTY.  
—WILL DURANT**

Liberty means responsibility. That is  
why most men dread it.  
—George Bernard Shaw

The condition upon which  
God hath given liberty to  
man is eternal vigilance.  
—John Philpot Curran

**WE WHO LIVED IN CONCENTRATION  
CAMPS CAN REMEMBER THE MEN WHO  
WALKED THROUGH THE HUTS COM-  
FORTING OTHERS, GIVING AWAY  
THEIR LAST PIECE OF BREAD. THEY  
MAY HAVE BEEN FEW IN NUMBER, BUT  
THEY OFFER SUFFICIENT PROOF THAT  
EVERYTHING CAN BE TAKEN FROM A  
MAN BUT ONE THING: THE LAST OF HU-  
MAN FREEDOMS—TO CHOOSE ONE'S AT-  
TITUDE IN ANY GIVEN SET OF CIRCUM-  
STANCES—TO CHOOSE ONE'S OWN WAY.  
—VIKTOR FRANKL**

Since the general civili-  
zations of mankind I  
believe there are more  
instances of the abridg-  
ment of the freedom of  
the people by gradual  
and silent encroach-  
ments of those in pow-  
er than by violent and  
sudden usurpations.  
—James Madison

# Hymns for Him

## Hymns for Him



Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ . ~ Ephesians 5:19-20, Msg.

***America the Beautiful*** by Katharine Lee Bates, is a patriotic hymn that originated as a poem written by Katharine Lee Bates in the summer of 1893 after a trip to Colorado Springs. The poem first appeared in *The Congregationalist* in 1895 and was set to music months later. Bates simplified the text in 1904 and made changes to the third stanza years later to create the words that are known today. From over seventy musical settings, the one now best known was written by S. A. Ward. Many citizens have lobbied Congress to make it the national anthem. The beloved hymn was performed frequently following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,  
Whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat  
Across the wilderness!  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved,  
And mercy more than life!  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine,  
Till all success be nobleness,  
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!



# A MORAL COMPASS<sup>10</sup>

## Directional Principles for Right Living

Give me your lantern and compass, give me a map, so I can find my way to the sacred mountain. (Psalm 43:3, MSG) O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. ( Micah 6:8, NLT)



In Parker and Hart's "The Wizard of Id" comic strip, the knight says to the wizard, "The royal mint has issued a new coin with the king's head on both sides." The wizard thinks that is most appropriate. When asked why, he replied, "It's two-faced, isn't it?"

Our culture is steeped in dishonesty. 'Lying' is often referred to as 'misspeaking', the self-justifying word of the day.

Lying isn't new; in fact it's part of the ancient beginning of mankind when the Source of Lying got his career start. When Satan accused his creator of being untruthful, seducing Eve in the midst of Eden's Paradise.

Man's moral compass has been in an out-of-control spin ever since. "O people," Micah declared, "the LORD has told you what is good." But we human beings reason our way out of this simple fact; we convince ourselves that God is not to be believed, or that somehow He is wrong . . . which is impossible because His whole essence is Truth. This God-character was intrinsic to the Son of God who declared himself to be "the way, the *truth*, and the life" (John 14:6). After one of His encounters with the religious liars of His day He emphasized to His disciples, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

So lying, with all of it's nuances (dishonesty, misrepresentation, skewing, spinning, dis-

torting, embellishing, etc.), is an accepted part of our culture today. And the result is bondage.

A twelve-year-old boy was an important witness in a lawsuit. One of the lawyers, after cross-examining him severely, said, "Your father has been telling you how to testify, hasn't he?" "Yes," said the boy. "Now," said the lawyer, "tell us how your father told you to testify." "Well," said the boy modestly, "father told me the lawyers would try to entangle me in my testimony; but if I would just be careful and tell the truth, I could tell the same thing every time."

Can we even begin to imagine what society would be like if Truth pervaded every aspect of our lives? I recall with a chuckle the Jim Carey movie "Liar, Liar," which put forth the premise of the attorney being unable to lie.

Someone has said, "Truth is like fine china: It can be broken. It can be mended. But it can never be the same again."

*Ponder the words of John Galsworthy:* "Honesty of thought and speech and written word is a jewel, and they who curb prejudice and seek honorably to know and speak the truth are the only builders of a better life."



In the United States, Independence Day, commonly known as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, political speeches and ceremonies, and various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the national day of the United States.

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the American colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

“The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”

Adams' prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

One of the most enduring myths about Independence Day is that Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The myth had become so firmly established that, decades after the event and nearing the end of their lives, even the elderly Thomas Jefferson and John Adams had come to believe that they and the other delegates had signed the Declaration on the fourth. Most delegates actually signed the Declaration on August 2, 1776. In a remarkable series of coincidences, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, two founding fathers of the United States and the only two men who signed the Declaration of Independence to become president, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the United States' 50th anniversary.



# Christian Church of God

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## Fifty-State Hexagon



94" x 104"

Applique, piecing, embroidery, and log-arm machine quilting

by

**Martha McClenagan 2002**

Pattern by Capper's Weekly 1970

Photography by Yondel