

801 Quail Creek Drive  
Amarillo, Texas 79124

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## Christian Church of God Newsletter

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Hello Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Linda and I just returned from a trip to Vienna, Austria, and Milan, Italy in celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Hearing the news about the break-up of Al & Tipper Gore's 40-year marriage saddened me on their behalf. How do you walk away from 40 years of investment in a marriage relationship? On the other hand, it made me realize how truly blessed I am with the wife of my youth. Linda is better than I deserve...but I'm keeping her!

Proverbs 5: 11 (NKJV), *"And rejoice with the wife of your youth."*

As I said, we had the opportunity to take an exciting journey to Europe to celebrate this milestone and we thoroughly enjoyed

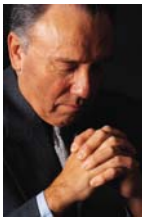
our visit. The rich history, fascinating cultures, spectacular sites and exquisite food and drink were delightful. I even indulged in a round of golf at the Maggio Golf Club at Lake Como for my birthday. Once again we observed as on past trips to Europe, contrary to misconceptions held

by so many of our fellow Americans, that the Europeans are actually quite fond of Americans and extremely helpful and accommodating. We have found that in Germany, Italy, France, Austria, Greece, Spain and even Croatia. We have always been proud to call ourselves American while traveling abroad. And having returned to our beloved America, we were renewed with a sense of gratitude for this blessed nation. Truly God has blessed and enriched us... making this truly the exceptional nation that others wish they could be! What God has given us we need not apologize for...just enjoy and appreciate it!

|cont. pg. 5>

The  
Pastor's  
Pen





# Brush Arbor Meeting on Hackberry Creek

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{ cont. from pg. 11 }

And like the gradual dawning of the day the sun of understanding and acceptance would rise over the horizon of my heart until I rejoiced in the fact that I had received the great Gift from Heaven.

So the dreams of hell fire were exchanged for the fire of the Spirit. And the long, steep hill of coming to faith was conquered. The next few years were spent in the freedom of this way of life. Mixing with Christian youth. Fighting temptation together . . . and winning. Growing in grace. Even the secular song that showed up on the scene a few years later described those years:

We have joy, we have fun

We have seasons in the sun . . .

The difference was that the "sun" in which we reveled was that spoken of by the prophet Malachi: "But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall" (4:2, NIV). An apt description of this way of life: the exhilarating freedom of the person who has experienced the sunrise of salvation.

So let me ask you: Do you sense an inner conviction that you need to do something about your spiritual condition? If so, take steps to "let the sunshine in."



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

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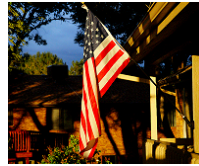
WGRD Radio 9:05 AM Sunday.

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# Happy Fathers Day!







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.



## 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.

**Brian Booth:** Jeff's, brother undergoing chemo for colon cancer.

**Betty Clark:** Undergoing hernia surgery Monday 6/7. / **Amber & Dylan Clark:** Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy. / Also requests prayer for her sister **Carol Copenhagen** for respiratory condition for which she is to undergo tests.

**Vickie Crevoi:** Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.

**Mary Jo Flatt:** James Bailey's sister, is doing well, having completed treatments for malignant bladder tumor.

**Gene Phelan:** diagnosed with cancer of lymph nodes.

**Anna Law:** In need of a kidney transplant; she has dialysis three times a week.

**Dollie Meil:** recurring pneumonia.

**Jane Shaffer:** Sister of Joe Kirkpatrick, malignant brain tumors. She tires easily but is trying to continue to work.

**Laura Stephens:** Mother-in-law of Shannon (Sehorn) Stephens, cancer in lungs, kidneys & liver. Has shown moderate improvement.

**Ted Rankin:** MS.

**Laura Stephens:** Mother-in-law of Shannon (Sehorn) Stephens, cancer in lungs, kidneys & liver.

**Jeanne Vincent:** C.B. & Darrell Sehorn's sister, breast cancer which has metastasized to the bone.

**Ron Vorheis:** He is still having serious health issues.

**Janet Voss:** Undergoing chemo for cancer recurrence. NOTE BELOW.

**IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR.**

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WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND FOR JANET VOSS. SHE HAS NO INSURANCE AND IS UNABLE TO WORK AS SHE BATTLES CANCER. DONATIONS TO THIS FUND MAY BE MADE AT THE CHURCH OR MAILED TO

P. O. Box 33134  
Amarillo, TX 79120

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Celebrations

JUNE

Birthdays

James Bailey 6-2  
Henry Sellers 6-10  
Bill Dufur 6-30

Anniversaries

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

JULY

Birthdays:

J.R. Hamilton 7-03  
Teresa Cryer 7-10  
Jo Beth Vines 7-10  
Shannon Stephens 7-16  
Julie Ford 7-23  
Gary Green 7-27

Anniversaries:

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Green 7-07



A MORAL  
COMPASS<sup>13</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, distorting, 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."



# 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 uniquely American observance takes place this June 20<sup>th</sup>. That is the day we have set aside this year to give special honor and thanks to our Fathers, not just for giving us life... but for teaching us life. Since June 19<sup>th</sup> of 1910, America has been setting aside the third Sunday of June as Father's Day.

Fatherhood is one other way we find evidence that we are indeed made in the image God Himself. He chooses to be called our Father and expects the Christian male to follow His example of love, strength and leadership. It is not likely that a child will find a Father in God unless he finds something of God in his father.

1 Thess 2:11-12 ...as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, 12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Show your love and appreciation for the fathers in your life this Father's Day & keep thanking God and asking Him to bless America!

In Christian love,

*Jeff Booth*





# DoorOpeners

I am the Door; anyone who enters in through Me will be saved (will live). He will come in and he will go out [freely], and will find pasture. John 10:9 (AMP)

DOORS ARE FOR BOTH ENTERING AND EXITING. Here, in John 10, Jesus is the Door for His sheep—for both entering into safety and shelter and exiting to liberty and plenty.

Those who came before Jesus, that is, those who were pretending to be the Door (John 5:43; Matt. 24:5), had led the people away from God. Some of them were the Jewish religious leaders: “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in *yourselves*, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in” (Matt 23:13, NKJV).

This dual image of Jesus as the Door, or Gate, gives us the total picture of the Christian life. Other religions present a message of restriction without any hope of joy and fulfillment in this present life. A false Christian concept falls into this same misconception of what God has in mind for His people. Jesus explains this to His disciples: “I will not only provide for your security, I will see to it that you can go out and find pasture. I have come so you can have abundant, fulfilling lives.”

John 10 is an extension of a Psalm that David wrote about the Lord being the Door and the Shepherd of His people: Psalms 23:1-6 (NLT)

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.5 You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

## Brush Arbor Meeting on Hackberry Creek



Raised on a small farm in Oklahoma in the thirties and forties, I had the privilege of country experiences that I wish my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren could enjoy — if only for a short time. A part of that rich heritage was the church life. I'll be periodically sharing vignettes of that part of my life in these pages; it has stretched out to cover over seventy years of my life. Portions of the memories are a bit fragmented, but true at the core. Yes, I've embellished a scene or two, and most of the names are conspicuously absent. But I've kept the tone and spirit accurate.  
~ JDM, Editor

### CHAPTER 4/ “LET THE SUNSHINE IN”

Conviction!

That's the word that was used.

Over and over. Sermons. Classes. Youth camps. Camp meetings.

“Pray them under conviction.” “He was under conviction, but he didn't make a move.” “If you're under conviction tonight you need to repent of your sins. I'm giving an altar call and you need to yield to the Holy Spirit and come forward.”

So I struggled as a teen with this “conviction.” Really, I had no problem with responding . . . except I just didn't know *how* to respond. I just couldn't seem to “believe.”

Then it finally happened. One night I went forward and the pastor counseled me there at that “old fashioned altar bench,” as it was called, or “mourners' bench.” “You have to accept it by faith,” I was told.

So I did . . . or tried to. That night I stood outside the small bunkhouse that was the “bedroom” for me and my brother, and looked through the Chinese Elm trees toward the starry skies . . . and talked to God.

“God, I want to believe. I know your Son Jesus died for me, that he lives and that you want to save me. I believe. I accept your offer of eternal life.”

It would be months before I had any kind of so-called “spiritual experience.” But in those months the Living Word of God led me through the forest of doubt and ignorance to understanding.

In retrospect, I understood Jesus' words concerning the Holy Spirit working in our hearts and minds: “When he comes, he will *convict* the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned” (John 16:8-11, NIV, emphasis mine).

I would read from Romans 10 again and again concerning faith and the gift of salvation. The premise was simple enough: “Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. . . .” (v. 1).

I knew that. I had been told that by Sunday School teachers and preachers and friends. And by the Scripture.

But I would bog down in the following verses. I would struggle with Paul's explanation: “But the righteousness that is by faith says: ‘Do not say in your heart, “Who will ascend into heaven?” (that is, to bring Christ down) or “Who will descend into the deep?” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? . . .’

“Yes,” I would affirm, “But what does it say?” So month after month I would peruse this passage, one of the premier salvation passages offered by evangelists. And month after month I would struggle with its “deep” meaning.

Finally, I focused on the next verses in answer to “what does it say?”: “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Vv.6-9).” |pg 15>



Learn the **unforced rhythms of grace**. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." ~ Jesus. Matt 11:28-30 (MSG) / Indeed, every one of us has shared in his riches - there is a grace in our lives because of his grace. John 1:14 (Phillips NT)

10 GraceRhythms  
GraceRhythms

Receiving Grace

Do you reign in life? If not, the reason may be that you do not distinguish between praying and taking. There is a profound difference between entreating for a thing and appropriating it. You may admit that God's abundant grace is near you through Jesus Christ, and yet you may not quite see the necessity of learning how to take it. Some people are always telegraphing to heaven for God to send a cargo of blessing to them; but they are not at the wharf-side to unload the vessel when it comes. How many of God's richest blessings for which you have been praying for years have come right close to you, but you do not know how to lay hold of and use them! Note—"They which receive the abundance of grace shall reign" (see Rom. 5:17) The emphasis is not on grace, not on abundance, but on receiving it; and the whole grace of God may be around your life today, but if you have not learned to take it in, it will do you no good.

—F. B. Meyer

Nature Furnishes Illustrations of Grace

Take, for instance, the eucalyptus tree. It seems especially adapted to antidote the gaseous effects of a polluted atmosphere. It is the loftiest timber tree of Australia; it grows especially in malarious districts, sometimes to a height of five hundred feet. It absorbs moisture to a very remarkable extent, and grows with extraordinary rapidity, covering vast barren districts with a huge forest in a few years. And you may enclose seed enough in an envelope to plant an acre. How like the blessed Gospel, making the tree of life to grow in the worst moral marshes, rapidly, beautifully, gloriously covering the deserts with the foliage and fragrance of heaven! And you may distribute the seed so easily and cheaply.

Door of God's Grace

One warm summer afternoon, a bird flew through the open door into a chapel, where service was being conducted. Full of fear it flew backward and forward near the ceiling and against the windows, vainly seeking a way out into the sunshine. In one of the pews sat a lady, who observed the bird, while thinking how foolish it was, not to fly out through the open door into liberty. At last the bird's strength being gone, it rested a moment on one of the rafters. Then seeing the open door, it flew out into the sunshine, venting its joy in a song.

Then the lady who had been watching the little bird thought to herself: "Am I not acting as foolish as I thought the bird was? How long have I been struggling under the burden of my sin in the vain endeavor to get free and all the while the door of God's grace has been wide open?" Then and there the decision was formed to enter in.

"I am the Way," says Jesus, "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

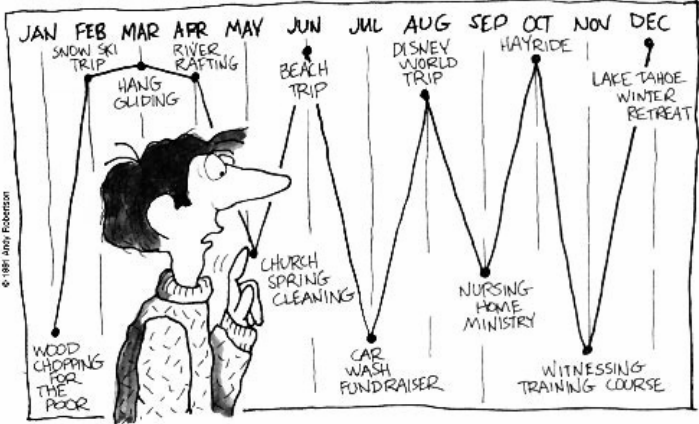
A Wonder of Grace

It is wonderful that an infinite creator and Ruler of the world and a fallen, sinful human being can be in fellowship—the Creator showing Himself to the creature, and the creature leaning, as it were, upon the arm of the Creator. It is a wonder of grace. It comes about through One who is fittingly called Wonderful. Why should we not say hourly, "Lord, what will you have me to do?" Yes, or to bear, for it is possible for us to "endure as seeing him who is invisible" (see Heb. 11:27).

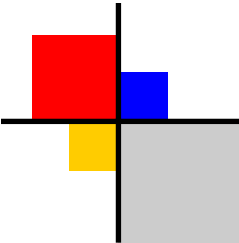
—John Hall



7 A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-



It wasn't until Max Simmons charted his youth group's attendance that he noticed the pattern.





# 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. ■

NOT LONG IT SEEMS  
THOSE OVERSHADOWED LOCUSTS  
WHEN WE  
WATER DISTURBED THE ECHOES  
WONDERING IF OR WHEN  
THE RATTLE OF THE STEADILES WILL IMPLORE  
THE FEET SHOD WITH DISTAL-SPEECH  
FEELING BELLS OF FREEDOM  
NEEDING LONG SINCE  
LEAVING FOLLOW SEVERES  
ON IN THE DISTANT MEMORY  
IS SOMETHING THAT CATCHES BELL  
EXPLODING IN A FINAL BUST OF  
FREEDOM LOST  
CAN WE EVOLVE THE DEATH RING  
OF OUR NOTION  
IF WE REMOVE ITS FOUNDING STONES  
ONE WE TO TRAMP IN MOMENTS OF DELUSION  
OUR COLD IN WHEN WE TRUSTED  
HOW LONG DOES FREEDOM RING  
CAN WE SIT HOLT OF  
WILE COTIVITY OF OUR SOULS  
IS OF IT  
JUST WE WITH DUBITNESS  
SO ALONE AND COLLUS  
HOLD OF OUR FLOODS OF WHITE SUMMATION  
MISERABLES OF MEN UNTHINKABLE  
STEEL DOORS RINGING IN OUR EARS  
NO LONGER BELLS OF JOY  
~JERRY MCCLENAGAN ©'17

## Life Points on Liberty

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

—William Allen White

9

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 success of liberty.

—John F. Kennedy

**WHEN LIBERTY DESTROYS ORDER, 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 COMFORTING 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 HUMAN FREEDOMS—TO CHOOSE ONE’S ATTITUDE IN ANY GIVEN SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES—TO CHOOSE ONE’S OWN WAY.**  
—VIKTOR FRANKL

Since the general civilizations of mankind I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.  
—James Madison