

# CHRISTIAN INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM

## Much More Than Memories

As I sit here in the beginning of July, obviously one cannot help but think of the July 4th holiday and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. For someone "old" like me, it seems not that long ago we were celebrating the 200th anniversary! As one looks at our country today undoubtedly many of us feel a certain concern. So many, it seems, have turned their back on the spiritual and Biblical foundations upon which this country was built. Candidates are winning election even though they specifically reject the founding principles and economic basis upon which our country was built. Yet we know also that there are many of us who still hold dear those original beliefs and founding principles. But what cannot be optional for those of us who maintain our Christian and Biblical beliefs is the urgent need to share the Gospel with everyone and with all, beginning with our fellow Americans and then extending the sharing of the Gospel into the whole world in fulfillment of the Great Commission given to us by Christ as He was about to ascend up into heaven. So let's make this Independence Day one in which we offer independence from sin through the liberating message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; beginning in our "Jerusalem" and then reaching the utmost regions of the world!

## Politics from Another Place

Now onto "politics" from another country dear to my heart, Colombia! Colombia recently held their presidential elections. We have had four years of a leftist president and along with that a massive increase in crime, in drug trafficking, and a shocking resurgence of the guerrillas forces and the extortion and kidnapping that they bring. The current former guerrilla president was pulling all strings and using all possible influences to secure the election of his chosen successor. These last four years have brought many difficulties for the churches as he pushed his atheistic beliefs and the rank immorality of a system where there was no God and no judge of all mankind. The popular and very strong candidate for the conservative people who continued to hold to their Christian faith was assassinated a few months ago, leaving little apparent opposition for the leftist candidate.

# CHRISTIAN INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM

## Politics from Another Place

Then, seemingly out of nowhere, a lawyer named Arbelardo de la Espriella, who had been practicing law in Miami and holds dual American and Colombian citizenship, returned to Colombia and took up the torch of people of belief and values. It seemed a quixotic adventure at first, but the churches rallied around him and he very quickly began to gain traction. In the first round the crowded field was narrowed down to the two top vote counts and the leftist candidate came in second. To almost everyone's surprise de la Espriella came in first. That sent shock waves through the leftist camp and a pleasant surprise for the Christians and other people who hold traditional and Christian values. De la Espriella wisely increased his security, not trusting the government provided body guards who had stood back and watched when the previous candidate was attacked and assassinated. For another month of heated campaigning, both candidates toured the country. The churches came out solidly behind de la Espriella as a person who respected their values and beliefs and promised to reign in the corruption and criminality as well as standing up to the guerrilla movements and once again chasing them out of the country. We all know that politicians sometimes disappoint, but there is a consistent belief that whatever happens, Colombia is much better off with the current president elect than what we would have been had the current administration continued with the election of their consulate.

# CHRISTIAN INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM

## Sweeties Memories Too!

As for me, this past month I have been traveling, speaking, and visiting supporting churches. One special visit was to the State Avenue Church of Christ, one I had helped start when I was in Bible college. I was surprised to find people who still remembered me, including one grandmother there with her grandchildren who had been a teenager in my youth group that I led when at the church more than fifty years ago. It was a special blessing to get back and meet some people that still remembered me and the new leaders and members as well.



## Take Me Home, Country Road

Also I spent a week in West Virginia at the family cemetery where I am working to build an office out of a 12ft by 16ft garden shed. I lived at this cemetery when teaching at KCU and have a cabin there which also began as a garden shed but that I slowly fixed up until it is more like a camper now and is actually quite comfortable with electricity and running water. So this cemetery location is my "get away" place. It is where I go to relax and recuperate. The new shed will be my office and writer's nook where I hope to finish up a couple of books I am working on but had been put on a back burner as I have had little time and nowhere to get away from it all so I can write. But by being able to get away from the cares of the world and the maintenance commitments of the house I built with my first wife here in Rittman, I am hoping to be able to once again get to work on these projects.

# CHRISTIAN INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM

## Faithful Results

Finally, my wife who has remained in Colombia while I work on getting her a visa continues the work there in my absence and is doing a great job. We have continued to manage and run the church camp with hundreds of campers enjoying the facilities. We have also continued to run the Hasten International Medical and Evangelism brigades though we have been doing those mostly in Villavicencio because of the turmoil and insecurity brought on by the presidential elections. Now we are once again free to travel to the villages as well and are looking forward to doing so.



**Nohelly Meade certainly hastens to serve the Lord.**

## As Always, Gracias!

I cannot close without thanking those of you who have remained faithful in supporting the work in Colombia and partner with us through your love offerings and regular monthly support. We simply could not continue without your partnership and we pray the Lord pour out blessings upon you because of your sacrificial giving.



# TIME FOR A TRIP, SOME TRIPS AND TROUBLES

## Donate Now!

Colombian Christian Mission  
PO Box 95, Rittman, OH 44270, USA

<https://www.zeffy.com/donation-form/6a878b78-d0e3-43de-bce9-9ccb28a5c5de>

Donate to make a difference and transform lives!

**Donate Here**

