

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:9

the LifeWord

with Michael Green



July 4, 2008

Dear Friend:

FRACTURED FREEDOM

A few days ago, Linda, Tyler and I stood in Philadelphia's Constitution Hall in the very room where our Nation breathed it's first breath. The three of us were moved by the enormity of the vision and the nearly impossible opposition to the task facing these imperfect men who pledged their fortunes and their very lives to the cause of freedom. After all, what they were setting out to do had never been done like this before, ever.

While most in the room exhibited reverence and respect for the story of what went on there, I couldn't help but be amazed at some of the intentional looks of boredom and even disdain that appeared on the faces of some who were obviously not fans of our country.

Linda told me to quit using my *"outside voice"* when, as just a bit of carnality started peeking through, I asked her if we could tour their countries to find the founding rooms of torture, death, and property seizure.

We were standing in a remarkable room where gut wrenching debate, hard choices and prayer had laid a foundation...a foundation of freedom espousing an orderly transfer of power, bestowing citizens the right to vote, to speak, to assemble, to worship, to buy and sell and even own a BB gun. Some of the detractors in the room didn't have enough sense to realize that those very freedoms even allowed them to act like fools here, while forgetting, such dissent wouldn't be permitted where they hail from.

After just 232 years, this *"upstart kid"* has done much to bring medical healing, space technology, educational and humanitarian benevolence, color TV's, Ipods, Diet Barq's, Pop Tarts, John Wayne, Willie Mays and Mickey Mouse to the world. All of this, however, is massively upstaged by the place, the power and the perpetuation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that can be traced back to what happened in that room in those birthing moments.

Today, our Nation is getting further and further from it's founding intention. America's freedoms are being attacked and eroded by agendas of multiculturalism, moral relativism, political correctness that are undergirded by the main motive, the unbridled assault on our Judeo-Christian founding.

Many hate what has happened here in 232 years. Today, in places that have been functioning thousands of years longer, many of them still ride goats, live in caves and can't figure out how to make a flushing toilet. Perhaps they, too, can build their own museums to commemorate such successes. Such folly can be traced to a flawed founding that is at war with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

We still have great problems and as we celebrate this weekend we must remember, much has been given to us and much is still required. *"America"*, as Ray Charles once said, *"God done shed His Grace on thee!"* Don't blow it!

Michael

THIS SUNDAY

The LifeGate

9AM/NORTH LOCATION-3699 Hwy 59/ South of I-12 in Mandeville
11:30AM/SOUTH LOCATION-Clearview Room/Metairie

"Building Christ Into Every Life"