

July 2024

Dear Friends & Fellow Laborers in the Gospel,

Thank you for your generous support of Grace Family Ministries. At the dawn of this exciting month, a word keeps coming to mind, and that word is “freedom”. As our families celebrate Independence Day, we are given an opportunity to look back, remember, and rejoice in the rich legacy of American freedom. On July 4th, 1776, fifty-six men pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor in the cause of liberty by approving the Declaration of Independence. And now, 248 years later, we are still reaping the benefits of their courageous stand. Freedom is indeed worth fighting for! Our founding fathers recognized that we are endowed by our Creator, not the government, with certain unalienable rights, and that one of those rights is liberty. Thomas Jefferson affirmed that, “The God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift from God?” As we look back in our nation’s history, we see that it has been a long and tough road, but through it all, and even today, we can see the providential hand of Almighty God at work. This is why one of our ten Biblical convictions that undergird our mission here at GFM is the “Stalwart Faithfulness of God’s Providence in History”.

Last month, our family was heavily engaged in ministry across the country from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin. Early on, we headed to central PA to minister, and present GFM’s mission at the historic Altoona Bible Church. We began our time there on Saturday with a men’s breakfast and leadership seminar where Dad preached on “Recovering the Lost Virtues of Christian Zeal” (check it out on GFM’s YouTube channel). We continued ministering the next day during both Sunday School and the Worship Service. On Father’s Day, we journeyed to Tipp City, OH for the Berean Bible Fellowship Summer Bible Conference where our family was highly involved in the ministry that week. Dad was able to preach the Word and share about GFM, Mom coordinated the women’s meeting, and we all had a fabulous time sitting under preaching from God’s Word, and having quality fellowship with friends and fellow saints. At the end of the month, our family traveled to Wisconsin, and ministered at Grace Bible Church in Beloit, where we presented GFM and did some special music. Looking ahead, my brothers Timothy and Elijah, along with myself, are excited to do some ministry at Northern Grace Youth Camp near Green Bay. Later in the month, the rest of our family is going up there also, and Dad will speak at their Junior-High youth week. Please pray for us in this month and beyond that God would use us to be a blessing, and to make a difference for the cause of Christ.

As your family reflects on the mighty hand of God at work in our Nation’s history, further consider that the Word of God speaks of freedom and liberty many times. Psalm 119:45 states, “And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts.” We see here that true freedom comes from following the Lord. And 2 Corinthians 3:17 upholds this truth by stating, “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” Sadly, we as believers often abuse this freedom that we have. We fall prey to the pathology that we are free from rules, and can do whatever we want. But Paul, through the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:13 commands, “Do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Here, and throughout Scripture we are given many commands that we have a responsibility to follow. May God give us wisdom, as we endeavor to use our liberty to serve the Lord wherever He leads us. And may we, as did our founding fathers, always fight for our God-given freedoms to the praise of His glory in Christ Jesus! Thank you for coming alongside us in prayer and financial support as together we advance the cause of Christ...beginning right at home. I leave you with a great quote from the late Ronald Reagan:

“Freedom is never more than one generation from extinction. We didn’t pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. The only way they can inherit the freedom we have known is if we fight for it, protect it, defend it, and then hand it to them with the well fought lessons of how they in their lifetime must do the same.”

Rejoicing in the Freedom We Have in Christ,

Luke Board-for Grace Family Ministries

John 8:32