

# Spreading the **WORD** Ministry



## Freedom Worth Celebrating—From Sea to Shining Sea and From Cross to Empty Tomb



Freedom has always been woven into the American story. From the earliest settlers who crossed the ocean seeking liberty, to the brave men and women who stood on battlefields so future generations could live without chains, the idea of freedom has shaped our national identity. Every summer, as

fireworks paint the sky and flags ripple in the warm breeze, we are reminded that freedom is a gift—precious, costly, and worth protecting.

One summer afternoon, a grandfather took his young grandson to a small-town Independence Day parade. The boy's eyes widened as veterans marched past, some with medals pinned to their jackets, others leaning on canes, all carrying memories too heavy for words. The grandfather leaned down and whispered, "Son, these men and women paid for the freedom you enjoy. Never forget that liberty always costs someone something."

That simple moment captured a truth we often overlook: **American freedom exists because someone stood up, stepped forward, and sacrificed.** Scripture echoes this principle. "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*" (John 15:13). Though spoken by Jesus about spiritual sacrifice, the verse resonates deeply with the courage of those who defend earthly freedom.

But as believers, we know there is another freedom—one even deeper, even more life changing than the liberty protected by soldiers and celebrated by citizens. It is the freedom purchased not by the shedding of patriotic blood, but by the shedding of holy blood.

American freedom can protect our rights, but **only Christ can free our souls.** The apostle Paul wrote, "*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free*" (Galatians 5:1). This is not the freedom to do whatever we please; it is the freedom to live as God intended—released from guilt, shame, and the power of sin.

A woman once shared her testimony at a revival service. For years she carried the weight of past mistakes, believing she could never outrun her failures. She tried self help books, new routines, even moving to a new town, but nothing changed the heaviness inside. Then one night, she heard a preacher say, "Christ didn't come to improve your chains—He came to break them." That truth hit her heart like a spark on dry wood. She surrendered her life to Jesus, and for the first time, she felt free. Truly free.

Her story reminds us that **Christian freedom is not earned—it is received.** It is not defended by armies—it is secured by the Savior. It is not written in a constitution—it is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

As Americans, we honor the freedom that allows us to worship openly, speak boldly, gather joyfully, and live without fear of tyranny. As Christians, we rejoice in the freedom that transforms us from the inside out. One protects our bodies; the other redeems our souls. One is temporary; the other is eternal.

Both deserve our gratitude.

Psalms 33:12 declares, "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.*" A nation that remembers its spiritual foundation stands stronger, shines brighter, and walks more humbly. And a believer who remembers the price of their salvation lives with deeper joy and greater purpose.

As we celebrate this season of American liberty, may we also celebrate the liberty found in Christ. Let us teach our children the stories of sacrifice—both the soldiers who defended our land and the Savior who redeemed our lives. Let us live as people who understand that freedom is not just a privilege; it is a responsibility. And let us use our freedom—both national and spiritual—to point others to the One who sets captives free.

Because when a nation remembers God, hope rises. When a church lifts high the name of Jesus, hearts change. And when believers boldly share the Gospel, freedom spreads farther than any flag could ever fly.

May we continue **Spreading the WORD**, proclaiming the message of true freedom—freedom in Christ—to every home, every heart, and every corner of the world,

*Robin Nicholson Williams*

**"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing  
by the **WORD** of God." Romans 10:17.**

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# In the End

## Christopher Kolker MD

"I just can't take it anymore!"

Sara was a nursing home aide in the busiest, smelliest, and most annoying nursing home in the history of the world, or so she thought.

She hated her job – I mean, really hated her job. The back-breaking work for folks who could not or would not help or show any appreciation drove her crazy. And after two years of bedpans, sponge baths, and cleaning, it was all about to end.

Sara was a bowler. And not just any bowler – she was good, so good that her average was better than many of those pro bowlers on cable television. And next week, she would go to a national tournament, where if she just did what she always did, she could go pro. No, she wouldn't be rich (it's pro bowling, after all), but she would be out of the nursing home. And that was all that mattered in Sara's universe.

But first, she had to get James into a chair. And he was so heavy! He just sat there because of his dementia. Sara would have to pull him up and support him just to get to the chair. There, James would stare out into space for a few minutes, and then she would have to get back to bed. And she had done this thankless task a hundred times before, she thought.

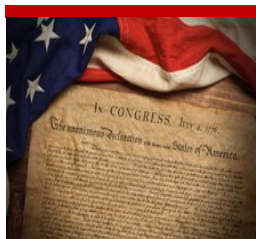
But today, Sara was in a better mood. "Up and at'em," she chirped as she bent down to maneuver him out of his bed. Out of the corner of her eye, she spotted a photograph of a triumphant boxer at a packed bout. "Oh, I never noticed that picture before. Is that his childhood hero?"

"No," came the reply of his ever-patient wife, sitting in the chair quietly observing the twice-daily wrestling match of getting James out of bed. "That was him. He was the light-heavyweight champion of the world at one point."

Sarah froze. She maintained her composure as she continued to pull James into his waiting chair. However, she knew she would never be the same person again.

Sarah discovered in one instant the folly of believing that prizes or careers somehow change things in the end. As we go through life, remember where we all will end, even the great ones who achieve so much, like James.

Isaiah says, Isaiah 46:4 - "Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you." Remember this always, as nothing else really matters.



## STANDING FIRM IN PURPOSE: THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND SPREAD- ING THE **WORD** MINISTRY



When the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence in 1776, they were doing more than announcing political separation. They were boldly declaring a purpose, a conviction, and a commitment to a cause greater than themselves. Their words echoed with courage, sacrifice, and unwavering belief that freedom was worth standing for, fighting for, and preserving for future generations.

In many ways, the heart behind that historic document parallels the mission of Spreading the **WORD** Ministry. Just as the founders recognized the need to break free from forces that hindered liberty, our ministry stands committed to helping souls break free from the bondage of sin through the truth of God's **WORD**. The Declaration proclaimed earthly freedom; the Gospel proclaims eternal freedom.

The signers pledged their "lives, fortunes, and sacred honor" to a cause they believed in. Likewise, our ministry continues forward because of men and women who believe deeply in the power of the **WORD** of God to change lives. The founders risked everything to ensure that truth would not be silenced. Today, *Spreading the **WORD** Ministry* carries that same spirit, refusing to let the Gospel be hidden, neglected, or forgotten in a world so desperate for hope.

Just as the Declaration became a guiding document for a new nation, the Bible remains our unchanging guide for faith, life, and mission. It directs our steps, fuels our purpose, and strengthens our resolve to reach the lost and encourage the believer.

To each of you who stand with us whether through your prayers, your encouragement, and your financial support, we offer our heartfelt thanks. Your partnership makes this work possible. Together, we will continue declaring the greatest message ever given: that true freedom is found in Jesus Christ alone.

## AMERICA



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 ev'ry 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 ev'ry 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.

