

We should remember the significance of this undeniable symbol of democracy throughout its 230 year history.

And we should honor those who are currently serving abroad under its mighty stars and stripes.

### **Background information on the American flag**

#### *The 1<sup>st</sup> flag*

Betsy Ross sewed our 1<sup>st</sup> flag in June of 1776. The 13 stars in a circle represent the 13 colonies. The red stands for valor and hardiness, white means purity and innocence, and blue stands for vigilance, perseverance and justice.

George Washington said, "Let the 13 stars in a circle stand as a new constellation in the heavens."

Our 1<sup>st</sup> president interpreted the stars to be taken from the sky, the red from the British colors, and the white stripes signifying the secession from England. He wanted the stars to be in a circle so that no colony would be viewed above another.

#### *History of Flag Day*

In many states in the late 1800s, school teachers encouraged their students to celebrate the flag's birthday on June 14. As a result each state and local government recognized their own celebration independently.

After 3 decades of state and local celebration, in May 1916, Pres. Woodrow Wilson established that Flag Day be celebrated on June 14, the anniversary of the flag resolution made in 1777.

Pres. Truman signed an Act of Congress on Aug. 3, 1949 designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day.

#### *The Star Spangled Banner*

Written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812. After the British invaded Washington and set fire to the Capitol and the White House, they attacked Baltimore in 1814. Francis Scott Key witnessed 2 days of bombing after which he could still see the American Flag flying at Fort McHenry.

His song was later put to music and made our national anthem on March 3, 1931.

The 30 by 42 foot flag flown during the battle is now in the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History. A copy of the Star Spangled Banner Key wrote is owned by the Maryland Historical Society, and another copy Key made is in the Library of Congress.

### **Promises and Integrity..**

Many years ago, in the midst of one of the most troubling times of my life, I came across a very lovely verse, a verse that would sustain me many, many times over the years to come. It comes from Psalm 41:12, "Thou Lord upholds me in my integrity." The time period in my personal life was very stressful, especially financially, and I was a new Christian, I didn't know the Word very well, nor did I have any idea what the character of God was like. All I knew was that I was truly hurting and had no place to turn...I literally threw myself into God's arms, looking for mercy and leading. I realized I had nothing financially, but integrity was something important to me.

I began to search the Word for promises, mainly because my Pastor told me God always keeps His promises because He cannot deny Himself. As I read, I journaled constantly, and wrote promises in red. I frequently memorized them, carrying a small notebook with me where I wrote them down to keep them with me. When God says HE upholds our integrity...that's it...it's like salvation. He gives and no one can take it away, truth, right living, learning to control my thoughts and my tongue in order to interact with people in a godly way, all became very important to me. I found verses like: "Peace I give to you, My peace I give you..." John 14:27 and in the same area of Scripture He

said, "I have told you these things that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete, John 15:11. I realized that if He could have that sense of peace and joy 24 hours from the cross...How could I not lean on Him for the same experience. Reality...the promise is there, it's up to me to hold onto it for myself, and believe He does what He says. That time in my life was very hard, but I really learned WHO He was, and how much He loved me, for no reason but that He chose to, incredible, true, precious and available to you.

-Lynne Farrow, founder of Wings of Eagles

### **God Will Provide**

**Sent in by Floyd Oulton, Union Corrections  
Raiford, Fla.**

A young woman brings home her fiancé to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother tells her father to find out about the young man. The father invites the fiancé to his study for a drink.

"So what are your plans?" the father asks the young man.

"I am a Torah scholar," he replies.

"A Torah scholar? Hmm," the father says. "Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in, as she's accustomed to?"

"I will study," the young man replies, "and God will provide for us.

"And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?"

"I will concentrate on my studies," the young man replies, "God will provide for us."

"How will you support children?"

"Don't worry, sir, God will provide," replies the fiancé. Their conversation proceeds like this, and each time the father questions him, the young idealist insists that God will provide.

Later, the mother asks, "How did it go, honey?"

The father answers, "The bad news is, he has no job and no prospects, but the good news is he thinks I'm God."

### **Alone With God**

-Violet Sarty

-sent in by Edmond Wilson, Suwannee Corrections  
Raiford, Fla.

Communion with Jesus,  
Oh how Sweet,  
Communion with Jesus,  
Just to sit at His feet  
To tell Him you love Him  
Then listen to Him say  
My child, I will be with you,  
Your guide and our stay,  
The world is in turmoil,  
But be not afraid,  
I'll never forsake thee,  
I'll still give the aid,

Tho' storms and tho' billow  
Around you may roll  
Fear not, just remember,  
I am still in control.

## The Most List

Sent to us by Bob Feldhaus, Union Corrections, Raiford, Fla.

The most destructive habit.....	Worry
The greatest Joy.....	Giving
The greatest Loss.....	Loss of self respect
The most satisfying work.....	Helping others
The ugliest personality trait.....	Selfishness
The most endangered species.....	Dedicated leaders
Our greatest natural resource.....	Our youth
The greatest "shot in the arm".....	Encouragement
The greatest problem to overcome.....	Fear
The most effective sleeping pill.....	Peace of mind
The most crippling failure disease.....	Excuses
The most powerful force in life.....	Love
The most dangerous pariah.....	A gossip
The world's most incredible computer.....	The brain
The worst thing to be without.....	Hope
The deadliest weapon.....	The tongue
The 2 most power filled words.....	"I can"
The greatest asset.....	Faith
The most worthless emotion.....	Self pity
The most beautiful attire.....	SMILE!
The most prized possession.....	Integrity
The most powerful channel of communication.....	Prayer
The most contagious spirit.....	Enthusiasm

Everyone needs this list to live by...remember when all is said and done there's always something you can do, whine gripe and complain.

## True Love

Sent to us by Guy Bishop, Union Corrections, Raiford, Fla.

An elderly lady was invited to an old friends home for dinner one evening. She was impressed by the way her lady friend preceded every request to her husband with endearing terms such as: Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, ect. The couple had been married almost 70 years and, clearly, they were still very much in love. While the husband was in the living room, her lady friend leaned over to her hostess to say, "I think it's wonderful that, after all these years, you still call your husband all those loving names.

The elderly lady hung her head. "I have to tell you the truth," she said. "His name slipped my mind about 10 years ago, and I'm scared to death to ask the cranky old buzzard what his name is."

## SAY YES TODAY

Sent to us by Freddie Lee Williams, Union Corrections, Raiford, Fla.

Dear Friend:

The greatest need of each of us on planet Earth is to know for certain that Heaven will one day be our eternal home. What if in your lifetime you gain fame and fortune, and enjoy every comfort and pleasure, but then die and end up in Hell? Would you call that success? Of course not.

The good news is that life need not end that way. Jesus invites you to be saved today and share His Heaven eternally.

**Say "yes" to Jesus today because of THE REALITY OF YOUR SIN!**

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked..." (Jer. 27:9). God looks down at the human race and sees that every heart is "desperately wicked." He tells us that "all have sinned." (Romans 3:23)

There are 2 ways you can deal with your sin: You can ignore Christ and pay for your sins eternally in Hell, or you can receive Christ as your Savior and be forgiven of every sin. The wise choice is to receive Him now.

**Say "yes" to Jesus today because of...THE REALITY OF DEATH!**

The Bible says "the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23). Someday each of us must die. It may be a long time from now, but it could be today. "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." (Proverbs 27:1). Don't risk dying without a Savior. Turn to Jesus right now.

**Say "yes to Jesus today because of...THE REALITY OF GOD'S love!** "But God commendeth (proved) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Friend, GOD LOVE'S YOU! That is a compelling reason to take Jesus as your Savior right now.

**Say "yes" to Jesus today because of... THE REALITY OF THE CROSS!**

The best known sentence in the English language says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Just think...Jesus willing died on the cross to pay for your sins. Don't even consider saying "no" to Him again. Received Him now.

**Say "yes" to Jesus today because of...THE REALITY OF YOUR OPPORTUNITY!**

"Behold I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and sup with him, and he with me." (Rev. 3:20)

**FYI: Please let us know if you have an address change, know someone who wants to be on our mailing list please or would like to receive a daily devotional please let us know. Also if**

you'd like to write a short article, poem, or share a game, joke, etc. for a future issue of the Outcast send it to PO Box 944, Malaga, NJ 08328, atten. Sara. Thanks so much.

Now for a bit of HOLY HUMOR. BUT 1<sup>st</sup> I must apologize for I can't remember who sent this to me and I have not been able to find out who did. But who ever shared this with us I am truly grateful to you. Sara

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, 'I know what the Bible means!'

His father smiled and replied, 'What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?'

The son replied, 'I do know!'

'Okay,' said his father. 'What does the Bible mean?'

'That's easy, Daddy...' the young boy replied excitedly, 'It stands for 'Basic Information Before leaving Earth.'

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

'Is there anything breakable in here?' asked the postal clerk.

'Only the Ten Commandments,' answered the lady.

'Somebody has said there are only 2 kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good morning, Lord, and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, Good Lord, it's morning.'

A minister parked his car in a no parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: 'I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses.'

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note 'I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation.

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: 'I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets.'

While driving in Penn., a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign...'Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.'

A Sunday school teacher began her lesson with a question, 'Boys and girls, what do we know about God?' A hand shot up in the air. 'He is an artist!' said the kindergarten boy. 'Really? How do you know?' the teacher asked.

## 'You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven...'

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend...The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

'Reverend,' said the young man, 'I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.' The minister chuckled, 'I know what you mean. It's the same in my business.' People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, 'Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt.' Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said 'Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming.'

*The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play 'Here's a copy of the service,' he said impatiently. 'But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances.' During the service, the minister paused and said, 'Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000.00 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up.' At that moment, the substitute organist played the 'The Star Spangled Banner.' And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!*

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, give me the grace to see a joke, to get some humor out of life, and pass it on to other folk!

Have A Great Day!