

# FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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"From the Pastor's Desk..."

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## HAVE WE LOST OUR SONG

I have lived long enough to discover that the world I grew up in has changed. It is evident that the present generation which has taken leadership throughout our country is a breed of its own and unfamiliar with the type of world I have known. I am not talking about technology,

In the 1950's the normative American family consisted of a breadwinner father, homemaker mother, and several children, all living in homes in the suburbs on the outskirts of a larger city. It was a narrow view of a model family, yet it pervaded the media and was widely accepted as the ideal and most normal.

Stores were closed on Sundays because most people went to church. School sports activities for the children were on Friday nights and Saturdays for the most part. Christmas and Easter were celebrated as Holy Days and no one objected to saying "*Merry Christmas.*" Prayers were common, both in schools and in government. Everyone was proud to sing "God bless America."

However, sometimes I feel like the mourners of Israel after they had been exiled to Babylon and had been asked to sing one of the songs of Zion, when the grieving exiles said: "*How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?*" Psalm 137:4. It wasn't that they had forgotten the words or even the tune. It was the new environment that had stolen the melody.

Even when some of us visit other churches, of our own faith, the songs that have some of the words of old songs I fail to recognize them. They have been changed to the point that they are of a different style, rhythm, beat, and tune that joining can be most difficult at times. I, like others, don't say anything because we are glad they are reaching out to the children of this generation, but for the life of me, I nevertheless feel like I am in a strange land where I am being asked to sing one of the Lord's songs... and I would but the musicians seem not know "*the old tune.*"

## SHOULD WE NOT BE CONSIDERATE OF ALL

I don't have a problem with the youth singing and running the program, but it would be good if they would also learn some of the old ones too for some of those who would like to hang around and pay the bills. In our zeal for being "hip, modern, or "in" or whatever they call it, I feel too often the people that helped build the facility that makes possible the platform for such musicians need to have more consideration from others.

I find that even the restaurants now are trying to attract the younger set to their establishments with this loud, off the grid sound, which gives me indigestion while I am trying to eat. The increase in sound has reached the point that people seem to feel the need to talk above the noise to be heard. It wouldn't be so bad if they would with it at least clean up their fowl mouths. Between the extra sound, the offbeat songs, and filthy conversation it so bad in our area that my wife might need to dust off the stove and start cooking again.

I realize that I probably should learn to develop some grace over these concerns of mind and if you pray for me I am sure I will. But in the meantime, while I still have a voice in the community, I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to express the feelings of not only myself, but many of my colleagues, who are not privileged to have such an audience. Others may say, "Gwyn, you are getting old and you need to adapt to the change." However, how many changes do we need to accept? Isn't there a time when we need to say such and such is not appropriate and it isn't in the best interest of all?

## ARE WE IN REBELLION

Recently, a Wall Street Columnist asked the question as to what is happening in America. She then answered it by saying, *"We're in the midst of a rebellion." The bottom and the middle are pushing against the top. It is the throwing off of the old claims and it's been going on a while, but we are seeing it more sharply...*" I believe she is right; this is not just happening with the music, noisy restaurants, but in government, politics, and in the church. Even in the homes of America the family is being torn apart. We are truly in a strange land, and our people have lost their song.

***What happens in the midst of a rebellion? Well first of all there is the overthrow of the people who are in charge.*** But the question is: who and what do we replace it with? Do we replace our present leader with a Bernie Sanders, a renown Socialist? Haven't our people learned anything from the failures of the past? Are we going to allow our anger at what has been happening to our nation choose anyone to lead? What good will come from that?

*If there was ever a time we should choose a great leader it is now.* But we better make sure we know whether such a candidate has the proper credentials, ethics, experience, and Christian-Judeo beliefs if we are to keep our nation on the right course. We have a great country. We have been blessed for a long time. Our values, for the most part have been good. We love our freedom. But too many have a wrong perception of what freedom means.

The columnist that stated in her column that America was in the midst of rebellion also said that there used to be a widespread cliché: "God protects drunks, children, and the United States of America." She said, *"I'm in Washington a lot, and I've noticed no one says that anymore. They stopped 10 or 15 years ago. I wonder what that means?"*

## THERE IS A SOLUTION

***There was a day when the disciples were as dismayed as our nation is today.*** You see, they witnessed the death of their hopes and dreams. Their Savior was crucified. It seems like the day of miracles was over. After all, the people had crucified their miracle worker. Some of those disciples witnessed the arrest, trials, mocking, and Pilate washing his hands in water thinking by doing so the gods would not curse him for the judgment he pronounced upon the Savior of the world.

In spite of the fact that their Master and Teacher had told them such things would take place, they were completely dismayed by what they had witnessed. Even after our Lord's resurrection some who had witnessed that He truly was alive went and told the other disciples but the major amount of them refused to believe. (Mark 16:9-13). Finally Jesus appeared unto them, but what is interesting is this; it wasn't a happy reunion.

The Scripture said that Jesus *"...upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen."* Mark 16:14 Why was our Lord severe and so forthright? I believe the reason was because He knew that it was these folks who would need to go preach the Gospel to "every creature." The future of the world depended on these whom He had spent the previous three and one half years with. They would need to change. They needed to get their faith back. They needed a get their song back.

***I believe somehow the Devil had crept in and robbed our nation of its song.*** We need to get our song back even if we are forced to live in a strange land and among a strange people. We need to quit talking and start singing. The harp needs to come down off the willow tree. We need to get those instruments we used to play in church out of the closet.

***We need to participate, not because we are tenors or basses, but because we are children of the Most High God.*** We need to say with the Psalmist, *"I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known your faithfulness to all generations"* Ps. 89:1. We haven't come to the end as yet. There is still ample opportunity even for the nation to recover if we are willing to go about it the right way. It is time for America to sing again. It is time for the church to sing again. Let's take the song books out of the closet & sing again, for the joy of the Lord is our strength. Amen!