

# FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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"From the Pastor's Desk..."

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## SEEKING SOLUTIONS FOR PEACE IN OUR TIMES

We live in a dangerous era. The Middle East is torn by war. In North Africa, Libya has collapsed and become a breeding ground for terrorists. In Eastern, a resurgent Russia, under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, has brutally attacked and grabbed land by force from Ukraine. China is now flexing its muscles against its neighbors – and the rogue state of North Korea continues to threaten us with its nuclear weapons testing.

At the same time many of our world leaders admit that the United States must be the “world’s policemen.” But even the concept of accepting such a role, as it has in the past, is one that many Americans are reluctant to encourage our government to give their consent. However, if our government doesn’t who will?

I think most of those of us who read newspapers and periodicals on these subjects must admit that most of the leading nations around the world are rather hamstrung from accepting such a role. And I personally have no stomach for the United Nations in accepting that role. This is why I feel that if we are able to elect the proper leadership in the next election that only America is qualified to play that role.

**Russia**, if you have watched closely, is obsessed with rebuilding its empire, after President Ronald Reagan demolished through his leadership the Soviet Union. **China** is considered by some as having a desire to be a regional actor...but God help us if they do. **Europe**, through its humanistic philosophy, is weak and stands to be taken over by the Muslim immigrants that have invaded the land. The **Old power of Britain**, upon which the sun never set, is now too small and exhausted to play the global role they once did.

*If we, as Americans, want our nation to have this given role, then we must make some demands on our leadership that they be people of principle, moral courage, and discipline. We must return to the era when a man’s word is his bond. We will never be able to influence others to follow us if we lack these things in our daily lives. The United States of America will only be able to shape the solution the world needs if its leaders act from conviction. Words sound nice in a speech, but if there is nothing that backs up the talk it will fall on deaf ears.*

The problems that we have been observing through our nightly television newscast has allowed us to see the serious consequences of allowing Mr. Putin to gain a foothold through his bold behavior in Syria. While Europe and the United States government slept, he has launched a ruthless military operation in support of the Assad regime. The deadly consequence of this action has threatened peace in Israel, misplaced thousands from their homes, and has done much to diminished the American influence in that region.

*This is but a simple example of what is now at stake if the leadership of our nation continues to allow terrorists and rogue states to challenge American leadership on the international scene. The next President must acknowledge the past role in this area. American isolationism will not make the US and other freedom loving countries safer and more prosperous; it will make us less so and unleash a plague of dictators and others oppressors. Just take a look at the behavior of the Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte in the manner in which he talks to our leadership as well as that of other nations. When we see our leaders basically choose to ignore that kind of talk it makes me wonder as to their true feelings about our country.*

## AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

There has been a debate among our intellectual institutions as to whether we still believe in "**American exceptionalism.**" This is a view of thought that I have believed in from my childhood - that the history of the United States is inherently different from other nations.

In this view, American exceptionalism stems from its emergence from the American Revolution. It is based on liberty, equality, individualism, democracy and freedom from restrictiveness for business. This ideology itself is often referred to as "American exceptionalism."

***But there is more to this doctrine than what I have mentioned above.*** It is the idea that the US has a unique mission to transform the world. As Abraham Lincoln put it in the Gettysburg address (1863), Americans have a duty to see that "**government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.**"

*With that we recognize that our history has shown to us that we have been given a mission which does make our nation superior over other nations.* Why? Because their leaders have either not given their government the power and right to pursue such goals, or because the leaders of those various countries have only one mission and that is to dominate all people and have world power for self-serving exploitation.

***Our country is known the world over for its freedom.*** This is why so many people want to come here. But that sad thing is that the people who come here are not always willing to assimilate. They bring their "old world" ideas with them and expect us to give them the freedom to exercise those beliefs here. This is why there is an objection to so many Muslims coming here, because of their desire to have "Sharia Law" implemented in their community. You cannot have Sharia Law and practice freedom in the same house. It doesn't work. If a child chooses another religion or lifestyle, for instance, it should not give the parent the "legal right" to kill that child. There are some things that do not coexist with true freedom.

***In November, you and I are going to be given the opportunity to elect our national and local leaders.*** I hope that each of my readers will have done their homework. As a church we have tried to provide you with enough literature that will help you formulate the proper kind of understanding to make an intelligent decision. The book that so many of you have purchased entitled, "**Well Versed**" by Pastor Jim Garlow I am confident will help you with many of these decisions. That is, you who want a Biblical perspective, and I am confident you do or you would not have allowed me to be your pastor for these past 24 years.

Let me say this for those whose hopes and peace rest upon the results of our election. While it is true I am asking you to vote and participate in this election because it is a privilege that we have had all these years to exercise, my personal expectation of how the vote will go is very dim. Then you may ask, why take the time to vote. Because a Christian who will not make even an effort to vote and make their voice known, does not deserve the freedom that our kind of government has given to us all these years.

***If our candidate loses or if a particular issue we support goes down in defeat, at least the burden will not be on us who tried to do the right thing.*** Our daughter, Pastor Sheri and her husband, Gary were in Washington DC and had the opportunity to hear from many of our Congressman and Senators. Even some of them said that it was the church that has the power to maintain our freedoms. They even closed their remarks by saying that this election could turn out to be our last election. You and I do not want to be a party to those who were willing to take that chance.

***The church has always played a great role in this great country of freedom.*** "**Our country tis of thee**" was written by a Baptist pastor, Samuel Francis Smith. ***Our Pledge of Allegiance*** to the flag, written by a Baptist pastor, Francis Bellamy. "**In God We Trust**" engraved on our coins is traced to the efforts of W.R. Watkinson. Now, can you now see why I felt that I should have written this article? I must not be silent.

Amen.