

From the Pastor

Week of July 6, 2008

We celebrate and give thanks for the “freedom” we enjoy in America. There is no other nation on earth that has enjoyed the blessings of freedom and liberty as we have in the United States. That freedom has been threatened, attacked, and ridiculed by our enemies, and many times misunderstood by our friends. It has been maintained through the sacrifices of men and women who have placed their lives on the line to protect the freedom and liberty we so enjoy. To those who serve, to those who have served, and to those who have lost loved ones in our country’s service, we give honor and thanks. You have our gratitude and support.

Today we honor one of our own young men, Chris Oxner, who has volunteered to serve in the Army. Chris, the son of Keith and Katrina Oxner, will be leaving for Boot Camp this Tuesday. We want Chris to know that we care and that he has our full support and our prayers.

We also celebrate the freedom we have in Jesus Christ, a freedom that is not determined by the government we live under but by God’s grace and mercy. A person can live under a dictatorial ruler or be imprisoned in a prison cell and still experience the liberty of knowing Christ. True freedom in a person’s life is not dependent on where we live or the circumstances of our life, but on a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

John Chapter 8

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

NIV

Galatians Chapter 5

¹ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

NIV