

" For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

The words above are derived from the last sentence of the Declaration of Independence. To me, they are profound. The men were fully aware of the cost when they signed this document; they knew that if they were caught and captured they would be facing death. All 56 signers demonstrated remarkable courage, loyalty, servanthood, sacrifice, and commitment. They valued freedom and hope over death to the extent that they found this fate worth the risk.

Five signers were captured and brutally tortured by the British. Nine fought in the War of Independence and died from wounds or from hardships they suffered. At least a dozen of the 56 had their homes pillaged and burned to the ground. Seventeen lost everything they owned. Realizing that and then reading the words, "...we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor," clears up my perspective a bit of the cost that was involved. This level of devotion and selflessness stirs my heart. These men offered us all something to emulate.

The same can be said of the generation that came before us and pioneered the way here at Dunklin; we have a rich history of Disciples of Christ that left all they had to wholeheartedly pursue what they felt the Lord calling them to. They as well demonstrated attributes of sacrifice, faithfulness, and commitment. Brother Mickey & Laura Maye, the early 'band of brothers' that came for help, and the families and ministers that God used to lay the foundation here at Dunklin are to be commended. There is a part of me that cannot fully comprehend the cost involved as there is no amount of reading and storytelling that can make up the difference of actually experiencing those early days.

One thing I can do is to live my life in such a way as to follow the examples of these people of God whom prepared the way for us. The way they lived their lives and walked out their faith will be forever etched into my mind. Paul the apostle communicates the same example in Philippians 3:7-9:

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him..."

The early leaders of Dunklin were extraordinary men and women. Oh, that we (the next generation) can have just a portion of what they had in Christ and continue growing and gaining in Him. All else in this world is but garbage in comparison to the significant worth of knowing Christ Jesus our King!

Grace be with you!



Nick



Captured AROUND CAMP



the CURRENT NEEDS OF DUNKLIN

- Prayer, prayer, and more prayer!
- Scholarships for men in the program and SLT
- Scholarships for families in Family Development and SLT
- Hotel Room Renovations
- Donations of cars for camp vehicles