



CAMPFIRE
JULY 2019

"He brought them out of darkness, and broke away their chains."

-Psalm 107:14

I'm in Costa Rica as I write this month's newsletter. I have mentioned in a previous issue that we have a "sister" ministry in Zarcero called Dunklin Beraca. We have been here for the past few days offering support in various ways as they are in the early phases of building and planning on a beautiful piece of property. If you ever have an inclination to travel outside the U.S., let me recommend Costa Rica. I am not the traveling professional, but if you are looking for breathtaking scenery, mild weather, and loving people, then you have found the place. We have had a fantastic time, and the Lord has taught us many things. We are grateful for the opportunity, appreciate the relationships that are being cultivated with these wonderful people, and look forward to what the Lord is going to do with this discipleship program. I could go on and on about this ministry excursion, but I have something else stirring in me that I feel compelled to communicate with you this month, as the 4th of July is right around the corner.

There is one thing that rises to the surface within me as I come to the conclusion of any of these trips that take me from home; I always have a longing to get back. Although there are beautiful countries and cities around this world and it is exciting to experience these places and the ministry opportunities they offer, there is nothing like landing back home in America. As soon as the plane hits the ground, I relish in the fact that I live in the greatest country in the world, and I am extremely grateful to be an American. Although we are imperfect and sliding into an abyss of dysfunction and immorality, we have freedoms unlike any other. We are still considered "free" and this proves to be true in comparison to any other country in the world. Sometimes, it takes going somewhere else to realize just how good we have it. The song plays in my head, 'I am thankful to be an American, to live in the greatest land of all. In a nation blessed, it's the very best, I can stand with my head up tall. I am thankful to be an American, to be born in a land that's free. I am thankful to God for allowing me to be an American.'

This same thought comes to mind in contemplating my walk with the Lord. I cannot imagine what it would be like to go through life and not be in relationship with Christ and a part of the greatest Kingdom in the universe. The benefits that I have at my disposal are priceless. I have received an inheritance, one that comes with physical gifts, but, more importantly, one that is filled with spiritual riches beyond comprehension and sometimes explanation. Love abounds, peace fills my heart, and there is no better place in all the world than to be with Him. I always feel this sentiment when I pull onto the streets of Dunklin. Freedom is at the core of what happens here each and every day. The Psalmist clarifies what I am speaking of in Psalm 107, "Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness, prisoners suffering in iron chains...He brought them out of darkness...and broke away their chains. Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love...for He breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron."

Both of these freedoms, our physical and spiritual, were celebrated again this year as always at Dunklin. We as a community of believers joined together with our families to joyously express our gratitude for our country and our God, falling into accordance with Ps 107:31, "Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love." (The photos on the back page reflect this occasion.)

It is for freedom that Christ set us free!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Reynolds".

Nick



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