



The President's Perspective



Freedom's Advance

The last weekend of January will be one that I will never forget for several reasons. First, I was privileged to visit the Pentagon for a second time, in preparation for our upcoming Pentagon Outreach in June. The great door of opportunity that we have there never ceases to amaze me. Second, while in DC I was able to fulfill a long time dream, that of seeing three of the most incredible airplanes in the world (the SR-71 Blackbird, the Air France Concorde, and the Enola Gay), all three housed in the new Air and Space Museum Annex at Dulles International Airport. Third, I was thrilled to watch the brave people of Iraq vote after 50 years of tyrannical rule. These three events, while seemingly unrelated, have a common thread that runs through them. All three are examples of man's inborn desire for freedom.

The Air and Space Annex holds all the planes that will not fit into the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum on the National Mall, and is a tribute to America's unrelenting commitment to air travel. Without doubt, the SR-71 Blackbird is the most intriguing airplane I've ever seen. A single seater, the SR-71 is powered by two enormous jet engines capable of enough thrust to propel the plane at 2000 miles per hour. Incidentally, it flew from California to Washington, DC in just over one hour and four minutes. It is man's unending desire for, and pursuit of, "breaking free" from earth's gravity that causes him to risk all to go a little higher or a little faster.

As well, it is that same, universal desire for freedom that caused the Iraqi people to walk miles and risk their very lives to vote. Never will I forget the joyous dancing, shouting and unashamed display of ink-stained index fingers, by the Iraqis who voted. My eyes filled with tears as I witnessed their defiance of the insurgents who had threatened them, as well as their defiance of bondage itself. As our President so aptly said, "Freedom is not America's gift to the world; it is God's gift to mankind."

While the desire for physical freedom, I believe, is universal, the desire for freedom from sin is universal as well. Mankind has always searched, though not always in the right place, for freedom from sin's controlling influence. Whether praying to one of the stars in the heavens, or to an idol of stone, man searches for a relationship with a "god" who can relieve his sin's guilt and "free" him from its grip. We, who know God through a relationship with His Son, Jesus, know that the only Source of freedom is in the Person of Jesus Christ. He is the only One who can forgive sin and free us to rise above this world's sinful pull. Jesus died, was buried, and rose again for the express purpose of giving us that gift of freedom. All anyone has to do to be forgiven and freed is to accept the free gift of eternal life offered through Jesus Christ. It is this wonderful message of

Christ and the freedom He offers that we are privileged to proclaim throughout America and around the world.

I ask that you intercede for us as we carry the message of Christ and spiritual freedom to America and especially to those in our military who are fighting for our physical freedom. Continue to visit our web site for weekly updates on our local church meetings as well as periodic updates on the June 8-9, Pentagon Outreach.

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