



Pastor's Perspective

July is a month often marked by parades, fireworks and picnics. They mark the Fourth of July, or Independence Day—the day the Declaration of Independence was signed signaling the start of the Revolutionary War and our

break with England. The document, written by Thomas Jefferson, is a good one to read every once in a while. It reminds us of our heritage as Americans, and, more than that, our Christian heritage. This month I am including the entire Declaration in this

newsletter. Take a few minutes to read it and see for yourself if our founders seemed to be afraid of mentioning God or shied away from Biblical precepts.

Pastor Ron

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. —That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or



Declaration of Independence

to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all

experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having

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The Declaration of Independence (continued)

in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

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The Declaration of Independence (continued)

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We

have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Men's Conference

Manly Man III Conference is coming in Green Bay on Friday and Saturday, July 30 and 31. Go to www.themanlymanconference.com to register. Once we know how many men from CKCC are going we can arrange transportation and housing.

Missionary Russ Stendal

Russ Stendal, one of CKCC's missionaries in Colombia, South America, will be speaking in our service on Sunday, July 25th. This is a rare opportunity to see Russ, as his ministry in Colombia gives him little time to visit supporting churches in the States. Russ was kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas some years ago and held captive for 142 days. From that experience he has written several books but, more importantly, has developed a relationship with the guerrillas that allows him access for Bible and book distribution. He has an amazing story and an amazing role to play in the nation of Colombia.



By Pat Miller

July is a special month for me since it's the month of my mother's birthday. She died in 1999 and left me to carry on many traditions that were important to her, one of which was the Sunday family dinner. I look forward to all our kids and my dad coming over for dinner after church. It gives us a chance to catch up on the past week and gives the cousins time to play and romp with each other. It gets hectic but is extremely rewarding to see family together and enjoying each others' company. To be honest, it gives me a time to reflect and admire the men my sons have become and to be thankful for the wives they have chosen, for without their unions, I wouldn't have those beautiful grandchildren that I cherish.

One Sunday seemed to be going unusually well and I was sitting at the dining room table, looking at my family with great pride. I listened to them talk about work and projects that were keeping them busy. I heard them trying to give pointers on something that one of them had a question about, and I heard them good-naturedly tease each other. As I looked down at my plate with a prayer of gratitude, I heard one of my sweet little grandchildren whisper, "buttock." As I glanced over at his parents, who were either pretending not to hear it or trying to mentally figure out what to say to him, I was transported back in time to an incident that brings sentimental tears to my eyes.

When my oldest son was two years old, we were shopping at Sears where he became very interested in the toilets and bathtubs on display. In the middle of the salesman's speech extolling the virtues of the washer and dryer he was trying to sell us, our son proudly announced he didn't have to pee pee any more. With a look of horror, the salesman ran to the toilet on display and sadly announced, "He's probably right — he's done." What can you do other than grab your child and run? I suppose I should have offered to clean it up, but manners can easily fly out the window when you're looking for the nearest escape hatch.

As much as we love our children, sometimes we get gratification from seeing them dealing with their children on the same issues that we had to deal with. It's difficult for me not to grin like the proverbial

Cheshire cat when I see their children doing the same thing I had to discipline my own children for. Of course, back then they saw the incident as nothing (and I was mean), while now they see it as a major infraction (and they are justified in punishing). Interesting how time changes things while keeping them the same! There's a fine line between holding the reins so our children will be safe, while still letting them experience some independence and learning opportunities. At some point in our lives, we all have to let go and trust that our children were listening to us; we have to trust that we instilled a sense of right and wrong; and we have to believe that they can make the right decisions to become happy, well-functioning adults.

I wonder if it's the same with God. I wonder how many times God is able to sit back and look at His children with pride. Does He get disappointed when we fail to do a random act of kindness? Does He nod with satisfaction when we are right where we should be and doing exactly what He intended for us to do? I am a firm believer in free will; we have a free will to make decisions, whether they be right or wrong; we have the freedom to decide. It takes a loving Father to give us that freedom. What a show of confidence in us to give us those choices. Every day we are presented with opportunities where we need to decide what we will do or which way we will go. I can only imagine how God holds His breath hoping we will fly with goodness, but holding out His hands to catch us when we make a mistake and fall. Proverbs 22:6 encourages us to "Teach a child to choose the right path, and when he is older he will remain upon it." But Ephesians 6:4 advises us: "And now a word to you parents. Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice."

God is the eternal Father and we are the children that make Him watch us with satisfaction and a smile, or a sad shake of the head. I will be eternally grateful that our Father in heaven is a kind and forgiving Father; and I pray that I will do His will when it comes to the decisions I need to make in my life.

Influencing the Influencers

Report on the Ministry of Raymond & Cindy Le Clair

*Professional and Spiritual Development of Christian Teachers,
School Principals and Teacher Trainers in the Countries of the Former USSR*

June 22, 2010

Teacher Training in the Kyrgyz Republic

The Kyrgyz Republic is often in the news these days, with images of property destruction, marauding bands and inter-ethnic killing. Hundreds of thousands (400,000 is the latest UN statistic) have fled their homes in fear of their lives. Many more are in despair brought on by years of governmental abuse of power. Yet in the midst of this tragic strife, Christians continue to serve in the ways that are open to them, using any opportunity to bring healing to their troubled nation. Following is just one small snapshot from Ray's recent trip to the Kyrgyz Republic; a glimpse of the teachers who strive to bring light and goodness through education done Christianly.

It was already 5 p.m. as I entered the foyer of the Soviet-era sports hall, where a group of 50+ Christian teachers of various ages, subjects and schools had been attending our intensive ACSI professional development courses for the past two weeks, and I was feeling just a little let



down. The place was silent, with no one in sight. "Well, what did you expect?" I said to myself. "Tomorrow is the last day of the program. It's at least 90 degrees in here and everyone is exhausted from thinking so hard. Did you really think they would stay around when no one was watching?"



Unfortunately, I had been away from classes since early morning, on an unplanned trip to another town with members of the leadership team of the Mercy Foundation, our partner organization and sponsor to several Christian schools in the Kyrgyz Republic. That afternoon I had received an urgent call on my mobile that John Hay, a veteran volunteer course instructor from Summit Ministries in Colorado, had suddenly fallen very ill with a fever, dizziness and overall pain. After practically crawling back to his room, he was simply unable to continue leading the courses after lunch. Meanwhile I, the coordinator responsible for this study program, was still over two hours away from Tokmok, with no one to help lead the program. Our other veteran instructors, Irina Sokolova from Belarus and Dr. John Shortt from England had finished their courses days earlier and had already left for their home

countries. There was simply no one to substitute and worst of all, no one to evaluate the teachers' hard work.

The timing of it all couldn't have been worse. The teachers, divided by small groups according to school subject areas, had been given practical assignments that we would miss seeing. Three groups had successfully given their demonstrations the day before, but most of them were scheduled for today. The assignment had been given days



ago, and ever since for about six hours a day there were many virtual bee hives of three to four teachers scattered throughout the facility busily brainstorming concepts and methods, then scrapping these ideas, consulting with John Hay, starting over and then polishing their final plans. For a week and a half prior to that, they had listened to important lectures on making connections between a biblical worldview and the teaching of various subjects, so now they were ready for their “solo flights.” Avoiding simplistic approaches like adding Bible verses to math lessons and Christian vocabulary items to language lessons, the teachers had to

think on a deeper level and demonstrate the natural connections that already exist in God’s world between the moral and academic, the “spiritual” and “secular.” Many commented that they were starting to see knowledge and education from God’s perspective in a much clearer way, but they still had to learn to share it appropriately in their classrooms. Only practice could help them.

Passing through the corridor into the spacious sport hall itself – a virtual echo chamber with its painted wooden floor, metal walls and corrugated roof stretched over huge trusses—I saw only the white plastic lawn chairs, sitting empty near the student desks that had been hauled over from nearby Akh-Bata Christian School for use in our makeshift classroom. Then I heard it—first a single soft voice and then others. Someone was praying! On the far side of the room, as my eyes adjusted to the light, I could see the circle of teachers—every single one of them—hands joined in a shadowed corner of the hall.



One after the other, several voiced sincere gratitude for a very productive day and for all they had learned from our instructors and from one another. One prayed that John Hay would be completely healed of whatever that had so suddenly overcome him. Another prayed that I and the Mercy team would return to them safely. (In light of the violent coup d’état and subsequent sporadic bloodshed that had been occurring across the country—including the grenade explosion at a shopping center less than five miles from where we were meeting—this prayer was not a mere formality.) They didn’t know I was listening; I was deeply touched.



With feet riveted to the floor, I silently joined them in prayer. My eyes were now filling—from joy. Not because my program schedule was intact, but because of yet another demonstration of the excitement for learning and the commitment to ministry of this wonderful, lively group of fellow Christian teachers. They had suddenly discovered the deeply spiritual side of their so called “secular” profession and seemingly couldn’t get enough time to study and talk about it. On previous days it was clear that things were beginning to fall into place for them and they eagerly anticipated their practical assignment of integrating faith and teaching in natural ways without reverting to spiritualization, proof-texting, religious clichés or indoctrination.

As soon as the last “amen” was said and eyes were opened, there were peals of laughter and then applause as they caught sight of my grinning face and waving hand from clear across the gymnasium. For a few seconds it seemed even to me as though I had actually appeared out of thin air—in answer to their prayers for me! I thanked them for their concern, and especially for sticking it out to the end of the sweltering day. Somewhat incredulous that I would even think they might not, several teachers exclaimed that they had learned so much from each other—and enjoyed it tremendously! Each team had demonstrated their biblically integrated lessons to the entire group—lessons that could all be used in the eight schools represented. Then the teachers in the audience gave helpful critique. The program went according to plan after all—well almost! Actually, this was even better. It was a day I will long remember. I’ve never been a parent, but at that moment I felt that another of my “children” had just been born. It is unlikely that any of these teachers will ever make the headlines, but when you consider how much time they will spend in far away Kyrgyz Republic teaching children every day for twelve years, the influence of those teachers in those lives is beyond measure. It’s especially rewarding when teachers begin to see how the seemingly routine tasks of education can be transformed into authentic discipleship training useful for all spheres of life. One day, the full story of these Christian teachers will be known. The task now—theirs and ours—is to be faithful in pointing the next generation towards unchanging Truth and Wisdom in the context of His great big world.



We are so grateful to John Hay, Dr. John Shortt and Irina Sokolova—and their families—for being willing to take the risk and helping us to make this happen. We also want to thank Dr. Camille Bishop and Dr. Lee Hollaar who taught during the first two weeks of this four-week program last summer.

- Please pray for a stop to ethnic tensions and violence that have swept southern Kyrgyz Republic and that it would not spread to the rest of the country and other regions of Central Asia. Praise the Lord, Ray and John Hay left the very morning of the day that serious violence broke out in the country, especially in the southern region.
- Pray that Christian teachers would increasingly see their profession as strategic, both for the transformation of society and for the transformation of individual students in their care; in every subject they teach, may they erect signposts that point to eternal principles for all of life.
- Pray for our partners in the Mercy Foundation in Tokmok, Kyrgyz Republic and their group of five Christian schools as well as the three independent schools in Bishkek, the capital.
- Praise the Lord that John Hay made a full recovery by the next morning!
- Pray for Ray and Cindy as they visit members and potential member schools in Lithuania and Latvia, July 1-9.
- Pray for the Christian teachers from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania, who will attend the first two weeks of a new cycle of our summer training courses in Kyiv, Ukraine 19-30 July. Included in this group are senior teachers who have been selected by their school principals to possibly become future teacher trainers themselves as part of our leadership development program.

In gratitude for your prayers and support!

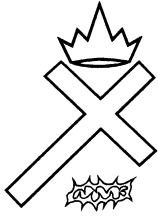
Ray & Cindy Le Clair

Kyiv, Ukraine

www.acsi.org.ua

NOTE: Tax-deductible donations to the ministry of Ray & Cindy may be sent to the Association of Christian Schools International, ATTN: Jan Stump, P.O. Box 65130, Colorado Springs, CO 80962. Please include a note that the donation is for the Le Clairs.

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