



July, 2014

Dear Families of Gilead Bible Church,

As I was returning from my morning walk just few days before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Independence Day, I saw an American flag waving in the wind and proudly lit by a light purposely-mounted next to it. I was reminded of the great freedom that we have in America achieved through the blood that was shed by countless men and women who served in various battles and wars fought over the years.

On the other hand, as I hear the voices and words of people spoken and written in various media occasions, public forums, and personally and private settings, I was reminded how our freedom of speech has deteriorated over the same many years.

Before we were more careful with how our voices and words because of a greater sense of God's presence or a greater desire to uphold a sense of righteous morals. Therefore, we were less inclined to tear people down with our voices and words. The media that we saw and heard promoted a sense of goodness and well-being. We were more careful with the exercise of our freedom of speech.

However, in recent years we no longer are careful in the exercise of our freedom of speech. We have lost the sense of God's presence and the sense of righteous morals. We deliberately tear people down with our voices and words. The media that we see and heard promoted a sense of evil and wickedness. Sadly, this decline has infiltrated the church.

What can be done? There is still hope and that hope begins with us as Christians. Paul in *Ephesians 4* writes:

1. We live the way of life according to the truth that is in Jesus Christ

*<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus*

2. We speak those things that build up and benefit others

*<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must... speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

3. We do not grieve the Holy Spirit

*<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

We can both honor God and set an example for the world in the use of our freedom of speech in America!

God Bless,

Pastor and Helen Moy



2014年七月

親愛的基列教會弟兄姊妹，

在七月四日美國國慶日的前幾天，當我從早晨散步回家時，我看到了美國國旗在風中揮舞，並傲然地被特意安裝在它旁邊的燈光照耀。這提醒我們在美國享有偉大的自由，是經由無數先人不論男女曾參與各種戰鬥流血而達成的。

在另一方面，當我聽到人們的聲音和在各種媒體場合裏的話語，不論公眾論壇或個人私自發表的言談和文章，都在提醒著我們的言論自由已在這些年月裏走向下坡了。

以前我們多會小心我們的說話和文字，乃是因為有對神的存在感或有意去堅持正義的道德感。所以我們較少傾向用言語或文字去揭破貶底別人。我們看到和聽到的媒體宣傳多有善良和良好的感受，使我們更加小心運用我們的言論自由。

然而，近幾年來，我們不再認真實行言論自由，我們已沒有感到神的存在或去堅持正義的道德感。我們故意用言語和文字去貶底別人，我們看到和聽到的媒體宣揚罪惡和邪惡的事。可悲的是，這種毀壞亦已經在滲透教會。

我們有什麼可以做呢？還是有希望的，這希望是從我們作為基督徒開始。保羅在以弗所書四章所寫：

1. 我們生命的形式是根據耶穌基督的真理

<sup>20-21</sup>你們學了基督，你們學了基督，卻不是這樣。如果你們聽過他的道，領了他的教，學了他的真理，

2. 我們所講所談的事乃是為建立和使他人受惠

<sup>25</sup>所以你們要棄絕謊言、各人與鄰舍說實話，因為我們是互相為肢體。<sup>29</sup>污穢的言語、一句不可出口、只要隨事說造就人的好話、叫聽見的人得益處。

3. 不要叫聖靈擔憂

<sup>30</sup>不要叫神的聖靈擔憂，你們原是受了他的印記、等候得贖的日子來到

我們是可以榮耀神，並為世人樹立了在美國言論自由的榜樣和應用。

願神祝福你。

梅牧師和師母