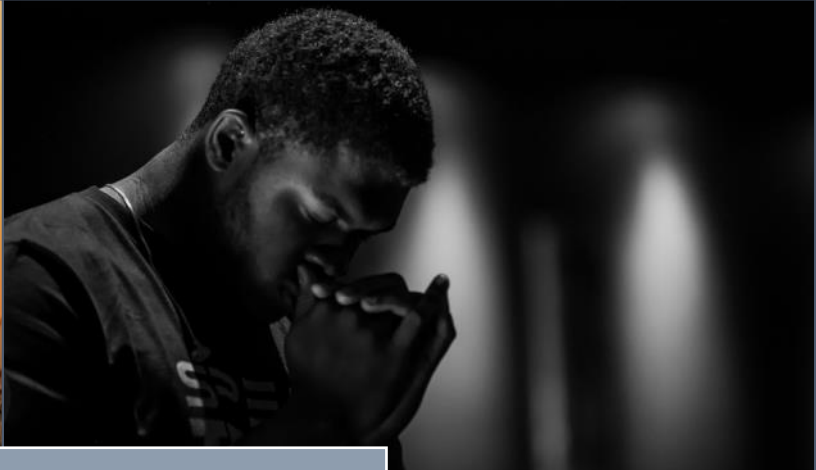


# LOGOSOPHIA

A Pilgrim's Journal  
of Life, Love & Literature



Issue #14  
Spring 2023



## God & Country: An Issue of Liberty



Greetings, fellow pilgrims!

Welcome to our fourteenth issue of LogoSophia Magazine. Our theme this year is *God & Country*. This issue is focused on Liberty. Here you will find thoughts on history, Jesus, the prison system, motherhood, and plenty more! Thank you for your time, and please consider sharing with those around you and letting us know what you think.

Happy Spring!

Sarah Levesque

Editor in Chief

## WANTED

- Readers & listeners of any faith to interact respectfully with writers and other readers through book/media suggestions and letters to the editor, as well as comments on LogoSophiaMag.com and social media
- Writers of Christian faith to augment the works of our Staff
- Artists to help us beautify our issues and blog
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## DID YOU HEAR?

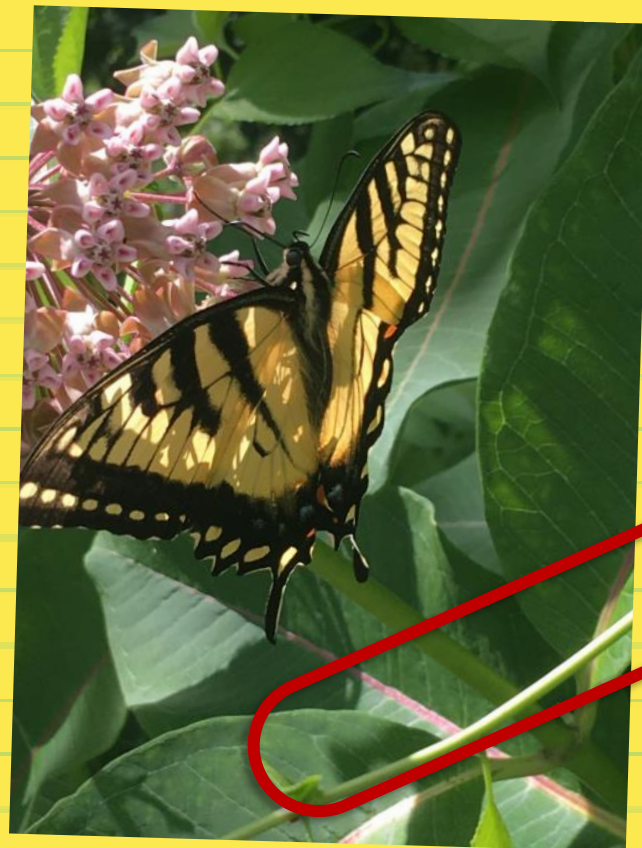
We have an audio version of this issue!  
Find it through these providers:



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*Happy  
Spring!*





## **Letters to the Editor & Others**

This is where we will be putting anything you send in:  
letters to the editor, notes to authors, questions,  
agreements and disagreements...  
we can't wait to see what you have to say!  
Just be sure to tell us what  
article you're responding to!

To contact us, email  
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OR

Fill out the contact form at  
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## **Bible Verse**

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use  
your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through  
love serve one another.”  
(Galatians 5:13)



## **A Prayer For Religious Freedom**

Loving Father,  
thank you for the gift of life  
and for the freedom to love and worship You.  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit  
inspire us to be your witnesses.  
Grant us the courage to boldly and joyfully  
stand in protection of our freedom.  
In your mercy,  
guard our religious freedom  
so we may continue to live out our faith  
and transform the world in which we live.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

From <https://adw.org/catholic-prayer/prayer-for-religious-freedom/>



## Winter Photo Contest Entries



By Nicholas Terranova, RI



CONTEST  
WINNER

By Christine O'Brien Mercurio, NH



## Winter Photo Contest Entries



By Christine O'Brien Mercurio, NH



By Christine O'Brien Mercurio, NH





**CALLING**  
**ALL**  
**PHOTOGRAPHERS**



We are holding a contest for the best picture  
that encapsulates

**SUMMER**

The winning entry will be put on the  
Table of Contents page of our Summer issue.

Email your entry to  
Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com  
by July 14th - subject "Summer 2023 Photo Contest"  
See LogoSophiaMag.com for details



# A FUNNY SORT OF FREEDOM

By Sarah Levesque

*“Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” (John 14:21 ESV)*

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” (John 8:51)*

As an American, I'm big on the idea of freedom. But what exactly is freedom? The country, as a whole, seems to equate freedom with the ability to do whatever the individual wants. But Christianity disagrees. The Christian sees freedom as the ability to follow God - His will and His moral code. It's true that Jesus also tells us to grant physical freedom to captives, and some people focus on this sort of freedom from the oppression of physical, emotional or mental chains. It was this sort of freedom that Jews in the first century BC were focused on. They knew the Messiah was coming to set them free, and they were waiting in hope for his coming. But rather than freeing them from the oppressive rule of the Romans, He freed us all from the oppressive rule of sin and death and eternal damnation, should we choose to follow Him. And following Him means following His commandments.



This brings us back to the idea of freedom being the ability to choose the good, to choose God's will. It's an odd sort of freedom, when you think about it from the perspective of the world. In order to be truly free, we need to be obedient to God and to those He put in authority over us. He knows what's best for us. He knows far better than we do where we need limitations lest we spread ourselves too thin. To put it in terms of a story I recently read online, "freeing" ourselves from our God-given boundaries may be as detrimental to us in the long run as "freeing" a goldfish from water. The walls of the fishbowl are there not to keep the fish trapped, but to keep it safe and healthy.

Similarly, we also have boundaries: moral boundaries for all, specific boundaries for the individual, things to be done and things to be avoided. Many of the moral boundaries we share come from the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, including fidelity to God, spouse and family, and help for the needy. We all have specific boundaries: things we're good and bad at, things God asks us to do or avoid. In my own life, I am strong at editing and weak at traditional visual art; God has asked me to run this magazine and teach fourth grade, and He has made it clear that I'm not allowed to date non-Catholics (despite my protests). Every so often He turns my life upside down, and it seems hard to adapt, but He gives me a way.

Sometimes it may seem like a small life, a small bowl, to return to the fishbowl analogy, and sometimes the bowl is overwhelmingly large, but if you remove yourself from the bowl—that is, if you pull yourself away from God's will—you will die spiritually. Over and over again, St. John wrote in the Bible that God loves those who



keep His commands, that this is how to show love to God and reach Heaven (see John 8:51, 14:21, 15:10; 1 John 2:2-3; 2 John 1:6). So if our goal is to get to Heaven, we need to align ourselves with God, whether that means swimming in circles or being put into a bowl that seems unmanageably large. Jesus freed us from sin and death that we would have this ability to follow His commands. So yes, Christian freedom does seem to be a funny sort of freedom. But it's the real deal.





# HOLY

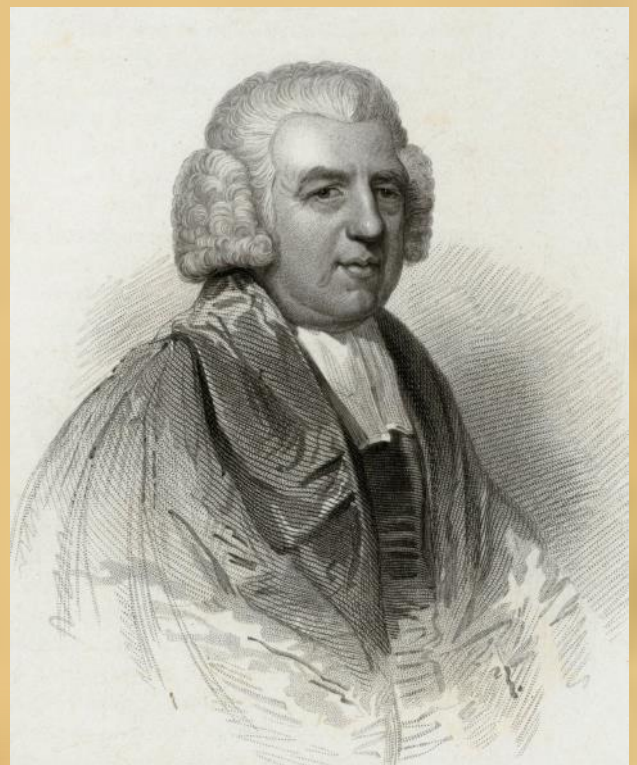
## John Newton

By Sarah Levesque

# HEROES

John Newton was born on July 24, 1725 in London. His mother died when he was young, and he spent his teenage years sailing the seas with his captain father. At age eighteen he was pressed into the Royal Navy, was himself enslaved for a time, then became a sailor on a slave ship. Rather than being repulsed, he appreciated his comparatively easy life and studied his way up to becoming navigation master. His conversion began when he read Thomas a Kempis and survived a great storm at sea, but even when he had begun to adopt the faith of his late mother, he continued to work in the slave trade. In 1750, he married Mary Catlett, whose pious lifestyle furthered his conversion. Over time, Newton's health took him out of the sea life, and he returned to England. He eventually became a priest in the Church of England, began writing hymns and repented of his former life in the slave trade. The last twenty years of his life were spent working to abolish that trade: in 1787, he co-founded the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade (also known simply as the Anti-Slavery Society) with William Wilberforce; in 1788, he wrote a pamphlet chronicling with deep repentance his own days in the slave trade; and he consistently spoke out in favor of the abolition of the slave trade in political circles of varying degrees. John Newton died on December 21, 1807, nine months after slavery was abolished in England. He had published 280 hymns, many of which are still sung today. The most famous of these is Amazing Grace.

May we, like John Newton, be willing to repent of our sins, work to abolish immoral practices, and give God glory by using the talents He gave us.



#### Sources:

[britannica.com/biography/John-Newton](http://britannica.com/biography/John-Newton)  
[hymnary.org/person/Newton\\_John](http://hymnary.org/person/Newton_John)



# LOWLY KING

By Caroline Liberatore



In order to fully comprehend the concept of Christian liberty, we must recenter ourselves around its fundamental source. The incarnation – salvation provided through the birth, life, and death of the embodied Christ – is the foremost point of access to our liberation. However, it is necessary to examine the reality that the self-giving, self-abasing example of the incarnate Christ was the necessary and exclusive means to receiving our souls' freedom.

Paul accentuates this indispensable facet of our faith in Philippians 2:1-11 – a common text to refer to examining the character of Christ.

*“6 [Christ], although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained,*

*7 But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being.*

*8 And after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross!*

*9 Therefore [because He stooped so low] God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name...”*

*(Phillipians 2:6-9, AMPC)*



We are told, with almost unsettling verbiage, the mortifying depths to which Christ descended in order to demonstrate obedience to the Father and intense love for His people. Although this is the truth that we are calibrated to hear, it is important to recognize that it is far from the natural order of ethereal reality.

Paul lingers for a moment on the nature of Christ as both the Father's son and "essentially one with God." The AMPC translation brackets the notion that Jesus also retains his godly selfhood: "possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God." This is essential, as it illuminates the reality that Christ, above all else, had no obligation or necessity to lower himself. In fact, his humiliation may be considered a cosmic injustice.

When reflecting on the breadth of loss which Christ suffered in order to liberate us, it repositions us to consider our freedom with humility. This bounty we have received is entirely disproportionate to our rebellion against our Creator – and yet, He is generous, as His very nature is one of abundancy.

May this be the Lord we long to emulate – the Giver, the Humble Servant. May we realize our liberty with complete awareness of our lowliness and be earnest in self-giving service to our gentle King and His created beings.



# Finding Freedom



# In Motherhood

By Grace Babinçau

Originally published on the author's blog:  
[gracefuljournal.com/finding-freedom-in-motherhood/](http://gracefuljournal.com/finding-freedom-in-motherhood/)

I can very easily remember the days when I lived in Boston as a graduate student, sipping lattes in cute coffee shops, running alongside the Charles River and hopping on the T to get to class. Opportunities and adventures surprised me everywhere; just being surrounded by the activity of the city made you feel like you were a part of something grand. In many ways, my extroverted personality thrived from the liveliness of my environment.

It's easy to look at my life then and now and identify a loss of freedom since my time is currently dictated by the needs of my children (both in and out of the womb). Personal freedom is a treasured asset these days, but when I say "personal freedom", I mean the ability to do what we want, when we want. And when children become the cause of lost freedom, it's easier to see them as a burden, or even a nuisance. As a mother, when I begin to think this way, my day can sometimes turn into a frustrated effort to try and recreate an experience of that pre-motherhood freedom, causing me to see my life as something less than what it was rather than a step forward.

*But perspective is everything right?* Once we start to look at something one way, it can seem true, even though the reality might just be the complete opposite.



I have found that when I look at my day as a shared experience with my daughter, and an opportunity to grow together, then she is no longer a burden, but a companion and a pathway to my own development as a person.

I haven't dived into it too much, but I am a big fan of Montessori education. Recently, I just finished *The Absorbent Mind* and I found that Maria Montessori encourages this same perspective of the child as "the greatest and most consoling of nature's wonders" rather than a burden (*The Absorbent Mind*, 1967, p. 8). After reading Maria's deeply insightful view of early childhood, I challenged myself to reflect on how welcoming my daughter into my life benefits us both in ways that invite more growth than even all the personal freedom in the world could offer.

### **Sharing Routines**

One of the simplest ways I invite my daughter into my day is by sharing my routines with her. We get ready for the day together, eat meals at (usually) the same time, and work and rest in similar time frames. There are certainly routines I have that are just for me, but by letting her see that there are daily habits which we both must complete, she absorbs simple, but necessary cultural norms. By partaking in these with my daughter, I in turn grow in patience and self-lessness when I see how clearly my own habits shape hers. Granted, I can sometimes lose it when I let her sit on my lap while doing my makeup and she pokes her little finger into my favorite lipstick. There are moments when I need space, but when I remind myself how important it is to foster her innocent inquisitiveness, the smudged lipstick seems just a little less world-shattering.

### **Creating Meaningful Work**

Another way in which I invite my daughter into my day is by creating and sharing work with her around the home. This is something Maria Montessori especially emphasized- the importance of providing the child with work that is relevant to their development. She distinguishes a child vs. adult view of work when she writes, "The child's life is one in which work- the doing of one's duty- begets joy and happiness. For adults, the daily round is more often depressing" (*The Absorbent Mind*, 1967, p. 30). For the child, work is a process of self-creation whereby they learn new skills, discover the world and are surprised by simple encounters. It's a true delight to see a young child absorbed in an activity or engrossed with a new discovery. Of course, as lovely as this sounds, in reality, it's very much a process of trial and error to find what engages your child. Even as I write this, I'm laughing to myself because to get my 18-month-old to focus on anything for more than 30 seconds is a victory and patience is my most practiced virtue these days. She hasn't yet learned how to fold the laundry or set the table, but she does enjoy wiping up little messes, putting away a few of her clothing items, and picking up her toys (when she wants to). My goal at this stage is to develop the habit of welcoming her help with simple tasks, even if it makes them take a bit longer, so that she can understand that her actions play a meaningful role in our family life. It's less about the completion of the task and more about the invitation to be a part of something larger than herself.



### Engaging in Conversation

While sharing so much of my life with my daughter, it's become natural to communicate with her, though this is often difficult at her age. Much of our "conversation" comes from my own observation and intuitive understanding of her needs, though the older she grows, the more diverse and specific her needs become while her language ability is still limited. The best advice I can offer in this respect is that by communicating as clearly, specifically, and often as I can, the more language skills she can witness and put into practice. Language development is a truly amazing feat on the part of the child, which Maria Montessori also highlights: "The child has other powers than ours, and the creation he achieves is no small one; it is everything. Not only does he create his language, but he shapes the organs that enable him to frame the words. He has to make the physical basis of every moment, all the elements of our intellect, everything the human being is blessed with" (The Absorbent Mind, 1967, p.23) Reflecting on this, I find it easier to have more patience with my daughter when she is trying to communicate because she must work so hard to do so. How incredible it is that young children learn to speak and understand so much through mere absorption of their surroundings!

Learning how to welcome my daughter into my life is a constant journey of growth as we both develop alongside one another and in relationship as mother and daughter. I know this will change even more as our family prepares to welcome another child. Honestly, all these habits will probably be flipped on their head until we adjust, but what is life without constant growth? My hope is to always view the work of motherhood as an opportunity to share my life with my children and learn from them as they learn from me. In reflecting on the role of parents, Maria writes, "So we see there are two kinds of life, and the adult is privileged to share in both; in one, as parent, in the other as a member of society. The better of the two is that with children, for nearness to them brings out our best side" (The Absorbent Mind, 1967, p. 31). I wholeheartedly agree that parenthood, while a difficult undertaking, if understood as the marvelous vocation that it is, frees us to become the best version of ourselves.





# CONTROVERSY CORNER

Where's the line between my freedom and your right not to be scandalized?

## What is Controversy Corner?

Controversy Corner is the section of LogoSophia Magazine where people of different faith traditions discuss controversial topics in a succinct manner.

If you would like to submit a topic for discussion, please let us know!

Don't see your denomination represented? Help us fix that! We're always looking for new writers!

Disagree with the representative of your denomination? Write in and tell us why in a respectful manner, and we'll publish it in our next magazine under "Letters to the Editor & Comments"!

For these and any other questions, comments or suggestions, email us at [Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com](mailto:Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com).

## Confessional Lutheran: Jordan Christensen aka J.C. Ellis

There isn't an official statement from a Lutheran synod on this to my knowledge. Obviously anything that is outright sinful (i.e. things contrary to the Ten Commandments) aren't allowed in our freedom but certain things that are allowed according to God's law might make a brother in Christ stumble and feel tempted to sin, for example, a recovering alcoholic. It would be unwise to drink in the presence of such a person as it would tempt them to sin. The law allows us to drink in moderation but it wouldn't be right to drink with someone who has a problem with alcohol. So essentially we need to know who we are in company with and respect their needs.



# CONTROVERSY CORNER

Where's the line between my freedom and your right not to be scandalized?

## **Presbyterian Church Independent: Joshua David Ling**

Being of a Reformation based creed, my Church and most other Presbyterian Churches would largely agree with Jordan Christensen's take on the situation, however, I would specifically point to where Paul rebukes Peter for shunning Gentiles, When he asks Timothy to become circumcised, and all of his writings regarding Christian Liberty. All of his writings on this topic seem to adhere strongly to the Solomon-Wisdom he was trained in under Gamaliel. I personally tend to lean on the "flaunting" of my Christian Liberty simply because I want other Christians to be bold in their faith and not walk around like the world is made of egg shells.

## **Roman Catholic: Sarah Levesque**

To quote the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Scandal is an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil. The person who gives scandal becomes his neighbor's tempter. He damages virtue and integrity; he may even draw his brother into spiritual death. Scandal is a grave offense if by deed or omission another is deliberately led into a grave offense. Scandal... prompted our Lord to utter this curse: 'Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea' (Mt 18:6)" (CCC 2284). Thus, if in your freedom you do something that may lead another to sin, it is a sin.

The Catechism further states that scandal is grave when given by leaders and teachers, by those members of society who establish laws, social structures or conditions that make it difficult to follow God's law, including "business leaders who make rules encouraging fraud, teachers who provoke their children to anger, or manipulators of public opinion who turn it away from moral values" (CCC 2285-2286). In short, "Anyone who uses the power at his disposal in such a way that it leads others to do wrong becomes guilty of scandal and responsible for the evil that he has directly or indirectly encouraged. 'Temptations to sin are sure to come; but woe to him by whom they come!' (Lk 17:1)" (CCC 2287).



## Liberty's Kids: Defense of Liberty

By Amanda Pizzolatto

"Give me liberty, or give me death!" Patrick Henry's famous words added fuel to the fire burning in the hearts of the American revolutionaries. In episode four of *Liberty's Kids*, when Patrick Henry gives his speech, we also learn about the harshness of slavery as Moses, though a free man, must deal with the way he is treated in Virginia and attempt to free his brother, Cato. But while this is the first, and possibly the most significant, episode in which the liberty that Moses believes in shows up strongly, it is only to highlight the core value that Moses represents.

The series, of course, deals with fighting for liberty in general as it deals with the birth of the American nation, but the seeds of the Civil War are there as well. A group of slaves had, in fact, taken Patrick Henry's words to heart without ever hearing him, preferring death to slavery. However, this was some time after America became a country. For the Revolutionary War, the states came together to fight a common enemy, the British monarchy.

The boiling point had been reached with the British crown; another new tax was the straw that broke the camel's back. Not all of the inhabitants of the colonies, however, were against the crown. Many enjoyed the privileges and security that the British Empire provided. But many more were frustrated with how Parliament was running things, especially as it entailed their rights and commerce. They tried sending representatives to Parliament to speak on their behalf, the most prominent being Benjamin Franklin, but they were shooed away like flies. One can only go so long without being heard before action must be taken. Consequently, the leaders of the rebellion took action, starting with the Boston Tea Party, and leading up to the war.

The United States was founded on the notion of liberty, and the tradition continues, as we have seen with the abolition of slavery and the suffrage movement. It is a tradition we must keep fighting for as there are those who would take it away and those who do not have it. The First Amendment lists four civil liberties: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom of the Press, and Freedom of Assembly/Petition. The freedom to choose, in general, has been a major part of this country, along with life and the pursuit of happiness, and as long as those choices do not impact the other two in a negative way, then America could function at its best. But we need to let others make their own decisions, even if they are wrong sometimes.

In *Liberty's Kids*, Moses had to let his brother make his own decisions about his way to freedom. Moses wanted his brother to run away with him, but Cato decided to join the British army. Maybe it was not the right decision, but it was his, and it would prove vital later. For one thing, it strengthened Moses's belief in freedom for all, and it had to start with freedom from the British. Moses never actively fought as a soldier, but he kept the fighting spirit going with Benjamin Franklin's newspapers. For while the soldier is necessary to win a war, the writer is also necessary, not just to tell his story, but to keep his spirits up and to keep that fire burning.



Image Copyright DIC Entertainment

Pontifex Minimus

By Lawrence "Mack in Texas" Hall

I met a man who once lived  
under a bridge

He said that was when he was happiest

But he found Jesus and civilization

So they put him in prison

He likes having a bed  
and three meals each day

But he misses his bridge



### Fitted with an Ankle Monitor

By Lawrence "Mack in Texas" Hall

No one wants to be fitted with an ankle  
monitor

Except for this man, selecting an ankle  
No one wants to sign all sorts of  
government forms  
Except for this man, signing those forms

No one wants to wait for hours  
in a lobby  
Except for this man, waiting for hours  
No one wants to pack three years  
into a paper bag  
Except for this man

Who is one steel door, one concrete  
path, and two wire gates  
Away from his mom in the parking lot

### A Prisoner's Modest Dream

By Lawrence "Mack in Texas" Hall

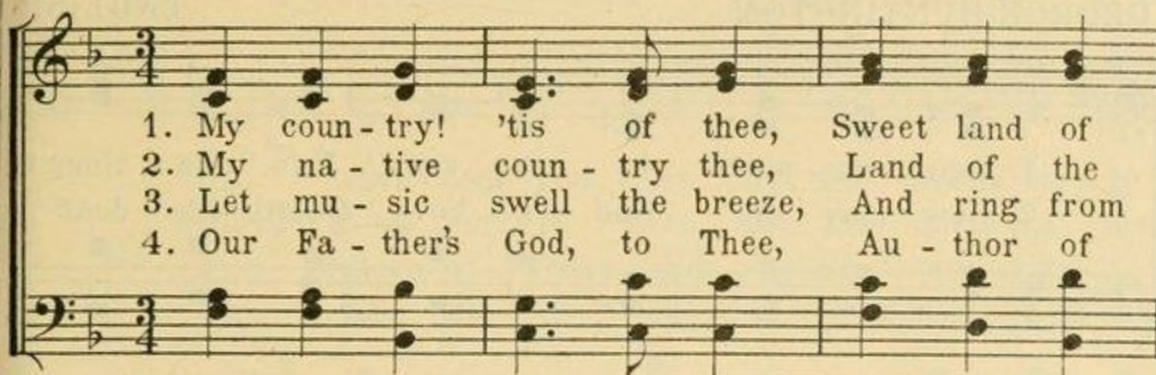
Some humorist on parade: "When the war is over...I'm going to buy a German and keep him in the garden and count him."

Wodehouse in a German detention camp, quoted in Frances Donaldson's  
*P. G. Wodehouse: A Biography*

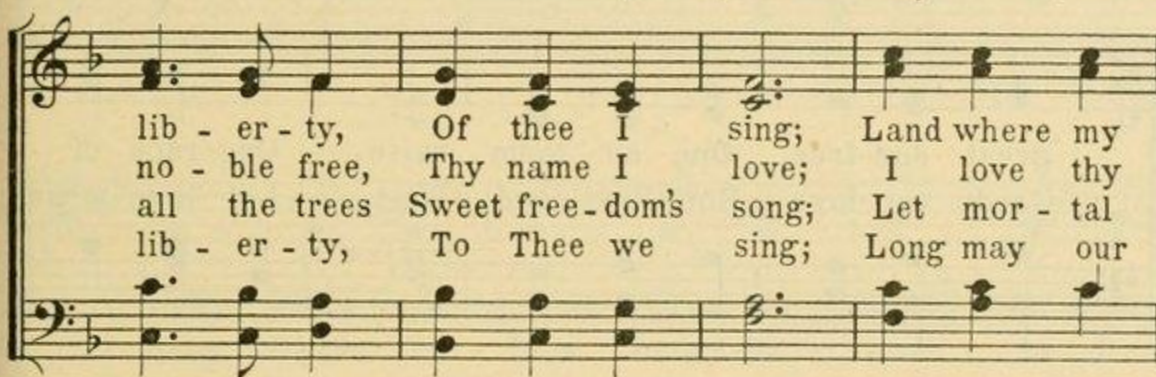
When this is all over I pray for us  
To sit in in my yard in some cheap  
Wal-Mart chairs  
Each of us with a beer and a cigar  
We could talk about the joys of fresh air

We could talk about our families and  
our work  
And air-conditioning, and our home  
addresses  
No longer A-43-Upper or B-24-Lower  
We could sing about the Day of Jubilee

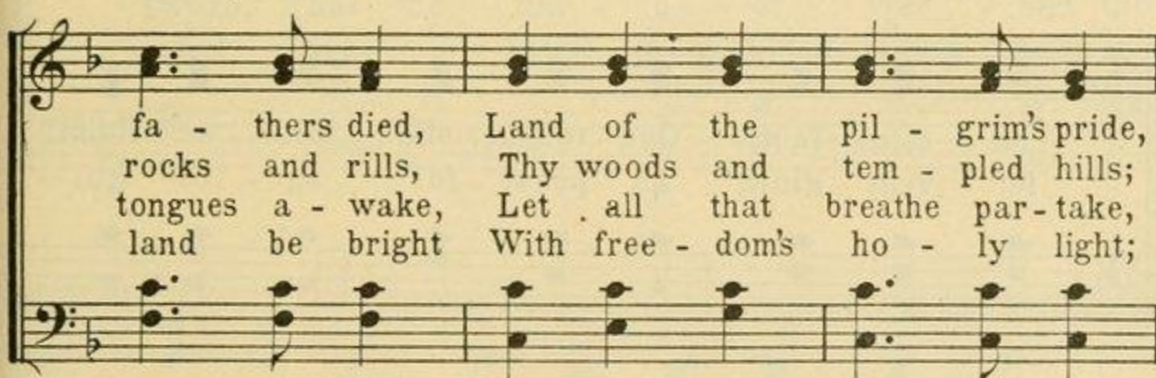
And give our voices and our lives  
to God  
And there wouldn't ever be a  
head count



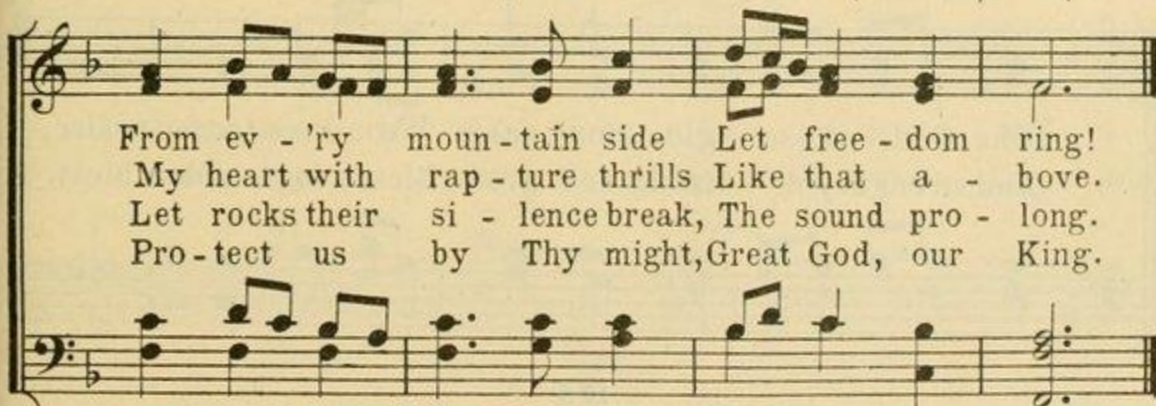
1. My coun - try! 'tis of thee, Sweet land of  
 2. My na - tive coun - try thee, Land of the  
 3. Let mu - sic swell the breeze, And ring from  
 4. Our Fa - ther's God, to Thee, Au - thor of



lib - er - ty, Of thee I sing; Land where my  
 no - ble free, Thy name I love; I love thy  
 all the trees Sweet free - dom's song; Let mor - tal  
 lib - er - ty, To Thee we sing; Long may our



fa - thers died, Land of the pil - grim's pride,  
 rocks and rills, Thy woods and tem - pled hills;  
 tongues a - wake, Let all that breathe par - take,  
 land be bright With free - dom's ho - ly light;



From ev - 'ry moun - tain side Let free - dom ring!  
 My heart with rap - ture thrills Like that a - bove.  
 Let rocks their si - lence break, The sound pro - long.  
 Pro - tect us by Thy might, Great God, our King.



**By Ian Wilson**



*My Country 'Tis of Thee* is most likely my favorite patriotic song. As a dyed-in-the-wool American Patriot, it has been a favorite of mine for many years, and I love it still, though it has taken on a note of sadness in recent years with the rapid decline of the Republic.

It was first written in 1831 by Baptist minister and hymn writer Samuel Francis Smith. The tune is the same as the British National Anthem, *God Save the King (Queen)* and for a time, it served as the de-facto national anthem of the United States (*The Star-Spangled Banner* was not officially adopted until 1931).

The first verse in particular hits home for me.

*My country, 'tis of thee,  
sweet land of liberty,  
of thee I sing:  
land where my fathers died,  
land of the pilgrims' pride,  
from every mountainside  
let freedom ring!*

Indeed, America is the land where my fathers died; my family has lived in this country for many generations. At least since the Mayflower by some reports. Unlike many of my peers, I am not ashamed of this. Yes, some of my ancestors did some awful things, but many of them also did rather extraordinary things. The very fact that they survived long enough to give me life is extraordinary on its face. The odds were stacked against them, after all.

The second verse speaks of America's natural beauty:

*My native country, thee,  
land of the noble free,  
thy name I love;  
I love thy rocks and rills,  
thy woods and templed hills;  
my heart with rapture thrills  
like that above.*

God has given America stunning natural beauty, from the Appalachians to the prairies of the Midwest, to the redwood forests of California. I have spent many happy hours traversing the mountains and forests of this fair land and I would not trade that time for all the money in the Federal Reserve. It always shocks me when I come across someone who dislikes nature. Certainly I could live without insect bites, but the stunning views of the mountains, the tranquil solitude of the forests and sparkling waters of our streams make it all worth it in my opinion.

The fourth and final verse, in my opinion is the key note of the song:

*Our father's God to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing.  
Long may our land be bright  
With freedom's holy light;  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God, our King!*

God is the author and creator of liberty, and it is clear He has designed men to live freely. This freedom is not an invitation to license, but rather, a call to greater virtue. After all, virtue that is forced is not true virtue, but just another form of despotism. And this is why this song now carries a note of sadness for me; we Americans, and indeed Christians, seem all too ready to throw away our freedoms for a measure of safety. To see the state that my country has fallen into gives great sadness. Let us pray and hope that our Lord stirs once again in our hearts that love of Liberty for which our ancestors fought and died.

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# EPIC POETRY IS ALIVE!

JOSHUA DAVIDLING.COM

## Scripture Search

1. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
2. "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.
3. For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
4. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

A. Romans 6:22

B. 1 Corinthians 6:12

C. Galatians 5:13

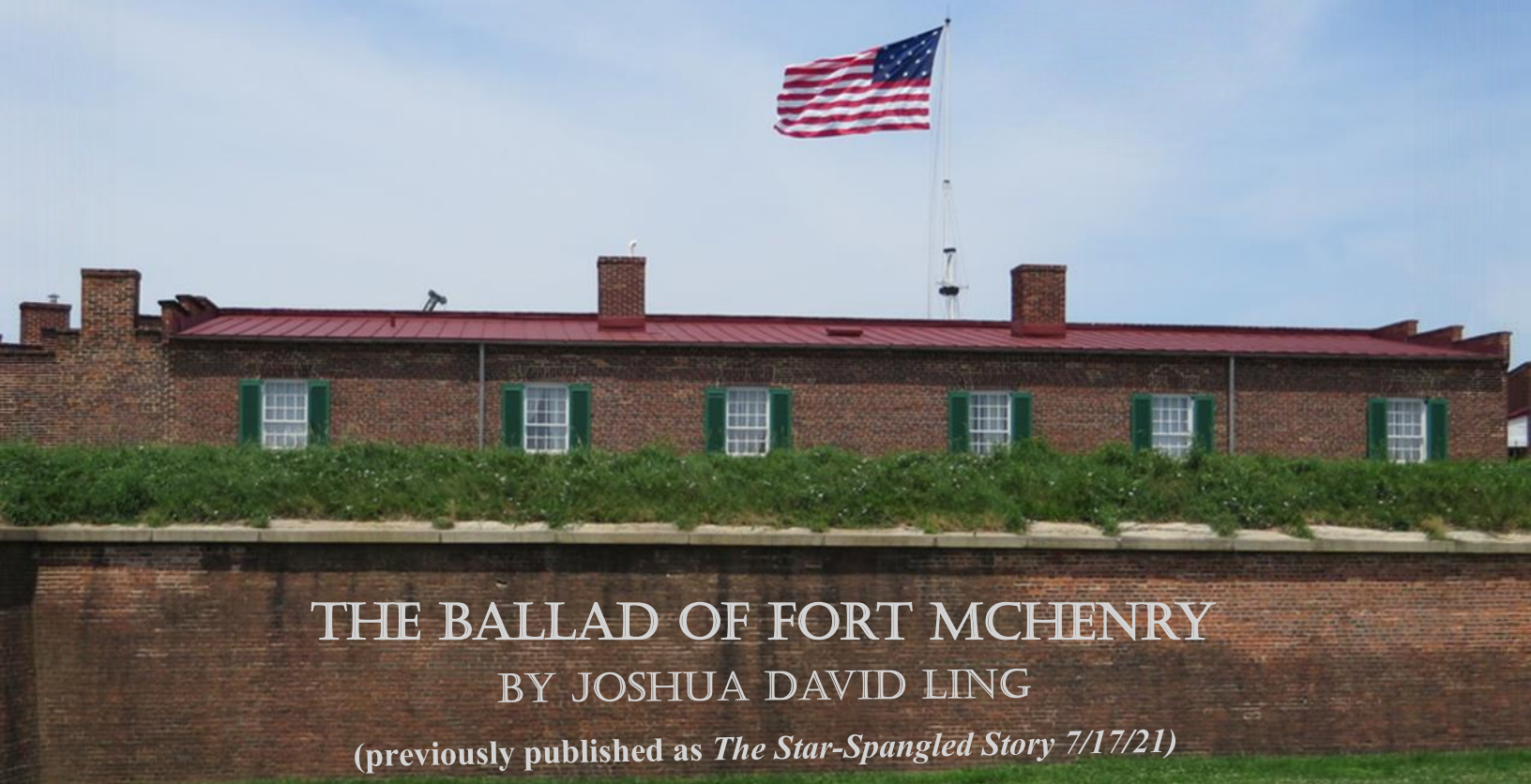
D. 2 Corinthians 3:17



In the midst of a war for our freedoms and rights -  
For the conscience of man and pursuit of our hap'ness  
Continental men sought for release of their friends.  
So they chose them a man to negotiate releases.  
It was Francis Scott Key who would take up this deed  
And barter prisoners so their men would be freed,  
For no Continental should despair or cave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

So onto the ships in the harbor, he went  
And amicable were their negotiations.  
One man for one man, was the deal that they struck.  
And he told the prisoners they'd return to their station.  
But the captain informed Francis of the great storm  
The armada of Britain soon would be born  
Over the harbor to fight and break  
O'er The land of the free and the home of the brave.

"But the fort that you sack-" Francis then did protest  
"Has few soldiers there. It is mostly civilians!"  
But on deaf ears this fell. The siege it was set  
Relentless attacks would befall that pavilion  
'Til lowered by guards were the stripes and the stars  
Or all of the soldiers laid in their graveyard  
So Francis told all of the prisoners to pray  
For the land of the free and the home of the brave.



## THE BALLAD OF FORT MCHENRY

BY JOSHUA DAVID LING

(previously published as *The Star-Spangled Story* 7/17/21)



The fight had begun, in the midst of the night  
With minimal warning or real preparation.  
Francis watched from the ship staying close to his men  
And relaying all sights by his own observation  
Then by candlelight, and the roar of the fight  
He penned out a poem that millions recite  
And here are the words he wrote and portrayed  
O'er The land of The free and the home of the brave.

O say can you see by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

And while in the night, the dark brooding bombast  
Let up very little against the Americans.  
Francis quietly prayed, as did all of the troops  
Deep inside of the ship, they lifted petitions  
Then Francis he heard, the cannoneer's words  
Train all their dread fire, on the flag. They concurred.  
And they prayed that the star spangled banner yet waved  
O'er the land of The free and the home of the brave.

Many sing this anthem but do not know the tale,  
They do not know the dark, the unsettling suspension  
As Francis Scott Key and his prisoner soldiers  
Waited hoping that God, would give them attention  
Then the red light of dawn, it grew slowly warm  
On horror? Or victory? Would the sun's light be drawn?  
And In Francis's words, now hear what he gazed  
O'er The land of The free and the home of the brave.

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:  
'Tis the star-spangled banner, O! long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

On return to the fort, the men all rejoiced  
But worried for that which the war had ta'en from them.  
Midst the joy and the hope, Francis saw a great sight  
In full glory of daylight that eased trepidation  
The flag It stood tall, o'er The top of the wall,  
Tattered and crooked, but seen by them all  
And a third verse to his poem, he wrote and portrayed  
O'er The Land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,  
A home and a country, should leave us no more?  
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave,  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And what did they see when they entered those walls?  
A bloodied and broke but unbowed populace.  
And hundreds of dead strewn as seed by the shock  
Their echoing cries, freely go down to abyss  
But beneath the flagpole, laid a mountain of souls  
Who held up their hopes, and refused to let go.  
For no bloody tyrant should ever hold sway  
O'er The Land of the Free and the home of the brave.

Should the deeds by these men be lost due to time?  
Should the valor and cunning God produced in great droves  
Be held in some case in a museum's walls?  
Or should echo the cries of those men in our throats?  
There's only one King over all Earth we sing!  
And His name is Christ and forever he'll reign.  
And the fourth verse from Francis this truth does purvey  
For the Land of the Free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved home and the war's desolation.  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

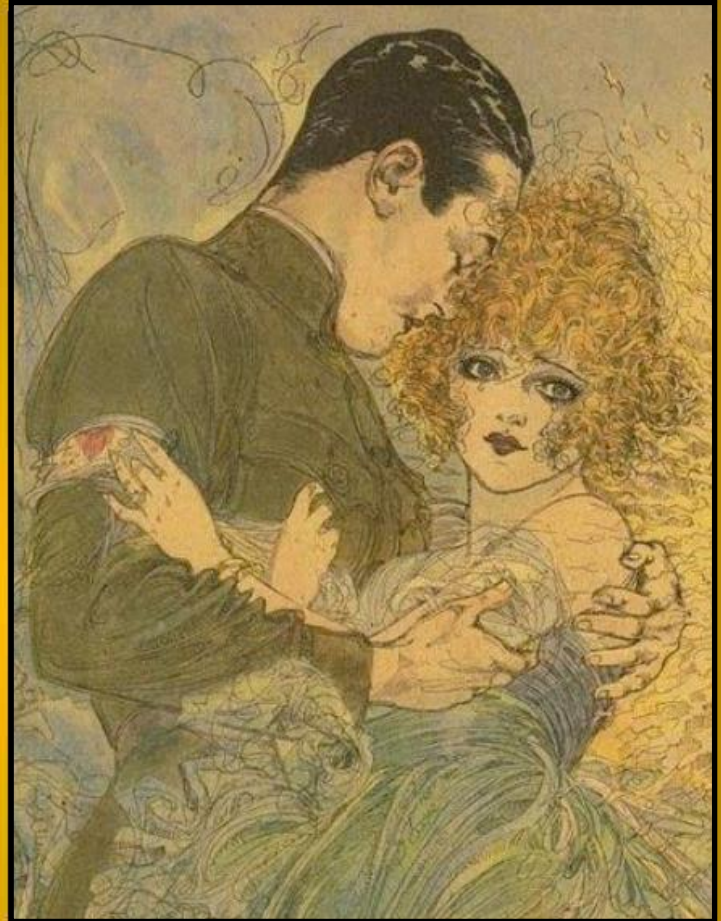


# Golden Eyes

By T.K. Wilson

As The Great War cast its shadow over the world, America was called upon to intervene in the conflict. We can argue endlessly about whether America should have gotten involved, but the fact of the matter is that we did, and the women of America also answered the call to action. One of these women was cartoonist Nell Brinkley.

As a young woman, Nell had arrived in New York to become a cartoonist. Her curly-haired, bright-eyed ladies became a household name and a vision for the flapper girls of the day. However, when the Great War broke out, Nell's heroines traded their delicate gowns for boots and the red, white, and blue. First among these beauties was Golden-Eyes.



We meet Golden-Eyes on the night she bids farewell to her beloved Bill as he leaves for the front lines. Her big sad eyes stare out at the reader as Dan Cupid, the living spirit of love, sits at her feet. Both characters are proud of Bill (who does not look at the reader), but also seem to have a look of why? on their faces.

The next story finds Golden-Eyes grieving for her sweetheart when a visitor arrives. It's Bill's collie dog, Uncle Sam, who comes to live with Golden-Eyes! And it's a good thing he does, too, for after the girl and dog do their rounds asking people to buy Liberty Bonds, Uncle Sam catches a German spy in Golden-Eyes' garden! Then and there, Golden-Eyes decides to set sail for France to join the Red Cross and hopefully find Bill.

All Images from the San Francisco Academy of Comic Art Collection  
Bill Blackbeard -Director  
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What luck when the girl, dog, and cherub arrive in France! They find Bill in a newly liberated French village, and reunite under the smiles of Bill's allies—French, American, and English. The lovers pray for victory before returning to their duties, spurred on by the ghostly vision of knights in armor that appears behind them.

We next find Golden-Eyes climbing out of her wrecked ambulance to fall into the hands of a German officer. While Uncle Sam runs to find help, our heroine turns spy, fooling the German into thinking she is an empty-headed girl while she gathers intelligence. In a melodramatic scene, Golden-Eyes is rescued by Bill and his men, and carried off to a hero's welcome.

Golden-Eyes and Bill are never far apart as the series draws to a close. When Bill is wounded after repelling a German sneak attack, the girl and dog find him and drag him laboriously to safety. In fairy tale fashion, Bill and Golden-Eyes marry under the admiring eyes of Bill's men, and when we look in on them next, they have a round cheeked little Kewpie doll of a baby boy and are still living in France, happily ever after.

*Golden-Eyes and Her Hero, Bill* is definitely a product of the times. It is propagandistic, melodramatic, and earnestly patriotic. But for those who have eyes to see, that's part of the charm. It belongs to an age where American pride and eagerness to spread Liberty wherever they go is on full display in this little comic from the 1910s. More than one hundred years ago, Nell Brinkley reminded the American public that their liberty was won at a dear price, the lives of men and women.

You can read *Golden-Eyes and Her Hero Bill*  
in its entirety here:

[https://cartoons.osu.edu/digital\\_albums/nellbrinkley/1.php](https://cartoons.osu.edu/digital_albums/nellbrinkley/1.php)



# Author Interview With...

## FATHER SAMUEL S. THORP



Hello! Tell us a little about yourself.

So my name's Samuel. I'm a priest in the Church of England. My father is a vicar in the Church of England, my mother's father was also a vicar in the Church of England. And my name is Samuel, which you may know, uh, means "One who is called by God", as well as "One who hears God". And so I've tend to say that I was doomed. I was always going to end up where I'm at.

When did you start writing, and why?

When did I start writing poetry? Well, my first one, I believe it was written in here. Yeah, I was 11 and there was, uh, some competition at school where basically we all had to write a short poem and it got published in an anthology of poetry from the Great Minds of Devin Poetry by 11 to 18 year olds.

What is your latest book about?

My book is called *Glimpses* and it's kind of like bringing all of myself in sort of book form, as it were. But I'll be honest, it was a little bit of a cheat project. I didn't write a

book of poems, but I have written poems throughout my life at various moments in my life. Some quite significant, some more fanciful or spur of a moment, and actually a couple of my better ones or when I was bored and lectures at university, you know, sort of scripting in the margins of my book. I started gathering them all together and realized that I had what I felt was enough for small book of poetry. It's probably about 80 or so poems, which sounds like a lot, but some of them are quite short. And so it was a fun project in that sense and quite satisfying for me. I think the idea of calling it *Glimpses* was because of each of the poems being from a different area in my life and being spread from when I was 11 to when I was about what, 25, 26? This wasn't something I sat down to write a collection of poems. This is more just a gathering of



# Author Interview With...

## FATHER SAMUEL S. THORP



fragments from, like I say, margins of. Notes and lectures and that kind of thing. And so the phrase *Glimpses* worked really well for me. But also it's a phrase that my training incumbent - when I've been doing my sort of curacy, which is kind of like an apprenticeship for vicar - he used to say that what we're offering people is glimpses of God and glimpses of meaning. And by doing that we keep the rumor of God alive. And so I sort of thought that was a nice nod. In that direction as well to be like, okay, you're seeing glimpses of me through my life. But actually, if you are reading between the lines and you're paying attention, you're seeing glimpses of where God has been in my life through how the poems pick that up.

What was it like publishing your first book?

Yeah, it was good. It was. A little bit daunting. I've taken a lot of work and a few revisions with a guy that did my book cover and stuff to actually get it right; simple things like getting the margins the right size. You don't realize the first time you're doing it that if you don't get the margins too big in Amazon, it ends up crammed right into the, the middle of the spine and all of those things. But once it actually went live, and you know, first people were sort of reading it, the main people were sort of American friends that I had through social media who were able to go, "Oh, hey, there's this guy that I've been following on Twitter, he's a real person and I've got his words on my bookshelf." And now we have a little bit more of like a physical, tangible connection.

Would you self-publish again?

It would be nice to publish with some form of support rather than just what you can organically do via social media, whether that's traditional publishing or whether that's cooperative or a small independent publishing group thing where you've got a bit more of a sense of doing it with people. This was very much an experiment that I did in my room during lockdown and it sort of works, but I also recognize that to properly make it work, I would need to change a lot of my daily habits to be tweeting and doing all the social media stuff a lot because what you need is the numbers of engagements, and then everything as you know, as many creatives know, it's all about the percentages. It's only a sliver of your overall number that's actually going to engage with a tweet.





# Author Interview With...

## FATHER SAMUEL S. THORP



Are you planning on writing more? If so, what are you working on now?

One of the things I've been doing is playing around with different themes of dwarven cultures and fantasy settings, and what would my dwarves look like? And coming up with different ways of expressing creativity and spirituality and sort of rituals and things that would be fitting of a dwarf because I think that dwarves are somewhat underrepresented in fantasy stuff. We have them, but most dwarves are basically Gimli. And that's fine. I love Gimli. He's great. But there's a lot more stuff written about elves and things.

Why do you write?

The deep answer would be I want to write so that I can be loved and understood, but the shallower answer is I want to write because I really enjoy reading and I aspire to be able to write something that someone else will enjoy reading.

What helps you write? Music, reading, specific pen, etc.

Generally speaking, it is taking a walk. I love walking. If I take a good walk, that nearly always enables me to write. I love walking. If I take a good walk, that nearly always enables me to write. Quite often I get stuck and then I go for a walk and I sit down at a computer afterwards and it just flows out, even if I've not consciously thought about what I'm going to write. I'm a big fan of putting things into your subconscious on purpose and then forgetting about them.

What has writing taught you?

That I find it easier when I'm trying to be me, rather than when I'm trying to be someone else. I've learned to just accept that I write and I write sort of stream of consciousness, but it's to do with the way that I think, the way that I think a lot of my processing is done non-verbally



# Author Interview With...

## FATHER SAMUEL S. THORP



and then is verbally articulated. And being okay with that and letting it come out as I write rather than trying to have it formed in my head before I write. When I sort of let go of that, that really enabled me to actually enjoy writing.

Who are you inspired by in your writing?

That's a tricky one because I've always enjoyed it. I can think of like worlds and things I enjoyed reading. I'm not quite sure that's the same as writing. Yeah. But I mean, obviously my father being a vicar as well, he was writing every week because he was preparing sermons, so that

obviously was quite influential. And my granddad was a big influence on me as well, and he wasn't just a big reader, he was a big note taker. So I have a whole load of his books. He died a few years ago, but I have a whole load of his books on one of my shelves.

What is your advice for writers?

Spend more time writing than you spend reading about writing. And that's true for whether you are writing poems or whether you are writing blog posts or books. And this is true of the whole process of starting your own website and putting together a portfolio - all of that kind of stuff can be very easy to read a lot about the process. But honestly, one of the best things to do is do something like I did and take together the bits and pieces you've already written. Make it an anthology, make it, you know, maybe it's a collection of poems, maybe it's a series of photos that you've already taken.

Is there anything more you'd like to add?

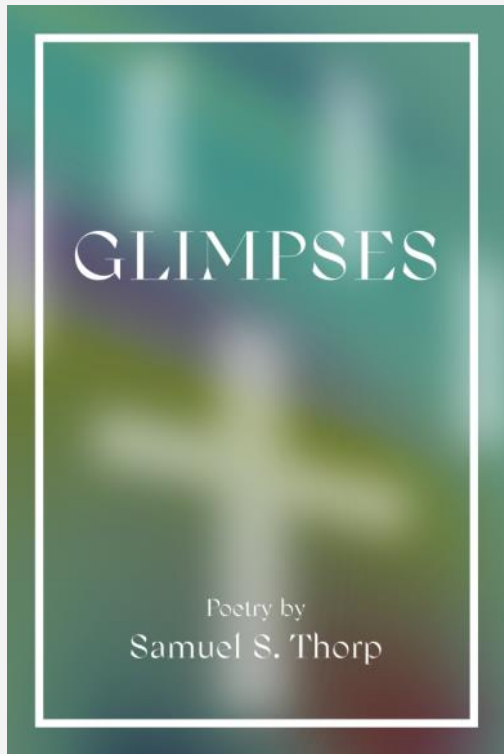
I think when you are finding it difficult to write, think about what it is you enjoy in the reading of it, because it's not just about what you want to convey, but it's about what you are going to co-create with the person who is reading it; you're trying to point them towards that which is resonating in your own heart. So it will hopefully resonate or rhyme or chime in theirs.





# Author Interview With...

## FATHER SAMUEL S. THORP



Like what you see? Check out Samuel's website, book, podcast and/or sermons on his website, [samuelsthorp.co.uk/](http://samuelsthorp.co.uk/).



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## Book & Media Recommendations

*Felicity: An American Girl Adventure* (Warner Brothers 2005) is a made-for-TV movie based on the *Felicity* books from the American Girl Doll series, primarily the *Meet Felicity* book, starring Shailene Woodley. *Felicity Merriman* is a young girl set on befriending a wild horse while dealing with the tensions rising between the colonists and Britain before the Revolutionary War breaks out.

-Amanda

What do YOU  
want to  
suggest?

Let us know at Editors.  
LogoSophia@gmail.com

The Merlin Spiral trilogy of books by Robert Treskilard. An epic historical Christian fantasy series appropriate for the whole family retelling the story of Merlin and of King Arthur's infancy. Many classic Arthurian characters and motifs from Celtic legend (including the Holy Grail) play a part in these books with deep spiritual themes. -Thomas

Australian comedian James Donald Forbes McCann has a plan to buy a boat. To be precise, he has a podcast, **The James Donald Forbes McCann Catamaran Plan**, which will eventually earn him enough money to buy a boat. Maybe even within his lifetime. The podcast might sound like a man having a breakdown once a week for your amusement, but that man has a plan. *A Catamaran Plan*.

-Monica

**Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art** by Madeleine L'Engle (1980) - In this book, Madeleine L'Engle (author of children's classic *A Wrinkle in Time*) examines the intersection of Christian belief and artwork. To L'Engle, they are inextricable forces, both spooled with the limitless threads of curiosity, beauty, and meaning. An incredibly illuminating and liberating text for anyone who engages with the arts. -Caroline

**Ben Hur** by Lew Wallace was a book given to me long ago by a family member who had never read it, and I finally picked it up when a friend mentioned the title. I found the story to be interesting and fast paced, and though the author takes time now and again to step back to give the reader a panorama shot, as it were, of the setting, this enriches the story rather than distracting from the tale. As a teen, Judah Ben-Hur accidentally kills a man with a falling roof-tile, and spends the next decade or so first laboring in a slave ship then searching for his family and his revenge on the childhood friend who betrayed him.

-Sarah



more

## Book & Media Recommendations

**Violet Evergarden** is a 13-episode anime show that I recently had the chance to watch most of. Violet, a former elite child soldier, must learn to put words to emotions and emotions to words. Each episode is a heartwarming (or heartbreaking) story unto itself, told from the point of view of someone different. I'm looking forward to watching the last few episodes. -Sarah

Shelley Duvall's Tall Tales & Legends is a nine episode anthology series where, like with her Faerie Tale Theater series, Shelley gets together with several of the big names in Hollywood to bring to the screen the legends of American folklore. Classics like Sleepy Hollow, Johnny Appleseed, John Henry, Annie Oakley and Davy Crockett are joined by lesser known stories like Darlin' Clementine and Casey at the Bat, which makes for a great rompin' time. -Amanda

**A Strange Habit of Mind** (2022, Mysterious Press) is the second novel in Andrew Klavan's Cameron Winter series. In this installment, Winter, an English professor with a mysterious past, finds himself facing off against a tech billionaire who is out to reshape the world in his own image. -Monica

Aurora  
Mandeville  
Author/Crossover Queen  
[rosesnvin.es.wordpress.com](http://rosesnvin.es.wordpress.com)

# The Gentlewoman's Oppressive Liberty

## By Monica Murray Derr

I have been trying to write this for nearly a year. Originally, I was going to call it "Woman's Search for Meaning," but it never quite seemed right because I haven't actually read Man's Search for Meaning, and if you're going to rip off the title of a well-known book, the least you can do is read it first.

I can finally return to this idea because I have a new literary allusion with which to show off how very smarty-smart I am. This one is from *Middlemarch*, and I was arrested by the quote as I listened to the audiobook in the shower. (Yes, I listen to audiobooks in the shower.) The quote, from Chapter 36, is this:

*Marriage, which was to bring guidance into worthy and imperative occupation, had not yet freed her from the gentlewoman's oppressive liberty: it had not even filled her leisure with the ruminant joy of unchecked tenderness.*

In the spirit of continued honesty, I must confess that, as of this writing, I have not finished the audiobook. Despite being twenty-seven hours in, I still have eight hours to go. (I do know how the story ends, though. I watched the miniseries.)

Nevertheless, I am captured by this idea of oppressive liberty.

For those of you unfamiliar with the book, let me put this quote in context for you.

The gentlewoman in question, who is experiencing the oppression of liberty, is

Dorothea Casaubon, née Brooke, who finds herself in a marriage that is nothing like what she hoped for. Her husband, the Reverend Casaubon, is a scholar, and Dorothea imagined her days would be filled by helping him in his Very Important Work. Mr. Casaubon had no such hopes, however, and Dorothea is left to her own devices, and struggles to find meaningful occupation.

The situation is more complex than I am describing here (for that you should read the book, or listen to it; the audiobook narrated by Juliet Stevenson is excellent), but the point is this: a young woman finds herself in a situation where she is free to do anything she likes, and therefore has no idea what to do with herself. I can't help but see parallels between Dorothea's position and my own.

Although I am not trapped in a disappointing marriage to an academic,

*Marriage,  
which was to bring guidance  
into worthy and  
imperative occupation,  
had not yet freed her  
from the gentlewoman's  
oppressive liberty:  
it had not even filled her leisure  
with the ruminant joy of  
unchecked tenderness.  
-Middlemarch*



the idea of liberty failing to set you free still resonates. Because, of course, liberty is not a good in and of itself. We seek liberty so that we may be at liberty to do something. Think about the rights listed in the Declaration of Independence: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. All these rights are connected, each leading to the next. We protect the right to life so that we may be at liberty to pursue happiness. Liberty requires direction.

Let us go back to Dorothea. She finds herself at liberty to do whatever she likes, and therefore she does not know what to do. She thought that marriage would “bring guidance into worthy and imperative occupation,” but instead she finds herself bound to a man who has no interest in her, let alone in giving her a purpose.

This is where Dorothea, the nineteenth-century gentlewoman, and I, the twenty-first-century single pringle, meet. When you are free to do whatever you want, you don't do anything at all. How many evenings, weekends, and days off have I wasted doing nothing because, although there was much I should do, there was nothing I had to do. Sure, there's much more to fill the nothingness with these days—the internet has seen to that—but without a clear purpose, I struggle to fill my

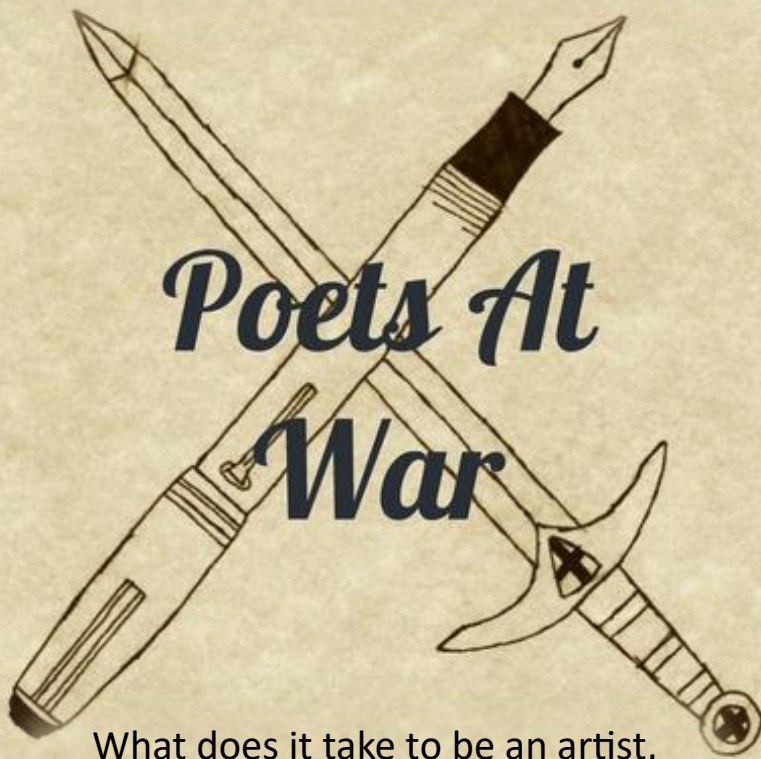
time with anything of value.

When liberty has no direction, the weight of it is crushing. What do you do with all this time that, seemingly, belongs to no one but you? If I had that completely figured out, I probably wouldn't be writing this, but I think I'm starting to find the edges of an answer. You see, your time doesn't belong to you, not really. God gave it to you so that you could use it to

further His Kingdom in the best way you can. For some of us, the way in which we are supposed to do that is clear. We have marriages, children, distinct vocations. For the rest of us, we need to discover how God wants us to direct the liberty He gave us. After all, it is not our government that gives us our rights. Our government is meant to acknowledge and protect the rights that have been given to us by God.

Luckily for me, Christ the Bridegroom is a much better spouse than the Reverend Casaubon. He sees how each of us can further the Kingdom of Heaven, and has given us the ultimate liberty, that of our free will, to pursue it.





# Poets At War

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## Bible Trivia!

Answers on the following page

- 1) Which Old Testament author has the most books attributed to him?  
A. Moses  
B. Solomon  
C. Samuel  
D. David
- 2) The sign of God's covenant with Noah was the...?  
A. Dove  
B. Rainbow  
C. Sabbath  
D. Eucharist
- 3) The patriarch Abraham had one legitimate son. His name was...  
A. Jacob  
B. Esau  
C. Ishmael  
D. Isaac
- 4) How many Psalms are there?  
A. 70  
B. 90  
C. 130  
D. 150
- 5) The prophet Jonah got swallowed by a whale because...  
A. He went fishing without permission  
B. He wanted to study the whale  
C. He was running away from God  
D. He was a daredevil
- 6) True or False: the book of Acts was written by the author of the Gospel of Luke.
- 7) Who wrote the Letter to the Romans?  
A. Peter  
B. James  
C. Paul  
D. John



## Bible Trivia Answers

Questions on the previous page

- 1) A: Moses has the first five books of the Bible attributed to him, while Solomon has three (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon), Samuel has four (Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel) and David has one (Psalms).
- 2) B. The sign of God's covenant with Noah and his family was the rainbow (see Genesis 9:13).
- 3) D: Abraham's legitimate son was Isaac (whose own sons were Jacob and Esau). Abraham had previously had a son with his wife's handmaid Hagar; this son's name was Ishmael.
- 4) D: There are 150 Psalms. The shortest is Psalm 117 (two verses); the longest is Psalm 119 (176 verses).
- 5) C: Jonah was swallowed by the whale after he sailed off in the opposite direction God had told him to go. God sent a storm and Jonah realized that his disobedience was endangering the sailors, so he asked to be cast into the sea. He was in the belly of the whale for three days before being spit back out to deliver the message of repentance God had told him to give to the people of Nineveh.
- 6) True: The book of Acts was originally part of the same book as the Gospel of Luke, but the parts were separated when the New Testament was officially organized.
- 7) C: Paul wrote the Letter to the Romans.

MMD

MONICA MURRAY DERR

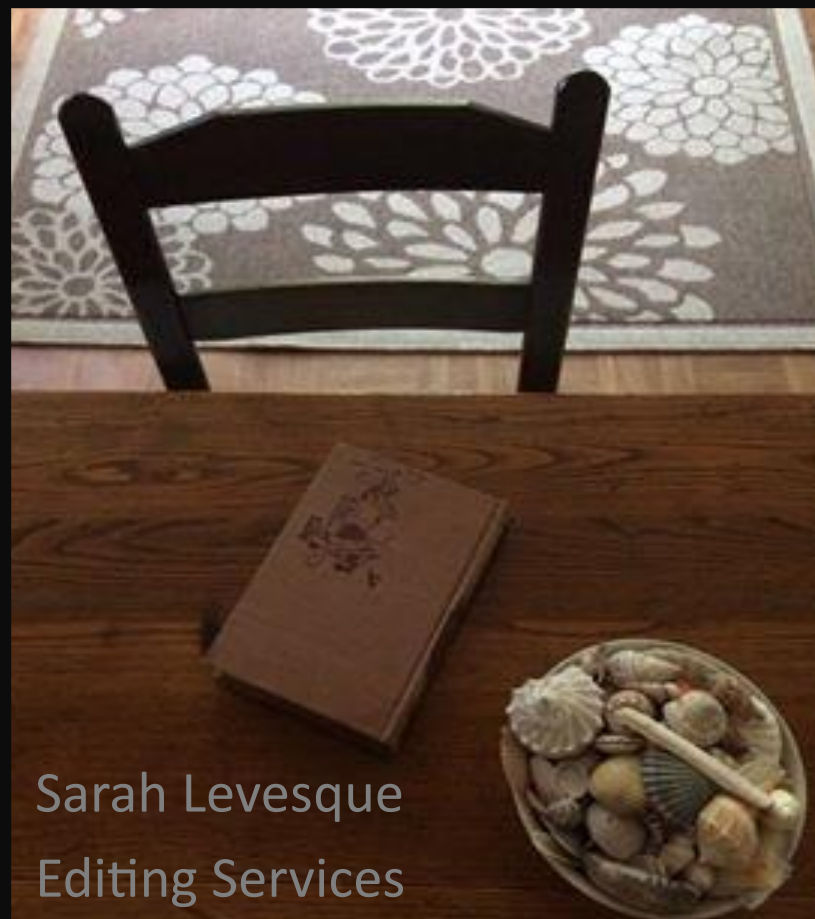
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