

# January Edition: Are You Proud to Be an American?

## Unite the USA . . .

*Be a Freedom Fighter*

It's the end of January. One month down, eleven to go. How will we spend the irretreivable treasure of time? Will we defend freedom or pretend we cannot do anything about it?

As we conclude the first month of a new year, let us take a moment to focus on the richness and meaning of freedom. At present, we have the priceless gift of freedom and we are able to live as we please. But the question is this: Will it last?

Currently, our freedoms are under attack. Most disturbingly, the attacks primarily stem from anti-American ideology from people such as George Soros. Alarmingly, Christian freedoms are the most targeted.

Countless examples point to the fact that our rights as Christians are being stripped away, one right at a time. Think of it:

...First, Bible reading and prayer were removed from the public square.

...Next, publically mentioning *God* or Jesus demands courage and boldness. Both names are now considered to be "controversial" and "offensive" to minority groups.

...Resistance to Christian holidays continues to build.

If we allow our rights to slowly slip away, American freedom could disappear forever.

This month, we are honored to present an article by award-winning author Kathi Macias. You will be challenged by her thought-provoking points about freedom's value and importance to America as we still know it.

Now more than ever, it is critical that we stay strong and keep fighting for our freedom. Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose

### Featured Article

Award-winning author Kathi Macias has written more than 17 books, including *Beyond Me*, *How Can I Run a Tight Ship When I'm Surrounded by Loose Cannons?*, the best-selling devotional *A Moment a Day*, and the popular "Matthews" mystery novels. She has written commentary for Thomas Nelson's *Spirit-Filled Life Bible (Student Edition)* and was part of the devotional writing team for Zondervan's *New Women's Devotional Bible*. She has ghostwritten for several prominent individuals including Josh McDowell. Kathi has won many awards, including

the Angel Award from Excellence in Media, fiction awards from the San Diego Christian Writers Guild, and the grand prize in an international writing contest. A mother and grandmother, Kathi and her husband, Al, call California home.

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heart." Stand up and fight for your family, faith, and freedom. Stand up while you still can!

Stay strong for freedom,  
Carrie and Stacie Stoelting

Founders of Unite the USA

## *Are They Coming . . . Or Going?*



By Kathi Macias

Warm, tropical breezes teased my hair as my husband snapped pictures and we mingled with the other tourists. We had been in Orlando on business and found ourselves with a couple

of free days, so we decided to rent a car and drive to the Keys, since we'd never been there before. The drive was a bit longer than we expected, but worth every mile.

When we finally stopped and rented a room, we were in Key West, former home of Ernest Hemingway. It just happened to be the weekend of a Hemingway look-alike contest, so bearded guys in white pants and wide-brimmed hats filled the streets and restaurants and shops. I'll admit that was fun, but my greatest memory of that brief excursion into the Keys came when we visited the popular tourist spot that marks the southernmost tip of the continental United States. It was there we spent the most time, wandering around, taking pictures, and watching the reaction of other tourists. Why? Because it was there that we read the sign saying that at this very spot, many refugees from Cuba first stepped foot onto American soil and rejoiced that they were at last free.

That says a lot, doesn't it? Inherent in the statement on that sign was the fact that many had risked their lives to escape an oppressive regime, hoping to make it to the land of promise that had welcomed so many refugees over the years. But also inherent in that statement was the fact that no one had ever jumped into the ocean from American soil in hopes of reaching Cuba-or anywhere else, for that matter. If Americans wish to leave their country, they are free to do so. As a result, the vast majority choose to remain, even as others brave shark-infested waters, armed border patrols, and unscrupulous

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"coyotes," often leaving family and loved ones behind in an effort to come to this country and find a better life.

I suppose that's why I don't understand those who complain about America and actually compare it unfavorably to other countries. Some of the countries they hold up as shining examples of a more progressive and fair society have the same type of government as those where refugees are streaming away from and toward us on a daily basis, whether legally or illegally. The logic escapes me. If the countries these people are leaving are better than ours, why are they coming here? Why has no one ever jumped into the water or climbed over a fence or dug a tunnel to escape from America to go somewhere else?

Political pundits can pontificate all day long, but if they can't answer those simple questions, I'm not buying what they're selling. We are blessed to live in a land where we are free to come and go as we please. Sadly, residents of many other countries in the world cannot say the same.

Next time you hear someone complaining about America, why not ask them one simple question: Are people coming...or going; trying to break in...or out? It's tough to argue against that kind of logic.

America is not perfect, but it's still the best country on earth. I am so very grateful to have been born here and to have grown up experiencing the freedoms and opportunities that I might never have known had I lived somewhere else. My prayer is that my children and grandchildren will also be able to have those same freedoms and opportunities throughout their lifetimes. That will only happen as we realize what a blessing and privilege it is to live here, and remember the price that has been paid by so many for us to maintain that blessing and privilege.