

February 20

Galatians 5:1 (NIV) It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. **John 8:36 (NIV)** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

This is Black History Month, which brings this nation's quest for freedom to the forefront. Of all the nations in the world, our nation is best noted for its fight for freedom. From Native Americans to African Americans to immigrants, all have fought to obtain that inalienable right to freedom. Freedom has never been free because it has always come with a cost. President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where (people) were free."

As I read that quote by President Reagan, I immediately thought of another freedom we have, a freedom that cost the life of the Son of God. As Reagan said, freedom is not handed down like a family heirloom. Each generation has to fight for that freedom as we will always encounter people and forces that want to take those freedoms from us. We are to teach others, our children, and our grand children the cost of those freedoms, how to use those freedoms, and how to protect them. Just as this nation has fought for its freedom, the children of God are to fight for the freedom from the yokes of sin that is only possible through the blood of Christ. We are to proclaim that truth because we have experienced that freedom. We are to speak of it, joy in it, demonstrate it, and extend to all others so they, too, will seek it. We cannot pass on our salvation to anyone; therefore, we cannot pass on the freedom we have in Christ. If we fail to protect it, to proclaim it, and to teach it, then we are only one generation away from telling our children what it once was like to pray in school, to carry a Bible, to worship in peace, to speak the name of Jesus, and to hear the Word of God spoken with respect and awe. As a matter of fact, I have already found myself saying, "I remember when..." The greatest gift we have ever received is the gift of freedom that set us free in the name of Jesus. The greatest gift we can give to our families and friends and to anyone is the truth of the gift and its availability to all who seek it.