And Paul said, "But I was free born." Acts 22:28

One of the most vivid memories of my youth is the sure knowledge that as an American I was born free. In the process of education, one learns that freedom is a value rarely accorded to the common man throughout history. The Children of Israel, in Egypt, were slaves living under a tyrannized oppressor. This was also true during the Babylonian captivity. Serfdom was the common status of European families, including the English and Scots, until the time of the Reformation. Much of the world era today is under the oppressive rule of political and dictatorial oppressors. There is virtually no freedom in the lands of the former Soviet Union, China, India, and most of Africa. Slavery ended in America 130 years ago, but many people still are enslaved by a system which is oppressive, especially to part-time workers and those who work on a day-to-day basis.

Recently, I was talking with my son, who is a Vietnam Marine Veteran. He said, "Dad, when we came back from Vietnam, the world had turned topsy turvy. We thought it was just a passing phase and soon everything would return to normal. It has never changed. The country we fought and died for, no longer exists!" My son and many of those like him have never been accorded the rights and privileges of those who did not serve, and who were "anti-war demonstrators." They are not free. They are incarcerated by rejection, misunderstanding, and lack of love, especially by those of the Christian community who cannot understand the divorced, the lonely, and the PTSD-WASPs and WASCs.

As with the Vietnam and Korean Vets, the hope of the doctor, who will now have his decisions monitored and approved through "managed care", is to find freedom in Jesus and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. "Managed care" means, "I am no longer free." Similarly, a family in which both parents must work to pay their bills and taxes, can hardly be said to be free. The elderly person in the nursing home is far from being free. The young woman who exercises her freedom to become pregnant and to have an abortion will never be free from the pangs of sorrow and conscience. Sexual freedom which allows sodomy, never gives anything but imprisonment through illness and impending death through AIDS and other STDs. Freedom to indulge in drugs and alcohol brings a similar incarcerating penalty and death.

We read in II Peter 2:18-20 (Amp), "For uttering loud boasts of folly, they beguile and lure with lustful desires of the flesh those who are barely escaping from them who are wrongdoers. They promise them liberty, when they themselves are the slaves of depravity and defilement, for by whatever anyone is made inferior or overcome or worsted, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they again become entangled in them and are overcome, their last condition is worse than the first."

How wonderful it is to be truly a free person in Christ Jesus! "Who shall ever separate us from Christ's love? Shall suffering and affliction and tribulation? Or calamity and distress? Or persecution, or hunger, or destitution, or peril, or sword? Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us." Romans 8:35,37 (Amp)

St. Paul was free born, but it was Jesus who truly set him free. This was true of St. Paul and potentially every person who has lived during the past 2,000 years. It is true of the slave, the physician, the prisoner, the veteran, the prostitute, the homosexual, and everyone great or small, king or peasant. Only Jesus gives freedom. Everything else is slavery. Even death and dying cannot enslave the Man of God. In truth the Man of God is the only free man living on planet earth today. And Paul said, "But I was free born." He well could have then said, "And when I was born again through Christ Jesus and anointed by the Holy Spirit of God, I became truly free." (See Galatians 4:29-31, I Peter 1:23, and I John 5:4)
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SEEKING POSITION IN CHRISTIAN COUNSELING in which I have a bachelor's degree. Love to work with children. CONTACT: Lorraine Metzger, 8501 Channel View Circle, Tampa, FL 33614, (813) 915-8039.

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**CALENDAR**

OCT 18 Tampa, Florida
Physicians' Prayer Meeting
6:30 a.m., Christian Medical Foundation.

OCT 22 Jacksonville, Florida
Speakers - Dr. and Mrs. William Reed, Calvary Episcopal Church. CONTACT: Fr. George Stockhouse, (904) 221-4777.

NOV 5 St. Petersburg, Florida
Speaker - Dr. William Reed, OSL, Cathedral Church of St. Peter. CONTACT: John Holman, (813) 596-8124.

NOV 12-13 Oakhurst, California
Speakers - Dr. and Mrs. William Reed, St. Raphael's Church, Healing Mission. CONTACT: Fr. George Izzett, (209) 683-7374.

NOV 15, 22, 29 Tampa, Florida
Speaker - Dr. William Reed, St. John's Episcopal Church, Workshops on Spiritual Healing. CONTACT: Doris Johnson, (813) 259-1570

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Christian Medical Foundation of Canada
Annual Conference
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CONTACT: Elaine McClintock
(613) 962-5972

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