

Happy Independence Day!

July 4, 2016

Dear Mr. Trump:

THIS LETTER COULD FIX 80% OF OUR PROBLEMS AND HELP MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!

Pres. John F. Kennedy once quoted in his inaugural address, “*Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country.*” That is why my heart compels me to write this letter to you today. My heart has been broken for this wonderful country of ours.

- Like you, I want to do my part to make a difference to *Make America great again!*
- Like Patrick Henry, “*Give me liberty or give me death.*” This country and our freedom *are* worth fighting for.
- Like Martin Luther King, Jr. “*I have a dream of a better tomorrow.*”

Our country was founded upon the premise of individual freedom (freedom of speech, freedom of religion, etc.), but it was also founded upon the principles of **self-government and personal responsibility**. Instead of asking what we can do for our country, the standard question is what our country can do for us. We are getting the cart before the horse.

In our abundance, we have spoiled ourselves (damage or harm, especially with reference to its excellence, value, or usefulness, strip). We need to push the responsibility back down on an individual level. Like Pres. Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, “*That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government, of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*”

With perks comes responsibility. We teach our children that basic principle. We give annual performance reviews to our employees, and reward good work. However, on a national level, we have forgotten that principle. What would happen if your employees either didn’t show up for work, or wasted their day hanging out and chatting, and then showed up on Friday for a paycheck? They would be out the door! You want something? I expect something in return.

We live in a democracy, not in a monarchy or a dictatorship. That demands personal responsibility and accountability. That means we have elected to rule and govern ourselves, and provide for ourselves, and make our own decisions, enjoying true freedom. We want to run our own lives. We didn’t want a government or king owning and paying for everything or dictating to us what we could or could not do. Like a teenager wanting to be free of their parents’ rule, we pulled away to establish this wonderful country of ours and find true freedom. But like a teenager who is going away to college for the first time, they quickly find what true freedom entails: work and responsibility.

Somewhere along the line, we have forgotten how to **manage ourselves** and our affairs. Our lives are in shambles. Like children with behavior problems, we now have a whole society with poor behavior.

1. We have a *victim mentality*, accompanied by a sad story to excuse our bad behavior or situation. Since we have been hurt, we think it gives us the right to hurt others.
2. Since we are a victim, we think we have been *treated unjustly*. When someone doesn't think it's fair they turned the tables and try to put the burden of proof on you to prove that it is fair. We think it gives us the right to victimize others.

3. We think we are *privileged and unique*, so the rules don't apply to us. We have a separate set of rules. Our excuse is, "you don't understand." We think our sense of uniqueness justifies our lack of empathy and understanding of others.
4. We think it's a *one-way street*. We want others to respect us and our property, but we don't respect others or their property. We want what you can give us, but don't think we have to reciprocate.
5. We take *pride in negativity*. We glamorize our problems, and seem to get our self-esteem from the negative, or getting away with things.

Children have grown up into adults without the necessary proper problem-solving skills, and don't know how to make wise choices or manage themselves. However, they have not grown up on the inside and are **not self-disciplined nor self-controlled**. Now we have a whole society who are greatly lacking and cannot direct their own life. Their lives are out of control with no-one in the driver's seat to pull them back in line. They don't know what the problem is nor how to fix it. They don't know what they don't know.

OUR OWN IGNORANCE IS KILLING US ~ KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

People are our greatest asset. As you know, you build assets and cut liabilities. We need to invest in ourselves, and everyone must take responsibility on a personal level. Just like it is our responsibility to send our children to school and teach them, but it is their responsibility to learn, *everyone must learn how to do for themselves and manage their own life, their own thoughts and imaginations, desires, feelings, moods and attitudes, words, and actions, beliefs, finances, health, business, and relationships*. Accountability – not excuses!

"Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for life!"

It all starts from the **inside-out**. If we want to change the *outside*, we must change the *inside* first. Jesus said, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Gandhi said:

- *Keep your **thoughts** positive because your thoughts become your words.*
- *Keep your **words** positive because your words become your behavior.*
- *Keep your **behavior** positive because your behavior becomes your habits.*
- *Keep your **habits** positive because your habits become your values (character).*
- *Keep your **values** positive because your values become your **destiny**.*

WE NEED TO GET BACK TO OUR ROOTS OF GOD AND COUNTRY, WHAT MADE AMERICA GREAT TO BEGIN WITH!

We need to reteach ourselves some of the basic principles that we teach our children in Little League and in the First Tee program:

- Character counts
- Integrity – doing the right thing, even when no-one else is watching
- Personal Excellence in everything you do
- Sportsmanship above winning
- Putting the team above yourself

What kind of behavior are we displaying? Are we acting like spoiled brats or mature responsible adults? Most of us would be appalled if we read *The Good Citizens Handbook: A Guide to Proper Behavior* or had to take the *Oath of Allegiance* for citizenship again. We have forgotten that it is certain **rights – and – responsibilities**. **Freedom is not free**. It comes at a price, which each individual has to pay in order to enjoy its liberties.

We have spent so much time dividing us that **we have lost sight of who we are** – “*One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*”

- **We are not under God because we have excommunicated Him.** In our ignorance we have banned the source of true love (God is Love), wisdom, good and right, peace, hope, safety, blessing, etc., thus shutting down our Spirit which is our driver. “*The fool has said in his heart there is no God!*” But the fact of the matter is our heart wouldn’t even be beating without God, or be able to have a sane mind or sunshine or rain. God is everywhere, behind the scenes, taking care of us.
- **We are not indivisible; we are divided:** politically, by race and gender, by religion and social status. It is every man for himself (WIIFM). We are not putting the team above ourselves and our own agenda. “*A house divided against itself will not stand.*” We are sinking ourselves.
- **We are not free, but held captive by our Self (Soul) and our own Ignorance.** We are slaves to our passions and fears, and our Soul (Mind, Will/Desires, and Emotions) is running wild with no-one to pull back on the reins and bring him back into line.

America needs to get back to our roots and our purpose. **What is our mission statement?** What is our purpose, on a corporate level and individually as a person? Failing to plan is planning to fail and we all have failed greatly. Everyone needs a purpose in life, a reason for living. Otherwise we’re just existing and not really living. People lack purpose and direction, and are trying to run away from their problems, because they don’t know how to fix them.

I HAVE A DREAM...

WHAT WOULD OUR COUNTRY LOOK LIKE

“ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, UNITED, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL?”

It would look like **Christmas** (like Christ) **every day!** People loving, giving, helping, sharing, contributing, being kind and considerate, doing the right thing, hard-working, disciplined, productive people!

What would a nation look like if “Love” reigned in every heart?

Who doesn’t want True Love?

What would it look like if every person practiced “Self-Government?”

Who doesn’t want true freedom and independence?

What would it look like if everyone practiced “The Golden Rule?”

Giving what you want in return? Paying it forward?

You would have:

- No stealing, shoplifting, identity theft, hacking, petty theft, car theft, robberies, mugging, kidnapping, con artists, etc.
- No coveting, jealousy, envy, strife, resentment, bitterness, unforgiveness, disputes, revenge, etc.
- No child abuse, spouse abuse, verbal abuse, animal abuse, bullying, threats, etc.
- No rape, incest, pornography, pedafiles, homosexuality, sodomy, bestiality, fornication, adultery, divorce, etc. (mankind would become extinct if we all followed our lusts)
- No killing, murders, abortion, torture, mutilation, selling body parts, etc.
- No riots, arson, destruction, bombing, trashing a property, run-down properties, graffiti, etc.

- No sickness, disease, suffering, infirmities, frail debilitating bodies, obesity, bulimia, etc.
- No debt, bankruptcy, being a slave to the lender, poverty, lack, welfare, etc.
- No lying, cheating, manipulating, wrongful promotions, social passes, back-stabbing, etc.
- No arrogant, self-centered, obnoxious, or spiritually blind people

This may sound like a pipe dream, but “*without vision (a dream), people perish.*” The Bible also says, “*My people perish for lack of knowledge.*” We have to give people hope, something to look forward to, a goal to work toward. True joy is found in helping others. Napoleon Hill said, “*It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed.*” The Bible says, “***Give, and it will be given back to you.***” That’s a basic principle of sowing and reaping. If we want abundance as an individual, we have to give to get. Otherwise, we all have shortage and lack. Everyone has something to give. Everyone is a contributor, not just a consumer. This is a TEAM effort!

Yes, we will not fully eliminate these things on the earth because everyone doesn’t want to eliminate evil or do what it takes to grow up on the inside. But we *will* be able to make a huge dent in it and turn things around for the good.

HOW DO WE OVERCOME EVIL? WITH GOOD!

Imagine how much money we could save and divert toward helpful causes? It would make sense to go to the cause of the problem and fix it, instead of keep putting a bandage on it. We need to fix this, once and for all. You don’t keep putting money into a bag with holes in it. That is not good management. We need to “teach a man to fish” instead of wearing ourselves out trying to feed him and ourselves every day. We’ll both starve!

The problem drives the solution. It is what it is. We can talk about programs and “solutions,” but **the bottom line is – we have a heart problem.**

The fact of the matter is – we can’t govern ourselves (we – meaning our Self or our Soul). **Our Soul is the horse or child, and he IS the problem!** It only follows instincts. **Our Spirit IS the rider or parent**, and is the leader. We need a rider to direct our life. We come with a built-in IGS (Inner Guidance System) in our Spirit. It is just turned off and needs to be activated. We are created three-in-one like our father creator: Body, Soul, and Spirit (BSS).

1. **Body** – Me, for the part that you see.
2. **Soul** – My Self, for the selfish part of me.
3. **Spirit** – I, for the part made in God’s image (I Am).

With our spirits turned off we are left with a bunch of B.S. (instead of BSS), which is what we have! We turned off true love, being only left with self-centered love, i.e. lust. You can easily see from scripture which one we are listening to: Soul/Flesh or Spirit?

Gal 5:16-23 Living by the Spirit's Power

16 So I say, let the Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The fleshly nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

19 *When you follow the desires of your Flesh/Soul or sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. (Sin is Self-Indulged Negligence)*

22 *But the Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

We need to be bold enough to speak the Truth in love. **Truth is not mere opinion; it is a person.** “When he, the Spirit of Truth, is come, he will lead you and guide you into all truth.” John 16:13. Jesus said unto him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father but by me.” John 14:6.

God is Spirit. We are Spirit, with Flesh on it. God is a good father who lovingly cares for and provides for His children. He wants to set us up for life, like any good parent. He is Light (enlightenment, understanding), in Him there is no Darkness (evil, ignorance). God is love, but He is also a good father who will not let us get away with anything. He is not the hard taskmaster as we have been told to believe, but a loving father who guides and provides for us, and disciplines us as needed. He wants to make good, upstanding, hard-working individuals out of us, to make us fruitful and productive, an asset not a liability. But we have to respect, follow and cooperate with Him.

There are two forces in this earth **Good and Evil** and the choice is ours.

- **Why does God allow evil?** To give us a choice. If there was only good, we wouldn't have a choice.
- **How do we overcome evil?** With good.

He gives us “freedom of choice” and we have made the wrong choice, choosing evil over good.

We made a bad choice. We need to rectify that decision and make a wise choice this time. Love, our Father, is forgiving and holds no accounts of wrongdoing. Just ask and He will give you a do-over. Let's not blow it this time. I'm not talking about religion; I'm talking about a relationship, getting to know your father. Like father like son. Nothing would please him more than for us to grow up and be just like Him! We need to come back to our senses. We need to “Grow Out of our Self,” like a caterpillar transforming into a beautiful butterfly.

The first step is awareness. You can't fix something if you don't know you have a problem or what the problem is. To sum it up, the three main problems are:

Problem #1:

Self-itis – Self Love, totally consumed with one's self, WIIFM, self-centeredness, selfish love. (Children are only concerned about themselves. We need to grow up on the inside.)

Solution #1:

True Love – God, self-less love, put other's needs above your own, selflessness, how may I help you? (Mature adults are able to see past themselves, manage their own lives and help others.)

Problem #2:

Lawlessness – Anything goes, no boundaries or restraints, if it feels good do it.

Solution #2:

Self-Government or Self-Management – growing up on the inside, inner growth and maturity. Living under God's rule and guidance, and being able to manage our Self. (Setting up a personal life roadmap to follow, and

being able to set goals, track your progress, and make it safely to your destination; your Spirit can control your Soul and direct your life.)

Problem #3:

Evil – Bad (The Devil is Devil. He always takes something away.)

Solution #3:

Good – The right choice! (God is GoOd. He always adds something!)

Like a teenager struggling for “**Independence**” we have went too far the other way. We have to come back to the middle.

- Independence does not mean that you do not need anyone else that you can stand alone. It just means that you are *mature and know how to manage yourself and your affairs*.
- Independence means *you realize your need for dependence upon one another* (Body-Soul-Spirit, political parties, race, gender, religion, etc.). It means you can work together in harmony for the common good and set aside your differences. You can appreciate each person’s uniqueness.
- It means being *a team player* and taking a backseat when needed. It means pitching in wherever you can and doing your part.
- *True Independence is maturity and liberating*, not self-absorbed and restricting. You are comfortable in your own skin and seek the betterment of others. You are not insecure about who you are or seeking to be seen or heard.

Like David fighting Goliath, “*Is there not a cause worth fighting for?*” (I Samuel 17:29). **We have a real enemy who is more of a threat to us than Isis. It is our Self and our own Ignorance,** the enemy of our souls trying to destroy us from the inside-out. This must be stopped! We must wake up and take action and save ourselves! Is there anyone with enough courage speak the truth in love? We simply cannot afford to wait. Like a dying man... time is of the essence. We must take action now.

Mr. Trump, I believe you are God’s man for the hour. I believe you are His “TRUMP CARD!” I believe you have what it takes, to stand up for truth and what’s right. I believe you can give this country a “dream” again, to help us go back to our “roots” and see our way back to the light. We need a “vision” and you are our head, our CEO, to provide sight. We need you!

You are doing your part, and I am willing to do my part. Each of us working together, contributing what we’re good at, giving of our resources and abilities, will help get us on the right track again. Divided, we will not stand. But together, we can make a difference and put us on top again – GO TEAM!

HAPPY “INDEPENDENCE” DAY AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Sincerely,

Rhonda Tharp