

June 28, 2019

Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

A Vision of a Strong America

It was dawn, September 14, 1814, toward the end of the War of 1812, and Baltimore was under bombardment by the British. On board the British warship *Minden*, the Washington lawyer Francis Scott Key paced the deck. He had boarded the ship to negotiate the release of his physician friend, Dr. William Beanes. The British agreed to release Dr. Beanes, but kept both men captive so that they couldn't warn Fort McHenry of the surprise pre-dawn attack.

As a worried Francis Scott Key tried to peer through the early darkness, all he could see were smoke and haze from the gunfire. Fort McHenry was not a very strong fortification, so Key feared the worst. But, when the morning light broke through, the men saw that the American flag still flew over the fort. With joy and gratitude, Key pulled an unfinished letter from his pocket and in minutes scribbled down the words to the now-famous "Star-Spangled Banner."
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We need a renewed "vision" of what America can be. What you see you inevitably move toward. We as believers need to keep the vision clear. It is our task to make sure America is a country that honors and glorifies God. As Christian people we often are America's moral conscience. We stand and fight at home, sometimes, just as we stand up and fight around the world. We can inspire moral strength in other nations, only as we keep ourselves pure in the United States. Our values and our vision is what make America strong. It is neither our military strength nor economic virility. It is not our creativity or superior technology. We are America, a place where people honor the Lord our God! May we always pray and work for His kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven. May God give us the grace to fight for an America that knows and holds continually to right and wrong.

Praying for the Vision of a Holy America!
Jerry Rea