



**On the Road**  
June 29, 2022  
Rachel Yates

As you read this, I will be on the road, headed to Boise, Idaho. Even if you read your Fresh Impressions a day late – I don't know why you'd do that, but if you do – I'll still be on the road. It's a long journey, especially in a caravan of 2 cars, 1 pickup, 4 adults, 2 toddlers, and 3 dogs. If all goes well, we'll make it to Cheyenne, Wyoming tonight.

The next time you see me, I'll have a different background on my Zoom screen. Otherwise, my work for you as your Bridge Executive won't have changed. My telephone number and email remain the same. It's the miracle of technology, honed over two-and-a-half years of a pandemic.

On Monday, we will celebrate our nation's Independence Day. Our country, too, has had a long journey to get to where we are now. We've had to hone our efforts to preserve our democracy, and many people have sacrificed greatly toward that end, even to the point of giving their lives. Those who serve selflessly in our government offices, the military, our diplomats, scientists, researchers, and teachers – all are contributing to the strength and independence of the United States.

Our journey has not come to end, however. We are still on the road, a big caravan made up of all of us. We need to remain constantly vigilant that we don't idolize our country for what it was in the past, but instead strive to maintain the values and vision that will move us forward. In the rear -view mirror, we need to be prepared not only to celebrate where we've been, but also how we've gone off course from time to time and left a path of wreckage. Admitting that doesn't make us less great; it makes us more honest.

Similarly, as we look through the windshield, there's a danger that we see the road ahead as a closed track in which we can do as we please, with no risk of traffic to slow us down. I am unsettled by linking God and the United States, as if our country alone has found God's favor. For one thing, Christianity didn't start in the US, and the whole purpose of the Great Commission is that the gospel will be known throughout the world.

What I do think God desires of every government is demonstration of the core values we learned from Jesus, our biblical ancestors, and the saints of the Church: love, compassion, inclusion, justice, healing, peace, stewardship of resources coupled with generosity, and care for the poor, the widows, and the children, to name a few. When our country pursues these values, in the name of Christianity or responsible citizenship, we are better and stronger. That is true not just for the United States, but for every nation on earth.

May God bless these United States, not to the exclusion of other countries, but so that we might proclaim God's goodness and follow Christ more closely. I am grateful for our journey together.