

Glad Tidings!

A letter writing campaign bringing hope and encouragement to all Americans.



“Let us all then leave behind letters of love and friendship, family and devotion, hope and consolation, so that future generations will know what we valued and believed and achieved.”

—MARION W. EDELMAN, LETTERS OF A NATION



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Purpose and Vision.



The supplies – minimal. The method – simple. The message - timeless.

The purpose of this project is to bring a positive voice to our elected officials and public servants. Our message is one of patriotic inspiration, thoughtful encouragement, Christian values, and unshakable hope. We aim to bless with positive truth.

Joining together as a unified group, makes a powerful, memorable statement... shouting by pen our message of Glad Tidings so it can't be missed. We are a positive, objective presence penetrating, flooding...inundating our public servants with a hopeful message. We are unified in our purpose and method, yet bring a truly personal approach giving ourselves and each person we contact, the human dignity of thought and time spent on their behalf, with them in mind.

It is often a helpless feeling for those of us in the daily classroom or teaching at home to find a way to have an impact in the public square. It's hard, if not impossible, to take children and families to a senators office or to a public meeting. But there is a way we can influence right from our desks... through the mail.

As parents, grandparents, and educators we want not only to have a positive impact, we want to teach our children about their civic duty. We want to train them to realize that they too can be involved in the processes of their country and community.

Our messages are sent to any and all public servants. We do not write only to those we agree with or are in line with our political viewpoint. As part of this group, we see no party lines or world view differences. All persons, no matter who they are or what their political stance is, need to hear messages that ring with hope, truth, and the beautiful song of America.

All ages are encouraged to participate, for it is a reminder that there are bigger ideals that we display. The higher stream of patriotism, love of country, historical roots, timeless truths, and freedom are the winds that we want to refresh in ourselves, teach our children, and remind our representatives.

We use the beautiful, age-old form of communication – handwritten letters. Nothing says, 'I took time today and thought about you personally' like a handwritten note. We have lost this art in our fast paced, computer world. We all crave personal connection. In a small way, we make that happen. Our Glad

Tidings Messages are sent via a real envelope and stamp by our hard-working US Postal Service.

If you are participating, would you contact us at contact@reallivinglife.com ? It would be fun for us to know what parts of the country are joining us in spreading Glad Tidings!

And even if our letters do not reach the desk of the intended recipient, a staffer or secretary will open it and they will read it. And that is just as valuable. These messages are for all Americans.

As citizens of this great country it is our privilege and duty to let our representatives know our opinions and wishes. We certainly encourage this, but we ask that as you participate in this forum, you contact your representatives in a separate letter, with a separate envelope and stamp, or other correspondence if you wish make your thoughts known.

We are messengers bringing Glad Tidings to all.



Behold me going to write you as handsome a letter
as I can.

Wish me luck.”

— JANE AUSTEN TO FRANCIS AUSTEN

Get started!



1. Supplies.

You need simple supplies and a little time.

- ▶ Need: paper, pencil or pen, envelope, stamp, copy of Glad Tidings Messages, internet access to get name and address
- ▶ Need: possibly crayons, patriotic coloring page, patriotic stickers

Note: Older Students could write in the format of a business letter. This is not necessary, but is always good practice to follow.

2. Basic directions.

- 1. Find this week's Glad Tidings recipient using the Recipient List.
- 2. They are a real Person.
 - Show your family/students a picture of the person to whom they are sending their message.
 - Be on the lookout for any news about this person.
 - If possible, meet them in person, or take your messages to them in person. If not now, be aware of future possibilities to meet them in person.
- 3. Write.
 - Choose from the Glad Tidings Messages and write.
 - options/ideas:
 - Littles – computer search “patriotic coloring pages” ,print, color.
 - decorate picture/ envelope with patriotic stickers.
 - Young writers – choose a short selection, or one verse from a longer poem.
 - Groups, family or classroom – choose one longer poem and assign each member a portion to do as they are capable.
- 4. Send.
 - Address, stamp and mail.
- 5. Pray.
 - options/ideas:
 - after you write your message, at meal time, at the mail box.

Glad Tidings Recipients 1



★ Week 1. U.S. Senator 1.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings message to one of the U.S. Senators from your state.
-You can find your U.S. Senators here:
<https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm?Class=1>

★ Week 2. U.S. Senator 2.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings Message to the other U.S. Senator from your state.
-You can find your U.S. Senators here:
<https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm?Class=1>

★ Week 3. City Council Member.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings Message to one of your local city council members.
-Internet search for the address.

★ Week 4. U.S. Representative 1.

Note: We will send Messages to the U.S. House Representatives for 4 weeks.

-If your state has one U.S. Representative

options:

-send the same person different messages for four weeks

-on Week 3 send your U.S. Rep a message.

on Week 4 and 5, resend to your U.S. Senators,

on Week 6 send your U.S Rep a message again.

-If your state has many U. S. Representatives

options:

- randomly choose 4 to send messages to over the next four weeks.

- send messages to 2 or 3 Representatives each week.

Be mindful to only do what you can- keep it enjoyable and manageable.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings Message to a U. S. Representatives from your state.
-You can find your U.S. Representatives here:
<https://www.house.gov/representatives>
or internet search “ U.S. House of Representatives ”

★ Week 5. U.S. Representative 2.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings message to a different U. S. Representatives from your state.
-You can find your U.S. Representatives here:
<https://www.house.gov/representatives>
or internet search “ U.S. House of Representatives “

★ Week 6. U.S. Representative 3.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings message to a different U. S. Representatives from your state.
-You can find your U.S. Representatives here:
<https://www.house.gov/representatives>
or internet search “ U.S. House of Representatives ”

★ Week 7. U.S. Representative 4.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings message to a different U. S. Representatives from your state.
-You can find your U.S. Representatives here:
<https://www.house.gov/representatives>
or internet search “ U.S. House of Representatives ”

★ Week 8. Local police department.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings Message to your local police department.
-Internet search for the address.

★ Week 9. State Attorney General.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings Message to the Attorney General of your state.
-You can find the AG of your state here:
<https://www.usa.gov/state-attorney-general>
or internet search “ state Attorney Generals “ for a listing of all AGs
or “Attorney General state of ___”

★ Week 10. President of the U.S.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings Message to the President of the U.S.
-You can find the White House address at the bottom of the page here:
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/president-biden/>

★ Week 11. U.S. Representative.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings Message to a U.S. Representative of your choice.
-You can find the US Representatives here:
<https://www.house.gov/representatives>
or internet search “ U.S. House of Representatives ”

★ Week 12. U.S. Attorney General.

- 1. Send a Glad Tidings Message to the United States Attorney General.
-You can find the U.S. AG here:
<https://www.justice.gov/contact-us>
or internet search “ U.S. Attorney General ”



Glad Tidings Messages 1



“Freedom isn’t free.”
-Sgt. Major B Paxton



“I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”
-Nathan Hale



“America is another name for opportunity.”
-Ralph Waldo Emerson



Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;
be courageous; be strong.
-1 Corinthians 16:13



“It’s better to fight for something in life than to die for nothing.”
-Gen. G. Patton





Country of Freedom

-Amos Russel Wells

Country of freedom, be free in thy heart:
Free from the shackles of prisoning pride,
Free from the liar's contemptible art,
Free from allurements that tempt thee aside,
Free from the crafty and treacherous guide,
Free from the ravening greed of the mart,
Free from the snares that in opulence hide,—
Country of freedom be free in thy heart!



The New Colossus

-Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"



A Nation's Strength

-William Ralph Emerson

What makes a nation's pillars high
And its foundations strong?
What makes it mighty to defy
The foes that round it throng?

It is not gold. Its kingdoms grand
Go down in battle shock;
Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,
Not on abiding rock.

Is it the sword? Ask the red dust
Of empires passed away;
The blood has turned their stones to rust,
Their glory to decay.

And is it pride? Ah, that bright crown
Has seemed to nations sweet;
But God has struck its luster down
In ashes at his feet.

Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly...
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.



America The Beautiful

-Katharine Lee Bates

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And ev'ry gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.