

# One Nation Under God - Walk Across America

Vol. 5 No 9

September 2006

Next month marks the four-year anniversary of start of the One Nation Under God – Walk Across America. As I reflect backward, I remember a small incident that now seems important to me. In Washington D.C. the American Discovery Trail travels through a beautiful tree-lined valley which is known as Rock Creek Park. Near the southern part of the park is a marker stating that President Teddy Roosevelt often took foreign dignitaries for walks along rock-strewn Rock Creek. That day, joggers, bicyclists and other walkers shared the trail with me in the same area. Then came two Japanese men looking out-of-place since they were wearing gray suits. The two men were intently talking to each other as I approached them and then the gentleman on the right turned to me and said, “Hello,” and kept walking. Why did this man acknowledge me? No other man acknowledged me that day unless I talked to him first. Since many foreign embassies were about one mile away, was this man an ambassador from Japan to America? I will never know, but today it reminds me that we are all called to be ambassadors for Christ.

*Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

When the walk first commenced, Nadine and I knew that we had to pray for the words, *under God*, to remain in our Pledge of Allegiance. As the walk progressed during the last four years, we would not only pray but minister to people along the way. Slowly we were growing as ambassadors for Christ.

101 miles into the walk on a cool, damp and dreary day in Annapolis, Maryland, I met Edward Trilling. Slowly walking along Taylor Avenue, Ed was not the typical walker. A World War II veteran, who fought in Germany, Ed was 91 years old. He told me that he thanks God every morning that he has the ability to walk and he thanks God every night for allowing him to live another day. After I asked for Ed's name, he inquired, “Can I have your name so I can pray for you, but I may forget. Being my age, one is allowed to forget once in a while.” Then I took his photo and told him that I would pray for him also. Before parting, we shook hands and I thanked him for serving his country. That day I became an ambassador for Christ to our men and women in uniform serving our nation. During later walks in Hancock, Maryland; Grafton, West Virginia; and Logan, Ohio, Nadine and I would minister to people, who had close relatives in our armed forces overseas.

We ministered not only to people along the way but also to people from our church, which we are members. A woman once called and said, “I need to walk with you.” Lisa, who worked for Valley Forge Christian College while Andrew, her husband, attended the same college. Lisa encouraged me by asking to be part of the walk then met me with her three wonderful children, Joshua, Stephen and Caitlin at 6:30 AM for a two and a half hour drive to Bowie, Maryland. After walking only

three miles, we stopped for lunch at a playground. While eating Lisa told me that her life lately was all work and church. It was time for a change. Instead of walking more, we drove to the Bowie Railroad Station Museum and learned about the history of the railroad in that area but the highlight came later. We then visited the National Wildlife Visitor Center. After observing many of the interactive exhibits on wildlife habitats and endangered species, we rode on a guided tram tour through the center. Except for some birds, most of the animals were not observable except for one. Suspended from an invisible thread from Lisa's hand was one of God's smallest creatures, a lime-green inchworm. With a broad smile, she showed her children and myself, the small caterpillar like inchworm. I do not know where the inchworm fits in God's plan of creation but I do know why that one was created: to bring a smile to Lisa's face. That day I became ambassador for Christ to a mother and her children. Lisa and Andrew would later walk four more times with me.

In the Georgetown area of Washington, DC, Nadine and I talked to some homeless people. We became ambassadors for Christ to those that are less fortunate than us.

In the town of Philippi, West Virginia, a Sunday school teacher invited us to have lunch with her. Lucille was a widow and her children had moved away from the area. She told us about her life. How she was happy when she was young because she did not realize that her family was dirt poor. We can all learn from that statement. After spending ninety minutes eating with her, we left with tears in our eyes. Lucille, like many elderly people in small towns, was lonely. For a brief time, we became ambassadors for Christ to those who are older and alone. Each month, we send a newsletter to her.

Danny was not your typical youth from Coatesville, Pennsylvania. While most kids his age don't like to read, he enjoys writing and enjoys going to church. He was also fatherless. Danny, armed with a bible and a worship CD, walked with me for over ten miles on a hot and steaming day. While most kids would rather stay home and play video games, watch television or play sports, Danny relished the idea of walking along the towpath of the C & O Canal and learning as much as he could. Danny Conover is not your typical youth. From learning what a paw-paw is to hearing that Jesus said, "I am the vine," Danny was interested in everything. Later the youth group from Harvest Worship Center in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, which Danny belonged, joined me with a walk in Annapolis, Maryland area. I became ambassador for Christ to our youth, who need our attention.

In Maryland, the American Discovery Trail is separated by the Chesapeake Bay. There are 4.3 miles of water between Kent Island and Sandy Point. During the annual Bay Bridge Walk allowed me to connect the two sections of the trail. It was raining that Sunday morning as I drove along I95 towards Annapolis. I already asked four people to pray for America before a bus drove us from the Naval Academy football stadium across the northern span of the bridge to Kent Island. As I waited to pass through security, I turned to Dottie, who was on my right, and asked her to pray for America while she walked the bridge. Not only did she walk and pray, we walked together, prayed together, and laughed with each other. Even though we just met, we were like brother and sister, which we are through the blood of Jesus Christ. We hugged each other when we were finished. I do not have a photo of us together but if I did, one would immediately see that we are not brother and sister even though we are about the same age. Dottie is black and I am white.

**On that day, I became an ambassador for Christ to a people who are of a different race than myself.**

**On our way home from one of our trips, we attended a church service near Pittsburgh. A wonderful woman named Rose sat across from us in the Sunday school class. Rose was different than most people. She appeared to have Down Syndrome. When we went into the sanctuary for the service, Nadine asked me where we should sit. I spotted Rose sitting alone at an end of a pew and I asked her if anyone was sitting next to her. She explained that she thought we came with the Sunday school teacher and should sit with him. When I answered that we did not know the teacher and would just like to sit with her, her face lit up like a birthday cake with fifty candles. After the service, she introduced me to several people who were members of that church. Last year in Clarksburg, West Virginia, Nadine and I were invited to a church picnic for two separate churches. I was asked to speak to the congregations before the picnic started. While I was talking, I noticed something very unusual. One woman sat completely apart from the rest of the people. By the time I was finished, Nadine was sitting with her. The woman suffered depression and afraid to eat with the rest of the people. Nadine stayed with her the entire time we were there. We became ambassadors for Christ to people who most of the world would ignore.**

**This year in Ohio, I met a person who was in prison for six months and is now on probation. That person believes that the court was not just, but the person grew closer to the Lord while in prison. In that person's words, "God is Alive in America and in the prisons and jails across this country. He respects all people and we are all the same to Him. He loves us all." My newsletters are now sent to that person and also to inmates in two different Pennsylvania state prisons. We became ambassadors for Christ to people who are incarcerated and need hope for the future.**

**Most of the time when I have a chance to talk about the prayer needs of America, I speak for a group of people that cannot speak for themselves, the unborn children in America. Since 1973, 48,000,000 unseen and unwanted children were aborted in the United States. Do we hear their cries? Those children will never feel the love of a mother's arms. Those children will never see the love in a father's eyes as it takes its first steps. Those children will never say, "Ma, Ma" or "Pa, Pa." Those children will never hear the sound of the words, "I love you." On the Statue of Liberty, are the words, "*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-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*" For the last thirty-three years that door has been closed to our own unborn and unseen children. Please pray for our nation that protects the egg of the bald eagle, but will not protect the fetus of a child, who is created in the image of God. Please pray.**

**There is an old saying, "You can't see the forest for the trees." I believe that most Christians cannot see the trees because of the forest. We see many problems (the forest) as being too overwhelming for us to handle by ourselves, so we say I just one person. I can't help and we do nothing. We, Christians, need to look at an individual (a tree) with a need and start by helping that person. To become ambassadors for Christ, we must begin assisting one person at a time. In time, that ministry may reach thousands of souls. One diseased tree can kill a whole forest if**

that disease spreads. If one member of the church is hurting, the whole church is hurting. We, all, need to do our part.

### News along the American Discovery Trail

The American Discovery Trail travels through a very small portion of the state of Kentucky. To the west of Covington, Kentucky and the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, the Creation Museum is now being constructed. The purpose of this museum is to teach creation based on the Bible. The building of the museum is funded by donations and will open debt-free next spring. The Creation Museum will be located about one mile from the American Discovery Trail.

To learn more about the One Nation Under God –Walk Across America, go to our web site, [www.walkacrossamerica.info](http://www.walkacrossamerica.info). Note: The web site has not updated since March expect for the slideshows.

God bless,  
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Total miles walked of the American Discovery Trail - 694 miles  
Number of prayer walkers - 58 prayer walkers  
Number of people praying for America - 47,572 prayer warriors