



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

Statue of Liberty

When my sons were small, we visited the Statue of Liberty. I remember seeing it from the boat that we were on. I remember going into the base and traveling up the elevator. Then we stepped out on to the Pedestal. We saw the bay and New York City. I thought of the millions who came through this island seeking a new life and freedom in America.

“The Statue of Liberty is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. The copper statue, a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and its metal framework was built by Gustave Eiffel (who built the Eiffel Tower). The statue was dedicated on October 28, 1886. The Statue of Liberty is a figure of Libertas, a robed Roman liberty goddess. She holds a torch above her head with her right hand, and in her left hand carries a tabula ansata inscribed in Roman numerals with the date of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. A broken chain lies at her feet as she walks forward.”¹

Mr. Bartholdi proposed the statue to celebrate the Union Civil War victory ending slavery. He hoped that leaders in France would adopt similar ideas of liberty, democracy and freedom. Boston and Philadelphia purchased the statue for their cities. The Statue of Liberty was almost placed in Egypt. Thomas Edison wanted to put a giant Phonograph inside the statue to broadcast speeches to New York City. The Statue was damaged by German saboteurs during World War I. [Click here for more interesting Statue facts.](#)

Just north of my hometown, is [another Statue of Liberty](#) located on an old train pier in the middle of the Susquehanna River. On the 100th anniversary of the New York statue, this smaller replica just appeared overnight. For 25 years no one would claim responsibility. It was then made from plywood and Venetian blinds. For six years, the statue stood until a strong gust blew it down. In 1992, Dauphin Borough raised \$25,000 [to build a replica](#) which can still be seen today in the river just north of Harrisburg, PA. There is also a Statue of Liberty replica in McRae GA. [See the video.](#) Her hand is an insulated electrician's glove.

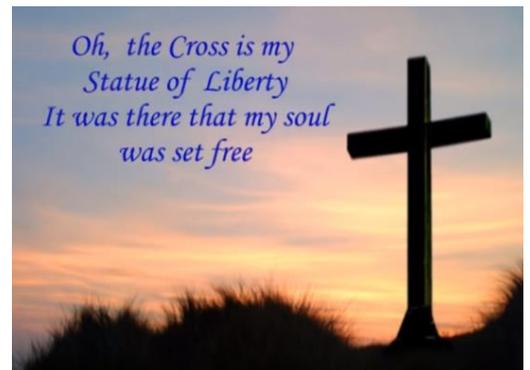
Also based in Harrisburg, there was a Gospel group called [The Couriers](#). (I used to watch them every Sunday morning before church on WGAL. They were one of my favorite groups.) In the early 70's, during a concert cruise by The Couriers, the ship was in the New York Bay. Neil Enloe, a singer in the group, for the first time saw the Statue of Liberty in all of her glory. “I turned to the gentleman with me and said, ‘There must be a counterpart to my American freedom. It is liberty in Christ. There is surely a monument to this freedom! There is no greater symbol to Christian liberty than the CROSS!’ I also said, ‘There should be a song somewhere in this.’ After three months of writing and rewriting, Neil gave to the world the classic song, ‘Statue of Liberty.’² Neil was given the Dove Award in 1974 for this very moving and thought provoking song. [Click here to listen](#) to the Couriers sing it for their last time.



Charles L Stambaugh

*“If the Son therefore shall make you free,
ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36*

*“I’m so proud to be called an American,
To be named with the brave and the free.
I will honor our flag and our trust in God
and the Statue of Liberty.”²*



¹ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statue_of_Liberty

² www.staugustine.com/article/20160422/LIFESTYLE/304229944

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