



The Weekly Leigh Mail

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Words of Practical Encouragement— US Presidents

Good Morning!

The campus my family attends is relatively small and allows us enough prayer time to let the children give praise and prayer requests at opening. Today is our last class together, and it blessed our hearts to have many mature praises. This group of students loves the Lord, and they arrange to meet at the same churches and youth groups in our community. When they sing, "George W. Bush is our 43rd president, and it's for him we pray," they mean they really pray for him.

We have so much to praise our God for, especially Foundation Tutors like Katie Bricker who tells the students interesting facts about voting procedures without taking away time for grammar memorization. She has no need to spend extra time preparing these comments, as she already loves learning about American citizenship, and she naturally adds interesting comments. All of the CC Tutors enjoy sharing their special interests with the students, and they are most effective when it is information they naturally study. I am thankful for all of the Directors and Tutors teaching our students to love learning by sharing the learning they love. This political season, I have been so struck by the quantity of our memory work and Challenge assignments that relate to current events. I listened to a professor of Political Demography and Geography on the radio. How interesting to see politics, statistics, and geography meet in a single profession that effects the outcome of presidential elections and our entire culture.

We have political 'change' occurring that will harm us, if not weighed against the great conversations of American history. I love my country and think it is honorable to give my life to defend the principles that it was founded upon, and my time and money to change the legislation that leads us away from those principles. Let me share my three favorite examples of greatness in US presidents and challenge you to look for similar characteristics in our next president.

After being begged to be at least the first president, if not the king of the United States, President George Washington resigned to farm after 8 years. He asked the country to elect someone else. It took FDR's New Deal to break that humble tradition and force a constitutional amendment that all presidents follow in Washington's mandate for short presidencies.

When future President Grant met with General Robert E. Lee to accept the Confederacy's surrender, Grant gratefully honored Lincoln's request that the North let the defeated troops go home with as many horses and munitions as possible. Their southern brothers would need them to feed their families. Generals Napoleon, Alexander, Kahn would have demanded the pillage continue. A man suited to be a US president would welcome the opportunity to turn hate into peace instead of submission.

In the great scheme of things, a world leader encouraging some political wonks to steal paperwork out of a hotel seems pretty benign. Yet, President Nixon resigned before embarrassing his country more. He trusted American machinists and doctors and mothers to sort out who would be the next commander-in-chief of the largest, strongest, bravest military ever created.

US presidents are a very odd lot. No one else, ever, anywhere, chooses to work so hard to gain so much power, and then at the end of eight years willingly says, "OK, who's next?" Thankfully, there are more democratically elected leaders than ever before, but remember, only the President of the United States is the most powerful leader in the world. Laugh, weep, and praise God that we have had 43 men eagerly return to private life. Will we continue to elect citizens who know that they are *not* elected to be presidents, commander-in-chiefs, and leaders of the free world, but US presidents, US commander-in-chiefs, and US leaders of the free world?

Dear Lord, help me to teach my children that servant leaders are the American model, because it is Your model.

Love, Leigh

P.S. Folks keep telling me we need a new Presidents Memory Song and I reply, "Just sing the same song and add a name when you're finished. Maybe in 8 years we'll have a new song.