



## Monday Matters

June 24, 2013

### Has God Shed His Grace On Us?

What was the inspiration behind the writing of songs, especially hymns, has always fascinated me. As we approach the 4th of July and the importance of remembering that day so many years ago, I'm reminded of the song "America the Beautiful". The author, Katherine Lee Bates, was born in Falmouth, Massachusetts, in 1859 where she grew up by the rolling sea. Bates would become a full professor of English literature at Wellesly College. In 1893 she made a trip to Colorado and it was there that she initially penned the words to "America the Beautiful".

In her own words according to the Library of Congress, she told of her trip in this way, "we strangers celebrated the close of the season by a merry exhibition to the top of Pike's Peak, making the ascent by the only method then available for people not vigorous enough to achieve the climb on foot or adventurous enough for burro-riding. Prairie wagons, their tail-boards emblazoned with the traditional slogan, "Pike's Peak or Bust," were pulled by horses up to the half-way house, where the horses were relieved by



### America The Beautiful

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### Quote of the Week

"May the sun in his course visit no land more free, more happy, more lovely, than this our own country."

~Daniel Webster~

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mules. We were hoping for half an hour on the summit, but two of our party became so faint in the rarified air that we were bundled into the wagons again and started on our downward plunge so speedily that our sojourn on the peak remains in memory hardly more than one ecstatic gaze. It was then and there, as I was looking out over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies, that the opening lines of the hymn floated into my mind."



"America the Beautiful" has been called "an expression of patriotism at its finest." It conveys an attitude of appreciation and gratitude for the nation's extraordinary physical beauty and abundance, without triumphalism.

The words of the great song include the following:

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.

Six words stand out - "**God shed His grace on thee.**" So the questions become, Are we willing to speak up for our Christian heritage? Are we willing to stand up for the patriot's dream of our founding fathers? Are we still willing to ask God to shed His grace on this beautiful nation?

**Are you willing?**

by Ron Nelson

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"The Big Belgium"  
by Linda J. Nelson

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**Needs for Cindi's Hope  
in Kenya, Africa  
(A follow-up to  
last week's post)**

- 1. Funds for food**
- 2. Funds for rent**

**Expenses top out at \$5,000  
each month.**

**Contact Cindi if you can  
help through her website -**

[www.cindis-hope.org](http://www.cindis-hope.org)