



# Anchored in Hope

By Tammy Hulse, Vice President, HFA

As the mighty Mississippi River wanders through the city of Minneapolis, the water travels through a series of rapids and falls. To accommodate boat travelers, a lock system has been built to safely bring the boats to a lower water level. An observation deck has been built for those who would like to watch the lock fill with water, receive a boat, drain the water and then let it out the other side. One

day, those who came to observe this day to day routine, witnessed something out of the ordinary.

A gentleman in a fishing boat had missed the turn for the lock and got caught in a current that was swiftly taking him away towards the falls. The people watched, terrified, wondering what they could do to help. As the boat approached the falls, somehow it got lodged between two rocks. Time had been suspended, as the man in the fishing boat stopped with his boat tilting at a severe angle at the brink of the falls. Those who observed at the side quickly called for help and tried to find a way to assist the gentleman. The man in the boat was left with a view of rushing water all about him and a perfect awareness of the impending doom, if his boat were to become dislodged. Fears were raging, yet everyone could see a panic response resulting in sudden movements could easily dislodge the boat and send it over the falls.

I had the opportunity to watch the rescue effort on the news. A helicopter was brought in and a rescue worker secured himself to a harness and cable where he would be lowered from the helicopter to the boat, retrieve the gentleman and lift him to safety. To help the man in the boat remain calm and understand his role in this rescue effort, other workers were involved in talking to him over a loud speaker. They spoke of hope and reassurance as they redirected this man's thinking from the water rushing about him to the helicopter and rescue worker above. Directions were given with clarity and optimism. The man focused his attention on what he needed to do. The rescue workers showed their courage and skill as they carefully lifted this man to safety. Cheers of gratitude and relief were expressed as the rescue workers and victim were brought to shore safe and sound.

This rescue operation was successful because both the rescuers and the victim recognized what needed to be done for a safe recovery. The rescue team was well trained and they knew the harness and cable were completely trustworthy. Every effort was made to keep the victim's attention focused on the rescuers above and not on the destructive forces that were surrounding him. By shifting the focus away from the problem and towards the solution, all participants were anchored in the hope of success.

**What is hope?** The dictionary defines hope as a belief, even a confidence, that the future event is attainable. In my personal life, I have discovered that hope is a powerful energy force that keeps us moving forward in spite of the obstacles that may confront us. Hope is an anchor during the winds of adversity. Hope is the antidote for discouragement and despair. Hope is the fuel that propels us towards success.

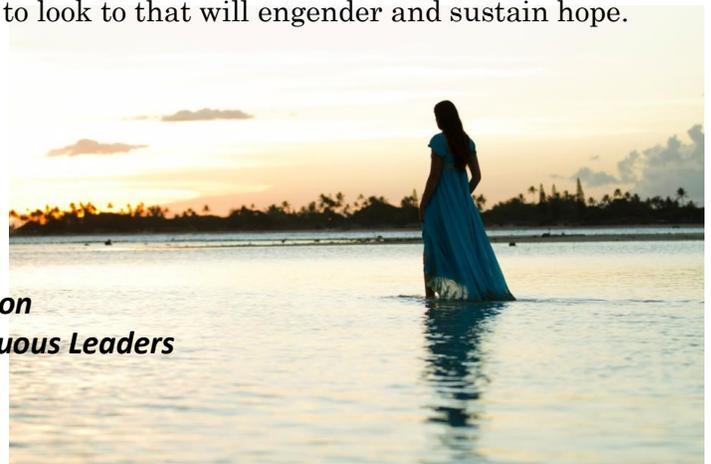
**How do we find hope?** The incident with the man in the boat suggests two vital steps. First, we must shift our focus from the problem to the solution. When the gentleman in the boat could only see the force of the water that was surrounding him, his fear intensified. But when he shifted his attention to the rescuers above, a feeling of hope gave him courage to hang on and do his part. Second, we must recognize that our solution is trustworthy. We need to have confidence that the plan will work. By indentifying and executing a viable solution, we pave the way for hope to pour into our souls.

Today, freedom loving Americans are bombarded with fears and concerns for the future of their liberties. As we watch the news and the actions of our elected officials, our attention is turned to the turbulent waters that may engulf us. If we are not careful, these challenges may distract us and divert our focus away from the true source of hope.

Wouldn't it be nice to have someone standing at the sidelines of our lives with a loud speaker to help us keep a proper focus? We certainly won't find that in the news. It seems that the objective of the media is to keep our attention focused on the problems. One of the tactics of those who seek to overthrow liberty is to bombard the public with more problems than they can possibly resolve effectively. In contrast to the daily rhetoric of the media, the objective of *Homemakers for America* is to speak of solutions and reassurance and to redirect the attention of mothers and fathers to the true source of hope in America. We understand that a people who are filled with fear and panic can easily be persuaded, but a people well anchored in hope cannot be overcome. If we could stand on the shore with a loud speaker we would shout out four specific things to look to that will engender and sustain hope.

*Look*

- 1. Look to God**
- 2. Look to Families**
- 3. Look to the Constitution**
- 4. Look for Moral & Virtuous Leaders**



**1. Look to God** as the source of our freedoms and blessings. The God of our Fathers was instrumental in establishing this free government, and we must look to Him to help us preserve it. In a day when men and governments are debating over who has authority to bestow “rights” upon the people, we must stand firm in the truth found in our Declaration of Independence that states, “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

*HomeMakers for America* provides several resources to keep our focus on the God of our Fathers, our Creator and source of all blessings. The Bible is one of these resources. Bible reading by our Founding Fathers was instrumental in the establishment of this free land. Bible reading today will be instrumental in preserving it. The Bible is filled with true stories about God's dealings with mankind and about mankind's dealings with each other. The *Story Bible* is available for purchase on our website. The presentation of the *Story Bible* from the King James Version, in story format and chronological order, lays a perfect foundation for personal and family study. Families will also enjoy reading the *Freedom Series*, a 12-volume set of history books, to discover how our Founding Fathers exercised faith in God and dedicated themselves to daily study of the Bible.

**2. Look to Families.** Families provide foundational building blocks of any society. During the past decade we have seen attacks on the family that have resulted in the breakdown of this foundational unit in our communities.

*HomeMakers for America* encourages fathers to fulfill their role with compassion and love. We encourage mothers to fulfill their role by creating a home environment that nurtures and inspires its members to achieve their full potential. We encourage parents to spend time with their children to build positive relationships, to teach faith in God, and to nurture a love of family, community, and country. We know there is no place like home to restore hope in America.



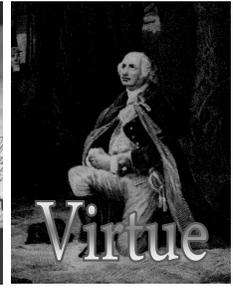
We provide many resources to help parents maintain a clear focus on creating quality family life in their own home. The *American Heritage Center* on the HomeMakers for America website has several resources to teach parents how they can bring the family together to learn about and remember America's great heritage, to preserve the American legacy in their own family values and traditions, and to secure the future by raising a new generation of patriots who are devoted to the cause of liberty.

**3. Look to the US Constitution as written by our Founding Fathers.** The Biblical prophet Hosea said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." We must not let that happen in America. The United States became a great nation by following correct principles. She will remain a great nation if we can hold fast to the truth. There are two things we can do.

We must study and learn for ourselves the principles in the Constitution from the viewpoint of our Founding Fathers. Just as the rescuers of the man in the boat looked to the integrity of the harness and cable system, we can look to the U.S. Constitution as equipment we can trust. The original document was inspired by God and is based on correct principles. During the past century the original Constitution has been changed with amendments creative judicial interpretation. These changes have weakened the unique and strong government provided by our Founders. If we the people understood this great document from the viewpoint of the Founders and insisted that our government officials be governed by it, many of the problems we see today would resolve themselves. We need to understand our equipment and use it wisely.

We must also teach our children about the spiritual roots of this great nation. Our American heritage is deeply rooted in correct principles. It has been bequeathed to us by our forebears and must be handed down to each succeeding generation with great care. *The Freedom Series* is a 12-volume set of books that is a compilation of many historical accounts and events that made this country great. They are written in a manner that even children will understand and cherish the message they contain. We invite you to visit the American Heritage Center on our website. Click on *America – Share the Story* to discover the many resources and stories available to families who seek to preserve the legacy of American freedom.

**4. Look for moral and virtuous leaders.** Edmund Burke once said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." America has an abundance of good men and women. They serve as leaders in their schools, in their communities, in their churches, and in their businesses. We need these good men and women to step up and guide their neighbors and communities in civic responsibility. Good leadership begins at a local level, within the homes of America. If virtuous parents insist on a high moral standard at a community level, that influence will have a powerful impact at a state and national level.



America is sailing through some rough waters and all indicators suggest that the battle between good and evil, between tyranny and liberty, will increase in its intensity. We believe the HomeMakers are in a pivotal position to determine the outcome of this battle. When HomeMakers choose to anchor themselves to the principles that engender hope, their families will follow suit and be a mighty force in the battle for liberty. There is no place like Home to restore Hope in America.

As we listen to news, filled with stories of fear and discouragement, we must make a conscious effort to shift our focus and remember to

- Look to God
- Look to Family
- Look to the Constitution
- Look to Moral and Virtuous Leaders

By focusing on these four areas, fear will transform to faith, apathy will turn into resolve, and despair will be converted into hope. Please join us at *HomeMakers for America* and become part of the solution as we work together to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.



We do not need more material development,  
we need more spiritual development.  
We do not need more intellectual power,  
we need more moral power.  
We do not need more knowledge,  
we need more character.  
We do not need more government,  
we need more culture.  
We do not need more law,  
we need more religion.  
We do not need more of the things that are seen,  
we need more of the things that are unseen.  
It is on that side of life that it is desirable to put  
the emphasis at this present time.  
If that side is Strengthened,  
the other side will take care of itself.

It is that side  
which is the foundation of all else.  
If the foundation be firm, the  
superstructure will stand.

--Calvin Coolidge

