

## The Light of Freedom

“And the wall came-a-tumblin’ down.” The time? November 1989. The place? Berlin Germany. “The Wall” had divided that great city for almost 30 years. Finally, people in East Berlin were free to visit their families and friends, to find out if they were still living, to talk to them without fear, and after almost three decades, they could assemble together and worship God as they saw fit.

The stories of blessings in the lives of Berliners are as numerous as the people who lived there. Those who had suffered under communism in East Berlin were especially blessed. After decades of tyranny and persecution they were **FREE**. They could *choose* where to live and work, who to date, where to be educated, where to play and shop, and where to raise a family. Free to walk in the park, visit family for Easter, go to a soccer match, what to watch on TV, even what to wear. These things and so many more that we expect to be *given* to us were suddenly new and priceless to them.

One woman stood open-mouthed at a shopping center, gazing in awe at the abundance denied her by “the wall.” She exclaimed - “you have so much!” - She then became very quiet and thoughtful and said; - “I think perhaps you have too much.” - She had lived under communist rule for more than half her life. She learned to survive with nothing more than bare essentials. It alarmed and saddened her to see people with enough worldly goods that they could waste things. Better food and household items were being discarded at the city dump than she used in her own home. That home for almost 30 years had been on the “other side” of the Berlin Wall, *only five blocks away!*

This year (1999) is also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the standoff at Tieneman Square in China. The image for freedom to remember is of one student standing firm in front of an army tank sent to put down demonstrations for freedom. That unarmed young man literally put his life on the line for free speech and peaceful assembly! His love for the light of freedom was there for the whole world to see. Freedom loving people everywhere should prepare to do no less.

Opposition to our freedoms may not come in the form of a 100 ton army tank. They may be as subtle as: Dishonesty, Lack of compassion, Improper language, Immodest dress, Drugs, Pornography, or just plain Complacency. Don’t be deceived, they are just as real and life threatening to us as that army tank was to him, and take just as much courage to stand firm against. “Be prepared” to do it.

Operation On Target is *all* about reflected light - The light that comes from above! God *gives* us the light of freedom so we may choose for ourselves. As we choose to - “do our duties to God and our country” - and - “to keep ourselves physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight” - we also choose to reflect that God given light as surely as if it were from mountaintops with our mirrors. Continue to cherish the God-given light of freedom. Always stand ready to reflect and defend it.

Thank you; ALL of you for participating in Operation On Target 1999. Hopefully it was an ‘awesome’ experience for all. Perhaps to begin the new century we can complete the “On Target” signal from Alaska to Mexico - and - from “Sea to shining Sea”. I look forward to the day these goals become reality. Let’s do it!!

God bless you all,

Area 2 Operation On Target