

Insider's Outlook

Living as citizens of Heaven while on Earth

by **Kylie Burks**,
Copy Editor

Dual citizen-ship is the state of being a citizen of multiple countries at the same time. For instance, a person born outside of the United States to a U.S. citizen is a citizen of both the U.S. and the country they were born in.

In a spiritual sense, Christians have dual citizenship as well. On earth, we are citizens of countries; we live, work and vote within the borders of a governed body. In Christ, we are citizens of Heaven; despite our physical presence in the world, we do not truly belong here.

This knowledge is comforting, though hard to balance with the reality of our lives. This is especially true in politics. As the 47th president of the U.S. begins his second term, some believe we are entering the greatest four years of American history. Others are convinced that the country is heading towards utter destruction. Many fall somewhere in the middle. Where should



Kylie Burks

Christians stand?

Conflict within the government and culture is not unprecedented. Throughout American history, Christians have grappled with how to face transitions of power, national and world conflicts and social justice issues.

“Each generation has its challenges. You don’t want to be dismissive, because those are the real concerns, but it can help to have perspective,” behavioral and social sciences professor Stephen Houseknecht said. “We live in such a tyranny of the present, like the immediacy of the moment, and whatever is happening right now is the worst or best [thing] that has ever happened, when maybe we should put our phones down for a minute and keep things in perspective.”

While it is important to remember that the times we live in are not necessarily better or worse than the past, Christians have a duty with each generation to make the country we live in better than it was before us. This includes participating in the voting process and paying attention to national and

world issues, but it can also be as simple as loving your country and your community.

“I think there is an element of ‘love your neighbor’ that includes loving the place where you live. Even small-scale things that are an extension of loving your neighbor [and] trying to make the world a better place for those people in your sphere, and that includes being a good citizen,” Houseknecht said.

The Biblical foundation for caring for the place you live is strong. Houseknecht references the stories of the sojourner Abraham, Moses in the desert, the Hebrews in exile in Babylon and Christians living under Caesar in Rome; all four of these accounts describe people who took an interest in the world they lived in, despite knowing that it was never intended to be their forever home.

It is here that a boundary must be drawn. Yes, it is our duty as Christians to love and steward our country, community and home. However, we cannot become so engrossed in the rises and falls of society that our eyes stray from the

foundation of our faith: Jesus and His promise that we, like Abraham, are only sojourners in this world for a short while.

“There is a strong sense [in the Bible] of care for the land where you’re at, care for the people where you’re at, but don’t get so attached to this world that you forget that this is not our ultimate destination,” Houseknecht said.

God is constant, never moving and never changing. Therefore, we can rest in the fact that one day Christians will take up residence in Heaven with Him, where our eternal citizenship lies and where we truly belong.

Whether the inauguration brings elation or anxiety into your world, do not let your expectations of what is to come distract you from what is true; one day, we will shake the dust of this world off our feet and we will walk in perfection with Him. Until then, we should strive to be good stewards as both citizens of the United States and of Heaven, and try to bring as many people home to Heaven with us as possible.

THE

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The Lance is committed to fair, accurate and objective journalism.

Our Voice

Our response to continual campus changes

Our Voice is an editorial that gives The Lance an opportunity to speak on relevant and timely issues that affect all our lives. It is an opinion piece. Our Voice reflects the thoughts of The Lance Staff, not Evangel University.

Evangel’s campus is changing rapidly. At the beginning of the school year, students, staff, faculty, alumni and other members of the Evangel community celebrated the dedication of AGFinancial Arena, a \$24 million athletic facility that replaced the venerable Ashcroft center. During the next year, Evangel plans to build a new residence hall for the first time in more than 40 years. Kendrick Library, the oldest building on campus, will be demolished and construction will start on a new facility to replace it in the future.

A student from the earlier years of Evangel College would struggle to recognize the campus our community enjoys today. It is difficult to believe that all aspects of student life, from classes to meals, chapel and extracurriculars once took place in a series of temporary barrack buildings.

The historic campus nurtured a close-knit family of Christ followers, many of whom

remain involved in Evangel’s community today by praying for our university and contributing gifts.

The Lance is thrilled to experience and report on all of the ongoing updates to our campus.

The rapid evolution of our campus reflects the steady growth in the student body, as Evangel continues to defy the national drop in average college enrollment. Administration’s plans for a new dorm and facility to replace the library will help to enhance the student experience and meet our growing community’s needs.

These new facilities would not be possible without the generous donations of Evangel’s friends and supporters and the leadership of university president Mike Rakes, vice president for advancement Destiny Duron Deas and other members of the president’s cabinet.

The Lance is ultimately grateful to the Lord for the many monetary gifts Evangel has received over the past several years. We believe that God is doing powerful work through the university’s leadership and broader community; all our campus improvements are a blessing from Him.

Would you like to write a Letter to the Editor?

Letter to the Editor policy: Letter to the editor are open to all and are printed on a first-received basis. The Lance reserves the right to edit for space, libel and clarity.

Letters are limited to 250 words and must be typed, include the author’s full name, contact information and classification or position. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

All letters must be received by 6 p.m. on Tuesdays at evangellance@gmail.com. Only three submissions from the same author will be published in the same semester.