

America the Beautiful

by Kay Mauser

"America, America, God shed His grace on thee, and crowned thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."

The song has been running through my mind for days, along with the question: what is wrong with my government?

It would be nice if we could do no wrong, but that is not reality. The freedom of press helps us to see our mistakes. If we could only learn from them.

To keep things in perspective we have only to look beyond our boarder to see that even with faults we have a good system of government.

I have just finished reading *Life and Death in Shanghai* by Nien Cheng. She tells about the repressive government in China. In 1966 she was taken prisoner and held for 6-1/2 years in solitary confinement. She would admit to no wrong, and at last released. In 1980 she finally was able to leave China.

In her epilogue she writes, "In Washington I am free to do whatever I like with each day. I can travel anywhere without having to ask for permission. Goods and services in abundance are available to me..."

"When I am with others, I can speak without having to consider whether my remarks on any subject are ideologically correct or that someone might misinterpret what I have said..."

This is freedom is what has brought so many immigrants to our country. America the beautiful, with all your faults I love you still.