

Children's sermon: July 5, 2009
"This land is my land ... and yours, too"

My friends ... was that an amazing moment? ... presenting the flag to a gentleman, whose dad served our country in World War II. Remember this day and moment ... it's all part of why we have the freedoms we enjoy today.

Anyway ---- the word is out!@!! ... to all the "balls" in the world ... There is a place where FREEDOM REIGNS. You will recognize it ----- there is a cross with a medal hanging around it ... that symbol lets you know: YOU HAVE FOUND THE LAND OF FREEDOM.

The basketballs couldn't wait to get there.
They dribbled and they dribbled ----- finally ... they see the cross ... they see the medal.
And ... they claim this land as their own: THIS LAND IS MY LAND!!

Not long after the basketballs get there ... well, the soccer balls arrive.
Like soccer balls always say: "It's my goal to find a place like this."
They see the basketballs ... and soccer balls do what they do best ----- THEY KICK THE BASKEBALLS OUT.

And what do they say???? ---- THIS LAND IS MY LAND.

Well, the basketballs do what they do best ---- THEY BOUNCE BACK ... and start kicking the soccer balls out. This is NUTS!@!@ @

Eventually ... they all hear a voice ... God's voice? ... a musicians voice?

LISTEN to the song!!

Do you recognize it? ... who sings it?????

"This land is your land ... this land is my land ... from California ... to the New York island ... from the redwood forest"

Kids ---- this is when MUSIC WAS MUSIC!! ----- Peter, Paul, and Mary!!

But it's true this is not MY LAND ... it's your land ... and my land.

It's ours together.

And this is what makes America special ----- it's for all of us.

All kinds of people ---- all shapes and sizes.

All colors and religions.

Yup ---- we're in this together ... it's the way God wants us to live.

Hey ... a gift for you ... two gifts!!

A medal.

And ----- a basketball or soccer ball.

Enjoy them ... "we're all in this together."