A Proclamation Of Beliefs

Foreword: This statement is written for the endorsement of the individual, on whom the world must ultimately depend for its answers. It is a re-affirmation of widely-held beliefs which should be articulated.

I. WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE WORLD:

The world today urgently needs a reconstruction of the spirit. As problems accumulate, the hope of any answer diminishes. Every nation is involved.

If the world is to find sanity and safety it must come nation by nation. Therefore each nation must assume its own share of responsibility.

The hour has come when every man is called to define his beliefs openly and to join others with strong convictions in seeking solutions.

A drastic change of heart in this nation will make a profound impact on the world. This change should come first in the individual, then in the institution, and finally in every area of national life.

II. WE BELIEVE ABOUT OUR NATION:

Our Homes: The state of the nation demands unity in the home. Unity comes when parents agree on what is right and practice it. Their example supports their authority for discipline in the home.

Our Schools: For the sake of family and country, the student, teachers and parents should unite in a single aim: that the student fulfill his greatest promise.

Our Business and Labor: Business and Labor provide for the material needs of all people everywhere.

Together they can supply the drive for moral resurgence in our country. They understand that moral recovery and economic recovery share equally in importance.

Our Government: The character of our leadership is determined by the character of our people. People demanding much of themselves will demand much of their leaders. People in all responsible positions and leaders at all levels should bring a courageous new initiative to government.

Our Laws: Respect for the law must be taught, instilled and emphasized in every undertaking. Those who break the law should be confronted by an indignant society demanding justice.

III. WE BELIEVE ABOUT OUR NATION AND THE WORLD:

The fullest contribution to a secure world can be made by people who are free: free from fear, free from hate, free from greed. Our country must therefore become a nation convinced of the necessity of freedom for every man in every land.

Such freedom can be established in the world only through its own compelling force as the superior idea. So the life of the nation, its thoughts and its actions should be measured by one indestructible standard: Freedom.

IV. WE BELIEVE ABOUT OURSELVES:

Whatever the future holds, we are confident, and committed to placing "service above self". We will openly assert ourselves in searching for answers. Standing firm as free individuals and united with those of similar beliefs, we will make our voices heard.

We accept the above beliefs for our own lives and call upon people everywhere to join us in this Proclamation. Our aim is to show, through wide-spread endorsement, that these beliefs are held by millions, and thereby to supply a unifying force in today's divided world.

This Proclamation was prepared by the Victoria Rotary Club with the assistance of the Northside Rotary Club, both in Victoria, Texas. These clubs give their full consent for the use of this proclamation by any other person or organization. They would, however, ask that it be used in its complete text if reproduced.