

What does freedom of religion mean to me?

By Luke Miller

What does freedom of religion mean to me? It means I can worship and attend my church without fear of government interference. It means being able to freely share my beliefs about God without worry of arrest or imprisonment. This is especially important because I am one of Jehovah's Witnesses and Jehovah's Witnesses enjoy sharing their beliefs with others. Jehovah's Witnesses are known for going door to door to preach and to teach, a right guaranteed to them by the Supreme Court of the United States. I appreciate this right because it allows me to talk to people at their homes about the Bible.

Unfortunately, in some countries Jehovah's Witnesses are under governmental ban. In fact, some are fined, ridiculed, imprisoned, or persecuted for practicing or talking about their beliefs. Some face these difficult challenges every day. It is hard to imagine that for some people it is illegal to practice their religion in the country in which they were born and raised. For many people, like myself, it would be impossible to stop expressing my faith even if there was pressure from others to do so. The fact that the United States allows me to freely express my beliefs is greatly appreciated.

Freedom of religion should also mean that one would have the freedom to investigate and practice different religious beliefs. In America this happens often, and, as a result, there are many different churches found here, all with the same rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

In conclusion, freedom of religion is a very important right for most people and a right that should be guaranteed to all people earth wide regardless of race or nationality. In fact, freedom of religion is just as important as other rights, including freedom of speech. For many people, myself included, religion and faith are essential to living meaningful and fulfilling lives and no one should be allowed to take that right away.