



The
Vision
of
Southside
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Church

Your Place
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The Pastor's Pen:

This past weekend I was watching the Sunday afternoon television news when I heard a very interesting interview taking place between George Shultz, the Secretary of State during the Reagan administration, and a Fox television interviewer.

Apparently, Secretary George Shultz kept a large globe in his office. When newly appointed ambassadors or ambassadors returning from their posts had their first visit with him, Shultz would test them as they were leaving his office. He would ask them if they would mind going over to his globe and prove that they could identify their country. They would all go over to his huge globe, spin it, and put their finger on the country to which they had been sent.

When Shultz's old friend and former Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield, was appointed ambassador to Japan, even he was put to the now-famous Shultz test. This time, however, Ambassador Mansfield spun the globe and put his finger proudly and confidently on the United States. And then looking at his good friend George Shultz with a proud smile on his face he said firmly, "That's my country."

This past Sunday, Secretary Shultz related this story, with a hint of humor, to the young Fox interviewer who was talking with him. Shultz went on to say that after his Mansfield experience, he told that story to every other ambassador heading out for his or her tour of duty. He would add a reminder that no matter what country they were in, their country would always be the United States of America. He further urged them to represent us with excellence and reminded them that they were privileged to be representing the best country in all of the world.

As I listened to these remarks by our former Secretary of State, I could not help but compare this to our call as Christians. The Bible tells us, that although we live "in" this world, we must be careful not to become part "of" this world. Our true home and destination as Christians is heaven, and we have the greatest privilege of any person alive --- to represent Christ on earth. With that in mind, let us determine to live up to our high calling of a citizen of heaven.

God bless.

Your pastor, *Allan Bosson*