

THE FORWARD EDGE OF FREEDOM

January 18, 2014



GIVE US OUR ELEVEN DAYS!! January has arrived, and with it a new year filled with many opportunities. Reflection usually accompanies this time of the year, as we remember the blessings and regrets of life's events and past actions. We begin this year, as we do every year, on the

first of January--with the complete date including in "the year of our Lord" (Anno Domini) two thousand fourteen. But, have we always used the same calendar to mark the dates? What is the name of the calendar we use now? What calendar(s) did people use before?

The answer is, no, others calendars were used in the past. The calendar used throughout most of the world today is known as the Gregorian calendar. The calendar was a reform in 1582 to the Julian calendar. It was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII (after whom the calendar was named) by papal bull *Inter gravissimas* dated 24 February 1582. The motivation for the adjustment was to bring the date for the celebration of Easter to the time of the year in which the First Council of Nicaea had agreed upon in 325.

The calendar before the Julian calendar, established by Julius Caesar, was simply referred to as the Roman calendar. The Roman calendar was a modified version of one of the Greek or Hellenic calendars. To bring us to the part that affects our life today, we have to look at the British Empire. Britain and the British Empire (including the eastern part of what is now the United States) adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, by which time it was necessary to correct by 11 days. Wednesday, 2 September 1752, was followed by Thursday, 14 September 1752. Claims that [rioters demanded "Give us our eleven days."](#) grew out of a misinterpretation of the painting *Humours of an Election* by William Hogarth.

The truth is, no days were actually lost, but it was an adjustment from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. Yet, it does cause one to think about how we spend the time we are all given. January 2014 is here and with it an opportunity to determine how we will use the time God has given us. Galatians 6:10 says, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." So, what will you do in 2014 to make a difference in the life of others? Choose to live your life, not consumed with the "it's all about me" attitude, but with one that strives to "do good unto all men." And, by God's grace, when we reach 2015, we can do so without saying in regretful frustration, "Give Us Our Eleven Days!"

The year has started off busy, but sadly not in a good way. We have already had suicide threats, and I had the heavy responsibility of being part of a CACO (Casualty Assistance Call Officer) informing the family of one of the young Navy men that was killed in the Virginia Beach helicopter tragedy. On a more upbeat note, by the end of the month we will have our first CAG of the year; and different ones will be coming in back to back from now until May. Please pray for opportunities to meet the needs for each group.

Your Friend in the Fight for Truth,
LCDR Richard H. Wiese, CHC, USN, FMF

Ps. 149:6 "LET THE HIGH PRAISES OF GOD BE IN THEIR MOUTH, AND A TWO-EDGED SWORD IN THEIR HAND."

