

# A Country Close to Heaven

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## Introduction

Everyone has different experiences when they come to the U.S. In my experience, this country has given me freedom, equality, and respect.

## Freedom

I am a Buddhist. When the U.S. president is sworn in, he puts his hand on the Christian Bible. But I am free to join any religious organization I want.

Furthermore, my kids have more free time to play because there is less homework. In this country, your kids can play almost any sport.

**Warm reminder:** Try going to the YMCA to find out what sports they have. Do not worry about your English. You will find patient and friendly staff who will help your child find an activity!

## Equality

Wow, it is amazing that you can hear someone criticizing the president in public! You can write to a senator and get a response! You can comment freely on politics! Whether you are a dignitary or just plain folk, you are protected by the First Amendment. This idea that everyone has freedom of speech made me start to like this country.

The Declaration of Independence says, "All men are created equal." I know that racism still exists, but this country is still growing.

**Warm reminder:** Use your voice. Speak up for what you believe. Vote if you can. This country invites your participation.



