

We're Taxed Enough Already! – A Report on the TEA Protest

By Jenna Holliday

April 15th, 2009 was a day of winds—both literally and symbolically. The literal winds that swept through the central valley of California on Wednesday afternoon seemed indicative of the passion that swept through the crowd of over four hundred people as I stood in the 10th Street Plaza in downtown Modesto. April 15th was tax day. It was also protest day. Across the country, in hundreds of cities spanning all 50 states, thousands of concerned Americans gathered to protest as part of the Tax Day TEA (“Taxed Enough Already”) Party. This protest was not just about taxes and the mind-boggling economic decisions that are being made by our nation’s leadership; it was also a chance for ordinary Americans to take a stand against the direction their nation is headed, express their concerns about their children and grandchildren’s futures, and exhort their fellow citizens to action.

Although IPS would not necessarily condone or support everything that was said at these TEA parties across the nation, it was still an obvious chance for us to put our message in the hands of the public. Therefore, we were pleased that IPS president Mike Winther had the opportunity to address the crowd at the Modesto protest. Mr. Winther received a warm response as he spoke to an enthusiastic audience about the proper role of government and the necessity of becoming educated (and educators!) as United States citizens.

It was, in many ways, an inspiring thing to see so many people gathered together to demonstrate their concern for liberty, freedom, and the principles that made our nation great. But as I looked out across the cheering crowd, I couldn’t help but wonder how many of these people were in for the long haul. I wondered how many of them will be willing to keep standing for liberty, even when all their efforts seem to be in vain and it seems impossible that we will ever change the direction of our nation. How many of them would keep standing? How many of us will keep standing?

I was reminded that even as we go to protests, or participate in the Walk for Life, or write letters to our senators, we have to be willing to be in this for the long haul. Redirecting the course of America back to the path that made her a great nation will take time. It will not happen overnight. It will take years of our toil and blood and tears, as the saying goes. But in that long haul, even when the outcome looks bleak, let’s never give up! “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9)

To any of my readers who may have gone to a TEA party protest—I urge you to continue to do more. As Mike Winther urged his audience at the Modesto protest, it is not enough to simply go to a protest and allow yourself to feel better. Protests of any kind, large or small, will do no good if they are not followed up with action and education. By all means, attend peaceful protests. Be active. But also be willing to educate and be educated. Our main philosophy at IPS is that of changing hearts and minds in order to change America. We hope and pray that this will become your philosophy as well! 