

# COGA NEWS



## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Independence Day
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About



# INDEPENDENCE DAY

*Bishop Cecil Reid*

The word “Independence” simply means freedom from outside control or support. The Declaration of Independence is a formal statement asserting freedom from tyranny and oppression: a proclamation by which a country, group, or people asserts firmly and publicly that it had become independent of a governing power.

Back in the 18th century, the United States was not considered the United States. In fact, what we now call states were actually called colonies. The United States was actually an extension of England. People traveled from England aboard ships to settle in America, but eventually, differences in life, thoughts, and interests began to develop which caused a rift between Britain and America.

In 1763, Britain decided that they needed to take more control over the colonies, deciding that they needed to return revenue to the mother country and use it to pay for their defense, which was being provided by Britain. But the colonies did not agree with these new rules at all. They felt that since they were not represented in Parliament, they shouldn't need to pay any taxes to the mother country, hence the saying “no taxation without representation.”

When Britain continued to tax, the thirteen colonies formed the First Continental Congress to persuade the British government to recognize their rights. Our country's Founding Fathers declared independence from Great Britain and determined there was no need to follow the orders of Britain's king any longer. This was an extremely dangerous move, because at the time, Britain had one of the world's strongest armies, and to go against the king was a crime punishable by death.

Considering the king's laws unfair and oppressive, our founders decided it was worth the risk of war to win the freedom to govern themselves. War was declared, and in 1783, the new United States won that war, which we now call the Revolutionary War. But not after the British attacked the United States capitol on two separate occasions in the early 1800s and burned it. But after each occasion, the capitol was rebuilt.



**Note: the United Kingdom (Britain) has been the only foreign country that has successfully invaded the USA and taken over its capital.**

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After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence. It was a statement that explained this decision and was prepared by a committee of five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author.

Finally approved on July 4th, the Declaration of Independence has since become our nation's most cherished symbol of liberty, and the Fourth of July or Independence Day is our country's birthday.



Since “Independence” and freedom from tyranny and oppression is the foundation of the drama of redemption offered to us by Jesus Christ, let’s draw some insights from this day of celebration.

1. **“Independence” and freedom are the reverse side of tyranny and oppression.** Our tolerance of sin, tyranny, and oppression seems to reach record levels daily. One must come to the place when enough is enough. It was not until the new Colony reached its limit of British oppression that they embraced a vision for their future. The vision was so deep that it gave birth to a New Nation! Where there is no vision, the people perish (Prov. 29:18).

2. **Freedom demands a fight.** Don’t expect Satan to volunteer to release us from his oppression without a battle, for he is programmed to still, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). When our country's Founding Fathers declared independence from Great Britain and defied the king's orders, they understood the high price to be paid.

Cheap freedom is only a shade better than absolute bondage. Our founders decided it was worth the risk of war for freedom.

Cheap Freedom is only a shade better than absolute bondage!

3. **Don’t serve any system that does not give you representation.** The battle cry of the colonies was “no taxation without representation!” The world of darkness under Satan never gives you a voice in its courts to decide in your favor, and many of us could not defend ourselves if given the chance. But to the contrary, daily in the courts of heaven, there is one - Jesus Christ / Holy Spirit - our Advocate, making intercession for us according to the will of God when we are weak and don’t know how or what to pray for (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:26).
4. **It doesn’t take an army to bring about change.** One man or woman with courage and vision can initiate spectacular change. The Declaration of Independence was prepared by a committee of five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Their vision rallied thirteen colonies into giving birth to a new nation - the United States! A party of one with love and vision brought salvation to a dying world – Jesus Christ (John 3:16)!
5. **Write your Declaration of Independence before you are free.** After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, this

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statement had been prepared by the committee of five. But mind you at the time of its writing they were not free but heavily entrenched in the Revolutionary War.

They paved their way with pen and ink and wrote in faith the substance of their hope (Heb. 11:1). The Declaration of Independence has since become our nation's most cherished symbol of liberty.

#### 6. Set an annual time to Celebrate your liberty.

Independence Day is often referred to as "July 4th", or "4th Of July". Those phrases are not substitute names, but they reference the date the holiday is celebrated. In current times,

Independence Day is commonly celebrated with the lighting of fireworks or electronic light shows, music, many outdoor activities (picnics and games), the display of the "American" flag (USA flag), and the display of the USA flag colors red, white, and blue. Although earlier celebrations of Independence Day were done with a display of the color green, the symbol of growth. Our Founding Fathers put spiritual emphasis on that day of giving thanks to God.

When was it that God set you free? Delivered your family, brought you to success, or healed your body? Then mark your calendar, call in others, and celebrate it big – Do a Psalm 150!

There are so many spiritual nuggets that can be drawn from the Declaration of Independence and our Nation's history. So, pause for a moment, perhaps, while watching the fireworks, or eating a hotdog, and *think about it!* - Amen ★



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JULY

- 18th - 27th > COGA (Zoom Meeting) Church Growth Conference
- 31st > Mission Auxiliary Day

### AUGUST

- 25th > CBS Staff Training



Find more information on [www.cogainc.org](http://www.cogainc.org)



### A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- "A real patriot is the fellow who gets a parking ticket and rejoices that the system works."
- "July 4th, 1776 - British: Just saying you're independent doesn't make it true. Thomas Jefferson: I didn't say it. I declared it."
- "242 years ago. Thomas Jefferson wrote the ultimate break up letter. "It's not you, it's U.S."