

Dear Friends,

"If the Son therefore shall make you free,  
you shall be free indeed indeed."

- John 8:36

We celebrate the birth of our nation this week as we remember the signing of the Declaration of Independence that was signed on July 4th, 1776 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 56 men from 15 states laid down their lives, their fortunes, their homes, their honor and the welfare of their own families for a cause - the grand cause of Freedom from tyranny.

Thus began the long struggle with King George III of England and the mightiest army and navy in the world. A struggle ensued to Free America from the clutches of a greedy King and taskmaster that exacted a heavy toll upon the citizens of the colonies of the new world.

The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence contains some of the most stirring words ever penned by man:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,  
That they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights,  
That among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness . . ."

At that moment, a nation was born that guaranteed, under its Constitution

and Bill of Rights, that all men would be FREE from oppression of other men.

The Dream of Freedom in 1776, and the Dream of Equality for all men come from the same source. That source is GOD! Only God can give real freedom.

Jesus Christ is the source of real freedom. Jesus wants you to feel free from sin and the bondage of oppression. Jesus wants you to enjoy life - He has even given us all of eternity to enjoy that life. Jesus wants you to be happy - happy in the knowledge of Him and in having a real purpose for living.

Even as we celebrate the birthday of our nation, we celebrate the freedom that is ours in Christ Jesus.

In His Peace,

*Chaplain Sandy*

Chaplain Sandy Anenson