

“Changing One Life at a Time”

HIGH DESERT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

REUBEN’S RAMBLINGS

July 2020,
Issue 7

When I was growing up, I always looked forward to the Fourth of July. It was a great time of celebration with picnics, hotdogs, ice cream churns, fireworks, and usually a baseball game. Many of these same traditions have continued; however, with all the events of the past few months, I wonder how it will be celebrated this year.

Several years ago, Billy Graham sent out a message entitled “My Heart Aches for America.” In it, he recalled what his departed wife Ruth had said after reading a draft of a book he was writing. After she finished the section describing the decline of our nation’s moral standard and worshipping of false gods such as technology and materialism, she startled Billy by saying: “If God does not punish America, He’s going to have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”

Billy went on to point out several incidents where the right of Christians to use the name of Jesus in prayer was restricted. At one event, the only person allowed to pray was someone who addressed “the being in the room!” Similar scenarios are now commonplace in America. Our society strives to avoid any possibility of

offending anyone – except God. Yet the farther we get away from God, the more this world spirals out of control.

I believe the answer to our nation’s problems is not in advancing certain political agenda or the dominance of one particular political party. Our root problems are spiritual and only a revival can reverse the current downward trend of our country. Listen to one of the best Biblical references to revival from 2 Chronicles 7:14 – “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin **and heal their land.**”

In this passage God makes two critical points. First in telling us to “seek His face,” God is basically telling us to stop looking for help and solutions in everything in life except Him. As a nation, we sometimes become obsessed with the idea that one person, one political party or one piece of legislation will solve all our problems. For example, we need more money for schools, so we legalize and promote gambling, increasing the rolls of poverty every day. Also, we don’t

want to offend anyone, especially the atheist, so we ban prayer in school. We must make God, and Him alone, the primary focus of our lives and this country.

Secondly, we as individuals and a nation need to get on our knees more often in prayer. It appears that we as a country, as a church and as individuals have forgotten how to pray and the power of prayer. Someone once said that America was better off when folks opened meals with a prayer instead of a can opener. Think about the amount of time we spend each day texting, on Facebook and Twitter compared to the time we spend alone with God in prayer. In James 5:16, we are assured that the prayers of the righteous are both powerful and effective. Most of us can cite examples where prayers have changed the course of our lives and the lives of others. What America needs right now more than anything else is more bended knees and earnest prayers.

So, let’s pray for our country and its leaders each and every day. May they and we seek God’s face and turn back to Him as a nation. May we again be one nation under God. Every prayer counts just as every vote counts. May God continue to bless America; and may America continue to bless God. God Bless.

Reuben

BACK IN BUSINESS



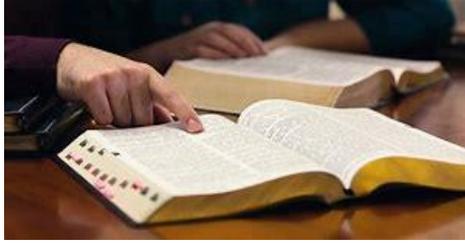
BIBLE STUDY BEGINS AGAIN

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM at the Church – Tony Smith, teaching

Tuesday Afternoon at 1:30 PM at the Church – Judy Ballard, teaching

**DON'T FORGET TO PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY
ON PRAYER DAY JULY 4TH**

OBSCURE NAMES IN THE BIBLE



Obscure person for August: Nathan of the Old Testament

Answer next month.

Judy Ballard

ANSWER FOR JULY: Who was Nebuchadnezzar? What was his connection to a significant dream?

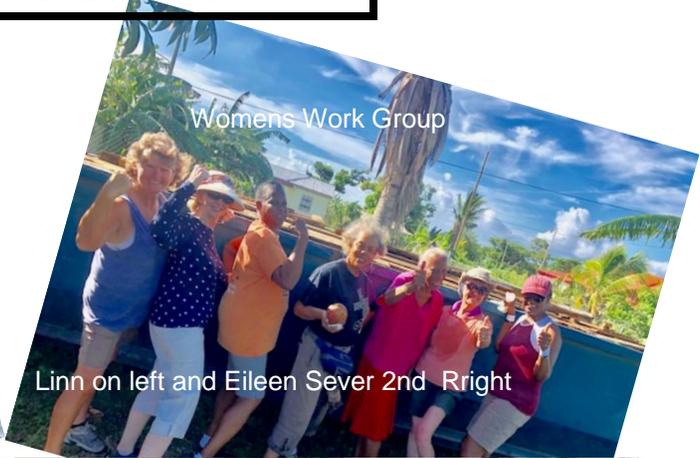
Nebuchadnezzar II was a powerful king of Babylonia from c. 605 BC to c. 562 BC. He was known for troubling dreams and his cadre of seers, magicians, enchanters, and other sorcerers were unable to interpret the dreams to his satisfaction. They were summarily threatened with horrible death, but Daniel announced instead that he could interpret the dream. Long story short (see Daniel, chap 2) Daniel made a deal to save himself along with all the wise men by interpreting the dream. In essence he described a glorious image of precious metals representing ultimate triumph over Babylon's enemies. This won Daniel and his companions great favor, but the time came when Daniel and his companions refused to bow down and worship that graven image. Consequently, the companions (Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego) were ordered to be burned in a fiery furnace. But guess what? You'll have to read Daniel chapter 3 to find out.

Interesting tidbit: Saddam Hussein claims to be a reincarnation of the ancient king.

ST CROIX WRAP UP



Linnette & Ms. Scholastica



Womens Work Group

Linn on left and Eileen Sever 2nd Right



Mold Ladies in Their Gear



Mold Ladies Out of Gear



Roof Before Repair



Finished Roof



Celebrating Roof

1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

As I sat down to write this article, Pastor Reuben's sermon last Sunday "The Church of the lighted lamps" kept coming to mind. In fact, I went online and re-read his sermon. There was so much to take from his words including, "Each one of us has a role and purpose in the Church, and God wants us to find where we fit in and where our gifts can be used to build His kingdom" are just a few.

When God called me to go to St. Croix, He called me to Trust that He would equip me and surround me with the right people to compensate for my lack of construction experience/knowledge and to teach me how to be effective as His servant in St. Croix. He provided that and HDUMC's ongoing prayers and financial generosity helped to purchase much needed large expensive tools (hammer drills/chisels) as well as daily use tools of hammers, speed squares, levels, crow bars, cat's paws, tape measures (yes they do rust in tropical areas), items needed by the home owners, etc. Thank you, we couldn't have successfully completed our work without YOU! (Continued on Next Page)

HDMC AT WORK IN ST CROIX



Eileen Sever (center)



Linnette Carlson



Randy Sever at work



UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION
Christian Love in Action!

(Continued)

Many of you have heard Randy, Eileen and I tell of some of our experiences of the time we spent in St. Croix. I honestly think we could talk for an entire day and not cover everything that we saw, felt, experienced and were blessed by and not even talk about the specific projects we worked on or about the many new skills we learned! But rather, how we saw how God used us and others, who may not have thought that they were adequately equipped for this type of mission but were willing to step out in Faith and Trust. To realize that we, as God's servants, **we not just rebuilding HOMES, but were rebuilding HOPE, LIVES, SECURITY,** and helping to restore some sense of normalcy 2 -2 ½ years after the disaster. What astonished all of us, was the Crucian people's PERSERVERANCE, RESILIENCY, PATIENCE and FAITH! We usually found that the homeowners' experiences and faith ministered to us! In today's article, I believe pictures are truly worth a thousand words.

I truly believe that God has given each one of us gifts, including some that we are not aware of or are hesitant to explore. Sometimes we think we have to do something big, when all he is calling us to do is actually quite small. What is God calling you to do?

God Bless each of you, *Linn*

MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE SERIES – SHARED BY JUDY SAMPSON

My favorite Bible verse: Isaiah 41:10

When asked to share my favorite Bible verse my initial reaction was **NO!** but at the same time something deep down inside me (Holy Spirit?) quietly said "I will help you." Hence, I chose Isaiah 41:10. God has helped me through many stressful situations all my life. I am confident He will continually uphold me with his "righteous right hand."

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. "

Judy Sampson

WOMEN WITH PURPOSE



Some of you may remember when Rev. Joanne Landry spoke to our WWP group a few years ago. She is a tireless champion for Love in Action at her Interfaith Bible Center located in southeast Albuquerque. The people in this section of New Mexico's largest city are indeed international, coming from all points of the compass. They are mostly poor and homeless, and Rev. Joann responds to their every need if she is able. She feeds and clothes them, and sometimes gives them a temporary place to stay. Interesting factoid: Rev. Joann and her team of volunteers serve 1,000 (yes, that's one THOUSAND) meals a week (yes, that's PER WEEK). What a blessing she is, and what a shining example of Christ's love!

WWP has taken up a different outreach than usual with these folks, albeit only for the women. Our project for July is to furnish something feminine and fun and functional. We will be filling 20 gently used handbags/purses with all sorts of goodies: socks, chap stick, lotion, tissue, manicure supplies, hair care items, mouthwash, et.al. Doesn't this sound like something to get excited over? Don't you want to be a part of this mission? Just let Wanda Golsan or somebody know you are willing . . .



Our “Angel Among Us” this month goes out to Eileen Sever! There seems to be a quiet angel who flits around our church working on most every project she can without most of us noticing, and that Angel is Eileen Sever. Up to 2020, Eileen served as the Chair of the Staff Pastor-Parish Committee. She has been the main person keeping track of our finances and helped the church through an extremely difficult time financially during late 2017 and early 2018. She currently monitors our finances. Eileen has also participated in at least one mission trip to St. Croix and sings in the choir. When we were in the old location she helped set up the church every other week. She is active in Emmaus and Kairos. Whew! **THANK YOU, Eileen!**

I BELIEVE
THERE ARE
angels
AMONG US



UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR:

So glad to see all of you again, IN PERSON! We are continuing a new feature of “Obscure Names In The Bible”. Judy Ballard will be providing the information for that. I have put a basic July calendar in, with the start of returning to the old schedule. Make sure you call the office if you are not sure about scheduled activities. Please don’t forget to send me articles or suggestions for our “Monthly Angel”. Happy 4th of July!

generations4counseling@hotmail.com or phone 505-331-8894.

Francie Larsen

Next Deadline: July 23rd



High Desert United Methodist Church

Feeding the Homeless -

“Still Doing Our Part”

These days of pandemic have been laden with incredible ups and downs. Many have experienced grievous loss, but even the many lesser losses mount up in ways we neither own nor grieve because they simply are not as terrible as what some are facing.

Some of us are back enjoying in-person worship, others are can't come back yet and even when things resume, they will not be the same.

The reality for some is homelessness, loneliness, fear, hopelessness, and helplessness. Community of Hope is a ministry that feeds the marginalized weekly, and addresses their needs physically, mentally, and spiritually. A cooperative effort with as many as twelve different organizations signing up to participate.

High Desert United Methodist Church has offered its love through its offering to feed and comfort this community of brothers and sisters. At this time, we share quarterly with this endeavor, with our next turn being the fourth Sunday in August.

We as a body, prepare a meal, and deliver and serve, as well as fellowship with this vulnerable community. We are called to be witnesses that believes we can see Christ even in these days of fear. Look for Christ and ask if you should join in this rewarding act of discipleship. For info and ways in which you can participate, speak with Dave or Sue Duranty or contact Pastor Reuben. Shalom my friends. *Dave Duranty*

daveduranty@gmail.com

603-261-0932

SECOND MILE GIVING

Our Second Mile Giving for July will be the Interfaith Bible Institute located at 7501 Trumbull Avenue SE in the International Zone of Albuquerque. Rev. Joanne Landry serves a hot meal to the homeless five days a week, over 1,000 meals a week. You can imagine that this is quite expensive. Over the past few months four church families have been providing \$350 a month to support this ministry; however, the demand continues to increase. Thus, during July you may contribute to this ministry by noting “Interfaith Bible Institute” on your check to the church. Thank you for your continued support for the outreach ministries of High Desert.

Lay Care Ministry

You are invited to call, write or visit our friends in Christ who are homebound or have health issues, and offer your love, support and encouragement.

Ella Jerome	813 Banco Court, Bernalillo, NM 87004	206-4894
Lorra Garner	Skies Health and Rehab, 9450 McMahon NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114	
Norvin Schuman	382 Nicklaus Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	891-0526
Grover Donahoe	766 Hood Way SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	220-3839
Rod & Louise Warpole	600 First Street NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-9339
Mae Washburn	Revenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120	
Phil Pittman	Ravenna Assisted Living, 3051 Twin Oaks Dr. NM, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 Rm 28	
Glen Nesbitt	Advantage Asst Living, 305129 Wellspring Ave SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	
Sheila Arce	4910 Tramway Redge Dr NE #316, Albuquerque, NM 87111	
Jeanne Buchly	The Retreat, 4100 Jackie Rd SE, Rio Rancho NM 87124	
Barbara Gatzweiler	4102 Malaga Court SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	994-1964
Lois Brister	2867 Cripple Creek Drive SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124	892-7987
David Zapf	64 Olguin Road, Corrales, NM 87048	890-0113



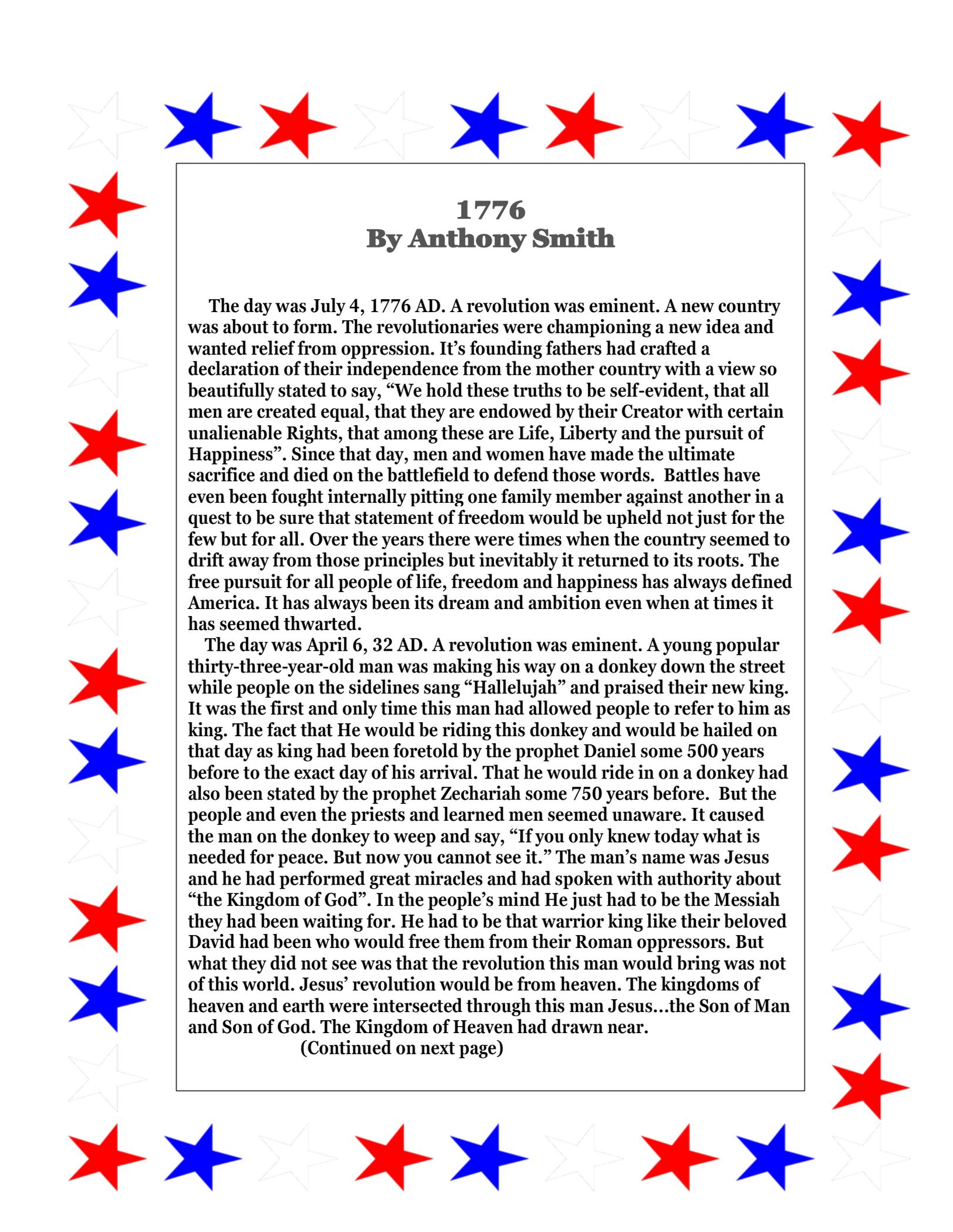
Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Barry Birch	7/2	Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!
Linnette Carlson	7/3	
Grover Donahoe	7/4	
Sandy Dewbre	7/6	
David Zapf	7/7	
Riley Siverts	7/7	
Lana Packard	7/8	
Diane Youells	7/12	
Ione Harrand	7/18	
Kai Warrior	7/21	
Warren Herrington	7/22	
Dottie Hester	7/28	
Earl Hester	7/28	
Shirley Rexroth	7/31	

Bob & Shirley Thompson	7/4/1970
Tony & Sheila Smith	7/4/1982
John & Lori Kottenbrook	7/12/1991
Paul & Rose Meyer	7/22/1970



Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

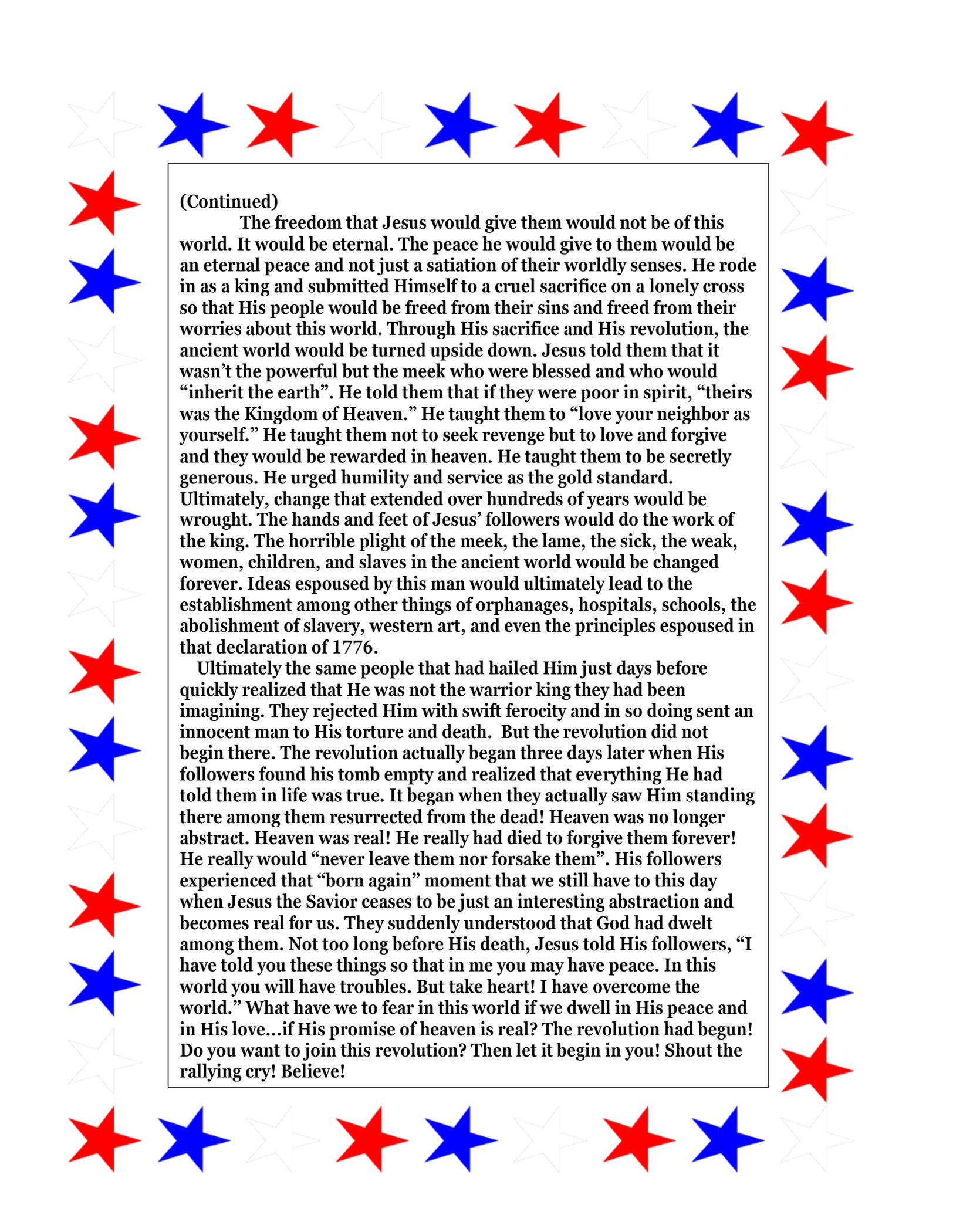


1776
By Anthony Smith

The day was July 4, 1776 AD. A revolution was eminent. A new country was about to form. The revolutionaries were championing a new idea and wanted relief from oppression. It's founding fathers had crafted a declaration of their independence from the mother country with a view so beautifully stated to say, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". Since that day, men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice and died on the battlefield to defend those words. Battles have even been fought internally pitting one family member against another in a quest to be sure that statement of freedom would be upheld not just for the few but for all. Over the years there were times when the country seemed to drift away from those principles but inevitably it returned to its roots. The free pursuit for all people of life, freedom and happiness has always defined America. It has always been its dream and ambition even when at times it has seemed thwarted.

The day was April 6, 32 AD. A revolution was eminent. A young popular thirty-three-year-old man was making his way on a donkey down the street while people on the sidelines sang "Hallelujah" and praised their new king. It was the first and only time this man had allowed people to refer to him as king. The fact that He would be riding this donkey and would be hailed on that day as king had been foretold by the prophet Daniel some 500 years before to the exact day of his arrival. That he would ride in on a donkey had also been stated by the prophet Zechariah some 750 years before. But the people and even the priests and learned men seemed unaware. It caused the man on the donkey to weep and say, "If you only knew today what is needed for peace. But now you cannot see it." The man's name was Jesus and he had performed great miracles and had spoken with authority about "the Kingdom of God". In the people's mind He just had to be the Messiah they had been waiting for. He had to be that warrior king like their beloved David had been who would free them from their Roman oppressors. But what they did not see was that the revolution this man would bring was not of this world. Jesus' revolution would be from heaven. The kingdoms of heaven and earth were intersected through this man Jesus...the Son of Man and Son of God. The Kingdom of Heaven had drawn near.

(Continued on next page)



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The freedom that Jesus would give them would not be of this world. It would be eternal. The peace he would give to them would be an eternal peace and not just a satiation of their worldly senses. He rode in as a king and submitted Himself to a cruel sacrifice on a lonely cross so that His people would be freed from their sins and freed from their worries about this world. Through His sacrifice and His revolution, the ancient world would be turned upside down. Jesus told them that it wasn't the powerful but the meek who were blessed and who would "inherit the earth". He told them that if they were poor in spirit, "theirs was the Kingdom of Heaven." He taught them to "love your neighbor as yourself." He taught them not to seek revenge but to love and forgive and they would be rewarded in heaven. He taught them to be secretly generous. He urged humility and service as the gold standard. Ultimately, change that extended over hundreds of years would be wrought. The hands and feet of Jesus' followers would do the work of the king. The horrible plight of the meek, the lame, the sick, the weak, women, children, and slaves in the ancient world would be changed forever. Ideas espoused by this man would ultimately lead to the establishment among other things of orphanages, hospitals, schools, the abolishment of slavery, western art, and even the principles espoused in that declaration of 1776.

Ultimately the same people that had hailed Him just days before quickly realized that He was not the warrior king they had been imagining. They rejected Him with swift ferocity and in so doing sent an innocent man to His torture and death. But the revolution did not begin there. The revolution actually began three days later when His followers found his tomb empty and realized that everything He had told them in life was true. It began when they actually saw Him standing there among them resurrected from the dead! Heaven was no longer abstract. Heaven was real! He really had died to forgive them forever! He really would "never leave them nor forsake them". His followers experienced that "born again" moment that we still have to this day when Jesus the Savior ceases to be just an interesting abstraction and becomes real for us. They suddenly understood that God had dwelt among them. Not too long before His death, Jesus told His followers, "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have troubles. But take heart! I have overcome the world." What have we to fear in this world if we dwell in His peace and in His love...if His promise of heaven is real? The revolution had begun! Do you want to join this revolution? Then let it begin in you! Shout the rallying cry! Believe!

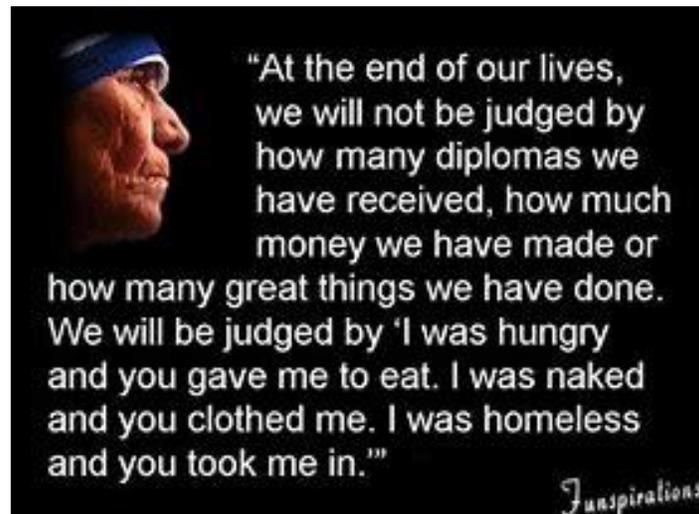
July 2020

HIGH DESERT UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Pantry 11 AM to 2 PM	4 DAY OF PRAYER
5 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	6	7 Bible Study 1:30 PM	8	9	10	11
12 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	13	14 Bible Study 1:30 PM	15	16 Pantry 1 to 4 PM	17	18
19 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	20	21 Pantry 9 AM to Noon Bible Study 1:30 PM	22	23	24	25
26 9 & 11 AM Worship 10 AM SS	27	28 Bible Study 1:30 PM	29	30	31	

POSITIVE PRATTLE



High Desert United Methodist Church

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9AM-Noon & 1-4PM
Phone: 505-891-4206;
Email:
highdesertumc@outlook.com

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Or

Follow us on Twitter at:

[Twitter.com/highdesertumc](https://twitter.com/highdesertumc)

We're on the Web!

www.highdesertumc.org

HDUMC CHURCH PANTRY

Distribution dates for July are:

Friday, July 5th at 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, July 16th at 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 21st at 9:00 a.m.

July Collection: Canned Vegetables (Beans, Corn, Peas, etc.)
