

IMA Video Connect every 3rd
Thursday of each month
at 10AM Central Time.
Contact IMA Home Office
for more info.

To post events in the IMA News-
letter, please send info to IMA
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Comments, suggestions, or
article submissions may be
addressed to:

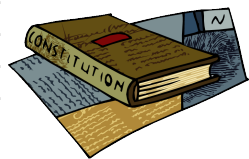
Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Warner,
IMA PROCLAIM Editor

And emailed to:
nlcasec@cheqnet.net
Or to:
imahdq@gmail.com



"Celebrating the 4th of July" Article Continued from Pg. 1

laid the foundation and estab-
lished the prin-
ciples and be-
liefs that be-
came the Con-
stitution of the
United States.



During these past few tumultu-
ous years, Constitutional rights
seemed to have been challenged.
Therefore, it is important to remind
patriots that U.S. elected officials
and military leaders are expected
to uphold the Constitution. Ro-

mans 13:1 recognizes that God is
the ultimate authority, but also dic-
tates that Christians are to follow
the law and obey governing au-
thorities. In the U.S., the govern-
ing authority is the Constitution.

The conclusion of the Declara-
tion of Independence reiterates
that the justification to renounce
Great Britain is sealed "with a firm
reliance on the protection of the
Divine Providence." This means
that the rights in the Constitution,
that define individual liberties, are

defended by God, and expected
to be defended by U.S. governing
authorities.

So as you go forth into 2023,
celebrate this Fourth of July by
remembering that God is the basis
upon which our freedoms have
been granted in the Constitution,
thank a military member for secur-
ing those freedoms, and as a citi-
zen recognize that you have the
authority to demand your free-
doms remain upheld!

IMA 2023 NAT CONF:

- **Dates:** Mon-Wed., Sept. 18-20, 2023
- **Place:** Grace Church; Fairview Heights, Illinois
- **Travel Info:** Near St. Louis Airport
- **Theme:** "Send Out the Dove"
- **Special Speakers, Breakouts**

**This year's conference will be a time of
connection and refreshing for ministers,
their families, and their teams. I can't
wait to see our IMA family gathered
together in September!**

**Sincerely,
Rev. Chad Hayes, IMA Chairman**



Relational

Actional

Missional



PROCLAIM

JULY 2023



Celebrating the 4th of July!

By Major Nicole Boettcher

The sun begins to rise earlier,
the days are filled with more sun-
shine, nights are slow to cool
down, and backyards beckon for
friends and family to gather
around campfires. This is the ex-
citement of an all-American sum-
mer. Those working full-time, usu-
ally begin a countdown to the epic
holiday weekend that grants days
off—the Fourth of July! The best
part of this summer holiday is that
eating, drinking, music, fireworks,

and parades are all
part of the celebration.



While we all seem to clearly
understand what to do to cele-
brate this holiday, it seems many
have no real idea why July 4th is
recognized. The title, Independ-
ence Day, leads most to remem-
ber that it has something to do
with America becoming an inde-
pendent nation.

Interestingly enough though,
Britannica shares that the Second
Continental Congress voted for
colonial independence from Great
Britain on July 2, 1776, two days
before our currently recognized
Independence Day. The signifi-
cance of July 4, 1776 has to do
with the Declaration of Independ-
ence. Thomas Jefferson, along
with a committee, took on the task
to draft the Declaration of Inde-
pendence. There were thirteen
North American colonies that had
to agree on the reasoning behind

the motion to separate from Great
Britain, they had to identify shared
values to create a new united, civi-
lized, independent nation. It was-
n't until July 4th that the Continen-
tal Congress approved the draft
and for John Hancock to be the
first to sign the official Declaration
of Independence.

Why is a docu-
ment worth cele-
brating? Well, the
summer holiday that
permits us to revel



in the privileges that the United
States (U.S.) has granted its citi-
zens by way of the Constitution all
can be traced to this founding and
enduring Declaration. Additionally,
the Declaration of Independence
recognizes God, "their Creator,"
as the one who has "endowed"
man with "unalienable Rights, that
among these are Life, Liberty and
the Pursuit of Happiness." It reaf-
firms that America was built on
Christian values. Those values

(Artical continued on Pg. 4)

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Inside this Issue:

- ▣ Guest Article: "Celebrating the 4th of July!"
- ▣ Editorial Article: "Celebrate Liberty, Freedom"
- ▣ Home Office: 2023 National Conference Info
- ▣ Article: "Four Freedoms of America and the Fifth for Christians"



Celebrate Liberty, Freedom

By Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Warner, IMA Proclaim Editor

“And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and you shall return every man unto his possession, and you shall return every man unto his family.” Lev 25:10



Most people realize that the above verse is etched on the famous Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, PA. That same bell was originally cast in the Whitechapel Foundry in London, England. It was later hung in the Pennsylvania State House in 1753; the building is presently known as Independence Hall. The Liberty Bell cracked, upon the first attempt to ring it. So, other than a few occasions, it has never been rung since. However, though the physical bell has been silent for over two hundred years, the Bible verse and the liberty people have experienced still rings loud and clear.

Today and through the 4th of July, people across America will honor Independence Day. We shall reconsider the glorious freedom we cherish here. Picnics, fireworks, parades, and the like accompany this



popular U.S. Holiday. It is good time for believers to pause and thank the Lord for Christian influence on this great nation. Thank God for the tremendous blessings He has bestowed upon America.

July 4th prompts thinking for a deeper kind of liberty, i.e. Freedom in Christ! The Old Testament (OT) made it clear that liberty and escaping bondage is something to celebrate. Leviticus 25 mentions JUBILEE numerous times. People in the OT celebrated freedom every fifty years. Further, we find in the New Testament (NT) the greatest liberty of all; forgiveness of sins and new life in Christ!

Jesus spoke about liberty in His teachings. John Chapter 8 reveals how He wants to set people free from spiritual bondage (sin). He said:

- **You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free;**

- **Whoever commits sin is the servant of sin;**
- **Whom the Son sets free is free indeed!**

National freedom is wonderful; spiritual freedom is better! Liberation from sin's power is the greatest freedom of all. We must celebrate this liberty in Christ. That's what praise is all about. NT believers must declare, demonstrate and promulgate freedom in two worlds; in our nation and in our hearts!

I Peter 2:16 admonishes us not to use liberty as a cloak for sin. People today use “freedom” to promote homosexuality, transgenderism, and try to ease people's minds while they conceal mutilation of children. As Christians, we need to express liberty and explain what true freedom is. As IMA ministers, we are people of liberty. However, we must also EXPLAIN Christ's liberty to others!

IMA HOME OFFICE:

Member Services Coordinator (MSC): Rev. Sean Alexander

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 6644
Louisville, KY 40206

PH: (812) 550-1240

EMAIL: ima@imainfo.org

WEB: imainfo.org
(Password: [imamembers](#))

IMA National Conference

We invite everyone to gather in Fairview Heights, Illinois for the **IMA National Conference Monday—Wednesday, September 18-20, 2023.** We will be meeting at Grace Church with host pastor Ben and Michelle Godard (and Rev. Hal and Pam Santos). The theme for this year is **“Send out the Dove.”**

Evening Keynote Speakers are the following: Rev. Aeneas Williams (Monday); Rev. Richard Hilton (Tuesday); Rev. Chad Hayes (Wednesday). Breakout sessions will be offered on Tuesday morning. Missions, IMA Spotlight, and more will be on Wednesday morning. **Mark the dates!**



FOUR Freedoms of America and the FIFTH Freedom for Christians



By Rev. Philip Thompson

On January 6, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered a speech titled “Four Freedoms.” In his speech, he declared that every American should have four basic freedoms:

- **Freedom of Speech,**
- **Freedom of Religion,**
- **Freedom of Want,**
- **Freedom from Fear.**

In 1943, Norman Rockwell illustrated these four freedoms in a painting titled “OURS...to fight for!”



There is, however, a fifth freedom available to every believer: **Freedom from the sinful nature.** When Christ declared on the cross, “It is finished!” a new covenant was set in place. This new covenant included the promise that the Holy Spirit would enter into our lives and empower us to overcome that sinful nature born to us.



Hebrews 10:16 (NLT) reads: “This is the new covenant I will make with My people on that day, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”

While the covenant that has been put in place is irrevocable, and ours as an inheritance, there is a response required from us. Paul writes in Galatians 5:16-17 (NLT): “So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free

to carry out your good intentions.”

By this passage we understand that this fifth freedom, in the words of Norman Rockwell, is “Ours, to fight for.” The Apostle Paul makes it clear that there are two forces within each of us; the spirit and the sinful nature. These two forces are constantly fighting each other. When we yield to the Spirit, we are not under obligation to the Law of Moses.

In Galatians 5:24 (NLT), Paul declares the final act that grants us this fifth freedom: “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed



the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there.”

The Apostle John understood the great joy that crucifying our sinful nature to the cross of Christ would bring when he declared in John 8:36 (NLT): “So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”



The first four freedoms (we enjoy in the USA) require vigilance and maintenance to ensure that they are preserved. Much more importantly, however, is the need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. The fifth freedom crucifies the sinful nature through the cross. This is ours to “fight for.”