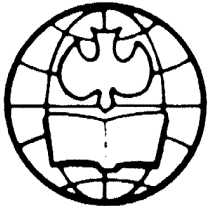


Northern Florida Christian Center



An interdenominational, Spirit-filled ministry touching people with Jesus' love

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July/August 2026

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250th

By: Retha Garten

The knowledgeable builder of a new house always prepares a **firm foundation**. He is very aware that the foundation he prepares for this home must be strong and built with proper materials to insure that this house will remain strong through mighty winds and torrential rains that may come.

My NKJV Bible relates much about foundations - mentioned 15 times. Here are some of them: *"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne"* Psalm 89:14; *"When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, But the righteous has an everlasting foundation"* Proverbs 10:25

Jesus had a lot to say about foundations during His time on this earth. *"Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded/'well built' on the rock"* Luke 6:47-48

It is asked, *"What has the words and Scriptures above have to do with 'Celebrating America's 250th?'"* My answer: *"Here are some reasons:*

Foundational Covenantal Truths

"On September 6, 1774—less than two years before the colonies formally declared independence from Great Britain—the Continental Congress made its first official act a call for prayer. And on May 16, 1776, the Continental Congress appointed an official national day of fasting and prayer for the colonies: The Congress...Desirous...to have people of all ranks and degrees duly impressed with a



solemn sense of God's superintending providence, and of their duty, devoutly to rely...on His aid and direction...Do earnestly recommend Friday, the 17th of May be observed by the colonies as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that we may, with united hearts, confess and bewailed our manifold sins and transgressions, and, by sincere repentance and amendment of life, appease God's righteous displeasure, and, through merits and meditation of Jesus Christ, obtain His pardon and forgiveness."

"The Continental Congress on September 11, 1777, ordered the importance of 20,000 Bibles for the American troops. The law reads as follows: The use of the Bible is so universal and its importance so great that your committee refers the above to the consideration of Congress, and if Congress shall not think it expedient to order the importation of types and paper, the Committee recommends that Congress will order Committee of

To Encourage You...

HOW NATIONS RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSING

**“Blessed is the nation
whose God is the LORD;
and the people whom He
hath chosen for His own
inheritance”**

Psalm 33:12

Your nation, and any nation on the earth, can receive My blessing when it seeks wholeheartedly to follow My Word. I desire to bless nations and want good things for the people within the nations.

While I bless the nations which reverence and follow My precepts, I will never violate My Word which gives warning for those who choose to follow another path. *“The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God”* Psalm 9:17

When you read further after this admonition, you see that even though a person is born within a nation led by ungodly men, he can make a personal choice to follow Me. *“For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish forever. Arise, O LORD, let not man prevail, let the heathen be judged in Thy sight. Put them in fear, O LORD, that the nations may know themselves to be but men, Selah.”* Psalm 9:18-20

Affirmation: I pray for America to turn wholeheartedly back to you, Father God.



Retha Garten

*Congress to import 20,000 Bibles from Holland, Scotland
Scotland, or elsewhere, into the different parts of the States of the Union. Whereupon it was resolved accordingly to direct said Committee of Commerce to import 20,000 copies of the Bible.*

The Continental Congress on October 18, 1780, issued another Proclamation for a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer.

On September 25, 1789, Congress unanimously approved a resolution asking President George Washington to proclaim a National Day of Thanksgiving: Day of Thanksgiving Resolved. That a joint committee of both Houses be directed to wait upon the President of the United States to request that he recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayers, to be observed by acknowledging, with grateful hearts, the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a constitution of government for their safety and happiness.

The Declaration of Independence

On July 4, 1776, the delegates of the Continental Congress formally declared our national independence from Great Britain. Here are (some) of the words of the Declaration of Independence: ...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 ...”

Rush H. Limbaugh, Jr. spoke these words after reading the above words from the Declaration of Independence: *“There is no more profound sentence than these words. These are far more than poetic words. The underlying ideas that infuse every sentence of this treatise have sustained this nation for more than two centuries. They were forged in the crucible of great sacrifice. They are living words that spring from and satisfy the deepest cries for liberty in the human heart. ‘Sacred honor’ isn’t a phrase we use much these days, but every American life is touched by the bounty of this, the Founders’ legacy. It is freedom, tested by blood, and watered with tears.”*

The Founders of America pledged their life and everything they had for establishing this nation. Were they honored as heroes? The absolute opposite. Here are some of the heart-wrenching outcomes of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence: Five signers were captured by the British

as traitors and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons who served in the Revolutionary Army. Another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds of hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers and plantation owners. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken, and poverty was his reward. Vandals of soldiers looted the properties of Ellery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnet, Heyward, Rutledge and Middleton. John Hart was driven from the bedside of his dying wife. Their 13 children fled for their lives...For more than a year, he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children gone. He died shortly thereafter, heartbroken.

They gave us a free and independent America. Twenty-six years ago, the late Ann Landers ended her revelatory article of these brave men by saying this which all Americans need to hear and obey, *"So while you are enjoying the festivities of the July 4th holiday, take a few minutes and silently thank these patriots for their heroic contributions. It is not too much to ask for the price they paid. Freedom is never free."*

Francis Scott Key

Francis Scott Key, A Christian Man, author of the words of our national anthem, was a man of prayer and very active in his church. He even seriously considered giving up his legal career to become a minister. In a letter he wrote to his cousin he wrote, *"Nothing but Christianity will give you the victory. Until a man believes in his heart that Jesus Christ is his Lord and Master...his course through life will be neither safe nor pleasant. My only regret is that I was so long blinded by my pleasures, my vices and pursuits, and the examples of others that I was kept from seeing, admiring, and adoring the marvelous light of the Gospel."*

President Woodrow Wilson wisely remarked, *"A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing, if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about."*

The American Creed

by: William Tyler Page

"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes."

I therefore believe it is my duty to my Country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies."

In 1782, the United Congress voted this resolution, *"The Congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all schools."*

Was George Washington a Christian? Consider these words from his personal prayer book: *"Oh, eternal and everlasting God, direct my thoughts, words and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the Lamb and purge my heart by the Holy Spirit. Daily, frame me more and more in the likeness of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, that living in Thy fear, and dying in Thy favor, I may in Thy appointed time obtain the resurrection of the justified unto eternal life. Bless, O Lord, the whole race of mankind and let the world be filled with the knowledge of Thee and Thy Son, Jesus Christ."*

John Quincy Adams, our sixth U.S. President, chairman of the American Society, which he considered the highest and most important role. On July 4, 1821 wrote *"The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected the one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."*

Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President of the United States wrote, *"The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country."*

Of the first 108 universities founded in America, 106 were distinctly Christian.

For over 100 years, more than 50% of all Harvard graduates were pastors.

The Bible is our source for direction and instructions. The apostle Paul told the younger Timothy, *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercession, and giving of thanks be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth"* I Timothy 2:1-3

Were God-fearing, honest men in governmental authority in Paul and Timothy's day? Absolutely not! They were some of the most atheistic, cruel, Christian-destroying people who ever lived. Yet, Paul said pray for them **first of all**. Does the Bible say that these leaders changed when the Christians prayed? No way, but what did happen is that by prayer and supplication, they could prevent hatred for the leaders from developing in their hearts and the Gospel could be preached with love and power.

I have written excerpts from God-involved initial foundation of America. I believe God still loves our nation and desires to have its people return to **putting Him first**, and honoring our nation's godly roots.

My whole thrust for this newsletter is to call upon **you**, the reader, **to believe and pray for our nation to return to our Founding Fathers' God-fearing foundation**. We believe all Americans should love their nation and rejoice that on July 4, 2026, we can enjoy our beloved nation's 250th birthday with food, fellowship, laughter, and attending church and celebrations for this memorable occasion.

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JULY-AUGUST 2026

My Book Offer

This month's book offer seems to be the right one to offer regarding the article I have written. It is titled **Shaping History through prayer and fasting** by the late Derek Prince. I randomly pulled this book off my bookshelf at home for something to read. After reading it, its contents seemed to be exactly what I felt the Lord would have me offer you.

Prince is an excellent author who writes with clear words of understanding his subject. On the back of this book, these words give an understanding what the book is about: *'Christians CAN change world events; Christians have altered the course of history and government by emphasizing biblical methods of prayer and fasting; Derek Prince recounts from personal experience how history was shaped through prayer during the Second World War in North Africa, the birth of the State of Israel, the end of the Stalin Era, and the independence of Kenya, East Africa; Learn how you too can implement change—in your family, church, locale, country, and the world.'*

I just believe that many of you reading this book would see how easy, and what a blessing your prayers would be for America right now. America needs our prayers. We can do what we can do, as our Founding Fathers and many other Christians have done through the 250 years of America existence have done.

I will be so happy to send you this excellent book for your gift of \$15.00, and we take care of the packaging and postage.

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