

GRACE and Truth



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For the law was given through Moses, but GRACE AND TRUTH came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)

July, 2016



Freedom in Christ

by Kyle Black

"Due to the founding fathers of our nation, we have the freedom to come to this building in broad daylight and worship together under our constitutional rights."

Do you know what happened on July 4, 1776? I'll answer that a little bit later. As we near the day that our nation celebrates its independence, or freedom, I thought it would be good to look at the history of this special day, as well as the reason for our freedom, both as Americans and as Christians.

July 4, 1776 wasn't all fireworks and cookouts like we celebrate today. It took some time for momentum to build, along with some well-timed deaths of those who were instrumental in drafting the Declaration of Independence before people began to celebrate Independence Day.

Below is a brief history of dates for you:

- April, 1775 – the start of the American Revolution;
- June, 1776 – Thomas Jefferson writes the first draft of the Declaration of Independence;
- July 2, 1776 – the Continental Congress decides to declare independence;
- July 4, 1776 – the Continental Congress approves the final wording of the Declaration of Independence;
- August 2, 1776 – most of the delegates signed the document; and
- November, 1776 – the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain.

On July 5, 1776, "After the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the 'Committee of Five' (Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston) was charged with overseeing the reproduction of the approved text. This was completed at the shop of Philadelphia printer John Dunlap. On July 5, Dunlap's copies were dispatched across the 13 colonies to newspapers, local officials and the commanders of the Continental troops. These rare documents, known as 'Dunlap Broad-sides,' predate the engrossed version signed by

the delegates. Of the hundreds thought to have been printed on the night of July 4, only 26 copies survive. Most are held in museum and library collections, but three are privately owned." "... in 1989, a Philadelphia man found an original Dunlap Broadside hidden in the back of a picture frame he bought at a flea market for \$4." (*9 Things You May Not Know About the Declaration of Independence, History.com*)

It took about 50 years or so for people to realize that Independence Day was an important date to be celebrated. On July 4, 1826, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the last two surviving members of the committee of five, died within five hours of each other.

(Continued on page 4)



**"Blessed is the
nation whose
God is the Lord."**

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Visit our website at www.indygrace.org

Leadership Spotlight

RON DODSON, ELDER



Sandy and Ron Dodson

Come to a certain GEC small group on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and you'll hear Ron Dodson co-leading a study about prayer based on the movie *The War Room*. And if you'd peeked in room 115 during the months of April, May and June, you would have learned more about Ephesians at the DiscipleLIFE class he helped teach.

Ron, the youngest of four sons, met Sandy Cunningham in early childhood when he played Little League with her older brother in their hometown of Danville, Indiana. They began dating after high school, and after sporadically seeing each other for a few years, he knew that she was the right one for him. Five years later they said "I do" on a hot, sunshiny September day, and this year they will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary!

The following July saw an even more important event in Ron's life – his salvation – with Sandy's following a few years later. Their active roles in the church they'd married in led to an even bigger ministry several years later in 1998 – helping to plant a new one! Ron felt called to the ministry at this time, and for the next 14 years he served as its associate pastor while continuing his secular job, and going through an extensive training process so he could be ordained! Then in 2012 some friends of these two invited them to 5905 East Southport Road, and after benefitting from its teaching and friendliness, Ron and Sandy "fell in love with Grace Evangelical and made it our home."

Ron has had the blessing of serving as an elder since the beginning of 2015, his role being a liaison to the Fellowship/Welcoming Ministry. One of the responsibilities of this role is to communicate with the congregation about how this ministry works, who is involved with it, and how we as a congregation can participate. He also is in frequent contact with the leaders of the door greeters, and those who do the new visitor phone follow-up. Providing training when needed, Ron also holds periodic meetings for the purpose of updates.

Concerning the prayer study and teaching from the book of Ephesians, Ron notes their similarities – how they both touch on "understanding the grace of God, and how we should really love each other as Christ's disciples. Ephesians also includes understanding unity in the Body – if one part suffers or is disconnected it affects the whole Body – family relationships matter. To sum it up, spiritual warfare is real. It affects our daily lives, family and most of all, the church. We need to be prayed up, for protection and strength."

Sandy has also blessed Grace with her service as its current treasurer. In addition, she enjoys being part of the Worship Team and has been a deaconess since 2014.

Ron began his career working for Palmer Dodge West in Speedway in 1988 as a service technician after graduating

from Lincoln Technical Institute as an automotive and diesel technology major. In the 27 years since then, he has worked for several different Chrysler/Dodge dealerships (and more recently a Honda one), either in this role or that of a parts advisor. As a parts advisor, he looks at a service repair order and researches what parts are needed, their costs and availability. Ron also helps with inventory control and answers wholesale and retail phone requests.

Sandy began working for PNC Bank 28 years ago when it was First of America and then National City Bank. Through all the mergers she has advanced in her career, working in their accounting, underwriting, mortgage loan, home equity, and treasury management departments. At present she is a sales associate opening accounts for clients in various states.

This couple's interests and hobbies are many and varied. Sandy loves to curl up with a good book (specifically, mysteries). Her creative side enjoys the infinite combinations and designs that scrapbooking affords. And with others, a challenge to play Euchre is met with enthusiasm, as long as Ron is not her partner! His literary interests lie in Civil War history.

Sports play a big role in Ron and Sandy's lives. He enjoys them both as a spectator and a participant, especially basketball and golf. Sadly, he confesses that "after last year playing football with Sandy's family in the traditional Thanksgiving day match-up, I have to say my football days are over. I had to officially retire due to a knee and hip injury." His favorite teams are (of course!) the Colts and also the University of Tennessee team. As a couple, the Dodsons like to attend different sporting events. They also enjoy being with their friends and share a fondness for Chinese food.

Family is also very important to these two. They spend much time with their niece, 10 year old Grace. And let's not forget their "fur baby"! Having grown up with a Saint Bernard and a German Shephard, Ron was hesitant to adopt a smaller breed when the two were first married. But a Dachs-hund similar to Sandy's childhood pet won him over and began Ron's 23 year love affair with this diminutive breed. Earlier this year, the two were shopping in PetSmart and encountered some dogs that had been brought there by a local humane society with hopes for adoption. They noticed a Dachshund-Chihuahua mix that interested them, and after some prayer, decided to return two days later. "Max" was still there, and has enjoyed living with Ron and Sandra ever since.

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Bill Boone

Helping Those In Need

by **Bill Boone**

Can you believe that half of 2016 is gone already? Servant's Heart has seen our weekly client visits returning to normal levels. Even so, we have

touched 3,763 lives in the first five months of 2016!

In addition, we collected 43,116 pounds of food in the first five months of 2016. Our biggest one-day collection happened on May 14th (*Stamp Out Hunger*) when we collected 19,758 pounds. If you were able to help that day, thank you. If you didn't get out to help us, mark the second Saturday of May, 2017 on your calendar.

I always like to include real illustrations of how Servant's Heart is making an impact on the community.

We had a young man make a poor decision and had to do several hours of community service as part of his punishment. His family had been receiving assistance from the pantry, so his mom asked if he could do his community service with us. We agreed to let him, and wow, did God get ahold of his heart! He has become one of our regular volunteers even after satisfying his community service hour requirement. He has enjoyed interacting with our clients and doing whatever job he is asked to do. He shared how working with us has changed his outlook of his own life. We were glad to see how God changed him and developed a servant's heart within him.

The other story is about a pair of siblings. This brother and sister don't have a lot of earthly riches, but they wanted to help a young mom with five kids. The brother and sister's family had helped this young mom before when she

was a teenager. One of their family members used to pick her up on Sundays and take her to their church.

Just recently the mom and her children had started to attend church again. The five children, ages two to nine, were abused by their father. Once the brother and sister got custody of the children they didn't know what to do.

They went to a place in Hendricks County called Susie's Place for help. The brother and sister had gotten the kids with just the clothes on their back. Susie's Place knew through the social help network that we had clothes for children, so they referred the sister and the kids to us. Of course the family was out of our service area but the gals in the office that night felt a special connection to the situation. You all know how I have a soft heart, so I agreed that we would help them get whatever they needed. I wish you could have seen how the five kids each picked out a toy! They left everything behind when they fled for safety.

When the sister and the three kids left that night three of us prayed with her. We asked for God's guidance on how we were to help and protect all involved – the siblings, the mom and the five kids. The family of just the brother and sister grew from two to eight in a blink of an eye. They didn't hesitate to jump in and help this family, not really knowing how they could. We will be partnering with them to help too.

There are many, many needs. If you would like to help, please call Servant's Heart at 788-9433.

The budget of the Missions Committee operates solely from designated giving, and not from the general offering. In order to support the Grace Evangelical Missions outreach, you need to mark your offering envelope with the specific amount you wish to go to MISSIONS.



Obey, Submit, and Follow

by **Libby Davis**

What does it mean for a Christian wife to obey and submit to her husband, especially in difficult circumstances ... in times when she may not (totally) agree with her husband? To obey and submit to one's husband really means to, first and foremost, obey and submit to God. He is worthy of our complete love, trust, and ultimately, obedience. Because if we say we love God (and our husbands), then we must come to the point of graciously and humbly with a pure, loving, and trusting heart, submitting to our husbands – following their leadership. This is God's design for us. (Ephesians 5:22 and Colossians 3:18)

So I am writing to let you know that I will be submitting to my husband's leadership – following Dick to a new local Bible teaching fellowship, trusting the Lord to provide a place of worship and fellowship where Dick and I can joyfully serve together. Honestly, this departure is very hard for me. Many tears have been shed. Grace has been my beloved church home for 42 years. My roots are here; they

always will be. The roots of growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ were planted deeply in my soul at Grace. (II Peter 3:18)

My heart is overflowing with gratitude for my dear brothers and sisters at Grace – YOU! Thank you for praying, for serving, for smiling, for teaching, for hugging, for encouraging, for using your gifts and talents to glorify the Lord in the body at Grace and beyond. I have a treasure trove of memories that I will always treasure. My heart will always be at Grace. It has been my heart's joy and delight to grow, worship, and serve with you!

When we see each other out in the community, I hope we will continue to greet one another warmly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



Libby and Dick Davis

FREEDOM IN CHRIST (Continued from page 1)

In 1870, nearly 100 years after the Declaration of Independence was finalized, Congress declared July 4th a national holiday.

As interesting as this is, this was done in the name of freedom from oppression. However, we as Christians have a greater freedom – freedom in Christ! Due to the founding fathers of our nation, we have the freedom to come to this building in broad daylight and worship together under our constitutional rights. We have the freedom to worship the King of Kings, and not be afraid of what man can do. As it says in 2 Corinthians 3:17: *“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”*

Our nation has gone through some tough times since its official inception. We are even now seeing some tough times ahead. It’s easy to get caught up in the news about the fighting between political parties. But we must remember what Paul tells us in Romans 8:1-4: *“¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”*

So, as you reflect on what the brave men and women of our nation sacrificed for the freedom we have, remember that before them was Jesus Christ who came to earth becoming fully man, while maintaining his full Deity, so that we would not be slaves to the world, but have freedom in Christ. There is a bumper sticker that reads “Freedom isn’t free.” While that is true of our national freedom, the freedom that is everlasting IS free to us – all you have to do is accept it.

Sources:

- **The Story of the Fourth of July**
- **This Day in History**, <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/thomas-jefferson-and-john-adams-die>
- **9 Things You May Not Know About the Declaration of Independence**, <http://www.history.com/news/9-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-declaration-of-independence>

News From the Children's Department

by Cristi DeHoff

The Children's Department has been busy preparing for Vacation Bible School as well as the upcoming quarter. We are very thankful for all of our VBS volunteers, those who donated supplies, and our Sunday volunteers this past quarter. We can only do so much on our own, and are truly grateful for your time, support, and prayers.

Please be in prayer for us as we go into this next quarter, as we are in need of **MANY** volunteers. If you are available to help, please contact Holly Phoenix (hollyphoenix@alumni/iu/edu, 859-8008). Even if you are only able to commit to some Sundays throughout the quarter, or once or twice, we would greatly appreciate it.

Please also be in prayer as we begin to prepare for our Family Worship Workshop in a few months. Pray for good attendance and clear ideas, and that families will feel inspired, encouraged, and supported in worshipping together.



JULY

- 7/01 Mike Rutherford
- 7/03 Anna Sudler
- 7/04 Connie Moxley
- 7/04 Isaac Abbey Sr.
- 7/06 Nita Butler
- 7/09 LuAnn Young
- 7/13 Steve Agal
- 7/15 Rick Storm
- 7/15 Janet Agal
- 7/16 Mackenzie Doerksen
- 7/17 Ken Collyear
- 7/23 Joshua Johnson
- 7/27 Donald Hovenstine
- 7/30 Gabriel Moreno

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7/01 Bradley & Christina Wilson
- 7/10 Dick & Pat Witmer
- 7/19 Doug & Ruth Decker

“The Union of so many States is in the eyes of the world, a wonder; the harmonious establishment of a government over them all, a miracle.” – James Madison

“The general principles upon which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity ... I will avow that I believed and now believe that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.

“(July 4th) ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.”

– John Adams in a letter written to Abigail on the day the Declaration was approved by Congress



Third Quarter Sunday Class

This summer there will be a single DiscipleLIFE class starting July 3rd and going through September. It’s a 12 week study of Francis Chan’s **We Are Church** and explores who God is and who the church ought to be. Each week there will be a 15 minute video, a time of instruction and reflection questions for smaller groups or individual households. **This class will meet on Sundays in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.**