



# The Link

100+ Years  
Serving Jesus

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Worship, Sun: 10:00 am  
Bible Study, Sun: 10:30 am

July 2016

## Fourth of July

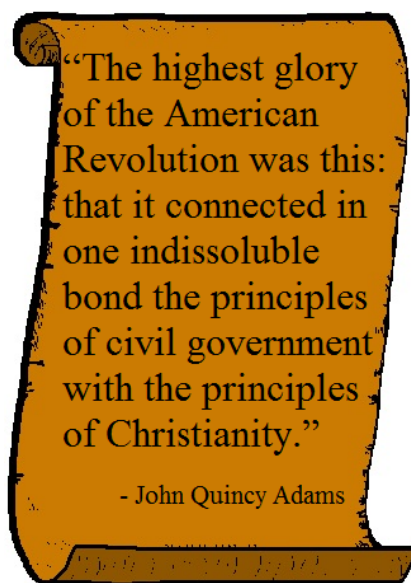
### Remembering America as a Nation Under God

America became a free country on July 4, 1776, however, what many may not know - or forget - is that America is also a nation under God founded on Christian principles.

54 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Christians, 27 held theology degrees. Many went on to form Bible societies. The signers intended the document to officiate the separation between America and Great Britain. However, they based the Declaration which has served as a foundation to the beginnings of the American nation upon a greater foundational belief that God, or as written in the Declaration "Creator," was the source for men's irrevocable rights.

Samuel Adams, who signed the historic document and writer of the Rights of the Colonists (November 1772), once said, "Just and true liberty, equal and impartial liberty, in matters spiritual and temporal is a thing that all men are clearly entitled to by the eternal and immutable laws of God and nature, as well

as by the laws of nations and all well-grounded and municipal laws, which must have their foundation in the former."



- John Quincy Adams

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration, also believed "God who gave us life gave us liberty."

Two of the Continental Congress' first actions were to hire military chaplains and to purchase 20,000 Bibles to remedy a national shortage.

Although America was already a free nation during the presidency of George Washington, the first president of the United States, he suggested that only religion could

uphold its morality. During his farewell address he said, "And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

Even if America's roots were traced back to its primitive stages, the marriage between the early inhabitants of the land and Christianity are inseparable. The Pilgrims clearly stated the purpose for their voyage even before stepping off the Mayflower: "...undertaken for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith..."

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# Quotes from the Fathers

Many times today you can read or hear about someone who says our nation's founding fathers did not intend this nation to be founded on Christian principles and, in fact, were not themselves believers or followers of Jesus. If you really want to know the truth about the founding father's intentions and their beliefs, all you have to do is read their own writings that are available at any library or on the internet. The following are some quotes that show their intent and beliefs.

**James Madison, 4<sup>th</sup> President & Father of the Constitution:** "We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each and all of us to government ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.

**John Jay, 1st Chief Justice of the Supreme Court:** "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege of this Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

**John Adams, 2nd President of the United States:** "The general principles, on which the Fathers achieved independence, were the only Principles in which that beautiful Assembly of young Gentlemen could Unite... And what were these general Principles? I answer, the general Principles of Christianity...."

**John Quincy Adams, our 6th President & Son of John Adams:** "The highest glory of the American revolution was this: It connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

**Thomas Jefferson, 3<sup>rd</sup> President & Author of the Declaration:** "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." (Although there is some question about Jefferson's belief in Jesus, with a quote like this is there any question about his belief concerning the role of religion in American government and society?)

**Patrick Henry, American Statesman & Revolutionary Patriot:** "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."

If the founding fathers really believed that we shouldn't be a "Christian nation" they had a funny way of showing it in their writings and speeches.

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The U.S. Supreme Court also identified America as a Christian nation in 1892, after 10 years of examining hundreds of documents on the foundation of the country. The justices came to the unanimous conclusion that the documents undeniably "add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a religious people, a Christian nation."

John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, summed up the historic event that led to America's independence best when he said, "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: that it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

The conviction that God cannot, and should not be moved from the social and governmental construct of America continues to echo in the voice of the USA's more recent leaders.

According to the late Ronald W. Reagan, the 40th President of the United States: "Without God there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience ... without God there is a coarsening of the society; without God democracy will not and cannot long endure ... If we ever forget that we are one Nation under God, then we will be a Nation gone under."



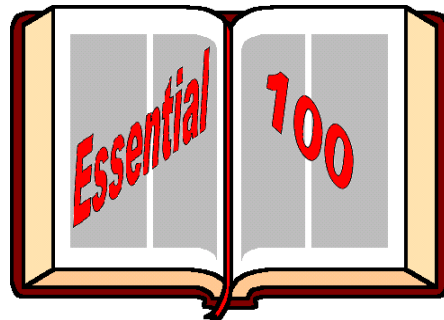
# The Essential 100

Last month we finished looking at the Old Testament story of God's love. This month we begin looking at the New Testament story.

In our readings from the Psalms, we saw God's love proclaimed in lyric style. Psalm 23 is a favorite of many people because it says God will care for his people like a shepherd cares for his sheep. Jesus even called himself "The Good Shepherd" because he takes care of all the needs of his people and laid down his life for them like a shepherd will lay down his life to protect his sheep. In the readings from Proverbs, we found that God has preserved the wisdom we need to help us live according to his will as he gave it in the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai.

In our readings from the major and minor prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Jonah, and Malachi), we discovered that God so loves mankind that he calls disobedient people to return to him so they can escape the disciplining judgment he eventually sends. The prophets not only chastised the disobedient people but they also encouraged the faithful to remain firm in following God by pointing them to the assurance of spending eternity with him with all their needs supplied and without any sickness, sorrow, or temptation to disobey.

We also find by reading the prophets that God has revealed the progress of history and the fact that he would send a Messiah (a Savior) who would heal people, free them from their captivity to disobedience, and restore them to a right relationship with the sovereign God of the universe. This Messiah was to come first as a suffering servant who would offer his life as a perfect sacrifice to pay for humanity's sin of disobedience. Then, the Messiah would return to take control of the universe and rule it with justice.



Through the prophets, God announced that the Messiah would be born to a virgin, be a descendant of the lineage of King David, and be born in the city of Bethlehem in Ephrata. The Messiah would grow in knowledge and wisdom and would be empowered by God's Holy Spirit. The Messiah would live a life in perfect obedience to God's will and would have authority over nature and demons. The Messiah would be rejected and many people would reject him and his work for them. This Messiah would be so greatly disfigured by his

suffering that people would despise looking at him and his grave would be a borrowed tomb. But the Messiah would one day return as a conquering hero to take control of his kingdom and remove every evil and temptation to disobey God from it.

Now in the New Testament, we continue to see this amazing love story depicting God's great love for mankind. Here are ten passages for you to read during the month of July. As you read, continue to look for ways that God shows his love.

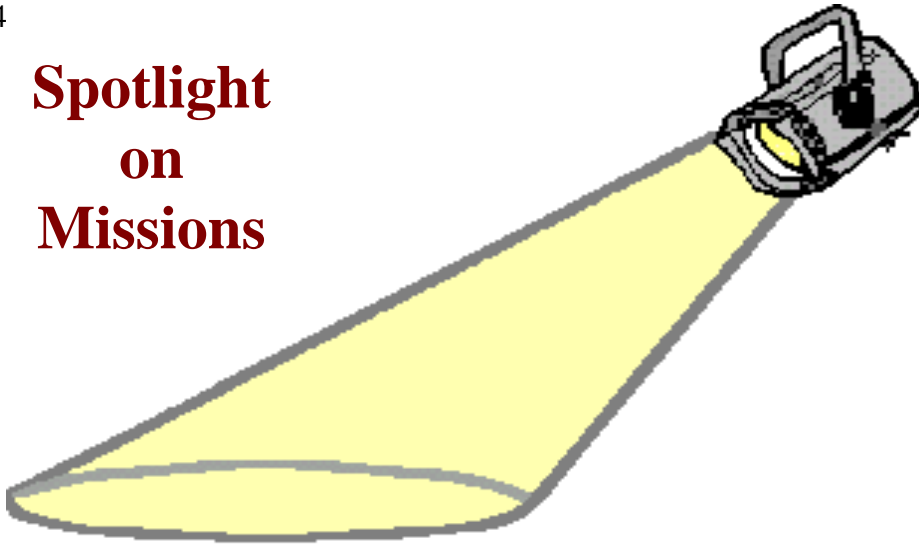
## Section 11: The Living Word

1. The Word Became Flesh,  
John 1:1-18
2. Gabriel's Messages,  
Luke 1:1-80
3. The Birth of Jesus,  
Luke 2:1-40
4. John the Baptist,  
Luke 3:1-20
5. Baptism and Temptation,  
Matthew 3:13 – 4:17

## Section 12: Teachings of Jesus

1. Sermon on the Mount—Part 1,  
Matthew 5:1 – 6:4
2. Sermon on the Mount—Part 2,  
Matthew 6:5 – 7:29
3. The Kingdom of Heaven,  
Matthew 13:1 – 58
4. The Good Samaritan,  
Luke 10:25 – 37
5. Lost and Found,  
Luke 15:1 – 32

## Spotlight on Missions



Dear Friends,

“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.”

— The Declaration of Independence, 1776

This is a year of decision. As we seek leaders who will bring to pass these rights, let us turn first to God to guide our thoughts to the right choice.

As we look around us, Roanoke prays for those who do not have the peace of Jesus in their hearts. May we share with you how much God loves you?

“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the payment for our sins.”

1 John 4:10

Missionaries with whom we are involved are in several places in the world. It is good to know they are able to be our representatives there.

Ahead of us is the hot summer. Our thoughts toward you are that God will bless you. We yearn for you to know Him in a special way. Take some time each day to acknowledge His presence in your life.

With a Forever Love,  
*Alice Claire Butler*

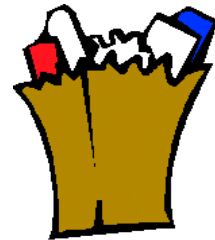
## Pantry “Pleas”

And

## Thank You

Thank you for your response to our pleas for June. We hope you will help us with some of the following items for July.

1. Ravioli & Other “Ready To Eat” Items
2. Canned Meat
3. Paper Towels
4. Kleenex



**JOIN US**

Meeting: Jul 17<sup>th</sup>

Lunch: Noon

Mission Study: 1 p.m.

# Library News



Jul Cupcakes

## Jul Birthdays

Jul 7           Maxine Floyd  
Jul 17          Jim Drummond  
Jul 26          Terry Bock



Maxine and Jim

## Business Meeting



July 17, 11 am

Our Summer Reading Club began June 5<sup>th</sup> and already a good number of books have been read. Others have been checked out so the number of books read will continue to increase. The Summer Reading Club will continue through September 4<sup>th</sup> so there is plenty of time to check out one of our books and read it. In our library you will find mysteries, suspense, autobiographies, adventures, Bible studies, and more. Look through the books and find some you would like to read.

Here are some books you might like to read.

### **The Rapture**

By Tim LaHaye & Jerry Jenkins

### **Soon, Silenced, & Shadowed**

By Jerry Jenkins

### **Found**

By Karen Kingsbury

### **Rabboni**

By Phillip Keller

### **On Holy Ground**

By Roger Elwood

### **This Present Darkness**

&

### **Piercing the Darkness**

By Frank Peretti

### **No Woman So Fair**

By Gilbert Morris

### **The Shepherd's Voice**

By Robin Lee Hatcher



*Alan Cobb*

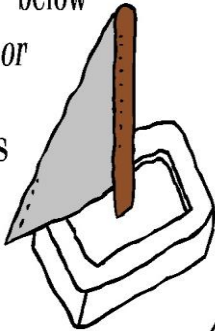
# Build



# Boat

*You will need:*

- ▲ 1 bar of Ivory soap (it floats)
- ▲ 1 popsicle stick or pencil
- ▲ some tape or glue
- ▲ the "sail" below
- ▲ crayons or markers
- ▲ scissors



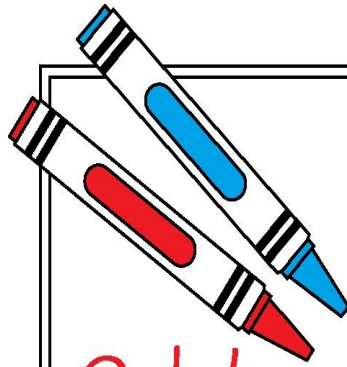
Attach the sail to the stick.

Put the stick into the bar of soap.

Float in water!

*Cut out and decorate with crayon or marker.*

Write a Bible verse on it!



# Just for KIDS

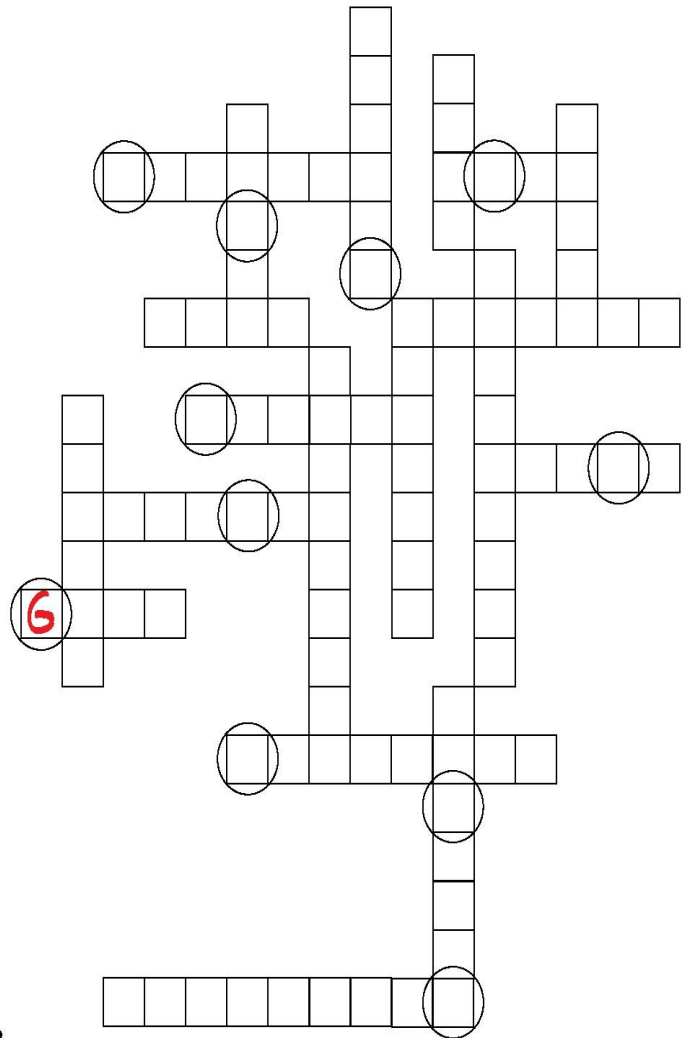
## Celebrate Your Citizenship!

When we look at a globe or map, we see many different cities and countries. We are citizens of the place where we live. But we also hold another citizenship! Where?

Fit the names of these Bible-time places in the puzzle.  
Write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found.

Read the words!

- Tyre
- Cana
- Rome
- Gaza
- Sidon
- Berea
- Lycia
- Athens
- Kedesh
- Sychar
- Galilee
- Ephraim
- Ephesus
- Corinth
- Iconium
- Damascus
- Bethlehem
- Phillippi
- Jerusalem



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## Pray For Our Missionaries

Please join us in praying for these individuals who have accepted Jesus' Lordship and are serving him in mission work.

### July 1 – 7

Mark Swan  
 Birthday: July 2

Mark, a church planter, recently planted a church called Fir & Light Community Church near Baltimore, MD, which ministers to a multiethnic community and reaches out to neighbors through various ministry efforts. "Each week we take snacks and church information to commuters at a nearby metro station," Mark says. "And during the summer we host day camps for children where we share with them about Jesus." Past crimes, additions, and sins hold back many people in the community from surrendering their lives to God, Mark says. "People like to hear that Jesus died for them and that he forgives," Mark explains. "What they don't want to hear is that you have to change your life and stop sinning."

Pray Mark is able to erect a basketball court in his yard for the neighborhood children and for the church to reach lost families with the gospel.

### July 8 – 14

Peter Barton\*  
 Birthday: July 9

Barton, who has a PhD in engineering, was content as a university professor until at a free

missions conference he heard God's call. "I'm the LORD. You're going to go to the missions field. Do you want to be like Jonah and take the roundabout route, or do you just want to go now?" He and his family obeyed and moved to East Asia to work with animistic, tribal peoples and it wasn't long before he realized many village children were sick from polluted water. He began researching solutions and, in 2009, opened a factory that makes ceramic pot water filters. One man Barton disciple is now planting churches in the area.

Pray God will work among the indigenous people and will save a witchdoctor. Pray also for God's protection and grace toward Barton's family.

\* Name changed for security

### July 15 - 21

Kerri Johnson  
 Birthday: July 16

Mott Haven, a neighborhood in South Bronx, became home to many first-generation immigrants in the 1900s: German, Irish, and Puerto Rican, including many



Jewish. That trend has continued with thousands of residents coming as first-generation adult immigrants, many of whom are unemployed. Kerri and her husband, Josh, serve with Graffiti 2 Community Ministries to help those living in the Mott Haven community. Graffiti 2 Works seeks to help adults become successful through teaching and mentoring participants in life skills, career skills, and education skills. "There are so many opportunities to help people provide for their family while introducing them to Jesus," Kerri says.

Pray that people's needs will be met through the program and that they will come to know God's love for them.

### July 22 – 31

Nate Knightly\*  
 Birthday: July 25

After 15 years in the golf course management industry, Nate moved his young family into a new life – church planting among Central Asian diaspora peoples in the Balkans. One of the most rewarding aspects of Nate's ministry with minority peoples is "seeing God at work in places that are kind of off the radar," he says. Nate encourages local churches to grow in outreach to Central Asian minorities. "It's a challenge, but one I think the Father has called us to," he affirms.

Pray God will open the hearts of the people to repent and believe in Christ.

\* Name change for security

A Community Outreach of

**R**oanoke  
**B**aptist  
**C**hurch

3950 Wyoming  
Kansas City, MO 64111



**Celebrate Independence Day**

**July 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Thank God for your freedom.**

**Give him your love and respect.**