

~ July ~

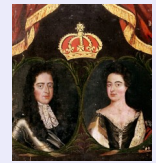


**Christ Community Church**  
Orlando, Florida

~ 2011 ~

# INDEPENDENCE

Our newsletter has an international circulation, but I wonder how many readers know about the “Glorious Revolution.” I am not talking about what happened in 1776! I am in 1689 when the English Parliament invited Prince William of Orange (in Holland) and his wife Mary to be joint sovereigns. The absolute rule of the Stuart kings, who believed they were answerable only to God, had led to civil war, the execution of a king (Charles I) and severe religious persecution. In 1689 not a shot was fired, but the Bill of Rights was passed giving freedom of speech to Parliament and secured political liberty for the individual Englishman. The Bill of Rights in 1689 completed what had begun in 1215 by Magna Carta. Sadly, a hundred years later what Englishmen had won for themselves they failed to allow to their American Colonies.



So we come to June 1776 when Richard Henry Lee of Virginia proposed to the Second Continental Congress a resolution of independence. This was approved on July 2. A day earlier John Adams had written to his wife, Abigail saying:

The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.



After the approval, Congress turned its attention to a Declaration of Independence. This document, explaining the decision that had been taken was prepared by a Committee of Five, though Thomas Jefferson was the principal author. The debate and revision which took place resulted in the Declaration bearing the date July 4, and since the beginning, that has been the day on which Americans have celebrated.



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## JULY SERMONS

- July 3 The Great Divorce – Hosea 2:2-15
- July 10 More about Jesus – Mark 8:27-9:1
- July 17 Extraordinary! – Mark 9:2-13
- July 24 Getting it Wrong – Mark 14:27-31,66-72
- July 31 Welcome Back – John 21:15-19

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This may have been the first American flag. John Adams had said that July 4 *ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty*. Like the 1689 Glorious Revolution the American Revolution was about FREEDOM. Because of the tyranny of the Stuart kings many Puritans and Dissenters had come to the New World in search of freedom. Their descendants were not prepared to lose what they believed was God-given. The new Nation would continue to look to God for blessing and inscribe on its coinage *In God We Trust*. This was to be a Godly, Christian Nation.

Jesus said: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (*John 8:31-32*)

If we know Jesus, we know the truth. This means accepting and following what he said. It also means accepting what Jesus has done for us. When we say that Jesus *died for our sins* or *died to set us free*, we mean that he has freed us from the consequences of sin (remember, **the wages of sin is death** [*Romans 6:23*]) and being deceived by Satan. Having died to take away our sin, to deal with it for ever, Jesus rose from the dead and we have the certainty of **the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord** (*Romans 6:23*). The *Life Application Bible* says:

*One who abides in the Word of God knows the truth. The word free refers to freedom from the bondage of sin. Obedience to the Lord means fellowship with Him, protection from sin, and experiencing His love.*

Have a great July 4, but celebrate that greater freedom and liberty that is ours in Christ.



#### BIBLE IN FIFTY WORDS

God made, Adam bit,  
Noah arked, Abraham split,  
Jacob fooled, Joseph ruled,  
Bush talked, Moses balked,  
Pharaoh plagued, People walked,  
Sea divided, Tablets guided, Promise landed,  
Saul freaked, David peeked,  
Prophets warned, Jesus born,  
God walked, Love talked,  
Anger crucified, Hope died,  
Love rose, Spirit flamed,  
Word spread, God remained.

(But you still need to read the whole Book!)





This is a story written by a doctor who worked in Africa:

One night I had worked hard to help a mother in the labor ward; but in spite of all we could do, she died, leaving us with a tiny, premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter. We would have difficulty keeping the baby alive; as we had no incubator and we had no electricity to run an incubator. We also had no special feeding facilities.

Although we lived on the equator, nights were often chilly with treacherous drafts. One student midwife went for the box we had for such babies and the cotton wool that the baby would be wrapped in. Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly in distress to tell me that in filling the bottle, it had burst (rubber perishes easily in tropical climates). 'And it is our last hot water bottle!' she exclaimed. As in the West, it is no good crying over spilled milk, so in Central Africa it might be considered no good crying over burst water bottles. They do not grow on trees, and there are no drugstores down forest pathways. 'All right,' I said, 'put the baby as near the fire as you safely can, and sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from drafts. Your job is to keep the baby warm.'

The following noon, as I did most days, I went to have prayers with many of the orphanage children who chose to gather with me. I gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the hot water bottle, and that the baby could so easily die if it got chills. I also told them of the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died. During prayer time, one ten-year-old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. 'Please, God' she prayed, 'Send us a hot water bottle today It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon.' While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added, 'And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?'



As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say 'Amen?' I just did not believe that God could do this. Oh, yes, I know that He can do everything; the Bible says so. But there are limits, aren't there? The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending me a parcel from the homeland. I had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and I had never, ever, received a parcel from home. Anyway, if anyone did send me a parcel, who would put in a hot water bottle? I lived on the equator! Halfway through the afternoon, while I was teaching in the nurses' training school, a message was sent that there was a car at my front door. By the time I reached home, the car had gone, but there on the veranda was a large 22 pound parcel.

I felt tears pricking my eyes. I could not open the parcel alone, so I sent for the orphanage children. Together we pulled off the string, carefully undoing each knot. We folded the paper, taking care not to tear it unduly. Excitement was mounting. Some thirty or forty pairs of eyes were focused on the large cardboard box. From the top, I lifted out brightly-colored, knitted jerseys. Eyes sparkled as I gave them out. Then there were the knitted bandages for the leprosy patients, and the children looked a little bored. Then came a box of mixed raisins and sultanas - that would make a batch of buns for the weekend.



Then, as I put my hand in again, I felt the.....could it really be? I grasped it and pulled it out. Yes, a brand new, rubber hot water bottle. I cried. I had not asked God to send it; I had not truly believed that He could. Ruth was in the front row of the children. She rushed forward, crying out, 'If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!' Rummaging down to the bottom of the box, she pulled out the small, beautifully-dressed dolly. Her eyes shone! She had never doubted! Looking up at me, she asked, 'Can I go over with you and give this dolly to that little girl, so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?' 'Of course,' I replied!

That parcel had been on the way for five whole months, packed up by my former Sunday school class, whose leader had heard and obeyed God's prompting to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator. And one of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child - five months before, in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year-old to bring it 'that afternoon.'

'Before they call, I will answer.' (Isaiah 65:24)



## July 2011 Newsletter

ALL NEW AND UPDATED WEBSITE [www.orlandoccc.org](http://www.orlandoccc.org)

### Christ Community Church

5425 South Apopka Vineland Road  
Orlando, FL 32819-3807  
407-909-9495

*Rev. Dr. John Tattersall*, Minister  
[preacherjohnl@orlandoccc.org](mailto:preacherjohnl@orlandoccc.org)

*Janell Newton*, Church Administrator  
[cccorlando@yahoo.com](mailto:cccorlando@yahoo.com)

*Debbie Pinto*, Director of Music  
[deborahpinto@comcast.net](mailto:deborahpinto@comcast.net)

*Charlie Steele*, Church Treasurer  
[csteele1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:csteele1@cfl.rr.com)



### *Sundays*

10:00 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

### *Wednesdays*

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Bible Study



## ***COUNCIL NEWS & NOTES***

This **Sunday, July 3**, John has prepared a worship service to celebrate our Independence as a nation. We hope you are able to worship with us! Because of this special service, Communion will be observed on Sunday, July 10. As a reminder, Sunday School begins at 10:00am and there is always room for one or two more.



The July Council Meeting will be held on **Monday, July 18 at 7:00pm**. The Council will be selecting the new council members at this meeting. If you still wish to nominate someone to serve on the council, please contact Diane Reaves before the July meeting.

Mark your calendars for the semi-annual Congregational meeting which will be held on **Sunday, August 14** following the worship service. More details will be made available as the date gets closer.

The **Missions Committee** continues to collect food items for those in need. There is a basket available in the Narthex for you to drop off your non-perishable items. We will be participating in the **Macy's Shop For a Cause** event again this year. 100% of the proceeds from the \$5 shopping passes goes directly to missions. **August 27** is the date of the special sale at every Macy's nationwide. Shopping passes to purchase will be available beginning Sunday, July 10.

The church classroom makeover is now complete—stop by to see the new fresh look! Next up to be refreshed—the church nursery.

Wishing each of you a happy and safe 4th of July holiday!

***Janell Newton***