

Good News

Macedonia Baptist Church

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A monthly publication for Members of Macedonia Baptist Church

Rev. Charles D. Twymon, Pastor

Volume 18 Issue 7

July 2020

So if the Son
sets you free,
you will be
**free
indeed.**
John 8:36

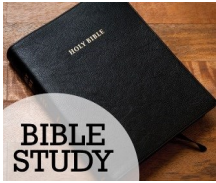
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A N N O U N C E M E N T S

BIBLE STUDY



The Pastor's Wednesday afternoon and evening Bible Study Classes are recessed until further notice.

Saturday, July 4, 2020



... but they who wait for
the LORD shall

renew their strength;

they shall mount up
with wings like eagles;

they shall run and
not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

4th OF JULY TRIVIA

Only two people actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4: John Hancock and Charles Thomson, secretary of Congress. Most of the others signed on August 2.

Not everyone was on board with celebrating on July 4, the day Congress approved the Declaration. John Adams wanted to celebrate on July 2, the day Congress voted for independence.

Three US presidents have died on July 4 — John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe. In a bizarre twist of fate, Adams and Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the country they helped found.

July 4 wasn't deemed a federal holiday until 1870, nearly 100 years after the nation was founded.

Fireworks have been a major part of Fourth of July since the earliest celebrations. In 1884, miners blew up the post office in Swan, Colorado, because it wasn't supplied with fireworks.

The Philippines gained their own independence from the US on July 4, 1946 by signing the Treaty of Manila.

A speech bubble containing a quote, decorated with colorful fireworks. The quote reads: "It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have."

"It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have."

SERMONS

CDs and DVDs are available through the Audio Ministry. Visit www.mbcdet.com/media or via the **MBCDET app** to listen to archived sermons.



Pastor Charles D. Twymon

📖 June 7, 2020, 11:00 a.m. Live Stream
"I Won't Go Back"
Titus 3:1-7
Pastor Charles Twymon

📖 June 14, 2020, 11:00 a.m. Live Stream
"A Check Up From The Neck Up"
Romans 12:1-2
Pastor Charles Twymon

Father's Day

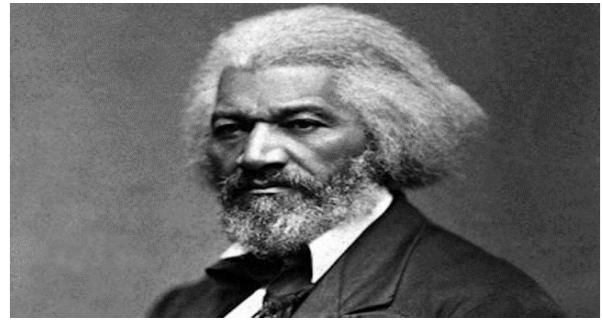
📖 June 21, 2020, 11:00 a.m. Live Stream
"The Head, The Heart and The Hero"
Ephesians 5:23-25, 6:1-4
Pastor Charles Twymon

📖 June 28, 2020, 11:00 a.m. Live Stream
"Remain Faithful"
2 Timothy 3:13-17
Pastor Charles Twymon



HOW FREDERICK DOUGLASS CHALLENGED THE HYPOCRISY OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

Submitted by Maxine Gardner



Archival image of Frederick Douglass, downloaded on July 2, 2018. Photo Credit: Sourced via Wikimedia Commons

"What, to the American slave, is your Fourth of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days of the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is a constant victim."

July 4th marks Independence Day, even as protesters mark America's denial of liberty to people of color. As *The Associated Press* noted (July 1), formerly enslaved abolitionist Frederick Douglass addressed the failure of American commitments to freedom more than a century ago in several Fourth of July-focused speeches.

The AP traces Douglass' critique back to an 1852 speech that he delivered to a predominantly White audience in Rochester, New York. "*The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro*," which he technically delivered on July 5, captured how ongoing enslavement of African Americans sullied the holiday:

What, to the American slave, is your Fourth of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year,

(Continued on page 5)

A CONFLICTED FOURTH:

Some Black Americans struggle
celebrating Fourth of July
Submitted by Maxine Gardner

For African Americans, the commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 — and its promises of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness while slavery was still the law of the land — is complicated, according to Charles Blockson, a historian, scholar and author of African-American culture and history.

For Blockson, 84, the Fourth of July conjures up thoughts of “progress,” “hypocrisy,” and, “in a sense, hope,” as well as a “miseducation.”

“We’re still fighting for our rights,” he said.

The contradiction of the Declaration of Independence declaring “all men are created equal” is especially potent in Philadelphia.

While the Declaration of Independence was signed on the first floor of Independence Hall, the second floor was the site of a federal district court where fugitive slave violations were handled, according to Adam Duncan, a National Park Service ranger at the Independence National Historical Park.

“Independence Hall is a symbol of paradox,” he said. “Downstairs celebrated freedom and upstairs you have fugitive slave trials going on.”

The story of slavery and freedom in America is a challenging story to tell, but the national park strives to discuss them both.

Among exhibits at the President’s House at the national park is a memorial dedicated to Ona “Oney” Judge, one of George Washington’s slaves who escaped from there in 1796.

Slavery and segregation in a country that extolled equality for all are strange paradoxes, according to Minister Rodney Muhammad, president of the NAACP in Philadelphia,

during a telephone conversation and paraphrasing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

As America celebrates its divorce from Great Britain..., Muhammad said African Americans continue to fight against modern-day contradictions to the country’s promise of equality for all, including unequal school funding, redlining and gentrification.

For some, the Fourth of July tells only half the story of freedom in America, said Rev. Ronald Myers, Sr., founder and chairman of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation.

“The 19th of June completes the cycle of Independence Day celebrations in America,” said Myers of Belzoni, Miss., during a telephone conversation Monday.

Myers’ organization advocates adding Juneteenth to the list of federal observances. Although Pennsylvania and dozens of other states and the District of Columbia recognize or observe Juneteenth as a holiday, it is not a federal observance.

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19, dates to 1865 when Union Major General Gordon Granger brought news to Galveston, Texas, that the war had ended and issued General Order No. 3, stating that all slaves were free.

Regional celebrations of Emancipation Day, or Juneteenth, took place the following year and spread throughout the Union.

“The Fourth of July freed the land from Britain; the 19th of June freed all the people,” Myers said. “So you really can’t talk about freedom in America unless you talk about Fourth of July and the 19th of June.”

Source: <https://www.theatlantavoice.com/articles/a-conflicted-fourth-some-black-americans-struggle-celebrating-fourth-of-july/>

the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States, at this very hour.

He delivered "*The Slaveholders' Rebellion*" a decade later, on July 4, 1862, during the Civil War. Douglass denounced the ways supporters of enslavement twisted the Declaration of Independence to support their beliefs. He noted the deadly impact on not just the primary targets—the enslaved—but other marginalized people as well:

Instead of treating it, as it was intended to be treated, as a full and comprehensive declaration of the equal and sacred rights of mankind, our contemptible Negro-hating and slaveholding critics have endeavored to turn it into absurdity by treating it as a declaration of the equality of man in his physical proportions and mental endowments. This gross and scandalous perversion of the true intents of meaning of the declaration did not long stand alone. It was soon followed by the heartless dogma, that the rights declared in that instrument did not apply to any but White men. The slave power at last succeeded, in getting this doctrine proclaimed from the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. It was there decided that "all men" only means some men, and those White men. And all this in face of the fact, that White people only form one fifth of the whole human family—and that some who pass for White are nearly as Black as your humble speaker. While all this was going on, lawyers, priests and politicians were at work upon national prejudice against the colored man. They raised the cry and put it

into the mouth of the ignorant, and vulgar and narrow minded, that "this is the White man's country," and other cries which readily catch the ear of the crowd. This popular method of dealing with an oppressed people has, while crushing the Blacks, corrupted and demoralized the Whites.... Slavery, that was before the Missouri Compromise couchant, on its knees, asking meekly to be let alone within its own limits to die, became in a few years after rampant, throttling free speech, fighting friendly Indians, annexing Texas, warring with Mexico, kindling with malicious hand the fires of war and bloodshed on the virgin soil of Kansas, and finally threatening to pull down the pillars of the Republic, if you Northern men should dare vote in accordance with your constitutional and political convictions.

Source: <https://www.colorlines.com/articles/how-frederick-douglass-challenged-hypocrisy-independence-day>

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY



TO OUR MACEDONIA FAMILY
WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES
WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOUR HEALING
COMFORT, STRENGTH, AND PEACE DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME

A BETTER LIFE

Submitted by Wendell Smitherman

So much of what we as black people are has to do directly with the fact that our forefathers were not able to pass on the good life to us. We knew that there was a good life to be had, and we knew what the passport would be—hard work. Of course, it wasn't a guaranteed passport, but it was essential if you were to have any chance at all. With that philosophy, many black kids whose parents didn't have the means to send them to college worked their way through by busing dishes in the cafeteria, mowing lawns in town, working as maids, pumping gas, scrubbing floors, or whatever else was necessary to pay for their own educations.

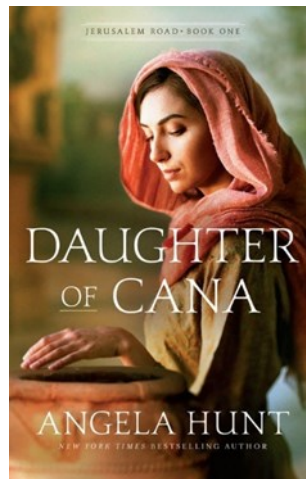
Black youngsters were not the only ones using the hard-work philosophy to move upward and onward; loads of whites were doing the same thing, but to a greater extent the black youngsters' parents had to say to them, "If you want a better life, and I want a better life for you, I will help you as much as I can, but I cannot hand it to you. You are going to have to get it for yourself, and getting it requires that, first you have an education and second, that you go out there and work for it." An impressive number of them did just that. The glittering list of America's most successful blacks is generously sprinkled with the names of those who pumped gas, scrubbed floors, bused dishes and even shined shoes. ~ Sidney Poitier, 1980

Source: The Wisdom of the Elders by Robert Fleming, Random House Publishing Group, Nov 18, 2009



MACEDONIA BIBLE & BOOK CORNER

Submitted by Sonja Gray



The *Daughter of Cana* is book one in the Jerusalem Road series by Angela Hunt. This is such a good book. It is so well written I had to keep reminding myself it was a fictional writing based on Biblical facts. The story starts in 27 A.D. with Thomas and his twin sister,

Tasmin, being hired to do a wedding in Cana. More guests arrive at the wedding than planned for. Some of them are Mary of Nazareth and her family. Her oldest son, Yeshua (Jesus) is there and several men join him and follow him through his next three years. Thomas is one of these men.

Through the story we see what it might have been for those who knew Yeshua and his disciples' families. We see the struggles the carpenter's family went through without having him there to do the intricate work only he is skilled with. We see Thomas' family struggle to keep up with the fruit trees, especially when his father can no longer tend to them. We also see how the people of the time do not understand what Yeshua is saying.

I especially appreciate the question and answer part after the story, where the author points out the extensive research she has done to give as accurate accounting as possible. She gives bible verses that she used for naming characters. I would highly recommend this story for anyone who enjoys reading Biblical Fiction.



Honoring OUR GRADUATES

On **Sunday, June 28, 2020**, during the **11 a.m. live stream service**, Pastor Twymon and Macedonia Baptist Church proudly acknowledged the 2020 high school and college graduates.



High School **Diplomas**

Imari Carl graduated from the Communication and Media Arts High School in Detroit on June 12, with a 3.0 GPA. Imari plans to attend Jackson College in August and major in psychology. Imari received two Bill Brown Ford Scholarships, Detroit Promise Scholarship and partial scholarships to Ferris State University, Central State (Ohio) and University of Michigan. After obtaining a bachelors degree she plans to attend medical school to become a psychiatrist in order to help people who abuse drugs or adolescent behavioral health.

**CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2020**

Dylan Kemp graduated from John Glenn High School in Westland on June 17, with a 3.5 GPA. He plans to attend Michigan State University in the fall. Dylan received Cum Laude honors and earned medals while competing in DECA. His future goals are to earn a degree in finance. After college Dylan plans to achieve a place of excellence in order to change communities.

Lashon Mundy graduated from Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Livonia on June 30. She plans to attend Western Michigan University in the fall. Lashon will major in biochemistry and plans to be a biochemist to find cures for diseases.



Bachelor **Degrees**

Brittany Minor will graduate from Oakland University on August 8, 2020, with a Bachelors Degree in Nursing with a 3.5 GPA. She participated in the Student Nurses Association and was on the Dean's List two consecutive semesters. Brittany plans are to accept a position as an ER Nurse at Children's Hospital or Detroit Receiving. Her future goals are to attend Northwestern in Chicago to obtain a Masters in Nursing and become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in the ER at Chicago Children's Hospital or John Hopkins Pediatric Hospital.

Jazmine Williams graduated from Wayne State University April 30, 2020, with a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts. Her awards and recognitions include the WSU Detroit Urban Scholars, an Undergraduate Creative Research Grant and an Art Activity Award. Jazmine plans to attend grad school at WSU and receive a Masters in Art Therapy.



Invitation to: *Macedonia Baptist Church Sunday School*

Superintendent of Sunday School: *Rev. Ronald Davis*

Pastor: *Reverend Charles D. Twymon*

The Sunday School classes will be conducting lessons via Zoom for the time being. We invite you, your family and friends to enjoy the wonderful lessons that can be applied to your everyday life.

Classes	Zoom Details	Time
Adults & Men's Class	Meeting ID: 927 219 5591, Password: 4Y06SC	9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Adult Women's	Meeting ID: 812 6657 9368, Password: 7ZaZbd	9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Teens & Young Adults	Meeting ID: 567 992 3441, Password: 503816	9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Juniors	Meeting ID: 775 4028 7203, Password: 7DJiT2	10:00 – 10:40 a.m.
Beginners	Meeting ID: 246 295 5225, Password 5TykPq	10:00 – 10:40 a.m.
Primaries	Meeting ID: 764 3488 2047, Password 7HSqXa	10:00 – 10:40 a.m.

The list of lessons for July 2020 includes the following:


Israel's Early Leaders/Saul: A Flawed King

Date	Lesson	Scripture
July 5	Samson's Final Victory	Judges 16:21-31
July 12	Samuel's Leadership Brings Victory	I Samuel 7:1-12
July 19	Israel Demands a King	I Samuel 8:1-11, 18-20
July 26	Saul Anointed King	I Samuel 9:25—10:1, 6-16

?? ?
Bible Quiz
? ??

What seemingly small act did Jesus specifically say would be rewarded?

- A. Giving a child a toy
- B. Giving a lost traveler directions
- C. Giving someone a cup of cold water
- D. Giving a sad person a hug



Answer: C (See Matthew 10:42.)



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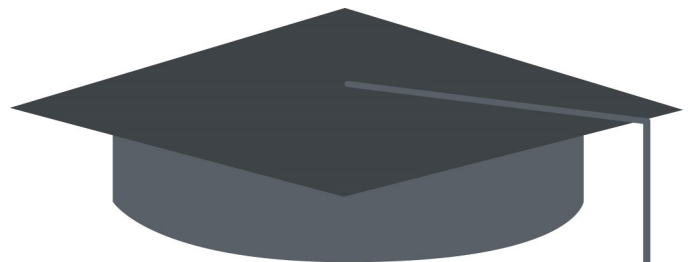
"Come over into Macedonia and help us." ACTS 16:9



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But
THE LORD
is
FAITHFUL;
HE WILL
STRENGTHEN
YOU
and
GUARD
YOU
from the evil one.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:3, NRSV



CELEBRATE

Our Graduates

