

ATLANTA WEST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

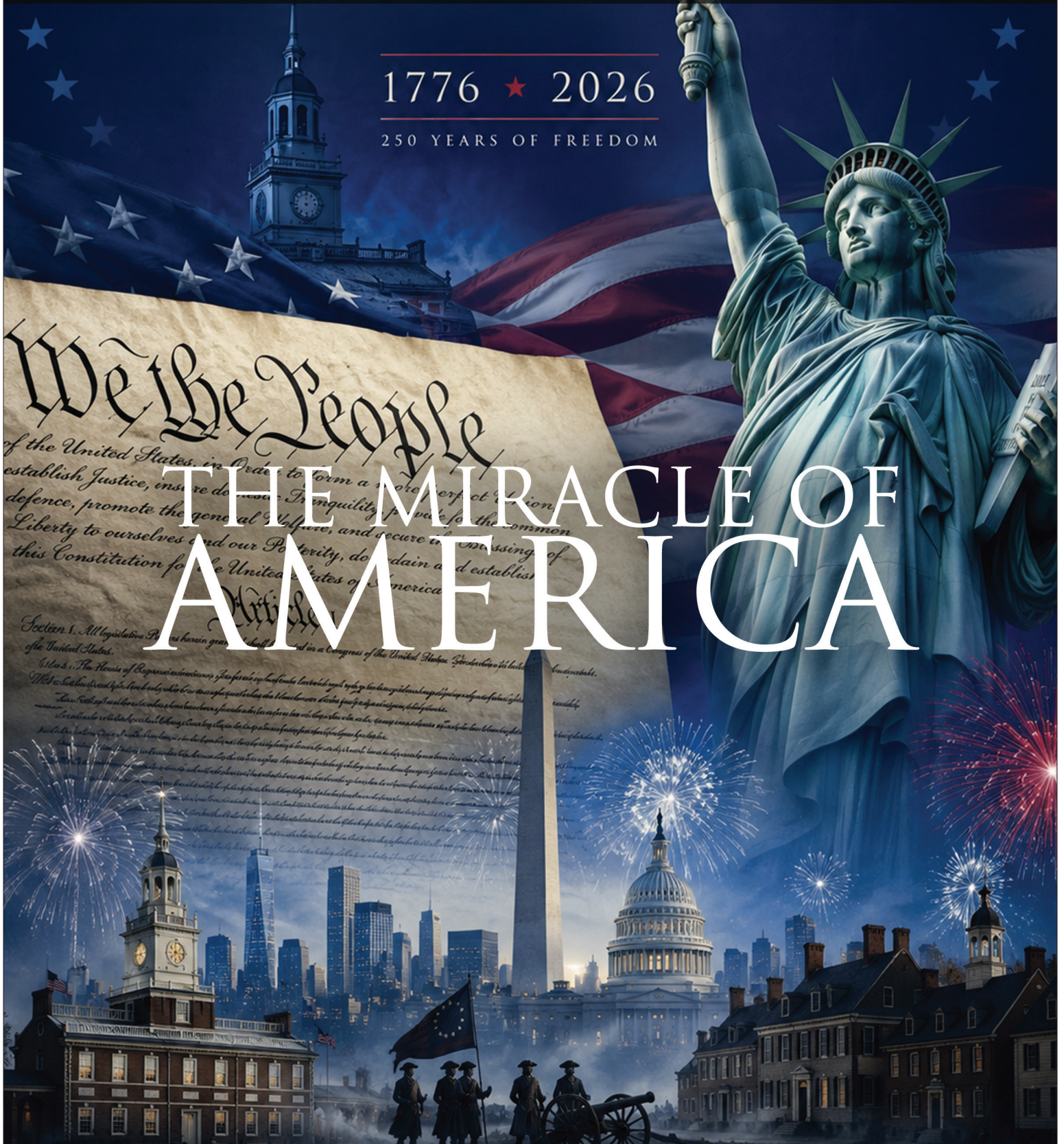
MESSENGER

JULY
2026

1776 ★ 2026

250 YEARS OF FREEDOM

THE MIRACLE OF AMERICA





BY: PASTOR DARRELL JOHNS

As we approach another Independence Day, Americans will gather to celebrate the birth of our nation. We will remember the courage of those who pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to secure liberty for future generations. Yet beyond the familiar stories of battles fought and victories won lies a deeper question: What is the true miracle of the United States of America?

Some point to our military victories. Others point to her economic prosperity, technological achievements, or global influence. While each of these is significant, the greatest miracle of the United States is not found in her strength, wealth, or power. The miracle of America is found in the providence of God and in a people who believed that liberty is a gift from Him.

The Declaration of Independence, which marks the birth of our nation, is not merely a political document. It is a declaration of dependence upon Almighty God. The signers appealed to "Nature's God," affirmed that mankind is "endowed by their Creator" with certain unalienable rights, appealed to the "Supreme Judge of the world," and expressed "a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence." They understood a truth that remains just as relevant today: true freedom does not originate in government; it originates with God.

Liberty is not merely an American ideal—it is a biblical principle. This principle is woven throughout Scripture. From the beginning, God created man with the ability to choose. Adam was given a choice in the Garden (Genesis 2:16-17). The Lord gave Israel the right to choose life or death, blessing or cursing (Deuteronomy 30:19). Joshua challenged Israel, saying, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Joshua 24:15). God never forces obedience; He invites it.

Throughout the Revolutionary War, there were moments that are evidence of God's providential care. George Washington survived battles in which bullets pierced his clothing and horses were shot from beneath him. During the desperate retreat from Brooklyn, a dense fog concealed the Continental Army's escape from certain destruction. Months later, Washington's daring crossing of the ice-filled Delaware River led to the pivotal victory at Trenton, reviving a cause that appeared to be on the brink of collapse.

Historians may debate these events as divine intervention, but believers recognize that God often works through circumstances, timing, and opportunities that human wisdom alone cannot explain. The hand of Providence is not always seen in spectacular miracles. More often, it is seen in God's faithful guidance through the ordinary events of life and history.

Yet the greatest miracle was not that the United States of America won her independence. The greatest miracle was what God enabled our nation to do with that freedom.

For two and a half centuries, the United States of America has enabled the spread of the Gospel around the world. Missionaries have been sent to all nations. Millions of Bibles have been printed and distributed. Churches have been planted, ministries have been established, and countless lives have been transformed through the message of Jesus Christ. The freedoms secured by our founders created opportunities for the Gospel to advance in ways few could have imagined. America was blessed to be a blessing.

The United States of America has never been a perfect nation because it has always been composed of imperfect people. We have experienced failures as well as successes. We have fallen short of our highest ideals. Yet through it all, God has repeatedly shown mercy and bestowed blessing. The story of America is not a testimony to human perfection; it is a testimony to divine grace.

On our nation's 250th birthday, as we commemorate the miracle of America, the challenge before us is not simply to celebrate our heritage but to steward it wisely. Freedom carries responsibility. The same God who blessed our nation expects us to honor Him with the blessings we have received.

Scripture reminds us: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD" (Psalm 33:12). It also warns us against forgetting the source of our blessings. Prosperity can produce pride. Comfort can lead to complacency. History repeatedly demonstrates that nations decline when they abandon the principles that once made them strong.

The question before Americans is not whether God has blessed us. The evidence of His goodness is all around us. The question is whether we will continue to acknowledge Him as the source of those blessings.

As we celebrate Independence Day, may our gratitude extend beyond our founding fathers to our Heavenly Father. May we thank God for His providence, His protection, and His abundant mercy. And may we renew our commitment to the faith, virtue, and dependence upon God that helped shape and exalt this nation from its beginning (Proverbs 14:34).

The miracle of America is not merely found in her past. It is found in the continued opportunity to choose whom we will serve. May we, like Joshua of old, declare with conviction: "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

July Birthdays

1 Jennifer Nickens Everett Manley Jaden Fuentes Ka'Meisha Richardson	12 Jennifer Austin	25 Joseph Jordan Bro. Larry Davie Jennifer Davis Noah Richardson Alma Santiago
2 Kelly Donnell Edna Plott Anna Sims	13 Zayne Austin TJ Frazier Wyatt McDowell Claire Kendrick	26 Steve Boyd Tyler-Cole Norris Brian Forrest Chiazor Eziakor Rebecca Correll Emily Quinn Nathan Miller Gregory Sweet Trevor Paige Blanding Tabari Brown
3 Vickie Grayson Bethany Johnson Britney Brown Peyton Johnson	14 Dale Cole	27 Paul Stewart Eva Richardson Gabriel Moses Bridghett Johnson
4 Jordan Walton Steven Tamas Bella Cude	15 Ann Evens Roxanna Carter Jace Thompson Bella Cole	28 Randy Brock Sandra Manata Frederick Douglas Benjamin Flowers
5 Brook Miller Adline Ani Aeribelle Burdett Kimberly Henderson	16 Sis. Kay Gerber Kelly Allen	29 Jennifer Franzen Mia Lewis Teri Dempsey Vicky Deatherage
6 Robin Ellis Debbie Frazier Martha Ladouceur Gabriel Smitherman Jai'kiem Blanding	17 Michael Sykes Perthenia (PJ) Smith	30 Alison Motley Reighan Keyser Wanya Smith
7 Susie Quinn David Jones John Rose Jr Karen Shelton	18 Sophie Salinas Sofia Haight	31 Titus Puckett Noah Mariona Elsie Onuoha Evan Wiley Henry Nunn Oliver Nunn
9 Teresa Minnick Kara Phillips Wynetta Walker	19 Joy Lamb Ava Stakley	
10 Betsy Marquina Jaiden Derrick Gary Stevenson Kristin Hall	20 Colton Fain Matthew Mariona	
11 Shadijah Holley Elianna Mariona	21 George Badoe Silas Turner Josiah Patterson	
	22 Chris Willey Chris Walton Cindy Hall	
	23 Thomas Seeney Jr. Natalia Richardson	
	24 James Townsend III Luis Colin	

July Anniversaries

1	Ricky & Sherry Bennett
5	Bro. Stan & Jerri Ann Manley
9	Tim & Heather Livingston
10	Bro. Russell & Cheri Robinson
10	Julius & Tonya Adams
12	John & Joy Lamb
12	Khadian & Tamkia Parchment
15	Gus & April Mariona
16	Billy & Vicky Deatherage
16	Steve & Margery Tamas
18	Joseph & Jeminiah Ahudey
20	Nathan & Connie Rowland
20	Troy & Mandy Nixon
22	Luis & Jackie Marin
22	Dale & Beverly Cole
25	Steve & Leah Boyd
28	Pastor Darrell & Carol Johns
31	Jesus & Alma Santiago

What's With the Party?
May 25 - June 21

Filled with the Holy Ghost
Katelynn Smith

Baptized in Jesus' Name
Jimmy Adkins



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 2026 Ch.I.P.Z. - Children in the Power Zone			1 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z. 7:30 pm CrossOver 7:30 pm CROWD	2	3	4 6:30 am HOPE Independence Day Pastor's Prayer Partners Canceled
			GA District Campmeeting			
5 Missions Sunday Ch.I.P.Z.	6	7 301 Meeting Canceled	8 All Services Canceled	9	10	11 6:30 am HOPE 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners 2
12 Baby Dedication Ch.I.P.Z	13	14	15 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z. 7:30 pm CrossOver 7:30 pm CROWD	16	17	18 6:30 am HOPE 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners 3
19 IMAGINE Ch.I.P.Z.	20	21 7 pm Ladies' Prayer	22 7:30 pm CROWD 7:30 pm Hyphen	23 3 pm Trustee Meeting	24	25 6:30 am HOPE 7:30 pm Pastor's Prayer Partners 4
26 Half-Time Ch.I.P.Z.	27	28	29 7:30 pm Ch.I.P.Z. 7:30 pm CrossOver 7:30 pm CROWD	30		