

America celebrates Independence Day on July fourth every year, but it wasn't until September 3, 1783 that the war for independence ended and a peace treaty was signed with England. During those years there was a lot of pain, suffering, and blood spilled in the struggle for peace. It seems that mankind is always in search of, an often allusive peace. We think we have achieved it only to discover another conflict, is either present with us, or just over the horizon. Mankind, if left to his own cultural devises, will never find a lasting peace.

Only God offers us the peace that passes understanding. John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." True peace and freedom can only be found in Christ. The peace that Christ offers is not just the absence of conflict, but it is a peace that overcomes adversity in any form.

John 14: 27 "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." NKJV

God's peace is not achieved by being worried or troubled. It is not achieved by struggling or fighting. It is achieved by giving your struggles and fears over to God and, by faith, trusting in the outcome. That is why planting churches is so important. Jesus established a church which brings hope for the future. Where else can people turn that will actually bring them the peace they so desperately need?

As our nation seems to be deconstructing; the Northern Plains Evangelism Association is taking strides to establish more churches. Recently, we joined forces with several other church planting organizations and churches to help fund a church plant in Northern Colorado in the Johnstown area of the state. We continue to pray for the planter we need to plant a church in Aberdeen, South Dakota. In an effort to be proactive in our efforts to develop church planters who are interested in the Northern Plains, we are continuing to implement our intern program with an intern this summer. In addition, we are developing a residency program which hopefully will supply future planters, as well.

The best way to reach the lost is to establish new churches who are committed to making disciples who make disciples and that is exactly what the Northern Plains Evangelist Association is committed to. We have every confidence that that is what you are praying for, as well. We thank you for your support that allows church planting efforts to continue in the northern plains and beyond. In difficult times churches invite people to accept an invitation that was given to them by Jesus Himself in the gospel of Matthew:

Matt 11:28-30 28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." NKJV

My God bring you peace,

Larry Berlin NPEA Board Member