

Wade's June 2026 Letter

In 1988 April and I joined American Missionary Fellowship while we were living in Star Valley, Wyoming and I was pastoring Emmanuel Bible Church. AMF sent its new recruits to Philadelphia, PA for a week of orientation which included one day of historical tour. That historical tour was truly unforgettable. We were taken to Independence Hall to



view the very room where the Declaration of Independence was debated, passed and signed, July 1776. After a long and brutal eight-year revolutionary war which defeated the most powerful



empire on earth the U.S. Constitution was created, debated passed and signed. We were removed from the actual events by over two centuries but it seemed we were, in a sense, able to touch our history. In fact, we were allowed to touch the Liberty Bell. It is about 2 inches thick.



Upstairs is a long banquet room. When General Washington and the American army were at Valley Forge the British had captured Philadelphia and they used the banquet room as a prison for American

soldiers. They suffered and bled on the very floor planks that are still there today.

Then we were taken to Valley Forge. About 18 miles from Philadelphia.



It was late November early December when the American army entered Valley Forge. The men were still wearing summer clothing, shoes were worn out and they had little food. The main food was what they called “fire cake.” It was crushed wheat mixed in water and poured out on hot rocks at the camp fire to cook. For shelter Washington had them build very small cabins. They dug about three feet in the ground and built the top part with logs. Each cabin housed 12 men, six on each side. They laid on plain board bunks. No mattresses and no blankets. They cooked on the campfire outside.

There was a rock house (still there today) Washington could have lived in it. But he stayed in his tent until every last soldier was housed in their cabin. Then he moved into the house but he was out with the soldiers every day. His wife Martha joined him.



Washington wrote letters to Congress asking for help but he was ignored. Congressmen just could not believe things were as desperate as Washington described. In the spring Congress sent a delegation to investigate. Then Washington got the aid the troops so desperately needed. Through it all the Army remained loyal to the cause of American Liberty.

It is hard to describe the profound feelings of walking where the first American Army served and suffered so intensely. One could not say it is holy ground in the same sense as walking where Jesus walked but to me it is sacred.

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Another very significant sight was the print shop of Benjamin Franklin.



No one knows exactly which articles were original to Franklin's shop. It was restored as a museum with furniture customary of the time.

We also were given time to climb to the third level in the

Trinity House where Betsy Ross lived and the very room where she sewed the first American flag.



We went to Christ Church in Philadelphia where many of the founding fathers attended when in town. Bishop William White was the pastor. After the revolutionary war he traveled to London, England where he met a man working in the slums to bring the Gospel to children. He called his work "Sunday Schools." That was the first time in Church History that Sunday Schools were created as a part of Christian ministry. Back in Philadelphia, the Idea was initially rejected because it had been such a short time since the Revolutionary War. Nothing of England was looked upon with favor for a time. Later (1790) some faithful Christian men including Bushrod Washington (George Washington's nephew) formed an organization called The First Day Society. (Renamed the American Sunday School Union 1824). It was tremendously successful as our nation grew westward. The ASSU would take the Gospel to new settlements and towns offering to teach the children the Bible and about the Lord Jesus Christ as well as to teach them to read and write. The organization was later (1974) called American Missionary Fellowship (AMF) as it was when April and I joined. Today it is called InFaith. InFaith has limited its ministry to the United States. Some missionaries, believing we should also reach out beyond America formed "Be One Together" (abbreviated B1-2G, the name is based on John 17:21)

to take the Gospel wherever the Lord would lead. Being in agreement with that decision, that is when April and I moved our membership to Be One Together.

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Yes, it really has been 250 years since the founding of our beloved America. In the early 1700's George Whitefield traveled to America from England seven times preaching the Gospel up and down the eastern seaboard. That resulted in what Church History records as being the First Great Awakening. Jonathan Edwards

was also greatly involved. The founders of America were boys and young men during the First Great Awakening. God used that spiritual awakening to establish a nation through which He could virtually reach the world for Christ. One small example is the Jesus Movie based on the Gospel of Luke. That movie has been



seen by literally Billions of people worldwide and has been translated into 1800 languages.

When America was established as a nation it was the first time in human history that citizens said to their government "THOU SHALT NOT." They formed a government with a division of powers and made it clear mankind's rights are from God not from government. To be even more clear they passed the first Ten Amendments to the newly adopted constitution to make it doubly obvious there are certain rights that government shall not abridge in any way. God has been at work in our nation in many ways.

As the constitution was being formed and debated many times it seemed hopeless to figure out how to protect the people and each State while creating a central government strong enough to lead the nation. But God was at work.

Benjamin Franklin was not a Christian but God used him to call the Constitutional Convention to prayer for God's guidance every morning. Then God gave the necessary insight.

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However, there have been times in our history when the American people have turned from God with dire consequences. Currently, America is desperate for another Spiritual Awakening. Daily we hear of terrible grievous sins being practiced and promoted by many Americans. As we celebrate God's wonderful work in America this July 4th, let us pray with all our hearts for an outpouring of His convicting Holy Spirit and a revival that will impact the whole world.

(Prayer by George Washington written in his own hand). *“Direct my thoughts, words and work, wash away my sins in the immaculate Blood of the Lamb, and purge my heart by Thy Holy Spirit . . . daily frame me more and more into the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ.”*

(Quoted from *The Light and the Glory* by Peter Marshall and David Manuel. Published by Revell, 1977 page 285)

In the Nursing Home Ministry God is using the 250th celebration of the birth of America. I have given out some American flags with 2026 on them. One man who has been resentful toward me for years was happy to receive a flag and genuinely thankful. Perhaps a door of ministry opportunity has been opened. Others have greatly appreciated the flags. God continues to work through your prayers and support. Thank you very much!

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Recommended viewing: The American Miracle, Our Nation is no Accident. Available through www.VisionVideo.com 1-800-523-0226.