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## **Celebration of Our Nation**

"Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations; and repayeth them that hate Him to their face, to destroy them: He will not be slack to him that hateth Him. He will repay him to his face. Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgements, which I command thee this

day, to do them." Deuteronomy 7:9-11 Each year, when we come to the celebration of our nation's founding, I like to think of what it must have been like to have been one of those delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. I try to imagine the hopes and dreams they must have had for our new democracy. I envision them sitting together and discussing their aspirations for this nation and the life their grandchildren and greatgrandchildren might inherit.

Along with their grand visions, I imagine they might have been a bit frightened of the seemingly insur-

mountable odds against them. Perhaps they felt a deep sense of regret as they watched the mighty British military forces amass against them to thwart any beliefs they might have had of personal liberty and freedom. Without question, they were willing to die for their convictions and desires for independence, but were they willing to make those same sacrifices on behalf of their wives and children?

Perhaps they felt much the same as the Israelites felt as they stood on the banks of the lordan river before they entered the promised land. They were not quite yet a nation, but God was about to take them into a foreign land and establish them as His people. They listened to the warnings of Moses and worried about the giants who lived in the land they were about to possess. They must have questioned their own ability to carry out God's directions. Would they be able to drive out the other nations and establish themselves as a nation?

God answered their doubts with

His message found in Deuteronomy. God tells the Israelites that He is faithful and able to keep His covenant. He further tells them that as long as they love Him and keep His commandments, God will always be on their side. What a wonderful assurance God gave the Israelites as long as they were willing to remain faithful to God. But that assurance came with a warning.

God also warned the people of Israel that He would not abide with those who hated Him. How inconceivable that must have been for a people who watched God provide for their every need for forty years of wandering through the wilderness? Yet, they did just that and reaped the consequences.

Our nation faces a very similar decision. If we are willing to follow God, love Him with all our hearts, and keep His commandments, God will continue to bless our nation. If we continue to turn our backs to God and reject Him, God will remove His hand from upon us and we will face His

judgements. Our nation will continue to fall apart and face destruction at our own hands. Without God, the we will be helpless to the assaults of those all around us.

But there is hope. If we, as the people of God, will humbly submit ourselves before God, reject the evil of this world, and commit to following God's direction and commands; He will bless us once again with His favor. God's mercy and grace can once again be applied to this nation, provided we look to Him for direction, rather than the plans and schemes of those who would remove God's influence from our nation

As we remember the founding of this country, let us remember that it was the blessings of God that brought us through the great challenges we faced as a young republic. It was through His blessings that we have been blessed with over 200 years of existence. Let us prayerfully submit to God, that His blessings might still be upon us as a nation.

Rev. Carl Stokes





be offered for ages 4 and up. Theme: Maker Fun Factory, Created by

God...Built for a Purpose. Rev. Stacy West, Pastor

Pelham First: Our VBS was a HUGH SUCCESS with an average of 90 kids. Several decision were made and the kids collected \$350.00 to give to Option Care. On July 2 the Adult choir will perform Patriotic Songs during the morning services. The youth will attend SUPERWOW Camp July 4-8. We will have Backyard Bible Club in Collinsworth Park July 17-20 from 9-11 a.m. July 22 a Community School Supply Drive will be held in Freedom Park from 9 a.m. until I p.m. On July 23 the Youth Extra from 7:30-9:30 p.m. We will have a 5th Sunday Night Sing July 30 during the evening services. Youth every Wednesday Discipleship dinner activities 5 p.m. Rev. Matt Peek, Pastor

Please note the deadline for church news for the Newsletter is the 20th of each month and should be 75 words of less. Thank you!



Current Liabilities (+/-)	\$(1,877
ne 30, 2017	\$55,603
esignated Funds Total Current Liabilities	\$(12,869. \$(1,626.
otal Operating Funds	\$41,107
Year to Date	

Church Contributions Receipts January -June 2017

Baconton	Office 0.00	Camp Tucker 0.00
Camilla First	7,459.15	527.00
Cool Springs	870.00	365.00
Delwood	2,306.28	600.00
East Pelham	1,050.00	0.00
Harmony	2,448.11	0.00
Hinsonton	2,333.31	583.31
Hopeful	3,248.00	600.00
Lake Pleasant	2,315.00	600.00
Lakeside	600.00	1,399.00
Liberty Hill	0.00	0.00
Mt. Carmel	1,288.25	0.00
Mt. Olive	1,050.00	280.00
Mt. Zion	442.92	0.00
Newton	1,200.00	100.00
Pebble City	900.00	195.60
Pelham First	5,685.01	0.00
Pine Cliff	3,409.15	2,314.58
Pleasant Grove	1,512.50	142.25
Pleasant Hill	3,153.75	1,261.50
Sale City	1,670.00	0.00
Southside	2,514.97	0.00
Trinity	500.00	0.00
Union Grove	1,184.52	702.00
Total	\$47,140.92	\$9,570.24
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**Righteous Manhood Conference** 

UNITE Georgia



Time: 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 a.m.) Cost: \$20 until August 4; \$25 after August 4 For more info and to register go to righteousmanhood.com.

"Discipline: Self Leadership Precedes Team Leadership" "Fathers Lead the Way: How to Develop Influence with Your Children" Led by Kelvin Cochran "Who Told You That You Were Naked?" "The Law of Divine Alignment"

Chris McDaniel was formerly with the award winning multi-platinum country group Confederate Railroad. After 16 years with the group he found himself in rehab with a cocaine addiction. In rehab he heard about a Higher Power and afterwards he surrendered to Christ at Bayside Baptist Church in Tennessee. He now serves as the worship pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Dalton.



Go Georgia is coming back in 2017!

Last year's Go Georgia was such a success; it is being expanded to make it easier for you to attend this year! In 2017, you have a choice between 2 different locations:

> August 18-19, 2017 Roswell Street Baptist Church Marietta, GA August 25-26, 2017 First Baptist Church Tifton, GA

This is an event you don't want to miss. Mark the dates in you calendar now while we finalize the details and speakers for this great event.

Visit the Go Georgia website at <u>gogeorgia.net</u> and watch your mail and email for updates.

We hope to see you and your staff at Go Georgia this year! Save the Dates