

SPREAD THE WORD

(The 4th of July)



Message: Spread the word: we're free from sin

Scripture: Matthew 28:19

Our story today is about a man who lived in Ireland over 200 years ago. His name was John Dunlap. Like many people of his time, John yearned for a better life, and he was looking for adventure. So one day he boarded a ship that was bound for America.

He ended up making his way to the city of Philadelphia, and there he opened a print shop. People would come to him to get flyers and posters printed. In those days they called them broadsides, and the broadsides would be tacked up at various places around town for people to read.

One day a man came into the shop with a hand-written document and asked John to print up 200 copies. It took quite a while because it was a long document. And in those days, type had to be set by hand, one letter at a time. When John was done with the job, those broadsides were taken by riders on horseback to cities and towns all the way from Massachusetts down to Georgia.

The date was July 4th, 1776. The man who placed the order was John Hancock, and the document was the Declaration of Independence. So more than anyone else John Dunlap was responsible for spreading the word that America was now free.

As Christians, we have to spread the word, too. We have to tell the world about an even better freedom - freedom from the penalty of sin. It's called "The Great Commission". In Matthew 28, verse 19 Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations." In other words, we should spread the word to everyone. Jesus sets us free!

Let's pray: Father God, we're so thankful for the freedom we have in this country. But we're even more thankful for the freedom we have in your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.