
A Special Independence Day Message from Dana Dudley



Human Resources



I remember the Bicentennial in 1976. I lived in Midland, Texas and the town went all out for the celebration. Downtown light posts were festooned. The construction site for the new First National Bank had a bicentennial mural running hundreds of feet along its temporary sidewalk. The Freedom Train came to town, and we all went to see it.

The Freedom Train was a 26-car traveling museum pulled by three restored steam locomotives. Inside were George Washington's copy of the Constitution, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Bible, Judy Garland's dress from *The Wizard of Oz*, Joe Frazier's boxing trunks, a replica of the Apollo lunar rover, and a moon rock — a personal favorite. It was America in a train: achievements and struggle, rolling down the tracks together.

That train held two kinds of freedom. Freedom *from* — from colonial rule, from slavery, from the limits of what human beings once thought possible. And freedom *to* — to create, to serve, to include, to reach. In Christ we are freed *from* the slavery of sin and freed *to* serve one another in

love. As you plan your celebration for this 250th Independence Day, I hope you'll reflect on your freedom *to*. How can you purpose your freedom to serve others in love?

Dana Dudley

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"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But do not use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."

(Galatians 5:13)

FOR
GREATER PURPOSE



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