



## *Missionary Messenger*

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### **New Jerusalem or Babylon**

*The LORD appeared to him at night and said to him: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. If I close the sky so there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send a plague among My people, and if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land. ~ 2 Chronicles 7:12-14 (BSB)*

I have an interesting memory from my high school days. My junior history teacher, who was an evangelical Christian, proposed to the class that America was the New Jerusalem mentioned in Scripture. His main point was that the middle three letters of Jerusalem were...wait or it....USA! Even then this seemed ridiculous. My thought was why is the English language being used to propose such a controversial position. I continued on this to think "why isn't Greek or Hebrew being used instead". If this was the case, it wouldn't spell "USA". I use this humorous example of faulty biblical interpretation to point out that the end time prophecies mentioned in Scripture are not based upon America being the center of action, but it is the nation of Israel that is at the center of them. We live at a time in which Israel is in the news every day. There is so much going on that people are starting to look at the book of Revelation in light of what is going on. I want to use this opportunity to point out some important truths.

The first truth is that Jesus is going to return and that there is going to be an end to this age that we live in. Too many Christians have gotten complacent about our mission to make disciples. We must return to our calling. There is no guarantee that America will even be around when Christ returns. The evil that America indulges in on a daily basis is more equivalent to the prophecies about Babylon than the New Jerusalem. The common link between God wiping out a nation or not has always been that those who know better, in our case the Christians that live here, are also participating in the evil of the nation. God will spare a nation if there is a solid remnant of His people who are being faithful to Him.

The second truth that I want to emphasize is that we are the key to revival. Look at the passage mentioned above. It states that God says, "if my people, who are called by my name..." do these things: humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then He will forgive us our sin and heal our land. We really are the key. Too many are pointing the finger at the pagans in our culture as the reason for God's judgment coming. It is our participation that is going to bring the judgment. The non-Christian really can't change the destiny of our country, but we can.

Now is the time to humble ourselves and ask God if there is anything that we can repent of. We must also get back on mission. Please seek God on what your mission is. There are so many who would come to Christ if only a real Christian would invest in them. A final thought on all of this is that we must eagerly await the Revelation events. We must not be terrified of them. I Corinthians 1:7-9 says "Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will sustain you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful." (BSB)

In Christ, Pastor Ken



### CONNECTION NOTES:

#### "D.I.W.H."

As I typed the letters of this title, my text prompt responded "Dimwitted"! I kind of snickered and I thought it might possibly be correct! Dimwitted's alternate meanings are foolish, ignorant, or "not the full schilling". (I kind of liked the last one.)

I have been so foolish in my thinking lately-not using my full schilling. There are people in my life that I dearly love, whom I know are missing out. I fear they will be eternally lost. That fear tends to overcome me at times. When it does, my life suffers. Yet... if I stop to think about it, I realize I am giving the greatest power to the evil one. I am not resting/trusting my concerns in my faith and belief in Jesus, in God Almighty! Did you read this as unbelief? Yes. Unfortunately, it is.

Jesus said of the lost: "The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost." Luke 19:10

Of prayer, He said: "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:24

Of the Holy Spirit He said: "And he, when he comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment." Luke 16:18

Moral: don't give up/don't give in and don't stop praying! Definitely don't give Satan more power than God! Do the work for salvation to come to those you love.

Remember: who is your hope, your strength, your joy and your salvation? Be faithful. Believe in Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Oh, and by-the-way, the letters mean Do It With Hope! Let's go do it with Jesus!!!

*Sue*

### CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

#### **May 12th, 9:00 - 9:45, Sunday Mothers + Daughters Breakfast**

Ladies join us for breakfast as the men provide our meal. We will have some main dishes to go with the sweets provided. Invite your aunt, your sister, your mother or anyone to join us for breakfast. Let's make this a joyful morning.

After service there will be a small gift for the ladies.

#### **May 24th, 8:00 am, Friday Manchester Community Schools Appreciation Breakfast**

We are again joining with First Brethren Church to provide a breakfast for teachers and staff. We wish to applaud the vital work of those in our community school system. There will be a sign up list for both supplies and prepared foods for the meals. You may sign the list or go directly to PerfectPotluck.com and look for 2024 MCS Thank you Breakfast and sign up directly there. I thank you so much for helping with this outreach. If you have any questions please contact me right away.

#### **May 26th, 5:30, Sunday Gather@the Fire**

It's that time again. Summer is coming and it is time for some community around the fire. Join in the fun and fellowship. Bring or invite a guest. This is a low key way of sharing and is open to all. Bring a lawn chair if you have one and de-stress with us.



### *Who Are We?*

**Pastor:** Ken Sistrunk 260-229-5949 (cell)

PastorKenNMMC@gmail.com

**Elders:** Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),

Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

**Directors:**

Outreach: Sue Howard

Stewardship: Tim Baker

Worship: Jon Gnagy

**Secretary:** Joanne Sistrunk

manchestermissonary@gmail.com

### The Tale of Two Bells

It happened on a ride in the back of a van. A vanload of friends and acquaintances were journeying home to Indiana from a wedding that took place in New Jersey. A classmate that I rarely saw struck up a conversation with me. Phil was curious about my life. I had become so much more mature and peaceful since my high school days. I had rarely been back to my hometown, and then it was mostly just to see family, so few folks there knew that I had turned my life over to Jesus. Phil's questions gave an opportunity to share my story much like Pastor Ken has explained to us all in the North Manchester Missionary Church. Phil was already very much aware of my upbringing, but learning of my turn from a lost child to a blessed child of God apparently interested him very much. I could sense that he was ready for the grace and mercy that I had discovered in Jesus Christ.

There could have been fear of what others might think as I shared more about Jesus, but there was a peace in my heart as Phil was being lead through steps to salvation. The Holy Spirit made me incognizant of the others in the van. We were in a world of just Phil and me. I rejoiced in his confession of sins and his acceptance of Christ as his Savior.

Phil passed away just a few years later. I felt some guilt for not following up with him more but was confident in his assurance of salvation. God is faithful. The friend who's wedding was in New Jersey was a classmate that I led to the Lord when I was in college. That friend, Dave, is a dear brother that married a fantastic Christian woman, Clara. Phil was able to see such a fantastic change in both Dave and me. Our stories have great power.

There's a friend, family member, co-worker or acquaintance that is ready to hear my story. The same goes for you.

Matthew 9:37 and 38 says, "Then He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

We have two bells in the church. One is a small high-pitched bell and the other a cow bell. When we get a report of someone who has come to Christ as their personal savior,



we will ring the small bell. If we don't hear of someone who has been saved, we will ring the cow bell.

If you have led someone to Christ or personally know of someone who has accepted Christ as their savior this week, please share the new believer's first name with me by email at [manchestermissionary@gmail.com](mailto:manchestermissionary@gmail.com). I am eager to ring the high-pitched bell rather than the cow bell.

~Jon, Elder & Worship Director

### Memory Verse of the Month!

#### Matthew 6:19 (BSB)

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.*



### Farewell Tom and Linda

We are sad to say good-bye to Tom and Linda after so many years of service and friendship. An opportunity came up that was too good to turn down living next door to family. Sadly it is too far to come back for church.

They will be missed. As they left they put a "For Rent" sign on the pew they sat in for so many years. We wish them the best in this new adventure in their lives.

