



## *Missionary Messenger*

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### **The Importance of a Foundation**

"In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness...."

The above excerpt is from the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. It is hard to believe that we are nearing the 250th anniversary of this declaration. It seems just like yesterday it was 1976 and we were celebrating our Bicentennial Anniversary as a country. I want to print this part of the Declaration of Independence to show the importance of a foundational belief in the existence of God to our foundation as a country. I am deeply concerned that the younger generations have rejected our foundation and are seeking to usher in a different type of government than the one that we inherited from our founding fathers. This push for a new form of government has at its foundation a rejection of the belief in one true God and they are pushing for a secular humanism foundation. Please pray that this will not happen. So many of our God given rights are at stake if we abandon our foundation.

Our founding fathers were not perfect, but they did create a unique country that has been a world power ever since this declaration was presented. This country of ours has brought freedom to so many people over its nearly 250 years of existence. While I am not a fan of turning America into a Theocratic state, I am a fan of keeping what we have inherited from our Founding Fathers. We have inherited a democratic republic that is based upon a belief in a creator who has endowed us with inalienable rights. These rights are the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

May we keep this democratic republic true to its foundation and stay true to the God that is mentioned often in this declaration.

In Christ, Pastor Ken





## CONNECTION NOTES:

### "Selfless"

Definition: The Oxford Dictionary.com definition is: "Concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own: unselfish"

'an act of selfless devotion' "

By example: Jesus Christ.

By quest: Us?

Christ has a job for us to do. One important enough that He instructed his disciples about after he died and rose. One important enough to give us help in the form of the Holy Spirit. And, one where He assured us that He was with us until the end. It is also a task that our friends, family, and loved ones need us to do. All we have to do is set aside ourselves and consider the needs of others.

As you prayed for outreach this month, (thank you if you were ones who did) did you gain any perspective or were given a great idea? If so, I relish the input; please let me know. I read a short book by Thom S. Rainer "Pray & Go". It is a book about participating in the great commission. It is a 30 day emphasis (journey) on prioritizing our lives around this task.

In light of what I have read and followed in this book, I would like to extend an invitation to pray the first two prayers from the book throughout the month of July.

Prayer 1: Pray that you might become a more outwardly focused Christian. Pray that our church would become a great commission church as found in Matthew 28:18-20.

Prayer 2: Read ACTS 1:8. Read it multiple times. Pray it multiple times.

That's it. I thank you for the June prayers concerning outreach. I ask you to continue our 8:00 pm prayer ritual. Our needs are many! There are so many we know who are not followers of Christ. For those who don't remember, join in prayer at a

common time, yet while separated by distance. Set an alarm and pray with others and myself at 8:00 pm.

Thank you. And may we see a harvest because of our prayers.

*Sue*

## CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

**Gather@the Fire** (at the east side of the church).

Invite someone to join us. Good food, relaxing fire, and time with friends.

**July 7 @ 5:30p**

Serving pigs in a blanket.

**July 21 @ 5:30p**

Serving pizza pie pockets.



## Teacher "Walk of Fame..." Breakfast

Tuesday July 30th 8:00 - 9:30

We are providing our teachers with a "Red Carpet" treatment. Breakfast, supplies, photo booth and prizes.

We want to supply our teachers with colored Flair pens that are not the typical red, black or blue. Please consider donating to this cause. All donations of pens can be placed on the pew beside the Outreach Bulletin board.

There will also be a sign up list for menu items on the Outreach board by Sunday July 7th. Consider how you can help reach out in this way. AND, if you have any items we could use in our red carpet photo booth that we may borrow, please see Sue Gnagy or Sue Howard.



If you are available to help cook, serve, or clean up on the 30th, I would sure appreciate it!



**MISSIONS**

Dr Sharon will be with us on Sunday, July 7. She will be sharing in Sunday School at 9a and in the worship service at 10a. Come hear what she has to say about her work in Asia and Hawaii. She was going to be here in April, but had to postpone it due to the passing of her father.



**Don't Stop Praying** is a song out now sung by Matthew West. One day while listening to it on the radio, a couple lines in the chorus really struck me. They are "don't stop knocking on heaven's door, let your knees wear out the floor". I do pray all the time, but do I really pray with urgency. Do I have that heart wrenching crying out to God or is it just "God bless \_\_\_\_\_," or "Please heal \_\_\_\_\_," etc? Those prayers are good and even though I may pray for something several times, sometimes I think I need to be even more persistent in my intercessory prayers.

This song is an encouragement to keep praying even "When you've cried and you've cried 'til your tears run dry. The answer won't come and you don't know why; and you wonder if you can bow your head even one more time, do it one more time."

Pastor Ken recently said that when the Bible says to ask, see, and knock (see Matthew 7:7-8), that it doesn't mean once and your done, but it means to keep asking, be annoyingly persistent about it.

Instead of generic prayers to heal our country or bring revival or help this person come to Christ and so on, let's be specific and intentional. My knees may not wear out the floor (since it is hard to get on my knees), but maybe my pacing will.

~Joanne



### Memory Verse of the Month!

*For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also.*

**Matthew 6:21 (BSB)**



**Whatcha Reading?**  
**Check out our library!**  
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### **This Present Darkness** By Frank Peretti

This is a fiction book about spiritual warfare. Even though it written in 1986, it still speaks today.

The back cover describes the book as one "that rivals *The Screwtape Letters* with its keen insight into spiritual warfare and the necessity of prayer." I have read this book twice over the years and will reread it again.

The plot is about a typical small town named Ashton. "But when a skeptical reporter and a prayerful pastor begin to compare notes, they suddenly find themselves fighting a hideous New Age plot to subjugate the townspeople, and eventually the entire human race." (back cover)

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12 ESV)

### **Piercing the Darkness**

A sequel to *This Present Darkness*, but with different characters in a new location. Frank Peretti again deals with spiritual warfare in an action packed novel.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5 ESV)

If you already have read these, it may be time to reread them again.

### **Who Are We?**

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

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

Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

**Directors:**

Outreach: Sue Howard

Stewardship: Tim Baker

Worship: Jon Gnagy

**Secretary:** Joanne Sistrunk



## June in Review



**Graduation Sunday: Jesse as the leader of the youth congratulates our high school graduates: Caleb, Josh, and Anna. Zaine unfortunately could not make it.**



**Church Work Day: Lots of projects were accomplished inside and outside.**





## Father's Day Breakfast



## Gather @ the Fire

