

## Missionary Messenger

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March  
2025  
NSLCP

### Hope and the Expectations of New

*Behold, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it?  
Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ~ Isaiah 43:19 (BSB)*

I have enjoyed kicking off this new year with a series on what the Bible says about God wanting to do something new. One thing that I have noticed in every sermon is that God often equates the expectation of something new happening with the biblical concept of Hope. Hope is defined as the passionate expectation of something positive happening in the future. This passionate expectation often changes the present to fit the expectation that has not yet happened. Hope changes the present!

The passage that is mentioned above is a perfect example of this. The prophecy mentioned here from Isaiah 43 is a messianic prophecy. It is proclaiming that God is going to do something new in Israel. He is not going to leave her in a permanent desert, He is going to revive Israel. This happened partially when John the Baptist showed up proclaiming that Jesus was about to show Himself. It also partially happened when the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost. However, when the prophecy was given, it was still going to be centuries before all of this was to happen. God still has a plan for His people today to give them hope and to change their current situation.

I believe that God is in the process of giving us encouragement at our church. There have been times when it seemed like God was done using us here for His kingdom. I believe that this is not true. I believe that God has been renewing my strength by renewing my hope. May God continue to refresh our expectations of good things coming our way. May the Holy Spirit fill us afresh with a passionate expectation of the new. "Even now it is coming. Do you not see it?"

In Christ, Pastor Ken

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Aha!!!

Aha!!!  
I Get It!!!

Aha!!!

We have been asking people to share their "Aha" moments. Here is one.

I have often heard about how humility and love was demonstrated by washing the feet of all the disciples. It amazes me that anyone could provide that service to one who would soon aid in delivering his death. I have always seen it as an act of Jesus' love. Yet, I have just realized it is also one more demonstration of God's love for us!

Christ told his disciples that he only did what he saw the Father do. So when he washed the disciples feet he was following God's example. Jesus saw the Father's love for us demonstrated overwhelmingly and often! God gave his one and only Son for us, this we know. Yet God also has repeatedly demonstrated love and care for us even when we turned our backs on him! This example is the example Christ was imitating. He was demonstrating God's unconditional love!



## CONNECTION NOTES:

### "A Gift A Day Month"

I was reading today's "Our Daily Bread" devotional and read a story about a woman crocheting on a plane trip. A 5 month old baby was near her and watched her crochet. The woman changed her plans and during the one hour flight completed a little hat for the child, to the surprise and joy of the family. I had read this story before and wondered if the publishers repeat devotionals? However as I read further I discovered the thought garnered from this devotional was different.

This devotional was based on the scripture of Acts 9:36. "... Tabitha was always doing good and helping the poor." Tabitha was commended at her death for all the good things she had done. While scripture goes on to include Peter bringing her back to life, the devotional focused on loving actions being a "testimony" of Tabitha's love and care.

That brings us to the question of our testimony. What are we leaving behind as we interact with others? Last month's newsletter article had us looking at our testimony—our life story. As a follower of Christ we all have a "before" testimony; we will have an "after" - especially an after-life testimony. We also have an "as" story. "As we walk with Christ", we leave footsteps, good or bad. What if we choose to intentionally share kindnesses? What if we choose the month of March and have a little fun by doing good?

So our March 2025 Challenge is this: Do at least one kind act, one action of doing good, or one act of helping someone in need for every day during March. Bonus points for surprising someone with this. TRIPLE bonus points if it includes part of your story.

I hope to hear great things that came about as a result of completing this challenge. Imagine . . . 31 days multiplied by each of us. Oh, what a message of love!

Can't wait! *Sue*

## CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

### March is A Gift A Day Month.

Please join us in our challenge for this month. See the Outreach Notes for details master seamers and seamstresses!!!

### Food Pantry and Life Center Boxes

Consider donating to the food pantry and Life Center collection boxes this month.

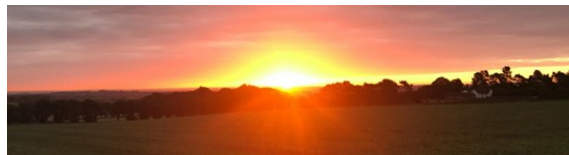
### Easter Sunday, April 20

Easter Breakfast during the Sunday School hour

Easter Egg Hunt after the service.

Pray about who to invite to both events and ask the Holy Spirit to move in a special way.

### Memory Verse of the Month!



*Because of the loving devotion of the LORD  
we are not consumed, for His mercies never  
fail. They are new every morning; great is  
Your faithfulness!*

~ Lamentations 3:22-23 (BSB) ~

### *Lent Begins March 5th*

Lent is something we do not officially practice. But it is a good time to reflect on things to not only give up, but possibly add to our daily lives as we try to grow closer to Christ. Consider what you could do this Lent season.

### *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





Ladies'  
Lunch N Craft  
February 22, 2025

