



Missionary Messenger

North Manchester Missionary Church
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Truth Encounter Warfare

For though we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the world. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We tear down arguments and every presumption set up against the knowledge of God; and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. ~ 2 Corinthians 9:3-5 (BSB)

We are in the midst of a spiritual war. Many are confused as to whom we are fighting. Scripture clearly tells us that we do not fight against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Then we are encouraged to fight this battle putting on the full armor of God. This type of spiritual warfare is called truth encounter spiritual warfare. I am encouraging all of you to practice putting on this armor daily for the month of July. If anyone does this I would love to hear how it went. Below is the armor of God passage that I put to poem. This is how I practice putting on the full armor of God. This works for me. I see so much fruit when I do this. I am more calm during the day when tough things happen. I see more victories in other people's lives that I encounter as well. Yes, we are in a war. This is one way to fight.

In Christ, Pastor Ken

Armor Poem

By Ken Sistrunk

*I put on my armor Lord
In accordance with Your Holy Word;
I want to live and believe
Like a Christian should.*

*I put on my helmet of salvation;
It will guard with this solemn thought;
I am saved by the blood of Jesus
Whether I feel like it or not.*

*I put on my breastplate of righteousness;
It's not from things that I've done;
It comes to me through faith
Through the victory that Jesus won.*

*I take up my shield of faith;
Arrows I can't see;
I will block them from entering my mind
'Cause they come from my enemy.*



*I take up the sword of the Spirit, Lord,
Which is Your Holy Word;
I will drive back the evil forces
With God's two edged sword.*

*I put on my belt of truth;
Pleasures around me I see;
I will live by this promise today,
Only Jesus will satisfy me.*

*I put on my shoes of the Gospel of Peace;
I will say to the forbidden, NO!
'Cause I make this promise to my holy Lord
I will go where You want me to go!*

*And I will pray in the Spirit at all times;
In Christ all my treasures I hide;
All my thoughts, words, and deeds are Yours
And You will guard my backside.*

*'Cause I put on my armor Lord
In accordance with Your Holy Word;
I want to live and believe
Like a Christian should..*



SHIFT, the Missionary Church National Convention, is coming up on July 10-13. Pastor Ken and Joanne are going. Please keep them in prayer as they travel and during their time there.

Following is a letter from the Missionary Church asking for prayer and fasting for this convention.

"This is an unprecedented time in the Missionary Church. We are in a season that demands that we be attuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit as we come together for the SHIFT conference. Matters related to the former president of the Missionary Church have created confusion, angst, and in some cases bruised or broken relationships.

We have decisions to make as we look to the future. We will be electing a new president and other leaders for the Missionary Church.

We invite you to set aside the week prior to SHIFT to deliberately hear from the Father as it relates to the critical decisions we are facing as a family of churches. We do not only need wisdom and understanding, but hearts that are pure and ears that are tuned to hear the voice of the Spirit.

We know you care about the Missionary Church. We know we face unique challenges. It is for this reason that we invite you to join us for a week of fasting and prayer in an effort to align our hearts with the heart of the Father.

Will you join us in a season of fasting and prayer from July 3 until July 10?

*His servants,
Jimmy & Tom*

*President Jimmy Santiago
Prayer Coordinator Tom Swank"*

Also, be praying for the World Partners Retreat July 17-20. This is for the World Partners missionaries that are on Home Ministry Assignment this summer. Pray that they have a good time of personal refreshment and connecting with the other missionaries.

SOAK North Manchester

Friday evenings at The Firehouse (108 W Main St. North Manchester) from 6 - 8.

An evening of live worship by different area worship leaders. This is not sponsored by any particular church, but just a time to gather together as The Church and worship and pray. Amanda Burns does a painting most weeks in worship. As you can see in the pictures that it is an informal setting. (pics are from Amanda's Facebook page.)



Consider joining us on Friday evenings for a time of worship!



Memory Verse of the Month!



Ephesians 6:13

Therefore take up the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you will be able to stand your ground, and having done everything, to stand. (BSB)

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

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CONNECTION NOTES:

"Red, White & Dependence"

July 4th, Independence Day, Freedom Day, and Liberation Day are all names for days that recognize and celebrate a specific country's struggle for freedom and the efforts required. These days have valid importance in the lives of those who celebrate. Yet, even in our struggle for independence, there is still and always, the battle we must wage for dependence. After all, being fully "clothed in Christ", is our hearts greatest need.

2023 has been such a year for me. A year where I have struggled between independence and dependence, trust and less trust, faith and less faith. God has been showing up to gently guide my way.

As Outreach Director, I want to make sure that our church and church body are not "dropping the ball" in our outreach efforts. It is so easy to coast with what you have been doing and be content. It is also easy to think that we are absolutely missing the mark and scurry to do something, anything, so that is not the case.

I have had a team helping me facilitate this quest. Prayer partners, team members, friends and family have all been my support. I give my heart filled thank you to everyone who has played a part.

This morning God reminded me of a powerful nuance of dependence in Matthew 19:16 -22. This is the story of the "Rich Young Ruler". Most of us know this story by heart. Yet today I saw something I have never seen before. Notice that there are two questions the ruler asks.

Question 1: "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

The first question is about what the ruler must DO. Jesus cited the requirements. The young ruler was doing them.

Question 2: "What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect..."

The answer to the second question centered on what the person WAS—where his heart was residing, what was priority in the rulers' life, what was the young

ruler's utmost desire. The ruler had an area of improvement on this one. The lesson from today is that, even if I am in "correct standing" with God, my heart may still not be "complete". My heart, my priorities, and desires need to be constantly fine tuned.

Maybe this is where we are all at? Maybe it is a good time to question our heart's desires, our lives' priority, and determine where our hearts are living. I believe that this may be a good thing for our hearts, as well as for our church body.

May we use this time that we normally celebrate independence to review our dependence. Who knows, outreach may look very different as we move forward.

Happy Red, White and Truth to you,

Sue



CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

July 9 @ 5:30 pm, Gather @ The Fire: Let's enjoy the red, white and blue and get creative with our meal together. *** Since our "fire builders" will not be here we will modify our meal together. Let's focus on enjoying cold things together: cool salads, cold sandwiches, ice cream, etc. You are not required to bring anything but may do so if you choose. Bring a lawn chair and let's enjoy some time together.

July 11th & 25th @ 5:30 pm, the Telling Room: Bring a lawn chair, your praise, your progress and your prayer requests. Join us as we grow in our faith!

July 30th, International Friendship Day, All Church Carry-in.: Join your church family in a meal and invite family and friends to join us. Bring a dish or two. Water will be provided. Join in the spirit of the day and let's create an international food fest for our family and friends. Bring your favorite international dish or your favorite good old American dish, whichever you like.

2023-24 Back to School Teacher's Breakfast: The date is not set yet, but it will be either the end of July or the first of August. Please keep looking for sign up list for breakfast items and/or breakfast helpers. Thank you for all you do to minister to our teachers and staff!

2023 Teacher "Blessings" List: Scotch Magic Tape 3/4" (for dispensers); Clear Gorilla Tape 1.88"; Scotch Mounting Tape white, 3/4"; Gray Duct Tape; Masking Tape in sizes 1", 1.5", 2"

Ladies' Day, Saturday, August 5th, 8:30 to ?: Join us as we explore Middlebury and have lunch at Das Essenhaus. More information to follow.

