

# Missionary Messenger

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# December

## King By Force

<sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that Jesus had performed, they began to say, "Truly this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." <sup>15</sup>Then Jesus, realizing that they were about to come and make Him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by Himself. <sup>16</sup>When evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was already dark, and Jesus had not yet gone out to them. <sup>18</sup>A strong wind was blowing, and the sea grew agitated. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the sea—and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup>But Jesus spoke up: "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup>Then they were willing to take Him into the boat, and at once the boat reached the shore where they were heading. ~ John 6:14-21 (BSB)

<sup>33</sup>Pilate went back into the Praetorium, summoned Jesus, and asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>"Are you saying this on your own," Jesus asked, "or did others tell you about Me?" <sup>35</sup>"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world; if it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now My kingdom is not of this realm." ~ John 18:33-36 (BSB)

I am writing this article shortly after the very contentious 2024 presidential election. I have been wanting to write this for a long time, but it seemed appropriate to do this now. I have often stated that every major election in my lifetime has been a vain search for a savior. It seems as if America is always looking for that perfect leader who will usher in a time of paradise. This has never seemed to work out as many think that it would. Right now half of the country thinks that all is lost and another half believes that the angels are singing. Personally, I was never in the market for a Messiah. I already have one. I did vote but only for the president, not for a Messiah.

In the passages above, a very timely story is told. It is the aftermath of the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 and the people want to force Jesus to be King of the Jews. He is not interested in their political ambitions! He seems more interested in transforming their souls!! In order to escape being wrangled into being their king, He escapes and goes up on a mountain to be by Himself. Then when it is dark and the people cannot see Him, He walks on the water to get away from their attempts at making Him the face of their movement. Keep this in mind as we fast forward to His trial before His crucifixion.

At His trial Jesus is asked if He was the King of the Jews. His answer again affirmed that He had no interest in the politics of the day. In verse 36 He clearly states, "My kingdom is not of this world; if it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now My kingdom is not of this realm." (BSB) I don't want to be misunderstood. I am a big advocate of voting. It is our duty as citizens to vote. However, I do desire that Christians in America would take more seriously the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom that really matters. I personally will continue to pray for our political leaders. I have prayed for every president that I have ever had. However, the Kingdom of God is much more important to me.

In Christ, Pastor Ken



## Memory Verse of the Month!

**The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.**

~ Luke 1:35 ~



# Outreach Ministry



## CONNECTION NOTES:

### Jesus Christ, The Christmas Gift of Love

Christmas is such a special time for me. It always has been (at least what I can remember). The reason is, while growing up, we got to go to church at Christmas time. They had class parties, candy, special programs, and fun. I loved it all. I got to hear about a baby in a manger who came to make a difference in my life, and I remember praying to accept this gift.

I read this quote: "Because of his boundless love, Jesus became what we are that he might make us to be what he is." Iraeus of Lyons, a bishop who was martyred in 202 is attributed this quote.

Talk about a wonderful Christmas gift! Jesus, the Son of God, who came to earth as an innocent baby. Who lived a sin free life and died in my place so that I might have abundant life. Who now sits at the right hand of God interceding for me. It really does not get better than this.

This Christmas, the question I have to ask myself is what am I going to do with this gift? My prayer and my desire is the second half of the quote. "To be what He is." LOVE. May I put it onto action.

*Merry Christmas.*

*Sue*



## 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

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## CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

### December 1st: Holiday Carry In

Meal after Church

Bring a dish or two and join us for lunch

### December 7th: Ladies Outing

#### Wawasee PTO Craft Fair

Leave at 8:30 from the church

Return 2:00-ish

### December 15th

#### Caroling @ 3p

#### Annual Christmas Party @ 5:30p

We will be caroling at Peabody, Timbercrest, and the Terrills.

The party afterward will include games, snacks and a fun time.

Bring a couple inexpensive gifts to fit into sample bag on Outreach board. Bring a snack. Plan on having a fun time playing some Christmas games.

#### Save the Date:

#### January 11th, Saturday Lunch 'n' Craft

#### Noon to 2-ish

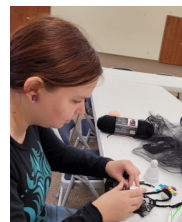
We will be stenciling Welcome door signs.

Bring a dish to go with soup and bring a friend. Please let Sue or Joanne know if you can make it so we have plenty of supplies.

Soup to be provided.



## NOVEMBER 2024 CRAFT DAY



SURPRISE

QUESTS

## From Our Missionaries

Pastor Ken has been talking about the Holy Spirit in his sermons. Recently a missionary wrote about some times when they listened to the Spirit. The names have been changed for their protection.

The missionaries (George and Wendy) had invited another couple (Fred and Sally) over for a campfire "to roast hotdogs and make s'mores, which they've never done. As we were casually chatting around the fire, *Sally* asked "So are you required to go to church in your religion?" Maybe it's just a vocabulary glitch, but this question shows how far removed they feel Protestantism is from Catholicism. We are sure that she asked this from the perspective of her Catholic background, in which she was burdened by legalism. She now makes it clear that she is 'not religious.'

*Wendy* answered, "Well, there is not a 'requirement' but it's encouraged to go to church, so that you can..." and then she paused as she looked for the right words. She was about to say "be in the fellowship of believers" but the **Holy Spirit** stopped her from using that "churchy" language, something we try to be aware of when we are talking to the lost. *Wendy* hadn't paused for long, just a second or two, when *Fred* chimed in with, "be with your people." This could essentially be THE MESSAGE translation of Hebrews 10:25! It was great, actually. There were a few more thoughts we shared about being in a place where we learn more about the Bible and can be encouraged."

Another time *Wendy* broke her toe and had travel plans to help a colleague who was having health issues get settled into a new apartment. This would mean she would be on her feet a lot. While still at the clinic, *Wendy* thought about canceling the trip. "And instantly, she felt the **Holy Spirit** whisper to her, 'Let your yes be yes.' That was her cue. So, we sent out a call to our prayer warriors, and changed no plans!"

God is good. The pain was not as bad as expected, It did not swell, but did turn blue. She had to change the way she walked to keep weight off her toe, but she was able to help her friend.

"So whether this happened because the accuser wanted to discourage her from going,

or just because we live in a fallen world and *Wendy* is a clutz, we want to make it very clear that we are thanking God, Jehovah-Rapha, the God who heals for this miracle!"

How many miracles or spiritual encounters have we missed because we didn't listen to the Spirit's voice? The Holy Spirit will speak to us, we just have to be listening.



### Let Us Adore Him!

'Tis the season of remembering Christ's birth and how the shepherds and wise men bowed before him in adoration.

There is a tool to think about while praying. It is ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication). Why should we start our prayers with adoration. For one the sample prayer Jesus gave us starts with a type of adoration when He says "Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Your name". Adoration is different than thanksgiving. Adoration is more acknowledging who He is and thanksgiving is more about appreciating what He has done.

I know when I start my prayers with acknowledging who He is, it helps me to put things in perspective. He is the creator of the universe, the Am that I Am (uncreated one), the One who sees everything and is everywhere, all powerful, the one who holds all things together, no one or no thing comes anywhere close to being as great as He is, not even the angels come close, at His name every knee will bow, . . .

It is very humbling when we honor God in this way. It is easier to see my own shortcomings and seems to put things in the right perspective.

The same is true when we worship. That is why we often say we have an "audience of One". There is a difference between singing about God and singing to God. When we worship and adore God directly, it helps to put everything in the right perspective.

In this season, let us truly Adore Him!

~ Joanne

