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"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."
Isaiah 43:19 (NLT)



From My Heart

Jesus is Coming...Again

By Daniel Ketchum

Each year at this time—for more than 20 years—Carol and I study the Minor Prophets and the book of Revelation as part of our daily meetings with Jesus through the entire Bible annually. We have been amazed at the resonance of prophets such as Joel—and even today in Micah—with the message of John in Revelation. Jesus is coming. Again. Soon!

So, Carol and I preached several days recently in a citywide crusade in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico. Hundreds of people came to the altar to pray, especially on Sunday morning when we preached that Jesus is coming...again...soon.

This Christmas week, individuals and families, Bible studies and churches, streets and stores are filled with songs, décor, and celebrations because of Christ's First Advent (coming or appearing). Most fellow Christians agree that Jesus is coming...again...soon.

Many want messages about Christ's Second Advent to be speculative or sensational. Some want these messages to be cautious and conservative. A few want educated guesses on how close we are to His second coming. We want to know what the Bible actually teaches (who, what, when, where, how) and what difference his Second Advent should make in daily living (so what or why).

The Bible teaches that Jesus has appeared once for all (Hebrews 9:26). Once for all. He is appearing now for us in God's presence (Hebrews 9:24). Now! He will appear a second time to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him (Hebrews 9:28). We wait.

Why did Jesus come the first time?

- To save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).
- To serve and to give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28).
- To model going and making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).
- To announce that the time has come and the kingdom of God is near: repent and believe the Good News (Mark 1:15).
- To preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor (Luke 4:18).
- To call sinners to repentance (Luke 5:32).
- To seek and to save lost people (Luke 19:10).
- To offer life more abundantly (John 10:10).
- To do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself (Hebrews 9:26).
- To destroy the devil's work (1 John 3:5,8).

Why did Jesus leave?

- To prepare a place for us (John 14:2).
- To send the Holy Spirit to us (John 16:7).
- To intercede for us at the right hand of God (Romans 8:34).
- To appear for us now in God's presence (Hebrews 9:24).

Why will Jesus come a second time?

- To bring salvation for those who are waiting (Hebrews 9:28). Salvation from personal sin and eternal separation. Salvation for personal redemption and eternal fellowship.
- To reward each person according to personal deeds (Matthew 16:27).
- To reign on His throne in glory (Matthew 25:31).
- To expose the motives of our hearts (1 Corinthians 4:5).
- To take us to be with Him forever (John 14:3).

When will Jesus come again?

- Jesus predicted several signs for the fig-tree generation (Matthew 24); many signs are being fulfilled in our time: false messiahs, world conflict, natural disasters, persecution, apostasy, abomination of desolation, and global evangelization; avoid seeking signs and concentrate on seeking Jesus himself.
- No one knows the day or hour of Jesus' Second Advent (Matthew 24:36).
- When we do not expect Him (Matthew 24:44). So, we watch, prepare, and live ready.
- He will come like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2,4,5).

How can we be ready?

- Hopeful anticipation (Luke 21:28): stand up and lift up your head, for your redemption is drawing near!
- Thorough repentance, so that God will wipe out our sins, pour out times of refreshing, and send the Messiah in Second Advent. (Acts 3:19).
- Total commitment so that we offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, not conformed to the patterns of this world, but transformed (Romans 12:1-2).
- Constant obedience (1 Timothy 6:14-16) and constant abiding (1 John 2:28).
- Be discerning, not deceived (Matthew 24:4).
- Be assured and encouraged in faith, not alarmed and dismayed in fear (Matthew 24:6; Luke 21:26,34; Revelation 1:17).
- Be patient, not impulsive (Matthew 24:6,8).
- Be ready, not surprised (Matthew 24:25).

Am I ready now? Do I eagerly await Christ's Second Advent...standing on tiptoes, eyes squinting, heart aching for when He will come to renew and restore? Have I moved from mere doctrinal assent to authentic affirmation and spiritual anticipation? Am I ready now?

Carol and I pray for each of you Christ's blessings as we celebrate His First Advent and anticipate His Second Advent. Joyful Christmas!

As We Prepare for 2012

In case you are not yet following Joel Rosenberg at www.joelrosenberg.com, he offers observations on his blog as we prepare for 2012 that I have paraphrased and summarized here for you:

- 1. The geopolitical epicenter of what Scripture indicates as the location of end time events experienced significant deterioration of religious freedom in 2011.**
- 2. As 2011 ends, the prospect of more major conflict in the epicenter in 2012 is rising significantly.**
- 3. In light of sobering realities, we must pray for peace, but prepare for the possibility of intensified conflict.**
 - We must be **READY** for all eventualities: for more conflict, if it comes...for other possible national disasters and crises...for a year that is calm after all and provides us the opportunity to continue to share the love of Christ for people without hope.
 - We must be **FAITHFUL** in living and teaching the Word of God in order to: 1) disciple and mobilize the Church to bless Israel and to pray for the peace of Jerusalem; 2) to strengthen persecuted followers of Jesus Christ; and 3) to encourage Israelis and Palestinians to rediscover the power of Holy Scriptures and to obey every command of the Lord.
 - We must **NOT GROW WEARY** in doing good. It is not easy to stand with Israel or be a true blessing to the Jewish and Palestinian people or be a follower of Jesus Christ in the Middle East. But now is not a time to become discouraged, fall asleep, get distracted, or question whether the Lord hears our prayers and will answer them with power. To the contrary, now is the time to love and trust the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Now is the time to remember that we serve a God who hears and answers prayer and who works wonders for those who love and trust Him.

With you, I am watching, preparing, and living ready daily. So many details in every newscast deserve much deeper analysis in light of Jesus' First and Second Advents and the truth of His Word. While we desire to sound a trumpet clearly, we practice prayerful and strategic security measures to protect and extend God's global mission in Christ throughout sensitive world areas.



PML Changes

You have likely noticed that the e-mail edition of the Prayer Mobilization Line has a new look. We have received mostly positive responses with many people telling us it is much easier to read now. There is one issue that has come up several times and that is related to printing PML right from the e-mail. The new format makes it longer and thus more pages to print and some people were having difficulty cutting and pasting requests. Please pass the word along to your people that we provide a "Printable Version" of PML—in Word and

PDF formats that are accessible within the PML e-mail. The button for the link to the Printable Version is located near the top, on the same line as the Subscribe link.

Watching for PML to debut in Spanish by the middle of 2012. Pray with NMI as we seek the most efficient and cost effective way to provide a Spanish version

Because You Give—WEF Giving in Guyana

by Daniel Ketchum

Nazarenes in Guyana on the Mesoamerica Region decided not to reduce their giving goals for the World Evangelism Fund (WEF). Rather than targeting 5.5 percent (the new global standard), Guyana decided to retain a goal of 10 percent for WEF. **Because you give**, our sisters and brothers in Guyana have caught the vision of WEF giving!

The name "Guyana" comes from a word meaning "land of many waters." Guyana has one of the

largest unspoiled rainforests on the South American continent, some parts of which are almost inaccessible by humans.



The population of Guyana is approximately 770,000. Data from a recent census on religious affiliation indicates that approximately 57 percent of the population is Christian, while an

estimated 4 percent of the population does not profess any religion.

Membership--3,468

Churches--46

As of 2011, there were 46 Churches of the Nazarene in Guyana with 3,468 members.

The cost of living in Guyana is very high. Most items used in daily life are imported with high transportation costs. The approximate price of gasoline (petrol) is US\$5.00 per gallon. Personal income tax is 33 percent or one third of total taxable income.

WEF Giving Globally and in the USA/Canada Region

Based on 18,052 Nazarene churches globally reporting financial data for fiscal year 2011, more than 26 percent or 4,748 of these churches gave 5.5 percent or more of non-missions giving to World Evangelism Fund.

During fiscal year 2011, approximately 3,000 of 4,800 churches (62 percent or nearly two-thirds) across the USA/Canada Region gave the WEF at 5.5 percent or more. Another 240 churches across this region gave at least 90 percent of their WEF goal.

In 2011 fiscal year, 109 of 444 districts (25 percent) globally gave the WEF at 5.5 percent or more. Thanks be to God for amazing generosity.

In 2011 fiscal year, 56 of 80 districts (70 percent or nearly three-fourths) across the USA/Canada Region gave the WEF at 5.5 percent or more. This compares to 13 districts in 2010, 12 districts in 2009, 19 in 2008, and 19 in 2007.

Because you give, 2,136,122 Nazarenes around the world today love Jesus, live holy, evangelize the lost, disciple converts, equip leaders, develop churches, and expand global mission. Thank you for your faithful and sacrificial giving!

Arabic MTV to Air WMB Programs—Share the News and Pray.

World Mission Broadcast's (WMB) Ayman Kafrouny is busy preparing seven weeks of shows for Arabic MTV. Sets are under construction, music rehearsals underway, and programs being finalized to air in Arabic-speaking countries the seven weeks prior to Easter 2012.

Originally, Ayman was asked to prepare weekend programs for Arabic MTV. Recently, producers asked for weekday programming as well. This is an incredible opportunity for WMB to share the good news of Christ with Arabic MTV viewers. As Ayman says, "We need to shoot about 35 episodes, instead of 26, and repeat 14 of them on the weekends. You can imagine the pressure we are going through these days. About 100 songs need to be rehearsed before the shooting dates the first two weekends of February. The first episode is



scheduled to air on Monday, February 20. We feel pressed, but we have confidence that the Lord will help us succeed and win this war, because it is His and not ours. MTV promised to show the program every afternoon and rerun it after midnight every single day during the traditional fasting time prior to Easter."

DPs, please ask your local churches to join WMB and pray for Ayman, his production team, and especially those who will view the programs next year, that many hearts will be touched and changed for Christ.



WMB for Arabic MTV—Mock-up of television set

Did You Know?

-  November 2011 “Funding the Mission” report is included in this issue’s downloadable resources section. Something to give praise about is that the goal for to the World Evangelism Fund was exceeded by 3.2 percent!
-  Recently NMI received a report from Nazarene Publishing House (NPH) detailing the sales of Mission Education materials for the 2011-2012 year. Please take a moment and look at the report and see how your district compares to others in the U.S.A. when it comes to buying these resources from NPH. NMI understands that the number of resources purchased by districts does not reflect whether mission education is or is not taking place. We simply wanted you to see where things are with resources such as *Living Mission* (adult mission education), and the youth and children’s resources. Next month NMI will begin sharing details of the 2012-2013 *Living Mission—Love Mercy* resource. We believe the continued improvements will resonate with more and more of your churches.

December Downloadable Resources

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