



# The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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## Prepare the Way



Draweth Nigh delivered high energy Christian music with virtuoso musicianship and powerful vocals.

March's "Prepare the Way" Concert showcased **Draweth Nigh**, whose style reminds me of *Van Halen*. They had some great songs and intricate arrangements that got God's house rocking!

After three shows, the concert series failed to generate enough student participation, so the April 30 showcase has been cancelled. Although it was a personal blessing to see so much talent dedicated to the Lord, the production time and cost couldn't be justified under the circumstances.

## New Recordings

**Messenger** has a backlog of new songs to Record. We hope to begin some intense sessions in the coming months and look for a summer CD release. As usual, all of our songs are available free online in both mp3 format and sheet-music. Check our website, messengerproject.com, for periodic updates.

Thanks to **Verizon** and their *Volunteer Incentive Program*, **Messenger Project** is able to reap double rewards. Not only will we have guest musicians adding artistic touches to our music, but we will be earning \$500 each from Verizon for their generosity! **Ed Estrella** and **Alex Amador** are currently recording guitar for songs on our new CD and will earn us \$1,000 toward production.

## Early American History

I found a 1970 book titled *The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates* at my local library that contains a treasure trove of information. I am reproducing some of the information that would interest Christians. Some of our early history is humorous, some sad, but it is all very fascinating!

1631 **Compulsory religious education** in Virginia enforced by requiring each churchwarden to take monthly oath that he was not delinquent in catechizing the young. Ministers were ordered to "examine, catechize, and instruct the youth and ignorant persons" of parish "in the ten commandments, the articles of the believe and in the Lord's prayer."

1646 Nov. 4 Massachusetts enacted **severe heresy law** making death punishment for any person who persisted in denying that Holy Scriptures were word of God, "or not to be attended to by illuminated Christians."

1648 Margaret Jones of Charlestown, Mass. was **1<sup>st</sup> witch executed in America**. Gov. Winthrop wrote "that she was found to have such a malignant touch, as many persons, (men, women and children), whom she stroked or touched with any affection or displeasure, etc., were taken with deafness... or other violent pains or sickness... Her behaviour at the trial was very intemperate, lying notoriously, and railing upon the jury and witnesses, etc., and in the like distemper she died," etc.

1656 **Captain Kemble** of Boston made to sit 2 hours in stocks for "his lewd and unseemly behavior" in kissing his wife "publicquely" on Sunday. He had just returned from a 3-year voyage.

1659 Puritan notion of interrelationship of God and state outlined in *The Christian Commonwealth* by **John Elliot**. Supremacy of clergy in the 17<sup>th</sup> century was based on

belief that "there is undoubtedly a form of Civil Government, instituted by God himself in the holy Scriptures."

1675 May 3 Massachusetts law enacted requiring **locking of church doors** during service. Law result of too many people leaving before long sermon was completed.

1697 official repentance for **Salem witch trials** highlighted by day of praying for forgiveness by Massachusetts Court. Samuel Sewall, one of Salem judges, publicly confessed his feeling of guilt from his pew in South Church.

1697 Oct. Severe enactment against **blasphemers and atheists** passed in Massachusetts. Any denying divine nature of Bible could be imprisoned 6 months, confined to pillory, whipped, have his tongue bored through with a hot iron, or be forced to sit on gallows with a rope around his neck.

1700 June 17 Massachusetts enactment allowed 3 months for any **Roman Catholic priest** in colony to leave. If he remained, he was to be considered an "incendiary and disturber of the public peace and safety and an enemy to the true Christian religion." If found guilty, he could be imprisoned for life or executed.

1752 Biblical sentence, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof," chosen by Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly as the inscription for famous **Liberty Bell**. Bell was cast in England and delivered to colony this year. While being tested in Philadelphia, it suffered its 1<sup>st</sup> crack.

Religious tyranny from the 1600s resulted in religious freedom from the late 1700s. The late 1800s embraced Christianity with fervor but the late 1900s rejected it and taught Evolution instead. What will the 2000s bring?