



The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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Messenger Notes

Lionel and Joie De Leon had fun performing **Messenger** songs for an overly exuberant audience of young men at **Camp Gonzales** in Calabasas. The show ended with an ice cream treat for all, and everyone had a good time. A seed was planted in these young men's hearts from the word of God. May the Holy Spirit anoint them with God's promises. Our next music ministry will be on May 8th in Lancaster at **Challenger Memorial Youth Detention for Camp Okizuka** (girls), **Camp Resnik** and **Camp Smith**. May the Lord work in our ministry that we may glorify him.

Messenger Project may soon offer unique merchandise at our website. Custom t-shirts, iron-on patches, CDRs and limited edition CDs will be available online this summer. Our web address is messengerproject.com.

A soundtrack recording has begun for **The Word**, a rock opera about Jesus as told verbatim from the **NIV Bible**. John the Baptist's vocals are performed by **Bart Broadnax**. Jesus is performed by **Skip Hahn** and **Lionel De Leon** sings the narration. Satan is performed by **Dan Waterman** and the baptism crowd was the collective voices of **Joie De Leon, Phill Vernauzos, Andrew & Mary Kate Kirby, Raymond Genovese** and **Christine Heacox**. This demo soundtrack will be a reference for theater groups interested in performing the musical. We will offer the scripts online, both free in pdf file format and for sale in a printed hardcopy format. The recordings are moving along quickly and may be finished this summer.

Messenger Project's latest CD is in the Mixing stages with hopes to have it completed by the end of summer. This CD was slow in the making but will be worth the wait. Our equipment and engineering skills keep getting better, which gives our recordings a better sound quality.

The End of the Age

Christianity was once the greatest force shaping American values. Education, medicine, government, justice and family life all were influenced by the Christian faith. The Bible was trusted and revered. The model citizen was called a "good Christian."

But the Story of Creation has been replaced by the Theory of Evolution. Christian prayer has become offensive and inappropriate in public schools and government. Biblical knowledge and familiarity is low, even among Christians. This has been purposed by God in order that prophecy may be fulfilled. For the Bible says "in the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." (Jude 18)

If Christianity maintained its influence over society, Bible prophecy couldn't be fulfilled. While it's disheartening to witness the decline of our country's morals and ethics, fulfillment of prophecy gives us reason to trust in God and validate our firm belief in the Bible. Our faith is not maintained by the gospel of Jesus alone. Prophecy was given us in order to strengthen our confidence in the Bible as the true word of God.

How bad will it be in the end times? Jesus said "Nations will rise against nations and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains... At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved... For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now- and never to be equaled again... Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be

darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken'" (Mt 24:7)

In the book of Luke, Jesus adds, "On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming in the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Lk 21:25)

The book of 2 Timothy says, "There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- having a form of godliness but denying its power." (2 Ti 3:1)

We don't know when the end times will arrive. The book of Daniel tells us "when the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed." (Da 12:7) We can see the handwriting on the wall. Christianity is losing its grip on the conscience of America, which slides us deeper into debauchery and depravity. We pray that the Lord brings a great revival that hasn't been seen since the beginning of time. It won't change the inevitable fate of the world, but it might delay it for a few generations. How sad if Christianity were to lose its power under our watch and this generation hastens rather than delays the Lord's return. We want the Lord to come, but we also want to share the Gospel and bring as many nonbelievers as possible to Christ before the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled and the end times begin.