



The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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Messenger Notes

Reverend **Abhishekam Satri** in India needs contributions to help build his church in India. Any donation amount is appreciated. Donations can be sent directly to Reverend Abhishekam Satri via his bank account number 26054 at Andhra Bank in the Kaprasainikpuri branch of India. The reverend can also be contacted at his email address joelministries01@yahoo.com for questions about his ministry or congregation. He asks us to pray for all Christians in the Andhra Pradesh district of India. Pastor Isaac Raj was recently killed in Hyderabad and Pastor Daniel was killed in Warangal.

Lionel and Joie De Leon sang *Blessed Are (Matthew 5:1)* with the worship team during the July 17th offertory at **Community Bible Church**. The next Bible song performance will be on August 28th and *Solomon's Wives (1Kings 11:1)* is the tentatively scheduled song.

William Jefferson completed his vocals for *The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)* on July 14th. The song needs additional background vocals, guitar and keyboard before it can be mixed. There are only two songs left to finish after this. It is taking us longer than usual to complete this CD, but the wait will be worth it and we are learning a lot from the experience.

Bible Corner

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Mt 16:18)



Simon Peter

Simon was born in Bethsaida and was the son of Jona. He owned a boat and was a fisherman in Capharnaum with his brother Andrew. Simon was married and lived with his mother-in-law. According to writings by Clement of Alexandria, Simon had children and his wife was one of the early martyred Christians. Simon and his brother, Andrew, were disciples of John the Baptist at the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

When Jesus first met Simon, he told him “Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is interpreted Peter.” The newly named Peter became a disciple of Christ and followed Jesus in his ministry. In Matthew 4:18, the gospel records that after Jesus healed the centurion's son he went to Peter's house and healed Peter's mother-in-law (from a fever).

Peter was a prominent disciple among the twelve, almost always at the center of events. Peter, James and John were the closest disciples to Jesus. They witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jaius from the dead and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

When Jesus walked on water, he called Peter to him (as long as Peter kept his eyes on Christ, he was able to walk on water. But when he took his eyes off Jesus, Peter sank). It was also Peter whom Jesus told to remove a coin from a fish's mouth (to pay taxes).

Peter was the most outspoken of the disciples and was both praised and rebuked

by Jesus. He has the most conversations with the Lord recorded in the four gospels. Peter is the first disciple who was called (along with his brother Andrew) and is listed first among Jesus' twelve appointed apostles in the books of Matthew and Mark.

Catholics recognize Peter as the first pope, largely because Jesus commissioned Peter in Matthew 16:18 (see the Bible Corner). Peter was the only apostle visited by Jesus on the first day of his resurrection.

Peter healed the sick and raised the dead on his missionary journey to the maritime cities of Caesaria, Joppa and Lydda. He was imprisoned by Herod Agrippa (with a death penalty) but managed a miraculous escape. It is believed that Peter preached for 25 years in Rome before being crucified there. Peter was crucified upside down because he claimed he was not worthy to die in the same manner as our Lord.

According to Catholic tradition, Peter is the patron saint for bakers, bridge builders, butchers, clock makers, cobblers, fishermen, harvesters, locksmiths, net makers, popes, shipbuilders, shoe makers, stone masons and watch makers. There are three Catholic feasts celebrated in his honor. June 29th is the Feast of Peter and Paul. February 22nd is the Feast of the Chair of Peter and November 18th is the Feast of the Dedication of the Basilicas to Peter and Paul.

Peter is an inspiration to Christians. His zealotry sometimes got him in trouble interfering with or misunderstanding Jesus' ministry, but his heart was always in the right place. He had his moment of weakness when he denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed, but Jesus forgave Peter and lifted him to a central figure and leader of the Church. May we each have but a portion of Peter's zeal!