



# The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2004

## Messenger Notes



*Felix Maluso and Adrian De Leon add vocals.*

**Felix Maluso** and **Adrian De Leon** added vocals for *The Word*, helping to fill in needed extra vocals (crowd, disciples, spies, Jews, etc.) The demo soundtrack for Act One is completed and Act Two's soundtrack should be finished by August.

**Lionel** and **Joie De Leon** performed two shows at **Challenger Memorial Youth Detention for Camp Okizuka** (girls) and **Camp Smith** (boys) in Lancaster on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The groups were receptive and well-mannered, especially the young men. It is our hope that seeds of transformation were planted in each of their hearts. Joie and Lionel's next performance will be at **Dorothy Kirby Center** in the City of Commerce on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Messenger** is hoping to start a summer concert series at Community Bible Church in Huntington Beach, California on Saturday or Sundays evenings. There has been tentative interest from the church and we only need to finalize the details and set up a schedule. If all goes well, it may continue throughout the year.

**Messenger Project** is still searching for a website to host our mp3 recordings. If you know of any sites, please email Lionel De Leon at [lio@pacbell.net](mailto:lio@pacbell.net).

## The Islamic Koran

Christians and Jews both share common sacred writings. What Christians refer to as the *Old Testament* is called the *Tanach* in Judaism. Orthodox Christians believe that the Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament, the New Testament is concealed in the Old Testament and that the entire Bible is God's inerrant word. Jews don't accept the New Testament nor believe that Jesus is their promised Messiah (Christ). It is surprising to me, since their sacred text contains numerous prophecies fulfilled by Jesus, including the fact that his own people would reject him (and still do).

Islam's sacred book is called the *Koran*, derived from the Arabic words *qara' a*, which translates into *he reads*. The Koran accuses Jews and Christians of distorting God's truth. This month I decided to quote excerpts from the Koran that conflict with Judeo-Christian beliefs. This information is not meant to demean Islam, but to point out conflicting beliefs and understandings between Islam and Christianity. It is impossible for both the Koran and the Bible to be true.

### Sura V 157 **Jesus was not crucified?**

*That they (The People of the Book, i.e. Jews) said in boast. "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Apostle of God." But they killed him not. Nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no certain knowledge, but only a conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not."*

### Sura IV 171 **There is no Trinity?**

*Say not "Trinity: desist: it will be better for you: for God is one God: Glory be to him: Far exalted is he above having a son.*

### Sura V 75

*They do blaspheme who say "God is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except one God.*

### Sura V 17 **Jesus is not God?**

*In blasphemy indeed are those that say that God is Christ the son of Mary.*

### Sura IX 30 **Jesus is not the Son of God?**

*The Jews call 'Uzair (Ezra) a son of God and the Christians call Christ the Son of God. That is saying from their mouth; in this they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. God's curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth!*

### Sura III 59 **Jesus was created from dust?**

*The similitude of Jesus before God is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him: "Be" : And he was.*

There are passages in the Koran that are consistent with Christian beliefs. Sura III 48 confirms Jesus' virgin birth, for example. But the core of Christianity is denied in the Koran. Islam and Christianity are not compatible religions. The best we can hope for is an agreement on common ground, like the attributes of God. Still, Christians should pray for Muslims that they might come to understand the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ and be saved.