



The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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Messenger Notes



Gary Bruno adds some tasty jazz guitar on our CD.

Messenger is coming right along on our latest CD, recently adding the exquisite jazz guitar work of **Gary Bruno**. We are thankful for his talent which is a blessing to our music. We are almost ready to mix down and should be finished before Christmas. Songs from the CD will be available at mp3.com as soon as they are mixed. The CD should be ready for distribution early next year.

Messenger Project received another donation from Albertsons Supermarket, for which we give thanks. We ask everyone to pray for a resolution to the grocery strike.

Lionel De Leon is looking forward to his solo performance for youth offenders on December 6th. May God's word reach our troubled youth and bring them comfort with hope. It seems that society has turned its back on children by allowing them to be aborted in the womb and to be constantly bombarded with sex, violence and godlessness from the entertainment industry, media and public classroom.

Thanksgiving Day

The Pilgrims set ground at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620. Their first winter was devastating. They had lost 46 of the original 102 who sailed on the *Mayflower*. But the harvest of 1621 was a bountiful one so the colonists decided to celebrate with a feast -- including 91 Indians who had helped the Pilgrims survive their first year. The feast was more of a traditional English harvest festival than a true "thanksgiving" observance, lasting three days. In 1623, during a severe drought, the Pilgrims gathered in a prayer service, praying for rain. When a long, steady rain followed the very next day, Governor Bradford proclaimed another day of Thanksgiving, inviting their Indian friends.

On June 20, 1676, the governing council of Charlestown, Massachusetts, held a meeting to determine how to express thanks for their good fortune. By unanimous vote they instructed Edward Rawson, the clerk, to proclaim June 29th as a day of thanksgiving. This celebration probably didn't include the Indians, as it was meant partly to recognize the colonists' recent victory over the "heathen natives."

George Washington proclaimed a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789. Some were opposed to it, including Thomas Jefferson. They believed the hardship of a few Pilgrims didn't warrant a national holiday.

In the early 1800s, Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor, wrote many editorials asking for a National Day of Thanksgiving in her *Boston Ladies' Magazine*, and later, in *Godey's Lady's Book*. Finally, after a 40-year campaign of writing editorials and letters to governors and presidents, her obsession became a reality. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving. In 1941, Thanksgiving was sanctioned by Congress as a legal holiday.

Bible Trivia

The Bible was written over a span of 1500 years by 40 authors from all walks of life. It has 66 books divided into 1189 chapters consisting of 31,173 verses. Stephen Langton divided the Bible into chapters around 1228. R. Nathan divided the Old Testament into verses in 1448 and Robert Stephanus divided the New Testament into verses in 1551. The first complete English version of the Bible divided into chapters and verses was the Geneva Bible, printed in 1560.

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. In 1450, at the invention of printing, there were 33 language translations of the Bible. By 1800, the number had risen to 71. By the end of 1971, the Bible had been published in 1457 languages. Today, parts of the Bible are available in 2233 languages. By comparison, Shakespeare is only translated into 50 languages.

The Old Testament has 17 historical, 5 poetical and 17 prophetic books. The New Testament has 4 gospels, Acts, 21 letters and Revelation. Over half of the New Testament was written by the apostle Paul.

The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119 and the shortest is Psalm 117. The longest verse is Esther 8:9 and the shortest is John 11:35. The middle chapter of the Bible is Psalm 117. The middle verse of the Bible is Psalm 118:8.

Bible Corner

Psalm 1:1-2 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.