



The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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Messenger Notes



Megan Sarich sings as Mary Magdalene in "The Word."

A demo soundtrack for *The Word* is finally completed! **Greg Sonnenberg, Steve Quinn, Mike Webb, Adrian De Leon, Felix Maluso, Skip Hahn, Rey Castillo, Joie De Leon, Daryl Smith, Megan Sarich and Lionel De Leon** added vocals in October.

Lionel De Leon sang *Daughters of Jerusalem* for the October 24th service at **Community Bible Church**. His next song from the Bible will be on November 28th.

Messenger will be singing *Emmanuel* at Community Bible Church's Christmas Show on December 12th. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. and will include songs from the choir and other members of the church.

Comparing Religions

There are seven major religions in the world. **Christianity** is the largest. It is the Dominantly practiced religion of the Western Hemisphere, Europe, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. **Islam** is the second largest, dominating the Middle East, North Africa, Bangladesh and Indonesia. **Hinduism** dominates India and Nepal. **Buddhism** dominates Japan, Vietnam, Thailand,

Myanmar and Sri Lanka. **Judaism** dominates Israel. **Taoism** is from China and **Sikhism** is a fusion of Islamic and Hindu teachings.

ESTABLISHMENT

Israel's Judaism is the oldest of the seven major religions, started by **Moses** in the 14th century B.C. China's Taoism was started by **Lao-tzu** in the 6th century B.C. India's Buddhism was founded by **Siddhartha Gautama** in the 6th century B.C. South Asia's Hinduism evolved from Vedism (the religion of the ancient Indo-European peoples who settled in India around the 2nd century B.C.). Christianity was founded through **Jesus** in the 1st century A.D., and is an extension of Judaism. The Middle East's Islam was founded by **Mohammed** in the 7th century A.D. and Sikhism was founded by **Nanak** in the 15th century A.D.

NAMES OF GOD

Jews worship **Jehova** (whose name is too holy to pronounce) as the one true God. Christians worship the **Father, Son and Holy Spirit** as manifestations of Jehova. Muslims worship **Allah** as the one true God. Hindus worship **Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva** as manifestations of a single Godhead. Sikhs believe in one true God who makes himself known to those who are ready. Buddhists believe in god-like beings, but not an omnipotent creator. Taoists have thousands of gods and don't believe in a single supreme God, but believe in universal forces of nature, **yin** and **yang**.

CREATION

Only Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism believe in a Creator. Buddhism and Hinduism believe that creation is cyclical. Taoism believes that the forces of yin and yang were created from nothing.

FINAL JUDGMENT

Jews, Christians and Muslims believe in only one lifetime and a **Final Judgment** by God. Taoists believe that the soul is judged by up to 10 different gods of **Hell**, is purified by punishment and reborn. Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs also believe in **reincarnation**. The final destination for Buddhists is **Nirvana**, a state of nothingness. The final destination for Hindus is being reunited with the Supreme Being. The final destination for Muslims is **Paradise**. The final destination for Sikhs is to rest with God. Taoists believe that a person is forever reincarnated. Christian's final destination is **Heaven** in God's presence at the **New Jerusalem** on a **New Earth**. Jews believe that God will end creation in his own time.

HOLY WRITINGS

Judaism's holy book is the **Tanach**, Christianity's holy book is the **Bible**. Islam's holy book is the **Koran**. Hinduism has many holy books, but the two most significant ones are the **Bhagavad Gita** and the **Upanishads**. Buddhism's sacred literature is the **Tri-Pitaka** (three baskets). Sikhism's sacred literature is the **Guru Granth Sahib**. Taoism has over 4,000 religious books. The primary one is the **Tao Te Ching of Lau Tzu**.

The seven major world religions are each broken into numerous sects with varying beliefs. Then there are Native American, Pacific Island, African, and Shinto pagan religions. There are also Nature and Magical religions like the Druids, Wiccans, Celts and Norse. Then there are the anti-religions like Atheism and Devil worship. So it's no wonder that Jesus said, "**Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.**"