



The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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Messenger Notes

Messenger Project has finally moved into the black by paying off our credit card, thanks largely to **Verizon** and **Albertson's** nonprofit assistance programs. With our latest CD almost ready for production, this comes as welcomed news and a blessing from God.

Lionel De Leon sang *Solomon's Wives (1 Kings 11:1)* with the worship team during the August 21st offertory at **Community Bible Church**. His next song from the Bible will be performed on September 25th and *Meaningless (Ecclesiastes 1:1)* is the tentatively scheduled song.

Harmony vocals for *The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)* have been completed. A guitar track and final mixing are all that's left for this song. The remaining two songs need vocals and minor musical arrangements before our CD will be finally completed. We have been moving at a slow but deliberate pace, allowing us the creative growth necessary for the development of songs. All of our completed songs that are slated for this CD are available online at messengerproject.com in mp3 format. The songs will be transcribed into sheet-music after the CD is officially released.

Bible Corner

When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. (John 19:26-27)



John, the Apostle

The apostle John was the son of Zebedee (and Salome) and the younger brother of James. His name means "God is gracious." Jesus named John and James "the Sons of Thunder" in Mark 3:17. John was among the first apostles chosen by Jesus and called himself "the disciple whom Jesus loved." The apostle Paul named John one of the "Pillars of the Church" (along with Peter and James).

John was the only apostle who didn't forsake Jesus during his darkest hour. John stood at the foot of the cross with Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was the first apostle to reach the tomb after hearing of the resurrection and he was the first to recognize Jesus when the resurrected Jesus visited the apostles in Tiberias (while they were fishing). John is the only apostle who was not martyred, instead he was exiled to the island of Patmos by the emperor Domitian (81-96 AD), where John composed the book of Revelation. John died around 101 AD at Ephesus.

Traditional accounts of John's life are quite amazing:

Emperor Domitian had John brought to Rome, beaten, poisoned and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil. When John stepped out unharmed, he was banished to Patmos instead.

When John was en route to preach in Asia, his ship was wrecked in a storm and all but John washed ashore. He was presumed dead, but two weeks later the waves

washed him ashore alive at the feet of his disciple Prochoros.

When John denounced idol worship as demonic, followers of Artemis stoned him. The rocks turned and hit the throwers.

John prayed in a temple of Artemis and fire from heaven killed 200 men who worshipped the idol. The remaining group begged for mercy, so John raised the 200 from the dead and all of them were converted and baptized.

John drove out a demon from a pagan temple that had lived there for 249 years.

Aboard a ship, John purified vessels of sea water for drinking.

Caenops, a magician, pretended to bring 3 dead people back to life. The "people" were actually demons who helped Caenops turn people away from Christ. John caused the magician to drown and the demons to disappear through prayer.

Once a year, his grave gave off a fragrant dust that cured the sick.

Catholic tradition lists John as the patron saint for art dealers, authors, book binders, book sellers, composers, editors, engravers, friendships, lithographers, painters, papermakers, printers, publishers, tanners, theologians, type-setters and writers. He is also the patron saint against poison and is the patron saint for Taos, New Mexico, Sundern, Germany and Umbria, Italy.

John's gospel account focuses on the deity of Christ while the other three focus on his humanity. John 3:16 is perhaps the most widely known verse from all the gospels: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life." Amen!