

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE
Isaiah 54:2-3

Introduction: We have reached the end of a very climactic year. The nation continues under alert for a terrorist disaster, possibly exceeding what happened on 9/11. There have been natural disasters throughout the world causing millions of deaths, and in our nation a major financial crisis resulting in massive unemployment. We have seen the leaking of classified government files that is embarrassing and compromises the credibility of the United States. The Bible warns that in the last days, perilous times will come. Fortunately, because we are born again, we have the benevolent, ebullient favor of our Lord. Our security is in Him and His ability to protect us. Psalm 91:1-10. It appears that the imminent return of Jesus is at hand, and all the signs point in that direction. Whatever we are going to do in the way of getting the message of salvation out, we must do quickly.

I. Looking back

- A. We have reason to rejoice in what the bible records has happened in the past. Exodus 15:20-21. Here we find Miriam leading thanksgiving for what God had done.
1. God raised up Trinity Gospel Temple 46 years ago. At that time, He gave us a vision that included:
 - a. First, to reach people of *all* backgrounds with the Gospel by every means possible. In the process, we became the first truly integrated church in Stark County. Mark 16:15.
 - b. Secondly, we began ministering to the sick and afflicted by conducting special healing lines during regular church services. Mark 16:18.
 - c. Thirdly, to feed and clothe the needy. We were the first church in Canton to open a ministry that fed and clothed the hungry. Matthew 25:34-40. (Before there was a Stark County Hunger Task Force.)
 - d. Fourth, to minister to children and teens. This resulted in the development of Camp Trinity.
 - e. To support missionaries and help them to spread the Gospel of Christ around the world. Matthew 28:19.

II. Looking ahead

- A. Our text encourages us to expand our efforts to reach people. Isaiah 54:2-3 (Amplified): "Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread abroad to the right hand and to the left..."
1. We have now doubled our efforts to reach the world for Christ. We are broadcasting on radio in our area three times per day. Our television ministry has doubled this past year and is now reaching about two billion people throughout the entire world. Isaiah 55:11. Letters, e mails, texts, and Internet contacts reach additional thousands of people. Our street ministry, block parties, and Adopt-a-Block programs minister to neighborhoods throughout our city.
 2. The Trinity Dream Center and family activity complex is a means of reaching children and adults, including a ministry to the inner city.
 - a. The gymnasium is used to attract children and young people to the Lord through sports programs.
 - b. The Jesus Christ People Care Center is housed in the Dream Center, giving out free groceries and clothing to the needy with a free hair salon for men and women.
 - c. The building also has a department to service our vans and buses and fabricate major additions that facilitate our ministry.
 3. A call to intensify our efforts
 - a. I call on you to become more intense in your prayer life and to pray for the ministry to be more effective. Isaiah 58:1, 6-8.
 4. God will hear our prayer. Isaiah 59:1, 60:1; Jeremiah 33:3. Because of the anointing, we have the power to lead people to deliverance from bondage. Isaiah 61:1-3.
 5. It is time to get bold. Hebrews 10:19-25. Jesus is coming soon. All signs point to His soon return. Matthew 24:7-8; 2nd Timothy 3:1. Whatever we intend to do for the Lord, we must do quickly.
 - a. The promise of His coming. 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18. This truth should spur us into action. There are yet many people drifting on life's sea needing to be rescued. Like the song writer wrote, "*There are souls to rescue there are souls to save; send the light, send the light.*"

Conclusion: It is so exciting to be alive at this eventful time in history, especially since we are called to influence this generation for Christ. Remember that God is not caught by surprise by the events of our day. This is all a part of the last day consummation of all things. Isaiah 50:2. God has not lost His power to save to the uttermost. Do not give up on your lost loved ones.