

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE
Isaiah 54:2-3

Introduction: We have reached the conclusion of a very climactic year. The nation remains under alert for possible terrorist disasters exceeding what happened on 9/11. Then there is the economic meltdown – talk of major corporations facing insolvency and possible bankruptcy. The Bible warns that in the last days, perilous times will come. *2nd Timothy 3:1*. Fortunately for us who are of the faith and are born again, we trust implicitly in our security which is in Christ and His ability to protect us. *Psalms 91:1-10*. It appears that the coming of Jesus the Messiah is imminent, and all 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 using every available means to do so.

I. Looking back

- A. We have valid reason to rejoice in what the ministry of Trinity has accomplished and is now an indelible part of our history. *Exodus 15:20-21*. Here we find Miriam leading thanksgiving for the miraculous miracle God had performed.
1. God raised up the ministry of Trinity Gospel Temple 44 years ago. At that time, He gave us a vision to first reach people of *all* backgrounds with the Gospel by every means possible (radio, television, etc.). We became the first truly integrated church in Stark County. *Mark 16:15*.
 2. Secondly, to pray for the sick. We initiated a healing line and began praying for the sick during regular church services. *Mark 16:18*.
 3. Thirdly, to feed and clothe the needy. Trinity was the first church in Canton to open a ministry that fed and clothed the hungry on a monthly basis. *Matthew 25:34-40*. This was even before there was a Stark County Hunger Task Force.
 4. Fourth, to minister to the children and young people. As a result, we developed Camp Trinity.
 5. To support missions to accomplish spreading the Gospel around the world to the unsaved masses. *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 are doubling our efforts to reach the lost. We are now on radio stations in the area three times per day, as well as on television, satellite, streaming video, and the Internet. *Isaiah 55:11*. Our outreaches, including the Adopt-a-Block and Evangelism Explosion teams, minister to additional hundreds of people.
 2. The Trinity Dream Center complex ministers to thousands of people each year, touching the inner city with sports programs, a free salon for men and women, and food for the hungry amounting to between 12 and 15 tons of food each year.
 - a. The Dream Center is used to attract children and young people to the Lord through sports programs.
 - b. The building also houses a repair shop where our vans and buses are serviced.
 3. Our praise services continue to exalt and laud our wonderful Savior.
 - a. I call on the church to become more intense in our prayer life and our giving. Pray for the ministry to be more effective. *Isaiah 58:1, 6-8*.
 - b. God will hear our prayer. *Isaiah 59:1, 60:1; Jeremiah 33:3*. Because of the anointing, we have the power to lead people into a life of deliverance. *Isaiah 61:1-3*.
 - c. It is time to get bold. *Hebrews 10:19-25*.
 4. Jesus is coming soon. All signs point to His soon return. *Matthew 24:7-8; 2nd Timothy 3:1*. Our planet is at stake. 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 and climactic 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.