

Increasing Joy Ministries Inc.

"The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord..." Isaiah 29:19

August 2021

Volume 18 Issue 8

The newsletter of Increasing Joy Ministries Inc.

Mission Statement

To declare the Gospel which brings willing hearts to a saving faith in Christ Jesus and causes a life of Christ likeness through Worship, Ministry, Evangelism, Teaching, and Fellowship.



Pastors
Dr. William and
Dr. Barbara DeSue

IJM Motto:
Seeking The Lost
Strengthening
The Saved
Serving Others



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In the times we find ourselves living sometimes we are weakened by our circumstances, surroundings, and physical, mental, psychological, and social conditions. There is unrest and turmoil everywhere; personally, locally, nationally, and internationally. There are wars, rumors of wars, famines, pestilences (deadly diseases and plagues), great earthquakes, fearful sights and great signs happening in the heavens. All of this was told to the disciples by Jesus and now even to us, who are His people.

Therefore, we refuse to let our hearts fail or be afraid; but this one thing we must know. The Lord is our Strength. He alone is our boldness, might, power, and security. In the midst of today's tumultuous and turbulent times we take heed and stand on the Word of God. In our own strength, it is impossible; but when you have the promises and assurances of God, we have hope.

The Psalmist declares in Psalm 18:1-3, "I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will

call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so, shall I be saved from mine enemies. KJV

What then has the Psalmist revealed of our inheritance in God? First of all, he proclaims his love for the Lord. The only way to live in the blessed promises of God, love Him and receive all that He is and has as our own, we must have a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

In this passage, there are seven endearing descriptions of Who God is to the Psalmist. He says; God is my Rock, my Fortress, my Deliverer, my Strength, my Buckler, my Horn of Salvation and my High Tower and then he exclaims, My God; "the number seven which in sacred things symbolizes perfection."

The Lord is:

My Rock: the believers in Christ have recourse for shelter and safety, for supply, support, and divine refreshment; and in whom they are secure, and on whom they build their hopes of eternal life and happiness, and so are safe from all enemies,

Psalm 18:1-3

I love you, LORD, my *strength*. The LORD is my *rock*, my *fortress* and my *deliverer*; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my *shield* and the *horn* of my salvation, my *stronghold*. I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies.

and from all danger. Christ is called a Rock on these accounts. Psalm 61:2 states “From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” That Rock is Christ Jesus, our Lord.

(My Fortress or garrison); so we who love God are kept in and by the power of God as in a garrison, 1 Peter 1:5 states, “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

(My Deliverer); He delivers us out of all afflictions, and from all temptations, and out of the hands of all enemies; from a body of sin and death at last, and from wrath to come.

(My God); the strong and mighty One, who is able to save, and who is the covenant God and Father of His people.

(My Strength); in whom I will trust; which His people are enabled to do even under very distressing and discouraging circumstances.

(My Buckler); or shield; He who protects and defends from all enemies, and preserves from the fiery darts of Satan. (Ephesians 6)

(My Horn of Salvation); The horn is the emblem at once of irresistible strength, courage and of dignity. A “horn of salvation” is a source of excellency and might, whence “salvation” or deliverance comes to those who

trust in God. He defends His people and drives the enemies before Him. He always gives us the victory. 1 Corinthians 15:57 exclaims, “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(My High Tower); my Retreat, my Savior, who saves me from violence; such is the name of the Lord, where the righteous run and are safe, He is the peak of safety.

These various descriptions show the fulness of safety in our God, the various ways He has to deliver His people from their enemies, and secure them from danger; and the psalmist beholding and claiming his interest in him under all these characters, rendered him exceeding lovely and delightful; and each of them contain a reason why he loved him, and why, in the strength of grace, he determined to love “Him.

In today’s times, there should be a people who know their God. When the world is going topsy turvy; whirling in the uncertainties of life, God has a people who intimately know Him as all of these descriptions and so much more.

May you today find solace in the fact that our God reigns, is alive, and cares for His people. This is the time to share testimonies that show Who He is and what He can do in hearts, minds, lives, and situations. Now is the time to give people, “Jesus”; Him crucified, buried, resurrected, ascended and soon to return. He has and continues to do great things; whereof we are glad! (Psalm 126:3)

Pastors William and Barbara DeSue

Psalm 126:3

“The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.”



The World Is Changing

With the latest in a long line of diseases, pestilences and plagues, the latest COVID-19 (i.e. coronavirus), has brought with it, almost immediate changes to the way the world deals with pandemics. This latest virus, although incurable and deadly to some, is also the latest in a long line of strains of influenza, even only in this century including the Bird Flu, (H1N1), SARs, Swine Flu, mad cow, etc. The latest strain has hit the world completely off guard and in the scramble to find meaning in this latest challenge, mankind is bringing its fascination of mortality to the fore.

With full-scale media assaults and political banter, societies across the globe are looking to report the latest news concerning how to deal with the threat. The saints are faced with even greater challenges as they are tasked with finding meaning in social distancing which has closed the “church house”. Brothers and sisters are tasked with maintaining the ties that bind us spiritually with our Maker, while keeping our eyes “towards where our help comes from, which is the Lord.”

“I will lift up my eyes to the hills, from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.” (Psalms 121 NKJV)

We may not have the answers to the drama that surrounds current events, but we do know that this latest worldwide crisis is one that comes in a long succession of events that speaks to the Lord’s soon return. The end is near, but the war against disease, pestilence and even physical altercations against nations do not determine God’s timeframes.

“But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet.” (Mark 13:7 NKJV)

“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows.” (Mark 13:8 NKJV)

Saints are admonished to find strength and solace in the Word of God, making sure to move closer to His grace. It is through God that we find our guidance in these troubling times. We must understand that today is today and tomorrow is tomorrow, but we serve the maker of heaven and earth. He desires us to look to Him, while setting our face like a flint, guiding all those who desire to know Him, an opportunity to do just that.

“For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.” (Isaiah 50:7 NKJV)

He will never shame His people if they become the “lighthouse”, keeping calm in the midst of a world gone haywire. Even in the possibilities of uncertainty, God lets us know that in the absence of life, we are still guaranteed to be with Him.

“So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:6 NKJV)

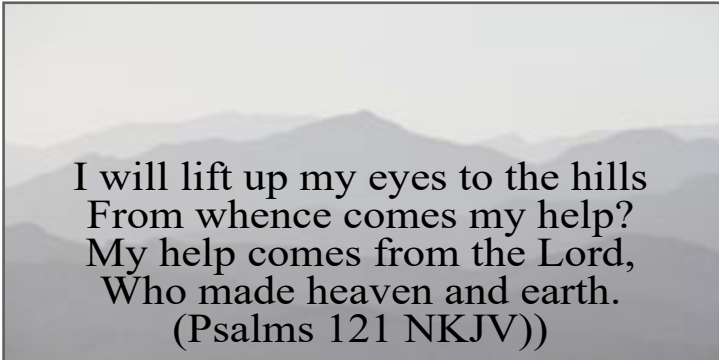
We are the stones built on His foundation. The inheritance has been set the moment we decided to not fall into the world’s standard. Let’s spread the Word, encourage one another and be there for all those around us.

“Behold, I lay in Zion

A chief cornerstone, elect, precious,

And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” (1 Peter 2:6 NKJV)

Brother Wenston DeSue



I will lift up my eyes to the hills
From whence comes my help?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
(Psalms 121 NKJV)

The Fall Appointed Feasts of The Lord

These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies. (Leviticus 23:2)

Christians are not obligated to keep the Old Testament feasts. But as we seek to understand their significance and fulfillment in Christ, these feasts invite us to remember and celebrate Jesus's fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures (Matthew 5:17)

1. Feast of Trumpets (September 6 - 8, 2021)

The Feast of Trumpets, or Rosh Hashanah (Leviticus 23:23–25; Numbers 29:1–6). Because our Gregorian calendar (based on the sun) is different from the Jewish calendar (based on the moon and sun), this feast actually marks the start or “head” of the Jewish new year. On this day, a trumpet or shofar was sounded to call people to repentance and prepare them for God's great judgment.

Just as God's voice sounded like a trumpet to the Israelites on Mt. Sinai (Hebrews 12:18–19), so also the voice of Jesus, the word of God himself (John 1:1), will sound like a trumpet as he returns to his people (Revelation 1:10; 4:1). Christ will descend from heaven, angels will gather his elect, the dead will be raised imperishable, the final battle will begin, and we will all be changed (Matthew 24:31; 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16). Like the start of a new year, this will usher in the new eternal age.

2. Day of Atonement (September 15 - 16, 2021)

Ten days after the Feast of Trumpets is the Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur (Leviticus 23:26–32; Numbers 29:7–11). This was a day for God's people to confess sins, repent, make atonement, and seek forgiveness.

On this day, a priest would enter the most holy place, sprinkle blood from one goat on the altar to atone for sins, and symbolically transfer the people's sins onto a scapegoat before releasing it into the wilderness to die. This is the most somber and holy day of the year, and many believe it is when God seals his judgments on people in the book of life.

Christians now see that this pointed ahead to the one time sacrifice of Christ, which atones for the sins of the world; Jews and Gentiles alike (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2). As our great high priest, he entered the most holy place by his own blood, making a way for us to approach God's throne of grace (Hebrews 4:14–16). Christ is also

represented by the scapegoat, as he took on our sins and was led out of the city to die (Hebrews 13:12).

Our final redemption is purchased not by man, but by God himself; accomplished not by our works, but by grace through faith in Christ, Who is the true propitiation for sin (Romans 3:23–25). After his return at the sound of the trumpet and a period of waiting, we too will see God's final judgment. As followers of the long-awaited Jesus Christ, we can be confident that our names will never be blotted from the book of life (Revelation 3:5).

3. Feast of Tabernacles (September 20 -27, 2021)

The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot or the Feast of Booths/Ingathering) (Leviticus 23:33–43; Numbers 29:12–38), coinciding with the final harvest of the year. This joyful week celebrates God's provision as the Israelites lived in makeshift dwellings in the wilderness, whether with manna from heaven or water from the rock.

On the seventh day of the feast, Jesus, God “tabernacling” among us (John 1:14)—declared that streams of living water would flow from the hearts of all who trust him (John 7:37–38). We now see that Jesus is the rock (1 Peter 2:4–5), the living water (John 4:10), and the bread of life (John 6:31–35). He has been God's provision for our deepest needs from the start. As the Israelites wandered through the wilderness between salvation at the exodus and entering the Promised Land, so we also are sojourners in a foreign land here on earth as we press on toward our eternal home with Christ.

As the Feast of Tabernacles celebrates a final harvest and feast following a trumpet sound and day of atonement, we also believe that after Jesus's return will come at harvest: the sons of evil will be destroyed, and the righteous in Christ will be gathered into our Father's kingdom to shine like the sun (Matthew 13:36–43) and feast forever at the marriage supper of the lamb (Revelation 19:6–9).

All Scripture Points to Jesus

It is to Jesus that Moses and all the Old Testament prophets bear witness (Luke 24:27; Acts 10:43), and by his resurrection the promised good news has been fulfilled (Acts 13:32–33). When we fix our eyes on and point others to Jesus, we are filled with even greater awe and deeper faith in this Author of Life (Hebrews 12:2; Acts 3:15) who's been masterfully weaving his story through all time, in all people, over all the earth and who will do so to the end.

Significance of the Feast of Tabernacles for Believers

The Feast of Tabernacles started lasts for seven days. It is the seventh and final appointed festival given to ancient Israel and is rich with symbolism for believers in Jesus.

The feast is also called ‘Sukkot’ which is the Hebrew word for ‘booths’ or ‘tents. In the Old Testament, God instructed the Israelites to live in tents for seven days (Leviticus 23:42) and the tradition continues to this day! In Israel this week there will be thousands of makeshift tents or ‘Sukkahs’ that people will dine and sometimes sleep in. It all serves as a reminder of when God led the Israelites by his presence in the Sinai desert as they lived in tents and that the Lord provided for their every need.

But this feast also pointed the Israelites to a time when God would again ‘tabernacle’ with his people, in the future. As Christians, this is something we can joyfully celebrate, and it’s something the early (largely Jewish) Church understood. See for example, John 1:14 which can be translated: “The Word [Jesus] became flesh and tabernacled among us.

Here are 3 things Christians should understand about this Biblical Festival:

1. Jesus used the festival to reveal his messianic identity
Jesus not only celebrated the feast but also declared one of his most famous messianic revelations during it.

During the time of Christ, the Feast of Tabernacles had come to be known as simply ‘The Feast’. The celebrations pointed toward a future time of messianic hope and salvation. This was especially seen during the ‘water libation’ and ‘illumination’ ceremonies.

During the water libation ceremony, the temple priests gathered a pitcher of water from the pool of Siloam and poured it out on the altar inside the Temple. The pouring out of the water expressed Israel’s hope for future rains to produce an abundant harvest. However, at the time of Jesus, Israel was spiritually destitute. They were living under Roman rule. Even the Holy of Holies was empty and dry. This moment in the feast wasn’t just a cry for physical rain, but a desperate cry that God would pour out his spirit - the ‘living water’ they longed for.

It was during the height of this ceremony, on the final day of the feast, that Jesus chose to stand up and say in a loud voice: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them” (John 7:37-38).

Jesus was telling them the solution to their spiritual drought is found in him, the true water of life – what a declaration! No wonder when he said this, some declared, “This is the Messiah” (John 7:41).

2. Jesus used the festival to reveal himself as “the light of the world”

The ‘illumination of the temple’ was another important ceremony

during the feast. It involved the lighting of four golden oil-fed lamps in the Court of Women. These lamps were 75 feet high menorahs and candelabras that were lit in the temple at night to remind Israel of the pillar of fire that had led them in their wilderness journey. The light was so bright that it is said to have illuminated the entire city.

This ceremony was also a reminder that God had promised to send a light to renew Israel’s glory, release them from bondage, and restore their joy. This was the context for Jesus’ declaration: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12).

The people knew that the promise of light was intrinsically linked with the messianic hope. The light of this ceremony only lit up Jerusalem and would eventually be extinguished. But Jesus claimed to be the eternal ‘Light of the world’.

In this statement he was implying that he was not just a good teacher, or a prophet but the light of God - the same light that led them through the wilderness in Sinai; the shekinah glory of God that they were crying out for. The very real presence of God.

3. The Feast points ahead to Christ’s return

The Feast of Tabernacles is also a prophetic feast that looks to the future age. The end of Zachariah alludes to this truth by placing the Feast of Tabernacles at the center of God’s future kingdom on earth where all nations will worship him (Zachariah 14:16).

It points towards a time when God will again tabernacle on earth, when Jesus comes and restores all things.

“Look! God’s tabernacle is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Revelation 21:3-4)

Revelation goes on to describe the New Jerusalem, which contains two features of the feast’s theme of water and light. There is a ‘river of life’ and the city has no need for the sun or moon because the Glory of God is its light. The lamb (Jesus) is its lamp.

What it means for believers

It is a time to reflect and thank God for his provision and presence in our lives, and to remember that he is the source of our security and hope, not man-made structures.

It is also a time to rejoice in the present, knowing that we have access to the living water and the light of the world that tabernacles in our heart.

Finally, it is a time to look forward to his return, when God restores all things, and know that our role is to invite people into this Kingdom where the light does not end and there is living water that gives eternal life.

Jesus in the Feast Of Tabernacles

September 20 - 27, 2021

"THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF THIS SEVENTH MONTH SHALL BE THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES FOR SEVEN DAYS UNTO YAHWEH ... ON THE FIRST DAY SHALL BE A SABBATH, AND ON THE EIGHTH DAY SHALL BE A SABBATH." -LEVITICUS 23:34,39B

SUKKOT
The Feast of Tabernacles



It is definitely summertime. It is hot outside. Be mindful of the importance of maintaining good hydration. Water is a must! If you are exercising or working in the elements, you may need to replace electrolytes. Seek out sports hydration. Be mindful of the sugars & calories as you select your sports hydration.

The appropriate performance hydration can rehydrate your cells, maximize muscle performance, & minimize muscle tissue breakdown to protect against muscle cramps. Remember, your health matters...

Minister Marjani Jones



August

Bravery

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Day 1: Deuteronomy 31:6,8 | Day 17: Isaiah 41:13 |
| Day 2: 2 Samuel 10:12 | Day 18: Matthew 10:28 |
| Day 3: 1 Chronicles 17:25 | Day 19: Mark 5:36 |
| Day 4: 2 Chronicles 15:7 | Day 20: Acts 4:29-31 |
| Day 5: Ezra 7:27-28 | Day 21: 1 Corinthians 16:13 |
| Day 6: Psalm 27:1-3 | Day 22: 2 Corinthians 10:1-2 |
| Day 7: Psalm 27:14 | Day 23: Ephesians 3:8-13 |
| Day 8: Psalm 56:3-4 | Day 24: Ephesians 6:10 |
| Day 9: Psalm 62:6-8 | Day 25: Philippians 1:20 |
| Day 10: Psalm 118:6 | Day 26: Colossians 1:11 |
| Day 11: Proverbs 14:26 | Day 27: 2 Timothy 1:7 |
| Day 12: Proverbs 18:11 | Day 28: Hebrews 13:6 |
| Day 13: Proverbs 28:1 | Day 29: James 5:8 |
| Day 14: Isaiah 35:4 | Day 30: 1 Peter 3:5-6 |
| Day 15: Isaiah 40:26 | Day 31: Revelation 2:10 |
| Day 16: Isaiah 40:29 | |

Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to meditate and reflect on God's Word.
Write down what you have gleaned from each day's scripture.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.
Habakkuk 2:3

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please call 941-721-0684 or e-mail us at increasingjoy@verizon.net

SELAH!

Luke 21:36

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

A time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats. Charles Spurgeon

We need to realize that the Bible says to "test the spirits" and warns very strongly that the Last Days will be a time of "seducing spirits" and great deception. Andrew Strom

Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." Luke 21:36

During the last times, men will be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. When you think of our sports-driven society, and our media-driven society, and our leisure-driven society, then you understand we are living in the last days. Jerry Falwell

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Are you still diligently living for God and serving Him, even in these last days? Now is not the time to ease up, but to charge forward and continue living for the Lord. Paul Chappell

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14

God has given us much in these last days, and where much is given much will be required. Smith Wigglesworth

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. 1 Timothy 4:1

The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. (Psalm 126:3 KJV:)



The New Fellowship/Worship Center

Mission Statement

To declare the Gospel which brings willing hearts to a saving faith in Christ Jesus and causes a life of Christ likeness through Worship, Ministry, Evangelism, Teaching, and Fellowship.

Increasing Joy Ministries

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Psalm 18:1-3

I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

August Events - 2021

Holy Communion - August 1st

Corporate Prayer - 2nd Friday

New Members Class - August 16th & 19th/ Reception
August 22nd

Upcoming Events - September

Holy Communion - September 5th

Corporate Prayer - 2nd Friday

New Members Class September - 13th & 16th/ Reception September 19th

Feast of Tabernacles Celebration - September 20 - 27, 2021

Fall Festival - September 27th

Ministry Schedule

Sunday 10:45 AM
Worship Service

First Sunday
Communion Service

Wednesday 7:15 PM
Worship Service

Prayer (2nd Fridays) 6:30 PM

“Praying without ceasing”
1 Thessalonians 5:17