

Monday Morning Rewind – September 29, 2008

Good afternoon. On a day when the House rejected the government's \$700 billion bank bailout plan, and the Dow reacted with the worst single-day point loss ever, it is evident that the winds of change are blowing. My question is are we, the church, feeling the breeze?

On Sabbath we talked about God's vision for change—not in the world, but rather in us. Jesus compared the trouble coming on the earth in advance of His return to birth pains (see Matt. 24:4-8). The nature of birth pains is that they start far and few between and grow in frequency and intensity as the labor progresses. No one knows the day or hour of Christ's return, but it is clear that the "birth pains" are increasing. What does this mean? *It means that we begin telling the people we care about that the end of the "pregnancy" is near and that Jesus is really on His way.*

It also means change. The change we can believe in is not coming from Washington; it's coming from heaven. And I can't embrace heaven's change until I've allowed heaven to change me.

God's vision for change involves me. Hebrews 12:26-28 predicts a shaking time on earth. If we want to be part of God's kingdom that cannot be shaken, we must submit to a personal shaking time. Jesus wants to shake up my attitudes, my diet, my wardrobe, my choice of entertainment, how I use my money, how I use my time, how I worship—everything about me. Would you believe it? It's as if Jesus wants me to be born again! It sounds like He wants to make me over into an entirely new creature! (See 2 Cor. 5:17)

God's vision for change is a church at work in His harvest. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Luke 10:2). We need to get busy being the church in the world instead of remaining content just to be the church in a building. Our mission cannot be accomplished solely within the walls of our church between 9:30 and 12:30 once a week. God is calling us into His harvest—to open our homes for prayer and Bible study, to walk the streets and carry the gospel message from house to house, and to become lovers of His Word again.

God's vision for change begins with a call to prayer and repentance. Rewind to 2 Chronicles 7:14 and read God's four-point plan for change. To survive the winds of change soon to sweep over the earth, we are to 1) humble ourselves, 2) pray, 3) seek His face, and 4) turn from our wicked ways. This is change we can believe in. This is God's "bail out" plan for the bankruptcy of His church—for the spiritual crisis of His people.

The current financial crisis may pass. The system, once a plan is adopted, may calm down and return to "normal." But do any of us know what "normal" is anymore? Who will dictate the new norms of a revamped economy? What other "contractions" are coming in the days and weeks ahead? Will we return to Laodicean sleepiness, or will we "keep watch" and be alert, "making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16).

The times, they are a changing. Will you allow God to change you? Today if you hear His voice, harden not your heart (Hebrews 4:7). –Pastor Randy

p.s. In case you missed the "Vision for the Valley" outreach plan presentation Sabbath afternoon, you can hear it on the website (www.kunasdachurch.org.) Go to the Sermons Online tab and find "Vision for the Valley 2008. We will be collecting a special offering for our outreach plan on Sabbath, October 4. Please pray about what you can give towards this kingdom-building project.

Also, about a dozen of you completed the Homes of H.O.P.E. (Houses Of Prayer Everywhere) survey and have agreed to hosting prayer and Bible study groups in your homes. Praise the Lord! In case you weren't there and didn't get a chance to fill out a survey, I've pasted it here (page 2) for your prayerful consideration.



Homes of H.O.P.E.

Would you attend a prayer & Bible study group if it were available closer to your home?

Yes

No

Are you interested in participating in a small group ministry?

Yes

No

Would you be willing to open your home one night a week to host (not necessarily lead) a prayer & Bible study group?

Yes

No

If training and materials were provided, would you consider leading a prayer & Bible study group in your home or another host site?

Yes

No

Name _____

Contact information:
