

## **The MSWSBA Messenger January 2016**

### **Living Hope Amongst The Spiritually Dead (Part 3)**

After reading part 1, we saw that the Lord gives life when we commune with Him and I hope that you have found encouragement to commune with our Lord more often while preparing yourself to hear His voice. In part 2 we saw that the spiritually dead come to life at the sound of the Word of God being proclaimed. I hope that you have found encouragement to proclaim the Word more and more faithfully both to your own soul as well as to others. At the end of part 2, we were left with a kind of cliffhanger in verse 8. At the sound of the preaching of the Word, these dry bones came together and grew flesh, but yet there was no breath in them. Something was missing. The work was not yet complete. Look at verses 9-10: *"Then He said to me 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God, 'Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.'" So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army."* What we see here is that the Lord gives life when we pray for Him to bring life. This Hebrew word that is used for breath here can be translated as breath, spirit, or can refer to the Holy Spirit. I would argue that in this context, it is referring to breath, pointing to life, because it is the Holy Spirit that is speaking to Ezekiel telling him to speak to the breath (Hebrew 'ruakh'). Regardless, what we have here is Ezekiel conversing with the Holy Spirit in order for the dead to come to life as a result of his proclamation of the Word. The preaching of the Word led to some amazing work, but it ultimately took a work of the Holy Spirit to bring the life itself. The means that he used was one of His people conversing with Him and proclaiming His message faithfully. If we want to see revitalization to our souls, our churches, and our community, it must be done through this formula. In fact, when you see a spiritual awakening happening in the Bible (Both New and Old Testament), it is a result of prayer and preaching of the Word.

For this reason, prayer and preaching of the Word must be our top priority in our churches. If it is not, we cannot expect to see the Holy Spirit at work in our churches. Programs and man-made methods can be wonderful things, but they are temporary and must change with the culture. They will only be effectual if they are used as a means to enhance and create opportunities for the preaching of the Word and prayer. The Word of God does not change and the church will starve and die off if it is not faithfully proclaimed in the Holy Spirit.

Notice the last phrase in verse 10 after the dead came to life and stood on their feet. They are described as "An exceedingly great army." The dead were not brought to life for the mere purpose of being alive, but to fight for the Lord's purposes. They live and we live so that we can be effective warriors for the kingdom of God. For the purpose of writing space I cannot expound on this like I wish to, but I will just say this: Do not allow excessive leisure to rob you of the God's purpose in calling you out of death into life.

For the sake of space I will not write verses 11-14, but you can read it yourself. To sum up those verses, God assures us by the integrity of His Word that hope is not lost, Anybody who does not believe that there is hope for their church, hope for their life, and hope for this community is a person who is not aware of the presence of God in their life. I urge you all strongly to join me in praying for sensitivity to the Holy Spirit ( and don't forget the Holy Spirit is a person of the Trinity, so you can speak directly to Him!) and for His power to daily make us more faithful in proclaiming the Word. Hope is never lost because our God makes even the dead come to life!

Rev. Chris Kuenzle  
DOM-MSWSBA

We would like to **WELCOME Pastor Floyd Pyle** to our association. Pastor Floyd is the new senior pastor at Dover. We look forward to seeing the Lord do great things through his ministry there!



The new northeast Missouri shower trailer is almost finished. It could potentially go into use as soon as next month.

The association office move is now complete. Thank you to Randy Sharpe, Jesse Rogers, Josh Thrower, Simon Thrower, and Audrey Rayl for all your hard work in getting everything moved. A special thank you to First Baptist Lewistown for your 15 years of hospitality!



## Upcoming Events

JAN

**21**

THU

### Trustee's Mtg

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

FBC Ewing

### CAMP MEETING - rescheduled!

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Camp meeting rescheduled for January at 6 pm January 21 at FBC Ewing. Contact Hannah Ewart for further information.

### Exec. Board Mtg

7:00 PM

FBC Ewing

JAN

**22**

FRI

### Pursuit (Acteen Retreat)--2016

### Missions Experience

At Camdenton. Contact MBC or Teri Broecker for more information.

JAN

**25**

MON

### MSWSBA MESSENGER

### Newsletter Article Deadline

E-mail articles or news items to DOM, at [mswdom@marktwain.net](mailto:mswdom@marktwain.net).

JAN

**28**

THU

### WMU Quarterly Mtg

9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

FBC LaBelle. Changed to 9:30 am meeting time. Watch for cancellation if weather is bad.