

# Tom Shanklin Ministries

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Dear Friend,

With the tremendous adversity and upheaval in the world around us, we may be tempted to think that all is going to be lost, that God is losing the battle against evil, that Satan is taking over. Many of us share frustrations about the political situation in our country, as well as raging wars, terrorism and economic upheaval all around the globe. Our very way of life is threatened. Though we don't like to admit it, the U.S. is no longer a Christian nation. We must wake up to reality. We no longer live in the "Leave it to Beaver" world of the 1950s.

The West, which at the height of its colonial power in the 1940s literally controlled the world, has now almost become the underdog. The U.S. is quickly becoming indebted to foreign powers. Yes, the complexion of the world is dramatically changing. And though we may not like it, our position as a nation politically and culturally in this world is declining. We may, from a limited perspective, see this as a defeat for the Christian way of life. But no, the Gospel still is the power of God unto salvation unto every one that believes. (Romans 1:16)

God, like the farmer, is waiting for His crop, and has long patience for it. For Him, it's not about political entities, it's about souls, the precious fruit of the earth—red and yellow, black and white—souls, from all over the world. Though we may not see it through our narrow perspective, God is still working, and bringing His purposes to pass. Like the Farmer, we must have patience, too, and not loose heart, because the coming of the Lord draws near.

*Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. (James 5:7, 8, KJV).*

Our perspective can be hindered if we do not understand the hand of God in history. We look at trends and events through our narrow portal of reality, formed by news reports and our personal experience in this world. But if we study history, we begin to understand that the Master Farmer is busy, bringing His crop to maturity.

In the book, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, Dr. Ralph Winter demonstrates how God through the ages, and particularly since the Jesus' death on the cross 2000 years ago, has been moving steadily towards His goal of bringing in the harvest of souls of this earth. When the church has failed to go into the world, the Lord has then arranged to bring the world to the church, in the form of invasions, and political change to governmental structure. The result of these upheavals and turmoils has been (1) the purification of the existing church, and (2) evangelization of the invading people.

Today, we could say the U.S. and Europe are being "invaded" by immigrants from other cultures and religions. With more and more abortions, and families in our own western culture having less children, our birth rates are drastically declining. Populations from other cultures, meanwhile, are increasing. The Muslim population worldwide has gone from less than 10 percent in 1900 to about 22 percent today. The expanding world population is coming here to seek opportunity. The world is now at our doorstep. How will we respond? Will an Archie Bunker mentality keep us from touching the lives of these precious people? Will we reject them as "heathen foreigners" or will we obey God and give them the Good News of the Savior?



*Hope & Healing for the Nations*

America, which was founded on biblical principles, has been a lighthouse to the world. Our decline as a nation is largely due to our failure to remain true to our spiritual moorings. If we repent, we can continue to be a light in a dark world. The choice is ours. But regardless, God will still have His way. The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world, and then the end will come. (Mt. 24:14)

Christianity is not a political movement. It's not about the kingdoms of this world, military activism, or exporting Western culture. It's about the matchless message of a Savior sent to this world to die for all of mankind. He alone is the answer for the world today! It's not a time for Christians to live in frustration over political losses and changing demographics. We cannot loose heart because of world events and seeming setbacks, but we must be patient and steady, with our hands to the plow, keeping our eyes on the precious harvest of souls in these last days. We cannot lay down and die. We must seize the great opportunities of our times!

## MINISTRY UPDATE

I had the opportunity to minister with Pastor Don Anderson of Christ for People with Developmental Disabilities. The organization was holding their 30th annual Praise Celebration at the Wayzata Evangelical Free Church in the western suburbs of Minneapolis. I was the guest speaker and had the privilege of presenting the Gospel message to a crowd of over 200 developmentally disabled people, workers, families and volunteers.



As I gave a short presentation on "How to Get to Heaven" from John 14:1-6, I found that I had the full attention of the entire crowd. As Pastor Don said afterward, "You could hear a pin drop." The group listened and prayed earnestly afterward and then gave God praise. I would say the Word that was preached was sown into good ground and will produce fruit. I find that wherever I go, whether it be churches, or nursing homes, or the foreign mission field, the Gospel is bearing much fruit. People, everywhere, need the Lord!

## LOOKING AHEAD

Please pray with me concerning our upcoming services, including a three-day Hope and Healing Celebration to be held in Mahnomon, Minnesota November 20-22. The purpose of these Hope and Healing services, which are held in cooperation with area churches, is to give the hope of eternal life through the Gospel, and to share the biblical principles of healing for the total man. Please pray that many will come to know the Lord and be set free of their spiritual, emotional and physical bondages.

We must not neglect our number one job, which is evangelizing the world. The Farmer is waiting for the harvest. Susan and I appreciate your part in this cause and pray for you constantly. May you and your entire family have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, Rejoice! God is on your side!

For the harvest,

Tom Shanklin

**Saturday, Oct. 31, 9:30 a.m.** Men's Breakfast., Sunday, Nov. 1, 3:30 p.m., Worship Service, River of God Church, Crystal Falls, Michigan. 906-875-1027.

**Sunday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.**, For His Glory Church, Log Cabin, City Park, Spring Grove, MN. 507-725-2984.

**Friday-Saturday, 7 p.m., Sunday 9:30 a.m., Nov. 20-22**, Hope and Healing Celebration, Healing Waters Church and area churches. Mahnomon Area Service Center, Mahnomon, Minnesota. 218-935-2912.

**Sunday, Nov. 29**, Ramsey Assembly of God, Ramsey, Minnesota. (Check website for details forthcoming.)

**Sunday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.**, For His Glory Church, Log Cabin, City Park, Spring Grove, MN. 507-725-2984.

**Sunday, Dec. 20, 10 a.m.**, Gaylord Assembly of God, Gaylord, Minnesota. 507-237-5117

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