

# Rolling Stone

*ministries*

*"An angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it... And the angel...said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who as been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen just as He said.'" Matthew 28:2, 5-6*

Newsletter November 2010



## **GIFT WITH DONATION!**

John is excited to announce that his latest book, *Text Messages From God*, is now available for purchase through his website [www.JohnMarkStewart.com](http://www.JohnMarkStewart.com) or Amazon. However, for a limited time only, you can get a FREE SIGNED COPY for each donation to RSM (\$30 or more) before December 15, 2010. Donations may be made by credit card through RSM website: [www.RollingStoneMinistries.org](http://www.RollingStoneMinistries.org) or by mailing a check to Rolling Stone Ministries, P.O. Box 6271, Orange, CA 92863. It will make a wonderful Christmas gift. Get your copy today!

*Text Messages From God* is the gripping story of Dave, a hard-driving, successful attorney, whose self-centered existence suddenly turns upside down by text messages he receives from a mysterious person claiming to be God. Dave, who likes to be in control and prides himself on being self sufficient, notices that the messages draw out another side of him, exposing that he is not an impenetrable fortress after all. Gradually Dave's skepticism gives way to curiosity and he plays along with captivating challenges from the message sender. As he cautiously begins to take the messages to heart, Dave is forced to deal with painful memories that he had blocked out for many years. Dave's tough shell finally begins to crack and he is faced with making a decision that could change his life forever.

## POST ELECTION REFLECTIONS FROM JOHN

As I write, election 2010 is over. Well, not quite, since they still have some counting to do in places like Alaska, where write-in votes may determine who Alaska's United States Senator is. Regardless of who wins those races still undecided, the election results send a loud message from the people of America--the November 2 vote reflects the growing concern in America that government has run amok.

First, the money issue. The federal government has the luxury of spending much more than it takes in, and pays off the deficit with borrowed money (increasing out national debt). The government can also put more money into circulation by running the printing presses day and night. Unfortunately, this merely devalues the dollar, and creates inflation. Since ordinary people must live within their means (or else they will end up bankrupt), why can't the government live within its means (federal, state, county and city)? They can, but choose not to, because government has developed an addiction to spending other people's (i.e., taxpayers') money on the projects they deem worthy.

If no one speaks up, we get more of the same. Without forcing the government to live within its means, we will keep kicking the can down the road, and hope our kids and grandkids will do a better job than us. We need to force government, at all levels, to balance their budget without raising taxes. And we need to do it now. Is it not that we are taxed too little--the problem is that government spends too much.

Second, the crisis in values. You may have heard me use the "volunteer fire department" analogy with respect to the current condition of our country. The volunteer firefighter goes about his or her business until the alarm sounds. At that point, regardless of whether the firefighter is working, lounging, or somewhere in between, it is time to drop everything and answer the call. Once the fire has been put out, the volunteer can go back to whatever it is he or she was doing.

When our country erupts into a moral conflagration, with an insidious secularism threatening to burn down our traditions and values, we need to be like the volunteer firefighter and do what we can to put out the fire, even if it means leaving the comfort of our routine. I submit that our land is ablaze with beliefs and practices that were once not even discussed in mixed company. Today, not only is there a disturbing increase in behavior that is contrary to Judeo-Christian values, but it has become open and notorious, not just "out of the closet," but also "in your face." If we don't speak up and stand up for what is good and godly, then we only have ourselves to blame as we watch our civilization continue its headlong march toward the societal abyss.

There is good news. The November 2 vote not only shows that Americans are not going to sit by silently while our country disintegrates, but it also shows that Americans are becoming more conservative. Similar to how Christianity has become "post-denominational" (i.e., there is no longer the same loyalty to a particular denomination, and fewer and fewer people care as long as there is sound Bible teaching), so our society has become "post-partisan." We care less about the party affiliation, and more about the individuals' values that are running for office. And those values are conservative, consistent with traditional Christian notions of morality, stewardship, and work ethic.

A political party solicited me for a contribution a few months back, and I told the caller I would not contribute to the party, but I would contribute to those candidates I believed in. The political orthodoxy is still trying to figure out co-opt this growing trend of independence, but Americans are no longer satisfied with the bromides from a political party. They have been put on notice--be responsive to the will of the people, or you will be sent packing.

A great example of democracy in action (despite the hand wringing and condemnation from the "progressives") is what happened in Iowa. Last spring the Iowa Supreme Court voted unanimously to impose same-sex marriage on the state, striking the traditional "one man and one woman" definition of marriage enacted by the legislature. As in California, even though supreme court justices are appointed by the governor in Iowa, they come up for a "retention" vote. This gives the people the chance to decide whether to keep the unelected jurists. Three of the seven Iowa justices were up for retention (a "yes" or "no" vote, decided by a simple majority). A grass-roots effort, lead by Christians, called for a "no" vote on the three justices who arrogantly and unnecessarily imposed same-sex marriage on Iowa. When the votes were counted, all three of the Iowa justices were fired in an exercise of true democracy.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Post Election Reflections continued...

I have been clear on my position that the calling of the Christian is primarily a calling to embrace and share a message that changes people from within. I firmly believe that "political" problems are rooted in spiritual causes (i.e., within the human heart), and I don't believe there are political solutions to spiritual problems. We can and should have good, moral people leading our cities, counties, state and country. But government "solutions," although important in keeping order in our society, cannot change the human heart. That only comes from understanding and accepting God's plan for humanity, which is trusting Christ for not only our eternal salvation, but also for guidance in this life

As we try to be watchmen on the walls, knowing that freedom is fragile, let us pray for our country and it's leaders, and do what we can to restore America's greatness by leading the way back to the faith of our Fathers. We need trust in God to be more than a motto. We need to call upon the God who, according to our Declaration of Independence, created us equal, and endowed us with inalienable rights. Yes, rights come from God, not from government. Government needs to protect those God-given rights. As President Lincoln so eloquently said in his Gettysburg Address, we have a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." Thank God for America, the Shining City on the Hill. We have begun to "take back America." But unless we continue the momentum, America will turn back to "business as usual."

Consider these words: "...an almost unbroken 50 years of deficit spending has finally brought us to a time of reckoning. We have come to a turning point, a moment for hard decisions. I have asked the Cabinet and my staff a question, and now I put the same question to all of you: If not us, who? And if not now, when? It must be done by all of us going forward with a program aimed at reaching a balanced budget. We can then begin reducing the national debt." Who said it, and when? President Ronald Reagan during his second inaugural address, January 21, 1985. America trusted our government then, and the government failed us, but Washington was complicit with we, the people. Now we rightly do not trust Washington. Are we ready to tell our leaders it is time to make the "hard decisions?" I close by repeating the questions of President Reagan--If not us, who? And if not now, when?

*John*

## PARTNER WITH ROLLING STONE MINISTRIES

We invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with RSM today. When you offer support, you partner with RSM in the mission field and share in building the Kingdom. Becoming a Treasure Builder (a monthly partner with RSM) will go a long way to provide for basic needs to help minister more effectively to fulfill the Great Commission: *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matt. 28:19-20*



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RSM is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Send your gifts to: **ROLLING STONE MINISTRIES, INC.**

P.O. Box 6271

Orange, CA 92863-6271

## Future Events

Sundays ~ John teaches "The Cutting Edge" adult Bible class Sundays 10:30 am at Covenant Pres. Church (CPC) in Orange, CA.

November 18 ~ John speaks at Camp Berachah in Auburn , WA.

January 26, 2011 ~ John speaks at at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

February 2011 ~ (tentative) John & Laurie's third teaching mission to India

March 23, 2011 ~ John speaks at at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

April 2011 ~ (tentative) John & Laurie's fifth teaching mission to Kenya.

April 30 ~ Laurie speaks at women's brunch at Bethany Bible Fellowship in Westminster, CA.

May 4, 2011 ~ John speaks at at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

June-August ~ writing sabbatical in Iowa



*Pastor Isaac's children, Kenya*



*John & Laurie, Orange, CA*



*John speaking at Camp Berachah, Auburn, WA*

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