

Where Lies Your HOPE?



By Dr. Henry Harbuck, AEGA President/Overseer

WE GIVE THANKS ...

Thanks be unto God for His faithfulness! He has kept AEGA strong and solvent during the past year; and our 2008 World Conference theme -- “The Unshakable Kingdom” – has resounded throughout the year, giving us hope and assurance in uncertain times. And although the world was shaking around us, *The Church* went forth in power. AEGA was used mightily as a fellowship in 2008. God has given us thousands of new souls for His Kingdom, and has placed renewed vision in our hearts by opening doors in new countries, and establishing new churches and ministries. AEGA World Missions has continued to spread the Gospel abroad, continually ministering to the hurting – both spiritually and with natural resources. Once again, God has shown Himself to be faithful and true.

ENTERING 2009...

As we enter 2009, we face many challenges as a nation. Later this month the U.S. will inaugurate a new president and new leadership will guide our country. And although we may not support everything our new president and his administration may stand for, we are commanded by God to pray and honor our leaders (*1 Timothy 2:1-2*). As president and overseer of AEGA, I will be faithful to do so, and I hope you will too.

MAN IS LIMITED ...

As believers, we cannot look to the arm of flesh to deliver us from our problems. Humanity is limited. Nevertheless, God uses men and women to accomplish His plan -- even when they don't realize it. In fact, the Bible indicates God even uses unbelievers to carry out His will.

THE STAR OF HOPE?

Each year over one billion people around the world watch as the “ball” drops in New York City’s Times Square. The history of the New Year’s Eve “ball” is quite interesting. The first “time-ball” was installed on top of England’s Royal Observatory at Greenwich in 1833. After the success of that event, approximately 150 such time-balls were installed around the world, although few survive in working order today. Nevertheless, the tradition continues in places like the United States Naval Observatory in Washington, DC where a time-ball descends from a flagpole at noon each day; and of course, once a year in Times Square where it marks the stroke of midnight.

New York actually held a New Year's celebration as early as 1904, but it wasn't until 1907 that an iron and wood ball adorned with one hundred 25-watt light bulbs was dropped. This "time ball" was 5 feet in diameter and weighed 700 pounds. From that date until today, the "ball" has dropped every year -- except 1942 and 1943 during the City's WWII "dim-outs". Nevertheless, crowds still gathered in Times Square during those years, greeting the New Year with a moment of silence followed by chimes ringing out from One Times Square.

Over the years, the "time-ball" has undergone about 4 re-designs. The most recent was created for the millennial celebration in the year 2000 by Waterford Crystal. A geodesic sphere, it is six feet in diameter, weighs approximately 1,070 pounds, and is covered with a total of 504 crystal triangles that vary in size. Each triangle has a special designation: Hope for Fellowship, Hope for Peace, Hope for Wisdom, Hope for Unity, Hope for Courage, and Hope for Healing, etc.

The Name of the ball is "*The Star of Hope.*" Why would the New Year's ball be called the "Star of Hope?" Because the birth of each New Year brings a time for new hope and opportunity, a time to grasp hold of our future and our destiny. Where is *your* hope?

THE ONLY REAL HOPE...

There is only ONE who can give real hope. There is only ONE Deliverer. His name is Jesus Christ, and He is coming back to deliver His people. Each year since we began the AEGA World Conference, the Lord has given my wife, Jan, the theme for the conference. I wondered how the Lord could top last year, but He has! As she prayed and sought God, He gave her the 2009 theme: PREVAILING HOPE...Our Deliverer is Coming!

How sad are those who do not know Jesus. As Christians, we know that our only hope is in Christ. We have His promise of His return to rapture the church and later to come again with the saints to set up His Kingdom where we will rule and reign with Him forever! As ministers of the Gospel, we must preach and teach this "Blessed Hope."

DON'T GIVE UP ... GEAR UP!

So, take this Word to heart for 2009 and don't be discouraged. Be faithful with what God has put in your hands. Don't give up! Instead, gear up! And fulfill the vision He has given you in the ministry. Pray and seek His face. Stand firm in the Faith!

WE CARE ABOUT YOU ...

If you need personal prayer or counsel, don't hesitate to call our office. I, along with our board and staff, are ALWAYS here to pray for you and be of service to you.

Thank you for your love and faithfulness to AEGA. We are praying for you and honored to have you part of this God-ordained fellowship!