

Pastor Kent's Miller Avenue Church Newsletter for January 2022

Dear Church Family, We have found a most helpful book on the Scripture aimed at equipping us to grasp it and apply it to our lives. It will be the birthday gift beginning in January. We already have several copies and are ready to go.

Sadly, we are still amid the pandemic, and although the omicron variant is spreading rapidly and widely, it does not seem to have as much punch as the delta—so that is good news. But we must still be careful to observe the county and state precautions. Some may think I am being too cautious, but if someone should come down with the virus, it would severely impact Katie and I and many others as well. Look at Romans 13:1–3, and you will see why we believe we are following the Word of God.

Let me speak to an issue someone, no longer with us, brought up and in less than a Christian manner, just recently. This person accused me of error by having a woman, Katie of course, ordained as a pastor. If you have a copy of my book, *Christian Basics*, I deal with that issue there. If we look at Joel 2 and read some passages in Acts, we see that women were engaged in real ministry. About half the pastors in the Philippines, for example, are women, a fact I found out when I was a guest speaker at pastor conferences there years ago. The same is true in Central and South America and in all parts of Africa. Many solid churches and whole denominations in America also ordain women as pastors who serve in leadership roles. I am kind of in the middle, as I can imagine some situations where it might not work to have women in leadership roles, but in case of our little MAC, we are good.

Now the designation “pastor” is not a position of authority; rather, it describes a form of ministry, that of feeding the flock, or a preacher/teacher, and looking out for the welfare of a congregation. Yes, there are two passages from Paul—1 Timothy 2:12 and 1 Corinthians 14:34—where Paul says women are not to be in leadership roles. But to make this a universal, timeless circumstance is to miss the point of what was going on in the social revolution in that era in the Roman culture involving women, the “New Roman Woman.” You know that I like to see the entire congregation engaged in leadership along with the board of directors, with the senior pastor leading the way. We have done this for 38 years now and it works fairly well, not perfect, but it works.

Now I am engaged in a most unpleasant task, which I suspect will take me into the middle of 2022. This has to do with mushrooming occult practices that are literally sweeping the nation, and in close connection with the extreme rise in Buddhism and Hinduism. Yes, I am working on another book, starting today on the 4th chapter, have 15 books sitting by my desk, three I have finished reading, on the fourth right now, and these focus on Akashic Records, Reiki, Kundalini, energy transfers, life coaches who use occult techniques, psychics, mediums, and other numbers of shamanistic/occult oriented practices. Currently, I am talking with three channelers and hoping that one, two, or three of them will let me interview them as I did with the shaman and the wiccan. I had no idea this was all under way, though I should have been alert to it, since I did encounter it back in the Jesus People days. I am asking for your prayers on this; it is a real spiritual battle.