

BE A BRINGER

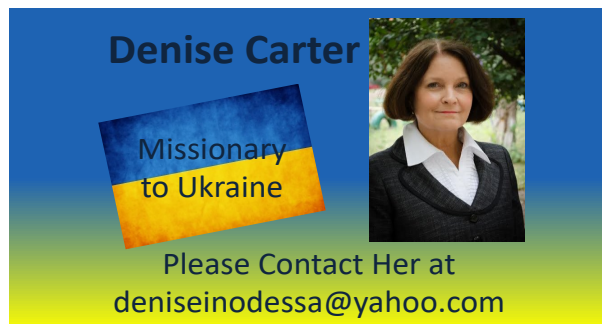
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



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Christmas Carols

Tune Into Jesus
Starting December 10th

Handout: 12/24/17

Study: 12/31/17

Joy To The World

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) was born to Dissenting parents (people who refused to accept the authority and practices of the Church of England). As a boy, he sang hymns outside prison walls to encourage his father, who had been arrested for his non-conformist beliefs.

Isaac showed promise as a poet at a very young age. As he grew, he became increasingly unhappy with the hymns that he sang in church each week. In those days, hymns were psalms set to music. Watts saw that the hymns thus reflected little or nothing of the New Testament, and set out to remedy that error. His hymns—at least his earlier hymns—reinterpreted the psalms in the light of the Christian faith. In 1719, he published a book of hymns entitled, *The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament*.

One of those hymns was “Joy to the World,” based loosely on Psalm 98, which says, “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises” (Psalm 98:4). That psalm looks forward to the day when the Lord will come to judge the world in righteousness. In this hymn, Watts reinterpreted the psalm to rejoice in the coming of the Christ as our Lord and savior.

This hymn was sung to various tunes for many years. Then in 1839, Lowell Mason, a banker who happened to be quite interested in church music, published the tune that we now associate with “Joy to the World.” Mason borrowed liberally from classical music, and acknowledged his debt to Handel’s “Messiah” for parts of this hymn tune.

Watts wrote some 600 hymns altogether, and is considered to be the father of Christian hymnody. His hymns include such favorites as “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” and “O God, Our Help in Ages Past.” But the favorite of favorites is “Joy to the World.”

— Richard Niell Donovan

KEY VERSE

Psalm 98:9

*“For He is coming to judge the earth.
With righteousness He shall judge the world,
And the peoples with equity. .” NKJV*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Psalm 98

Introduction

1. What are some things that have brought you joy this year?
2. What similarities do you see between Psalm 98 and the song “Joy to the World”?

Tuesday: Psalm 98:1-3; Isaiah 52:1-10

Sing a New Song

3. What “marvelous” things has the Lord done in these verses?
4. What “marvelous “ things has the Lord done for you?

Wednesday: Psalm 98:4-6; 1 Peter 1:6-9; Isaiah 61:10

Sing With Joy

5. How can remembering what God has done lead to joy in your life?
6. How will Christ coming again in the future produce joy in the world?

Thursday: Psalm 98:7-8; Isaiah 55:12; Romans 8:18-25

Sing With Expectation

7. What kind of celebration is described in these verses?
8. Why do you think all of creation celebrates the second coming of Jesus?

Friday: Psalm 98:9; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 22:20

Jesus The Righteous Judge

9. What does Psalm 98:8 say that Jesus will do when he returns?
10. In what ways is the return of Jesus as the righteous judge a reason for celebration?
11. After celebrating the birth of Jesus,, what are some ways to prepare for his second coming?