

# Insider's Alert

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*A Publication of Key Communications by Lee Turner*

## A Special Phone Call

On April 19, 2018, early in the morning (Oregon time) by invitation and pre-arrangement, I phoned brother Bill Paul, a long-time friend. Through the years I've had significant contact with Bill during all three of his major ministries which he rendered in Orlando, Florida; Denver, Colorado; and Seattle, Washington. Just before I phoned brother Paul, he had convened that day's class for the weekly seminar he conducts in the retirement complex where he lives in Aurora, Colorado.

His class had just reached page 120 in their study of my published exposition, Revelation, Verse by Verse, A Commentary. Brother Paul's students are all fellow residents in the retirement facility where he lives. With great enthusiasm, turn by turn, using a speaker phone, each one told me how they, using my commentary, along with brother Paul's guidance, had been enlightened and encouraged by their study of the book of Revelation. They were thrilled to be able to grasp the challenging and enlightening message of Revelation, capstone of New Testament books. Months earlier, brother Rick Elliott, elder in the Christian Church of Anchorage, Alaska, similarly led his Sunday school class in a shorter, though comparable, study.

The members of Bill's class are seriously following Jesus' instruction in which he repeatedly urges his followers to watch and pray. At least eight times we are commanded to watch.<sup>1</sup> What is this "watching" we are supposed to do? It means to be observant, to be alert, to be comprehending, to be analytical, to observe and understand what is going on. Unless we "watch," how will we know, except for our personal concerns, what we should pray about? According to Jesus, "watching" starts with personal observation. He asked, "Having eyes, see ye not? And having ears, hear ye not? And do ye not remember?" (Mark 8:18) Jesus rebuked people who were intelligent enough to understand primary weather patterns but seemed to have no understanding of "the signs of the times." (Matthew 16:3) We would be wise to learn about priorities from the indolence and indifference of the general public in Noah's time. They certainly were not watching because "they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away!" (Matthew 24:39)

The men of the Jewish tribe of Issachar have left all of us a great example in that they "understood the times and

knew what Israel should do." (I Chronicles 12:32) If we are habituated to a lifestyle which consists of nothing more significant than satisfying our animal urges — eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage (Matthew 24:38) — we are not watching, we are not following the example of the men of Issachar, we are duplicating the disastrous example of society in Noah's day.

I have encountered people who can recite from memory years of statistics for their favorite sports team or sports idol but are without understanding concerning local, national or international developments which have a significant relationship to God's eternal plan. Jesus rebuked those with a similar inconsistency. His upbraiding centered on weather patterns. He reminded them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is

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red.' And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot

interpret the signs of the times." (Matthew 16:2-3 ESV)

To understand what relationship the ongoing parade of human events has to our lives and to the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose, we must remember that God has not left his people without help. Peter highlighted the advantage God gives us when he wrote his second epistle. In it he said, "We have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place." (II Peter 1:19 ESV)

The book of Revelation is certainly prominent among those scriptures that should be classified as "the word of prophecy." The example of the students in brother Paul's class should be widely emulated. They are benefiting from the rays of that spiritual lamp which illuminate the dark places.

## Deterioration of Values, East and West

"The West is the site of European cultural suicide, the place where family, church, nation and traditional notions of marriage and gender go to die."<sup>2</sup>

Many places in eastern society are also plagued with falling standards, both temporal and spiritual. Pakistan, the country where our outreach with the Gospel is most intensely concentrated, "continues to deteriorate. Electricity blackouts ('load shedding,' as they are called) are

more persistent now than ever, and water shortages are worsening. The situation is fluid. Nuclear power and coal imports may soon alleviate the power blackouts, even as the army has reportedly moved away somewhat from encouraging Islamic radicalism. But Pakistan's population growth is still above 2 percent annually, meaning its population doubles every thirty-five years. (The median age is 22.7 years old.) Corruption is rife, even as there are no significant anti-corruption drives. Karachi, a sprawling city of slums and fortified villas with the population of twenty-four million, is defined by criminal networks and refugees from the violent tribal areas abutting Afghanistan. Because of security concerns, more and more Pakistani political conclaves have been held not in Pakistan in all, but in Dubai. Still, the Pakistani state will not collapse, as it basically consists of around one-hundred wealthy families."<sup>3</sup>

## Minorities in Pakistan

“Pakistan has a dismal record over the treatment of vulnerable religious minorities. Most live in fear of their life and property amid an increase in religious intolerance in recent years, along with violence and deadly assaults. Hindus, who make up 4 percent of the country's population of approximately 200 million people, mostly live in the southern Sindh Province. In recent years, they have increasingly complained of forced conversions to Islam carried out by hard-line Islamists.”<sup>4</sup>

## U.S. / Pakistani Stress

“Saudi Arabia backed down under pressure from the U.S. and allowed Pakistan to be placed on an international terror-financing watch list ... dealing a blow to the South Asian country's struggling economy. The Financial Action Task Force's decision to put Pakistan on a list of countries with lax controls over terror financing and money laundering is part of a push by the Trump administration to punish Islamabad over what it sees as inaction against terrorists operating on its soil. Last month Washington announced it was withholding \$2

billion in security assistance.”<sup>5</sup> As relationships between the U.S. and Pakistan become more confrontational, the work of staying in day-to-day fellowship with our brethren about Gospel projects becomes more difficult.

## Potential Agents

“Islamist political parties also pursue those living in the Muslim diaspora across the globe. Muslim expats in the U.S., Europe, Canada and Australia are courted for the influence they may wield abroad (a surprisingly large number hold positions in government, NGOs, and Fortune 500 companies), the funding they might provide, as well as for their vote back home (as many Muslim nations permit voting by absentee ballot).”<sup>6</sup>

## Tidbit

“There are times I'm not seeing his [God's] hand at work ... waiting ... even in those times, my feelings went one way, but my heart and mind go back to the Word and am constantly reminded of God's eminence even though you're waiting ... even though you don't see the fruit on the vine.”<sup>7</sup>

In the bond of Christ,



Lee Turner

**“And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”**  
~ John 10:16 ESV

*Thank you for your partnership in making Christ known in the Muslim world!  
Your contributions are tax deductible.*

1. See Matthew 24:42, 26:41, Mark 13:33-37, Luke 21:36, Acts 20:31, I Corinthians 16:13, I Thessalonians 5:6, Revelation 3:3.

2. Roger Cohen, *Democracy, The Enemy*, *The New York Times, Sunday Review*, April 8, 2018, p. 1.

3. Robert D. Kaplan, *The Return of Marco Polo's World*, (NY: Random House, 2018), pp. 28-29.

4. Salman Masood, *Lower-Caste Hindu Woman is Elected to Pakistan's Senate, a First for the Nation*, *The New York Times*, March 6, 2018, p. A12.

5. Saeed Shah & Ian Talley, *With U.S. Push, Pakistan is Put on Terror-Finance List*, *The Wall Street Journal*, February 24-25, 2018, p. A-14.

6. Haroon K. Ullah, *Digital World War*, (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2017), p. 164.

7. J.D. Payne, from his book *Roland Allen's The Ministry of Expansion*, quoted from the William Carey Library's December 2017 newsletter.

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PO Box 13620, Portland, OR 97213  
Phone: (503) 233-7680 Fax: (503) 236-0733  
E-mail: [feedback@keycom.org](mailto:feedback@keycom.org) Web: [www.keycom.org](http://www.keycom.org)