

April 2021

CONGRATULATIONS KENNY!

Power88 went on the air in April of 1992. Back in those days you didn't have the automation you have now. Now, much of radio operation is computerized; and in the early days we depended a lot on volunteers to help us operate around the clock. If you have listened any time at all you're familiar with Kenny, our on air personality. Kenny recently hit a milestone that will reveal his age.

Kenny came to us as a volunteer in 1996 from the University of Mobile. For approximately six months he did a Sunday afternoon program. Then the Friday night show was added a few months later and soon after he was hired as a part time employee. So you see, Kenny in the Afternoon hasn't always been Kenny in the Afternoon. In 2000 he started doing the morning drive and greeted all



listeners bright and early every morning until 2005. It was then that Kenny decided to change his name to "Kenny in the Afternoon". You can't have a morning drive personality with a name like that, so he was moved to the afternoon time slot and has been doing it ever since.

Much of Kenny's life experience has occurred since being at Power88. He even proposed to his wife while on the air at Power88. In 2007, he became Music Director for the station. This year will be his 25th year of working here playing Christian music. Celebrate with us in wishing Kenny a Happy 25th Work Anniversary. Thanks Kenny and congratulations!

HOW CLOSE WAS JUDAS

Every year thousands of tourists from all over the world visit Madam Tussaud's Wax Museum in London, England; and since 1970 they're asked to name a person, past, present, real or fictional they hated or feared the most. The name that has topped the list the most has been Adolph Hitler, but as far as I know Judas Iscariot has never made the list. Think about it, this was the man who betrayed Jesus Christ, the son of God. His name is synonymous with betrayal. The dictionary defines "Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, a traitor or betrayer."

Not much is known about Judas Iscariot. His father was Simon and his surname was probably a combination of the Hebrew words Ish & Kariot, meaning Man of Kariot. The Bible says he was treasurer of the 12 and that he stole from that treasury. What compelled a man to sentence his closest friend to such a horrible death?

It must have broken Jesus' heart when Judas stepped out of the crowd and betrayed him with a kiss. The name Judas has gone down in history being synonymous with betrayal. However, the question we need to ask ourselves on Easter 2021 is, "When Judas hanged himself on that day what did he miss? **Mt. 27:5** says, "Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself."

Judas had already taken his own life before Pilate had finished questioning Jesus, before Barabas was released, before Jesus was scourged with a cat-o'-nine-tails and had a crown of thorns pushed onto his head. The real tragedy is, Judas wasn't around when Jesus was nailed to a cross and cried out, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Lk.23:34).

He missed out on the forgiveness of Jesus. 2Peter says, "The Lord is...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." That includes Judas. Just as it was his decision to betray Christ, so it was his choice to die unrepentant. Christ's forgiveness is not dependent on our worthy behavior, but on the acknowledgment of our need of a Savior.

The hardest part of the story is that Judas came so close to salvation. How close? **Mt. 27:4** shows he acknowledged his. He didn't try to justify himself or make excuses and in v. 3 we see he was genuinely remorseful and it wasn't because he got caught. So, he acknowledged his sin, he knew he was wrong and felt bad about, however Judas did not repent and ask for forgiveness. As Maxwell Smart used to say, "Missed it by that much!", but this is no laughing matter.

People in churches all over may know the truth of **Rm 3:23**, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." They know it, they're remorseful and they may feel really bad about their sin, but for some reason they still can't bring themselves to ask forgiveness from Christ. What's holding them back? Is it pride or just plain stubbornness? I don't know, but it's a very dangerous game to play, b/c you don't have to hang yourself to miss the forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

When you have salvation in Christ you have a peace that surpasses all understanding. It's the same "peace" that Jesus refers to leaving us in **John 14:27**, when He says, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you..." In the Greek the context refers to relationships and means "to set at one again", "to join" or in this case, being right with, reconciled to, God. The world does not and cannot understand this peace. The peace of God still surpasses understanding in 2021 & the power of the Holy Spirit can still change you and our world as effectively as it changed the world of Peter & Paul. But just as Judas had to make the choice for himself, you will have to make the choice for yourself. How close are you?! Or, are you there?





God's Vision & His Provision

I know the faithfulness of God firsthand. A little over 30 years ago when God called me to start Goforth Media, I began with WBHY 840AM. All the paperwork had been completed and I was on my way to bringing the Gospel message over the airwaves to the Mobile market. However, I'm going to let you in on a little secret. I had no money, but I knew God had called me to do this and knew He would provide. He had to.

We didn't start off well, in fact we struggled financially from the start. Within months the bank was calling for payment and I didn't have the money. Clearly, the pressure was on and it would have been so easy to give up. A month goes by and I don't hear anything from the bank, then another month, then another and another, six months go by when I finally receive a call from the bank wanting their money. I was honest with them and told them I didn't have the money. I asked them, "Would you consider adding what I owe to the end of the loan, because I got the income up enough now that I think I could make the payment?" The man on the other end of the phone told me that he would check and call me back to let me know.

Can you guess what he said? They agreed to my request and I began making my regular payment. When I inquired as to why it took six months to get back me, he said, "The man who was on his way to see you six months ago when he had a heart attack and the paperwork was in his briefcase. We couldn't locate the paperwork." WOW!

As I look back on my life and ministry, I think of all the blessings of God and his faithfulness I would've missed seeing if I had thrown in the towel. God has been faithful to me and this ministry beyond words can describe. The only way of escape was the path God provided. The journey has not been an easy one, but Christian radio has been my life's calling and if I was just faithful to God and what he called me to do He would provide. He has been faithful and he has called many of you to endeavor in this vision with me; and for that, I am forever grateful.



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WITH SPECIAL GUEST - ANDREW RIPP

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