

TREASURES FROM HEAVEN

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INT. CHURCH LOBBY - MORNING

The beginning of a traditional Sunday Morning service at a small pentecostal church in Kenosha Mountain, Oklahoma. Congregants enter through the front doors, greeting ushers.

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - MORNING

The service is about to begin. Worship band members tune their guitars. The AV Team checks mics. Church members find their seats in the rows, warmly greeting each other.

Service begins, and the band begins playing an upbeat worship song. Many church members crowd the front of the stage worshipping with hands up. A few are dancing. A colorful "glory flag" is unfurled featuring the image of a Lion and is waved over the worshippers.

PASTOR KEN (V.O.)

We believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit here.

INT. PASTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

PASTOR KENNETH JANSEN and his wife LINDA, both mid 50s, are seated in plush leather chairs in KEN's office. KEN is plain looking, while LINDA wears a bouffant hair style and bright makeup--not quite Tammy Faye, but there definitely was some influence there.

Interview: KEN and LINDA

KEN

We believe in the signs, gifts, and wonders of the Lord, yes we do. That's just who we are. You know, some people say we're crazy. They say "oh, those folks down at Kenosha Mountain House of Prayer, they're all a bunch of loons, they're really off the deep end" they say, and I just tell them, "well, send me into the deep end because I sure do love swimming!"

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LINDA
He does love swimming.

KEN
Yeah.

LINDA
He's an avid swimmer.

KEN
Well, in the glory, I mean.

LINDA
Oh, yes.

KEN
But just like in Acts, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the early church in Jerusalem, those early followers began performing signs and miracles, doing things nobody had ever seen mortal man do.

We see congregants worship during a service with even greater fervor - dancing, jumping, feeling the Spirit. PASTOR KEN is praying from the stage with his hands over the congregation from the pulpit and congregants begin to feel the power move through them.

KEN (V.O.)
And all the people of the town saw these wonders, same thing, they said oh, you know, "these people must be drunk, they're all just nuts". But when the Holy Spirit descends on a person, that's just what happens, you know? You can't help it.

INT. PASTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

KEN
Yes sir, that was the start of the global Church, and that's just what the Lord established our church to be here on Kenosha Mountain.

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDA

We love nuts.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

ARNOLD PATTERSON, mid 70s, the church historian, stands outside the church - clearly a converted store front in a run down shopping complex.

Interview: ARNOLD

ARNOLD

The church started all the way back in 1972 with a simple prayer meeting held in this very storefront...

We see pictures of the original founders during the early days of the church.

ARNOLD (V.O.)

...where Jim Lamont and Bill Truman, two pentecostal ministers, gathered over a twelve-piece chicken dinner to pray for a revival to sweep through middle-eastern Oklahoma. Shortly after this, they moved into this new home after the Kentucky Fried Chicken closed and moved to a new supermall that opened up just twenty five miles south off of I-72. It was a small church at first, few dozen steadfast men and women and their children. But it soon grew to be a mighty congregation after the Lord started appearing mightily during those humble early prayer meetings.

ARNOLD gestures up towards a large sign. We read the church's full name: "Kenosha Mountain Shekinah Glory Holiness Church of God and House of Prayer of the Americas". The "Of The Americas" was clearly a new addition.

INT. ARNOLD'S OFFICE - DAY

Back to Interview. We see Arnold gesture to a map of the town.

ARNOLD

Now, the name has a storied history. Of course, Kenosha Mountain, that's our town here, where Truman and Lamont founded the church. Most folk that come around here will say "now Arnold, this town is flat as a flapjack, you know, where's that mountain?" Well for years we all just tended to believe that was a "prophetic" mountain. You know, a sign that God saw this town as the spiritual gathering place for this region. Well turns out right next to Pauletta's Beauty Barn there's actually a little mound that gets up to just about six feet high.

We see townspeople scale the "hill" behind the Beauty Barn. It's barely noticeable.

ARNOLD (V.O.)

You climb up that hill and you can peep into just about every house in town from that lookout. It's quite a landmark.

We see old painted images of angel visitations from Exodus, various spiritual paraphernalia from the church office, and some early images of Jim Lamont.

ARNOLD (V.O.)

The "Shekinah Glory" in our name, that comes from the Hebrew word that means "he caused to dwell", which signifies a divine presence or dwelling of the Spirit of God. That part was added to our name in 1984 after Lamont experienced a divine visitation by the angel Raphael, who met him in an open vision while in the midst of a renal inspection.

Back to Interview.

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ARNOLD

The angel told him "Jim, the Lord hath spoken! In your people I will dwell!" and then he just disappeared, and sure enough, Jim's kidneys were just clean as could be that day. So we knew that name had to stay.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

We see ARNOLD standing below the "Holiness Church of God and House of Prayer" portion of the sign.

ARNOLD

Now "Holiness Church of God and House of Prayer", that sure was a contentious one.

Images of Don and Connie Kohn in 1992.

ARNOLD (V.O.)

In '92, pastor Don Kohn felt the call for us to become a 24-hour house of prayer, but at the time his wife Connie was quite pressed that the Lord needed them to focus their efforts on Sunday services. So they called up the head of the Vineyard church movement at the time and asked him what to do, and he said "if the Lord speak it, so be it."

Back to Interview.

ARNOLD

So they settled on both names, and never had a fight about it since. They fought about other things though. Like their marriage. She ended up moving to Lebanon Illinois to start a baking ministry and he I think works in plastics now.

Zoom in on the brand new "Of The Americas" sign.

ARNOLD

And of course, there's our newest addition.

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Images of an internet search for a similarly titled church in Canada. Shot of a church employee hanging this new sign to the title.

ARNOLD (V.O.)

We just found out about two years ago that apparently there is also a Kenosha Mountain Shekinah Glory Holiness Church of God and House of Prayer in northeastern Ontario, so for branding purposes we needed to add this so folks wouldn't get us confused. Though it has caused a number of strange new flags to suddenly appear during services.

We see footage of a congregant in a previous service waving a "Don't Tread On Me" flag.

Back to ARNOLD outside the church.

ARNOLD

Now I know what you're thinking, that sure is a long name for a church, how in tarnation am I supposed to remember all that? Well, I like to tell folks it abbreviates to "KMSGH-COGA-HOP-OTA", which sounds an awful lot like a phrase in tongues that means "worship Him freely in the Spirit". So remember that.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH CHILDREN'S CLASSROOM - MORNING

TAMMY BELLWEATHER, mid 40s, frizzy hair and a warm demeanor, sits in a children's chair in the middle of a church classroom decorated with Bible cartoons and hand-made crafts.

Interview: TAMMY

TAMMY

The children of Kenosha Mountain, oh they are just a blessing. I can't tell you. The Bible tells us that children are gift from the Lord, and I can attest to that firsthand.

We see TAMMY welcoming children and parents into class.

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TAMMY (V.O.)

We have so many children visit us each Sunday that we've now added multiple classrooms. There's of course our grade school kids...

We see rambunctious grade school kids looking distracted during a lesson.

TAMMY (V.O.)

... and then we have our little ones--our Faithful Fours and Trusting Threes...

We see a few little space cadets making macaroni art.

TAMMY (V.O.)

...and then we have our Temple of God Twos - we call them the Terrible Twos around here though.

We see an angry two-year-old slap a teacher across the face and run down the hall.

TAMMY (V.O.)

And finally we have our little Intercessor Infants. My favorite bunch.

TAMMY gingerly accepts a screaming infant and rocks it to calm it down.

TAMMY (V.O.)

I just learn so much from babies. They hold so much wisdom, so much power.

She props a baby on a changing table. The back of the baby's onesie is absolutely covered in yellowish-brown poop. TAMMY cheerfully discards a very loaded diaper.

Cut back to INTERVIEW.

TAMMY

I'd say overall in working with children, I try to remind myself of their precious little minds and all the beautiful things the Lord is teaching them. You know, we adults, we get so bogged down in the humdrum, you know, groceries and taxes and you know, 501-k-3s, and...

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TAMMY (CONT'D)

but for these little lambs it's just climbing trees and scraping knees, you know, puppy dogs and popsicles. That's where the Lord meets them. And so I just want to come down to their level.

Back to TAMMY with the infant, still screaming. She plops the distraught child down in a booster seat, takes a polaroid picture of the infant, then cuts out the image of the screaming infant's contorted face and pastes it to a cartoon sheep body on the wall, next to many other screaming baby sheep. She smiles, approvingly.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH LOBBY - MORNING

LINDSEY METSON, 19, an exhausted but earnest intern, holding a stack of styrofoam cups while attending the coffee station, which is just two large standing metal carafes.

Interview: LINDSEY. She is frequently interrupted as she passes out cups to people who approach her at the coffee station.

LINDSEY

I started interning for the church back in May of last year. I finished high school and thought about applying to a few colleges-- here you go!--but didn't quite know what I wanted to major in, so I thought about it for a while, and thought maybe--God bless you!-- that taking a gap year and really spending time committing to following the Holy Spirit and serving the church--God has a plan for your life!--might help me focus on what I want to do. And so far, I've been able to do a lot here.

We see LINDSEY on her knees in prayer, then scrubbing stains out of the carpet.

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LINDSEY (V.O.)

I spend the first six hours of each day in the prayer room, soaking in the Word and also soaking up coffee stains in the carpet from the last service.

We see LINDSEY delivering several bags of take-out orders to various church staff members.

Then from one to three I'm out getting lunch orders.

We see LINDSEY doing various projects around the office, including inspecting an air duct.

Then three to six I'm usually typing sermon notes, printing documents, organizing our archives, fixing our HVAC system, regular administrative work.

We see LINDSEY passing out flyers at a grocery store.

Six to eight I'm doing outreach to the local shopping complexes.

We see LINDSEY in the dark hunched over a laptop.

Then it's usually straight home from there, where from eight to eleven I'm working on overhauling the church website.

We see LINDSEY shaking hands and greeting congregants, smiling through the fatigue.

LINDSEY (V.O.)

The internship ends in a few weeks, and apparently I'm supposed to preach a whole sermon by that point. I don't know if I'm ready for that, but we'll see what the Lord does.

Back to interview at the coffee stand.

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LINDSEY

Paid? Oh no, it's not. But they told me in my interview that my reward is "jewels on your heavenly crown", so.. I'm sure it's gonna look really pretty by now.

CUT TO:

INT. PASTOR'S OFFICE

Back to Interview: KEN and LINDA in their leather chairs as before.

PASTOR KEN

You know, I really think what makes this church work really is this team. I know it's corny, but it's true. We're just a family here. You know, we face a lot of challenges these days, with all the programs we have going on, but we've just seen that because of the people we have around us, through thick and thin, we've been able to really time and time again--oh did you want to say something Linda?

LINDA

Oh, no.

KEN

Oh okay... You just looked like you wanted to share something.

LINDA

Oh no, I was just going to say, we're a family.

KEN

Yeah, I said that, we're a family... You just like looking at me, don't ya? You do! She does. You know, sometimes we'll just be at home, and I'll just hear her sigh over there on her chaise lounge, and she'll just look at me and I'll say, "now what is it Linda?" And she'll say "oh nothing" and sigh, just like that. "Oh nothing." She just likes looking at me.

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LINDA

I like looking at you.

KEN

That's right you do. It's my baby blue eyes, that's what you told me. That's what you fell in love with.

LINDA

And you liked my teeth.

KEN

That's right. I call them the pearly gates.

LINDA

I use whitening strips.

KEN

That's right, she does. Show them to me.

LINDA flashes her teeth at KEN.

KEN

Ahh. Stop my heart! You just know me, don't you baby.

LINDA

Crest whitening strips, they're great.

KEN

That's right.

KEN regains composure.

But like I said, the Lord's moving powerfully here.

TITLE CARD: "TREASURES FROM HEAVEN".