

Update from Pete and Pip Gardner

September 2026

Midnight Hour?

On several occasions over the summer months, I (Pip) woke up with an alert in my spirit and the following scriptures in my mind: -

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God

I felt a sense of urgency in it and of the seriousness of the hour we are in. Prepare the way of the Lord, this is not time to be passive, it is not time to be silent. We are in a midnight hour and we need to stand our watch and ask the Lord, 'What do I cry?'

Don't disturb me!

Midnight is such an inconvenient time to be woken up! The parable of the persistent widow says as much! The judge didn't want to be disturbed, it wasn't a good time, he was settled, as was his family, all safely tucked up in bed. It was an inconvenient hour!

Have you ever watched the documentary series on the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution)? The film crew follow the lives of volunteers around the coastal waters of the UK. Their pager alarm can go off at the most inconvenient time, during a family meal or some other daily circumstance. When the alarm goes off, there is no hesitation. No deliberation, no inner arguments... 'shall I respond, shall I decline?' Without question, this is an emergency and personal comfort is put aside for the sake of those at risk.

We are in a critical hour! The question before us is do we respond or do we ignore the many signs we've had even in 2026? Over the summer, as we became acutely aware of how close we are to a potential war, I realised that these years of our lives are a call to war yet I found within me an inner '*oh no*' and a reluctance to engage. Do I want to be engaged in the level of warfare and prayer, why not just back off and let go. But to opt out this time means I will be less likely to respond the second or third time and in the end I will lose the sense of urgency. Perhaps this is how one falls asleep?

In his book, "*The Remnant Awakening*", a book we highly recommend if you haven't already read it, Alistair Petrie unpacks the parable of the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew 24 to highlight 3 types of believers in the end-times church: -

1. The wise virgins. These have oil in their lamps but are asleep. They are sincere believers who love the Lord but have not discerned the hour. They have fallen into spiritual lethargy and become distracted by the cares of the world and deadened or numbed to the realities of the times we are in.

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2. The foolish virgins. These have no oil in their lamps and are asleep. They describe believers who have come to faith but have not discerned the value of their eternal reward for believing loyalty and instead have fallen in love with the world.
3. The remnant church. They are believers who are waiting for the return of the King and are 'at the door' ready to open it to him. They are watchmen who are standing their watch and who bring the Midnight Cry to wake up the sleeping giant.

John the Baptist was the voice crying out in the wilderness who prepared the way of the Lord at the advent of Jesus. Are we close to the midnight hour and called to prepare the way of the Lord at His second advent? What is happening in the spiritual realm is often reflected in what we see in the physical realm.

85 seconds to midnight



This year, on 27th January, the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists set the Doomsday Clock at 85 seconds to midnight. This is the closest the clock has ever been to midnight since it was founded in 1945 by Albert Einstein and J.R. Oppenheimer. In 2025, the Board warned global leadership that the world was heading for global disaster but the major players have not heeded the warning and instead continue to pursue their nationalistic 'winner takes all' agendas in their efforts to win the race for supremacy. This has undermined international co-operation to reduce catastrophic risks. The Board highlights some of the reasons we are so close to the midnight hour as complacency, indifference, rhetoric and the failure of leadership.

<https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/2026-statement/>

God's Clock!

This alert is not one that should make us fear, but one that confirms what we sense in our spirit. The midnight hour is nearly upon us, the darkness upon the earth is being chased by the brightness of the Lord's return. He is coming and the enemy is doing all he can to delay his return and to resist the completion of the great commission that will trigger his return. The enemy fears his end and one way he can do this is to precipitate a third world war. Another way is to put the church to sleep through complacency, indifference, rhetoric and through a lack of leadership.

The choice before us – to watch or to sleep?

In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, what makes those watching and waiting distinctive from the wise virgins who fell asleep? I don't want to fall asleep but I'm so aware that I could. There are times the warfare in the watching is so strong that spiritual lethargy falls like a blanket and it's like walking through treacle. As I asked the Lord this question, I was reminded of Revelation 12:11

*"They overcame by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony and **by loving not their lives unto death.**"*

When we were in mission, a colleague working in a Muslim nation explained that a critical part of his discipleship of new believers included preparing them to expect persecution, imprisonment or even the loss of their life for their faith. Counting the cost of discipleship is a prerequisite to coming to faith.

Up until now, most of us in western nations have been cushioned from such realities through the comfortability that life affords. Yet to remain awake in the midnight hour requires that same selflessness whereby we also count the cost of discipleship and align our priorities, relationships and expectations of life accordingly, especially in the face of the current threats of impending war. We don't do this for self-preservation but rather to be His voice crying out in the neighbourhood, the nation, 'prepare the way of the Lord.' As John the Baptist embodied the message and prepared the way for Jesus' advent, great expectation fell on the people who begged him to tell them what they must do to be ready. If we are nearing the midnight hour, then we are the ones to ask the Lord, *"What shall we cry? What is Your message for us to prepare people for your return? How can we be awake and stay awake?"*

Luke 12:35-37 is a wonderful exhortation that comes with a tremendous promise of blessing: -

"Let your waists be girded and your lamps burning and you yourselves, be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks, they may open to him.

Blessed are those servants whom the master comes will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them."

Let your waists be girded speaks of readiness and watchfulness, alert to the times we are in and ready to do what he tells us. **Keep your lamps burning** speaks of intimate communion with the Lord that nourishes and sustains us in times of trouble where, like Habakkuk, the joy of the Lord becomes our strength.

On September 8th, the UK government made known that it will be calling military veterans back into service to take part in a major mobilisation exercise to test the readiness of the Armed Forces in the event of war.

The readiness of the church is equally being tested. It is time for us as his remnant church to rally to his call and to offer ourselves afresh to him to be the voice of one crying out in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord and make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

In closing, we are preparing an article titled, 'Considerations on a Third World War from a Historical and Spiritual Perspective'. If you would like to receive it when it is completed then send a return email from this update and we will send you a copy when it is ready.

Richest blessings
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