

# The “New” Church of God Messenger

## A Newsletter for the People of God

### February 6, 2021 --- Issue No. 1

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The hope is to publish at least one article weekly but may not always happen that way. The “New” Church of God Messenger is an independent publication. All newsletters may be copied and given to others if they are copied and sent in their entirety.

**Publisher:** Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens iron.

**Contributors:** Nathaniel Burson, Jeffrey Caldwell, Ray Daly, Richard Frates, Laura Lee & Richard Markland

**Website:** Church of God, Bismarck <https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org>

## Breaking News

Just released on February 5, 2021. Mike Lindell Documentary “Absolute Proof” is almost 2 hours long, but if you wondered about the election, you really need to see this video. I will also post the link on our website.

<https://michaeljlindell.com/>

## Articles

### Major Changes are Necessary if America is to Survive (Copyright) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)

When looking at society, it is becoming more difficult to not only understand changes taking place, but where changes are headed. To discuss whether the changes are justified or not is a point of contention.

Condemnation towards those who are conservative is becoming more widely accepted because society is more liberal and lawless. Conservatism, however, is viewed as the culprit for out-of-control reasoning and resulting behavior in the nation today.

#### How Stable Will America Be If Liberalism Becomes the Overriding New Reality?

Liberalism and people who are liberal have been waging a full-scale assault on the nation’s long standing established laws and carrying out changes to accommodate personal and group agendas. There is no right or wrong based upon anything as a guide but determined on a case-by-case basis. Whatever an individual or any given group decides is how right and wrong is defined, it is the standard used as a guide.

Liberalism is a theory. It is a hypothesis or an assumption that its belief system is true but not proven. Liberalism is broadly interpreted and is guided by an agenda mistakenly believed.

Being liberal means tolerance is paramount. Every person must sympathize, adapt, and indulge any practice

(except Christianity). Long held standards in society are to be scrutinized questioned and rebelled against if they infringe upon free thinking and the acting out of those thoughts. To its fullest extent deviant reasoning and conduct must be accepted as the norm but any standard according to the Bible must be condemned rejected and attacked at all costs.

### **How Stable is America Under Conservatism?**

Conservatism opposes any changes made to the rule of law. Maintaining stability is paramount. A person who is conservative lives by standards that are guides for how life is viewed and lived overall.

The nation's founding fathers were conservative, and the Constitution is a testimony of their conservative values. As flawed as America has always been the Constitution is the one document that has made the nation what it is. Each amendment guarantees personal freedoms because of its guidelines and boundaries but hated by liberalism and liberals who are waging all out war upon what has always kept the nation and its government in check.

### **A Single Document and the Book of all Books Under Assault**

The United States Constitution and the Bible were the two guiding lights when the country was founded. If both are completely rejected America is finished. While the Constitution is not perfect it has prevented the government from removing precious freedoms, but this is quickly changing because liberalism does not view the document as relevant today.

The Bible is not flawed but perfect in every way. The reason it is despised as no other book is because it defines what is right and wrong. It is a book of absolutes. It gives solutions to individual and National problems, but they are not the solutions most Americans are willing to recognize because major changes are required. The Bible is liberalism's worst nightmare because it is a conservative book that in all actuality is God's mind in print. It is grossly misinterpreted by far too many ministers in churches across the country misunderstood by many professing Christians and a complete turnoff to those who view the Bible as a book out of touch with reality and totally irrelevant.

### **Severe Consequences if Major Changes Are Not Made**

The Bible warns of what the consequences will be for being divided as a Nation. Matthew 24:25, Mark 3:25 and Luke 11:17 states America's collapse is inevitable if the American people do not stop pitting themselves against one another.

The Bible also warns against the accusatory attitude called the blame game that is a moral cancer in the country. Isaiah 58:9- "Then you shall call, and the Lord shall answer, you shall cry, and he shall say, Here I am, if (it's conditional) you take away from the midst of you the putting forth of the finger (pointing the finger at others as the problem) and speaking vanity (having an in your face attitude).

While people may ask, "Where's God?" the answer is provided in Isaiah 59:2- "But your iniquities (acts of disobedience) have separated between you and your God and your sins (the breaking of God's law – I John 3:4) have hid his face from you that he will not hear."

God is not politically affiliated, but He is conservative, and He hates lawlessness. Solutions to America's problems are not political but spiritual in nature. The nation's leaders and the American people must make major changes. Either Americans will wake up and meet God's requirements and survive as a nation or the country will find itself facing deadly consequences for refusing to obey God on His terms.

## **Church Leaders – Surrenders to the State – Moral Authority** by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

And that is State Worship. Church leaders have disarmed themselves: They have "Closed their Eyes" to the Sword of Truth. Christian leaders, Jews, and Messianic Jews - have - **Surrendered to the State "The Knowledge of Good and Evil" without a whimper in Protest.** If a believer in God's word Speaks out against

the Evil of the State - Legalizing - Sexual Perversions. Church Leaders confirm their - Disloyalty to God and - Bow in Loyalty to the State - by condemning them for getting involved in "Politics." Jeremiah 6:10 describes them "Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the Lord is offensive to them." Psalm 12:8 "The wicked freely strut about when - what is vile is honored among men."

Foolish and easily intimidated Preachers: Use 1 Peter 2:13-14 to Justify honoring evil and Bowing to Diabolical Laws of the State. Peter said submit to those in authority who "Punish those who do wrong and commend those who do good." Today's Authorities Rewards those who do evil and condemns those who do good. Because of No support from Church Leaders - Many in position of authority have been muzzled: Fearful of the Devils Faithful and Media - they will Not speak out against what they know is vile. Politicians and Judges are committing - Nationwide - Hate Crimes - against Children. They indoctrinate children with the Vulgarity of LGBT in public school sex education. I have written to congress for years calling for a ban of public-school sex-ed. Why are Christian Leaders, closing their eyes, and - Not charging State Leaders with the Vilest of "Hate Crimes" and calling for a BAN? Does the State really love sexual perverts or Hate the innocence of children or both?

Jeremiah 23:14 - Describes those in authority today: They "Strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that No one Turns from his wickedness". A Christians responsibility to God is to call on Sexual Perverts and their defenders to "Repent" Ezekiel 3:18-19 or be "accountable for their blood." Ministers of the Word: "Abandon" God's Truth. Instead of **Publicly** - Calling on Politicians and Judges to Repent they Plead with State Leaders - the Devils Faithful - to have their churches exempted from Diabolical Requirements. Why are Judges and politicians - Driven like Dumb Mules by Media! Realizing Church Leaders have "Closed their Eyes and Forfeited God's Truth. State officials - arise daily with this in Mind: How can I - Impose more Evil on Americans today and Appear my Masters in the Mad Left Media?

In Ezekiel 9:4-7 God condemned those who did Not "Grieve and Lament" over all the Detestable things that are done in Israel." God will also Condemn - Americans - who are Not Grieved - over the Detestable Rulings in defense of Depravity that are praised in America. **Judges from Hell:** Despise God's Word and ridicule Christians who believe. Defeated - Preachers have Muzzled themselves: They will Not Publicly call on State Leaders and Judges to Repent. They fear the State and some in their flock who worship the Devil by Honoring his children - but do Not "fear God." **Isaiah 66:2** "This is the one I esteem: He who is humble and contrite in spirit, and **Trembles at my Word**." Where is Repentance and the Fear of God preached today?

True **Repentance is foreign today**. The Gospel begins with Repentance. Matthew 4:17 "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." Preaching Repentance applies to all and is Critical in preparing hearts to accept God's Sacrifice. **John was preaching repentance before anyone knew the - price God would Pay - to save sinners.** Luke 1:17 - John's mission was to turn the "disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous (That Wisdom is - Believe God and Repent) and make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Turning the "disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous" is Warning about Judgment and preaching Repentance, valid to old testament and new Testament Believers.

Today's Gospel is vacant of True Repentance. Truth has been replaced with Christian and Jewish Traditions and Repentance with preaching "God Loves You." The "God Loves You" Message" concludes: Just Believe and get "saved." That is a "false gospel." Jesus Christ and the Apostles preached Repentance, Judgment, and the Love of God. Repent and live by every word of God to - confirm your repentance - is missing. Most Preachers never truly repented themselves. They ignore God's Word, boast about being "saved" and getting others saved but are devoted to traditions of the world. Jesus Christ warns: In vain they worship me - teaching as doctrine Traditions of men" Matthew 15:9. NIV.

The Love of God is obvious: God - Sacrificed His Son - and paid our debt of sin. The great suffering and death of his Son - Crucified - demonstrates the **High Price** Required by God to Redeem mankind from sin. Truly believing that would move one to Repent of sin and rebellion against God and abandon traditions of men. Do you Really Believe God? Jesus Christ Crucified is Light that Shines Beyond the Grave.

# Can You Know WHEN?

by Nathaniel Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

**Can you unlock the secrets that tell you when the end of the world is coming? Does God have a set date in mind? Will he reveal it to man before the end comes? The Bible tells you, YES!**

**Matthew 24:36** *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

His father KNEW, nearly 2000 years ago, the DAY and even the HOUR of Christ's second coming! Not even Christ knew this, when he was on earth. But later, after his resurrection, he said "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (**Matthew 28:18**)

If ALL POWER was given to him, would the tiny power of knowing when he was returning be held back? Absolutely not! Further proof of this can be found in the first chapter of **Revelation**.

In **verse 1**, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God GAVE unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass;*

When Christ was on earth, even He **did not know** the day and the hour of his return. This is why His father had to GIVE him this revelation, and there is no question that He did this at some point before the close of the first century, at the writing of the book of Revelation.

**Daniel 11:35** *...even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.*

It is for a TIME APPOINTED. God has set the time - He appointed it at least 2500 years ago. So, God knows... and He won't change his timetable - He can't!

**Numbers 23:19** *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*

**So then, can we understand it? Will God reveal unto his servants the day and the hour? The Bible tells us that he will!**

**Matthew 24:37-39** *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

Christ compared the coming of the end of the age, the coming of HIS DAY, to the Great Flood. Did the flood come upon God's servants as a surprise? No! God warned His servant Noah many years in advance - just enough years in advance to prepare for the Flood!

God will not bring destruction upon this world, in the time that will be the worst EVER to happen on the earth, the worst that ever WILL happen on this earth, without warning His servants!

**Amos 3:7** *Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.*

He will always reveal his secrets to His servants! He will not bring death and UTTER destruction upon the world without warning those who DO his will and KEEP his commandments! This is the very DEFINITION of a servant of God (Romans 6:16).

**Daniel 12:4** *But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*

But these end-time prophecies were SHUT UP and could not be understood until the end - But God PROMISES that as the time of the end is neared, that knowledge will be increased, and the book WILL be UNSEALED!

**But many will say, everyone knows that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night - there is no way for us to know when it is coming. Well, your bible says otherwise!**

**1 Thessalonians 5:2-4** *For yourselves KNOW perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when THEY shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and THEY shall not escape. **But ye, brethren, ARE NOT in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.***

That day will not overtake YOU as a thief in the night if you are his servant! YOU WILL be warned IF you keep his commandments and serve him truly and faithfully!

**Except those days be shortened...Is this saying that God will alter His timetable in order to save mankind? Surprisingly perhaps, the answer is NO!**

**Matthew 24:22** *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

God has a set time. Just 14 verses later Christ said that God knew the DAY and the HOUR of His return. God is not saying that he will CHANGE his timetable to save the elect - He's saying that he will INTERVENE before the COMPLETE destruction that mankind would bring upon himself.

Left alone, it is only a matter of time until mankind TOTALLY blows our earth into rubble. He already has enough weapons to destroy ALL LIFE ON EARTH so many times over, and in SO MANY WAYS, that it is nearly incalculable. Unless Christ steps in and takes control of the earth and RULES with a rod of iron, mankind will TOTALLY and COMPLETELY destroy himself, along with ALL life - EVERY animal, EVERY creature that moves would be wiped out. Therefore, for the sake of the elect, Christ will step in BEFORE THAT TIME, just before mankind is totally destroyed!

## **Renewal of the Earth**

**by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)**

Psalm 104:30 "...You renew the face of the earth!"

Read these words again. And a third time if necessary. Then ask yourselves. "What do they mean? And are they Truth". Well, they are indeed Truth. And since the word "renew" means to return something to its original shape or condition, then the words mean that The Almighty is going to see to it that the earth will be returned to its pre flood condition. Return it to its Genesis One conditions.

When people view the earth today, they see gigantic sized oceans, and incredibly high mountain ranges. And, in each case, both are a curse to our nations and peoples. Yes, there are "positives" when it comes to the seeing or to the use of, as they are now. But they are also the cause of "almost all" BAD weather conditions. Tornados, hurricanes, global warming, etc./et al.

At the same time, people will also believe that today's conditions, as it pertains to the mountain ranges and oceans, have been here since the time of the flood of Noah's days. But that is not accurate. For, after the flood, the oceans were "much" smaller, and the mountain ranges "much" lower. In fact, it is highly likely that such mountain ranges as the Himalayas, Alps, Rockies, and Andes were not above the earth at all after the

flood. Archaeological and oceanographic findings very much support this as reality. The story goes as follows. I will be as concise as possible.

First, let us look at the present-day oceans. Look at a map of the earth. Consider first, the South Pacific island chains. Thousands of islands, from Hawaii to Japan, and southward to off the coasts of New Zealand, were once an almost solid land mass. The same is true of the territories from India down to Australia. And for that matter, there may have been solid land masses from Arabia to Africa. And in almost all areas of the earth.

Now move over to the area between North and South America, and along the southeast coast of the US. Solid land mass. There is a city close to Cuba that is "under water" today. It is hard to imagine no Caribbean Sea. But that is apparently the way it was, after the flood.

Move your view on the map to the north Atlantic. Look at the islands from America all the way to Scandinavia, and Scotland. Then eastward to Russia, south to Denmark. And while doing so, note the water line between the British Isles and Continental Europe. All solid land masses.

Finally, move south to the SW coast of Europe, and the NW coast of Africa. And note the islands off their borders. Yes, After the flood? Solid land masses. Especially consider the infamous "Atlantis". Which was at one time, the "homeland" for the Phoenicians. But today? Yes, Atlantis lies beneath the Atlantic waters. And what else lies there, still on Atlantis? How many would guess, the great "city of gold". That the early Spanish fleets went out to find here in the western hemisphere.

Now go back and reread the opening verse. For it said "renewing" of the earth back to its original Genesis One conditions is going to be done in two stages. The first to return the earth to its "post" flood conditions. Which means a renewing of the earth back to its "landmass" time. Secondly, the renewal of the earth to its "pre" flood conditions. In which there are "seas", but small. And "mountains", but better called hills.

We find the Scriptural description of the return to the post flood conditions in Rev. 6:12, 14: "When he had opened the sixth seal, there was a GREAT EARTHQUAKE [-ES] ...And EVERY MOUNTAIN [range], and ISLAND were moved out of their places!"

Meaning that, the earth will be returned to its "landmass" conditions, with the highest of the mountain ranges having sunk back into the earth. It goes like this. In the mid 700's BC, during the reign of king Uzziah, there were "great earthquakes". (Zech. 14:5) So great that the earth tilted ten degrees on its axis. And the "granite" plates covering the waters of our present oceans were moved, so that the waters gushed forth. Thus, causing the plates holding the land masses to "sink" downward. Leaving only the islands.

This "moving" of the plates will be reversed in the future (20 years+?), thus bringing the oceans waters back beneath the plates of the landmasses. And, as well, the plates of the present higher mountain ranges will sink back into the earth. Coming about as a reaction to the events beneath the oceans. Whether the mountain ranges will sink all the way back, or only most of the way is not known at this time. But, at a point in time, they will be totally returned beneath the earth's surface. While there are several Scriptures that point to this first "renewing", I will only present two, for the readers to consider. Isa. 54:9-10 and Mic. 1:3-4.

Think about the last two words. "Not found". If you cannot "find something", then it is no longer visible. Or "hidden" from one's eyes. Well, that is exactly what will happen. The greater parts of today's oceans will simply "disappear". The real meaning of the Islands that remain after the first step of renewal, will also not be found.

One last Scripture. Luke 3:5-6 "EVERY valley shall be FILLED. EVERY mountain [range] and hill shall be BROUGHT LOW. The crooked {rivers for example} shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth. And all flesh SHALL SEE the salvation of God."

**Division Will Lead to the Nation's Destruction  
if not Restrained**

**(Copyright) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)**

The year 2020 will go down in history as a year of deep division. It will be remembered as a time in which Americans turned on one another. The national election for the presidency will be remembered as illegitimate by Trump supporters and conservatives, but fair by Democrats and liberals.

Most Americans fail to see long range repercussions for the way they decide to deal with problems. What is taking place will irreversibly harm the country as long as emotions are the driving force behind the stances people are taking.

What is developing is a national nightmare in the making. Americans pitting themselves against one another is a deadly social and moral poison, void of reason, but justified because it is based upon long standing opinions. Proverbs 14:12- "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof (the end results) are the ways of death."

Division is separating people. It has created dissension because opinions radically differ among individuals and groups. People only conform if they agree with one another. It is a destabilizing force. It has become inclusive thinking and reasoning which is resulting in out-of-control violence, the death of individuals and ultimately the death of the nation if not restrained.

Politicians in Washington D. C. and critics of the seizure of the nation's capital have repeatedly stated, "This is not who we are." Is this, however, true? When carefully looking back upon 2020, what happened on January 6, 2021 should not have come as a shock. It was the result of building anger, frustration, and suspicion. It is who we now are as a people.

Americans are told they must take sides. You are for or against what America is. It is divisive reasoning because opposing views widely differ and are a point of contention among individuals and groups.

Many Americans are blind to the moral crisis facing the nation. When driven by emotions not kept in check, there is no common ground. The wound that has been inflicted upon the nation's heart and soul is deeply embedded, and until the nation's leaders and the American people wake up to what is happening to the country, our collapse is inevitable.

Both the bible and Abraham Lincoln are often quoted when the survivability of America is brought into question. Matthew 12:25- "...every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, or every city or house divided against itself shall not stand." This verse leaves no doubts of the deadly consequences ahead for the United States of America, its cities, and American households if we continue to be divided against one another. America will become deserted, abandoned, forsaken, dilapidated, barren, lifeless, cheerless, and gloomy which are all definitions of desolation. God's divine protection will be removed. Why? Because America refuses to obey God on his terms nationally and individually.

Because the United States of America is naively viewed as a nation that has always survived and always will survive adversity, it's commonly assumed that it will somehow overcome its fractured state. Many Americans rationalize by reasoning, "Other Nations may have collapsed, but we are America. We are strong and we'll find a way to work through whatever happens." It is a state of denial as if the country is going through a cycle or phase.

America's leaders and people are generally not visionaries. They lack the wisdom of foreseeing into the future, Proverbs 29:18- "Where there is no vision, the people perish..."

Change must take place within every person before the scourge of division can be dealt with. God condemns the blame game, but Americans embrace it. Isaiah 58:9- "Then you shall call, and the Lord shall answer, you shall cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If you take away from the midst of you the yoke (imposed burdens placed on one another), the putting forth of the finger (continually blaming others) and speaking vanity (insisting self is always right)."

The answer to America's divided state is spiritual, not physical, but it is not what people want to hear.

## Other Items

### The Promised Land

Sent by Jeffrey Caldwell (Redwood City, California)

Twelve men were sent to spy out the land.  
Ten men were afraid and conspired a plan.

They told the people that "Danger awaits".  
A great rebellion they did create.

People murmured, complained, and disgusted our Father.  
God said to Himself, "Promised land for the elders? Why bother."

So, for all of them who were forty and up They died in the wilderness,  
for their minds were corrupt.

Now the Children of Israel from birth to twenty They got to go to that Land,  
the Land of Plenty.

They did not enter with fear in their hearts.  
Thanks to Joshua and Caleb they were set apart.

Because when the twelve entered that Place, Only these two perceived,  
fear on the enemy's face.

Forty years later Rahab confirmed that report.  
She was not a "harlot" of the normal sort.

There is a moral to this story if you comprehend.  
Thousands died listening to ten.

So, remember, if you listen to Man,  
It is a possibility it is not God's Plan.

By Ken Wells

From: Omega Praise News, April - May- June 2002

## A Blast from the Past

### Ending the Cycle of Abuse in the Church of God

by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

If you saw an old woman being robbed, would you help her? If you knew a child was being sexually molested, would you report it to the proper authorities? If you knew a woman was being abused by her husband, would you help her? If you heard a man beating his wife, would you call the police? If you knew someone had just lost a loved one, would you be a friend? If you knew someone had a family member who was mentally ill, would you be a friend?

If you saw, or knew about any of the above, would you look the other way if the person needing your assistance was not affiliated with your church group? If you saw a person in your church group being mistreated by other brethren or by the ministry, would you go and assist or befriend your brother or your sister, or would you look the other way?

In the past, I Laura, was in a situation before I ever heard of the Churches of God, where my now ex-husband, beat me to the point of unconsciousness. I do not remember much about the ambulance ride. At a point when I was able, I went next door to talk to the young woman who called the police, and probably saved my life. I made a point of getting to know this young woman a little bit better, because she helped me when I needed help.

By this point, I had been severely beaten many times over the course of a 2-year period by this man. No one had ever called the police before when they heard me scream. People even walked in when I would scream and would tell my ex-husband to keep the noise down. When I tried to get away, he would come looking for me. Once I got relatives to help me get out, and then they said I could not stay with them, because they were afraid this man would hurt their own families. Do people generally help when they see a need? My experiences say no, they do not.

Why then, did this young woman call the police that night, truly putting her own life at risk? I will never forget what she said. She said "I heard you screaming and screaming for help, and then there was dead silence. I was afraid you were dead, so I called the police."

That does not say much for our society does it? How can a person listen to another person being beaten and not even call the police until they are afraid the person being beaten is dead? I did have to give this young woman credit for having called the police at all. It was much more than anyone else had ever done for me in this 2-year period.

If you were being abused by your church, ministry, brethren, would you keep silent? If you saw your brothers and sisters in your church being abused, would you keep silent? Abuse of people is something most do not want to deal with. Why? People just seem to look the other way when they see it. Is it because we are not educated in how to stop it?

Many people leave abusive situations, and then remain silent for whatever their reason might be. This silence does not help others to see that they are not alone, and it also does not help people to break the abuse cycle in their own homes and churches. It is a difficult thing for a woman to get out of an abusive marriage, because there is little to no help from family and friends. Unless a woman can find good counsel through a shelter, it is hard for her to get any help or support, to enable her to break from the family abuse cycle. Even once a woman first tries to break from that abuse cycle, it may take years to get physically free of the family abuse. In my own case, it took me 4 years to get out of this abusive relationship, and several years before I stopped having nightmares.

On November 17, 1999, I Laura, was suspended from the **United Church of God an International Association**. On October 26, 2000, I, and my husband Darwin, were disfellowshipped from the **United Church of God an International Association**. While dealing with the ministry in **this organization**, we saw confusion, abuse of power, control of people, and a craziness, which just cannot be put into words and relayed to others. We noticed that when we tried to tell people what happened or was happening to us, they looked at us as though we were crazy. We had to stand back and ask the question, "Would we even believe our own story if someone else told it?" We thought, no, we would not. Perhaps there are people out there who can relate to this form of craziness displayed by ministry in this or other organizations.

The main ingredient to stop abuse in any situation, whether it be family, or church, is to talk about it. Do not remain in silence. By telling your story, you not only help other people, but you also expose the abuser. When an abuser is exposed, they lose their power to hurt others. By exposing an abuser, you force the abuser into taking responsibility for their own actions. The abuses going on right now in some of the churches of God are too numerous to list, so I will only state a couple of them.

When a minister tells you that you have caused another person to stop talking to you, shun you or mistreat you in anyway, it is an abuse. You are not responsible for the bad actions of another person. When a minister uses confusing wording, such as unbound does not mean free to remarry or when they use the word recommend, when it really means, we command you, it is an abuse. Do not keep silent when you know that you or someone else is being abused.

I and my husband Darwin are only 2 people, but we want to help to bring peace to the churches of God and to stop the abuses from continuing. We are not counselors or anything like that, but we are willing to listen. We are just ordinary people, who had opportunity to document the abuses we experienced in the fellowship we were a part of. **Our document** is 111 pages long at this point. If anyone is interested in reading it, we are offering our story free to anyone who writes and asks for a copy. We will not remain silent when we know our brothers and sisters are being hurt. We urge everyone to speak out and stop this cycle of abuse within the churches of God. We are commanded to love one another, by this shall all men know... John 13:34-35.

There are not too many options for church of God services in the Bismarck, North Dakota area. So, in

June 2000, we opened our home up to have fellowship with others, and for Bible Study. We are not a big group, and we welcome all people from any organization with open arms. We are an interdependent group and usually have these bible studies every 6 weeks on a Friday night. At this time, we send out the information via mail for anyone who is interested in being put on our mailing list. In the future we hope to open our home for possible phone hookup **church services** and fellowship on Saturdays if there is an interest. Write to be put on our mailing list.

**(This article has been updated and re-printed from “The Church of God Messenger” January/February 2001—Issue No. 1.)**

## **Iron Sharpening Iron**

**New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)  
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.**

Since this is the first newsletter, this space is blank except for these instructions. We understand that not everyone agrees with everything in totality. The articles in this newsletter are meant for people to learn from. But since all people do not agree with everything, we are dedicating this space in future newsletters for people to tell everyone what they do and do not agree with. We want to hold all newsletters to 10 pages or less so this space will be limited.

Make your comments, agreements, or disagreements in 1 or 2 paragraphs. If you cannot say what you need to in this amount of space, then write an article instead which includes your own views.

The only answers you will get to your comments, agreements or disagreements is if someone answers you in this space.

In the subject line write “Iron Sharpening Iron” and email it to: [church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com](mailto:church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com) Be sure to let us know what you are commenting on.

## **Holy Days 2021**

**Passover - March 28, 2021 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)**

**Unleavened Bread - March 28, 2021 to April 3, 2021**

**Pentecost - May 17, 2021**

**Trumpets - September 7, 2021**

**Atonement - September 16, 2021**

**Tabernacles - September 21 to 27, 2021**

**Last Great Day - September 28, 2021**

## **Our Websites**

**BisMan Book Club** <https://www.bisman-book-club.com/>

**BisMan Online** [https://www.bismanonline.com/user\\_laura\\_e\\_91](https://www.bismanonline.com/user_laura_e_91)

**Church of God, Bismarck** <https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org/>

**Laura Lee Enterprises (To Buy)** <https://www.laura-lee-enterprises.com/store/>

**Laura Lee Enterprises (More Info)** <https://www.laura-lee-enterprises.com/>

**Lee’s Brite-Way High Risers** <https://www.lees-brite-way-high-risers.com/>