

### WHO ARE WE?

Group Name: We have no official name--nor do we want one--however we provide the following: INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES, BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP.

Address: 320 N. Griffin St. City: Bismarck State: ND Zip Code: 58501

Country: USA Phone: (701) 258-7172 FAX: (775) 239-2119

E-Mail: [Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto:Darwin-Laura@Juno.com)

Website: [http://www.geocities.com/darwinlauralee/web\\_500\\_001.htm](http://www.geocities.com/darwinlauralee/web_500_001.htm)

Leadership Body: Christ the Head of God's Church, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23, and I Corinthians 11:3. Local contact persons are Darwin or Laura Lee.

Purpose: To provide Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services and Bible Studies to all of God's People, including those who are not welcome to visit or attend other groups due to having been suspended or disfellowshipped, as well as those who want a place to attend weekly, those who are just visiting our area, and anyone else who is interested in God's way of living. We also have open fellowship here, meaning that you are welcome to come visit with us during our open fellowship times even if you are not interested in attending our Sabbath Services or Bible Studies.

History: We held our first Bible Study here on June 30, 2000 and our first Sabbath Service was held on December 16, 2000.

Affiliation/Membership: Our Affiliation is with God our Father and His Son Jesus the Christ. Our membership includes *all* of God's people, no matter where they are.

Distinctive Doctrines: John 13:34-35

Use Sacred Names?: Since salvation is between God and each individual (Philippians 2:12), so the use of sacred names would be between each individual person and God.

Observe Holy Days?: We believe that God commands us to keep the Weekly Sabbath as well as Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, however, we also believe there is much controversy out there in understanding if certain ones should or shouldn't be kept, how to keep them and when to keep them. So with this in mind, we will try to the best of our ability to accommodate these differences, believing and having faith that someday through God's Holy Spirit, we will all be brought into the same understanding on this subject. Until then let's follow John 13:34-35.

Evangelistic Efforts: We provide a service to God's People no matter where they are to the best of our ability. This service includes Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services, Bible Studies and Open Fellowship. We also welcome live speakers for interactive, and special music, on a volunteer only basis.

Periodicals: We have a newsletter, which we publish every 2 months.

Literature: We distribute tapes and literature for others and ourselves to the best of our ability.

Parent Group: The greater Church of God--The Ekklesia. Language: English

Other Language: None Country: USA

Name: Contact Persons are Darwin & Laura Lee Address: 320 N. Griffin St.

City: Bismarck State: North Dakota Zip Code: 58501

Phone: (701) 258-7172 E-Mail: [Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto:Darwin-Laura@Juno.com)

Directions To Meeting: 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota, located at the corner of Rosser Avenue and Griffin Street, with plenty of side street parking.

Time of Meeting: Usually 1:00PM, but may vary.

**SABBATH SERVICES**--Every Saturday unless stated other wise on page 2. We generally do a phone hookup, video tape, or cassette tape, service with various speakers. If you have a video or audio tape you think we should hear, please send it.

We also welcome live speakers, and special music, by others on a volunteer basis.

Sabbath Schedule is as follows:

12:00 Noon--Open Fellowship  
(Door Open, Come In)  
1:00 PM----Sabbath Services  
3:00 PM----Open Fellowship

**BIBLE STUDIES**--We have Bible Studies approximately every 6 weeks. We have a Pot Luck Meal before we start our Bible Studies, so please bring food if you would like to participate in the fellowship, which goes with a meal.

Bible Study Schedule is as follows:

6:30 PM----Open Fellowship  
(Door Open, Come In)  
7:00 PM----Pot Luck Meal  
(Bring Food)  
8:00 PM----Bible Study  
9:00 PM----Open Fellowship

Bible Study Dates are as follows:

Friday, March 22, 2002  
Friday, May 3, 2002  
Friday, June 14, 2002

**GUEST ROOM**--If you are from out of town and are here to attend Sabbath Services or one of our Bible Studies, we do have a guest room. Please call ahead so we know when you will be arriving. (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

**LOCATION**--Sabbath Services and Bible Studies are held at the home of Darwin & Laura Lee, located at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota. Please use the upper back door by the garage. Phone Number (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**--The deadline for submitting articles and letters for possible inclusion in our May/June 2002 Newsletter is April 15, 2002. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

**E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL**

**Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** Please use this E-mail address for prayer requests, prayer request updates, and prayer request inquires and information. All prayer requests go around the world via E-mail and are always printed on our Web Site and they are also available via Snail Mail on request. Thank you.

**Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** Please use this E-mail address for anything which you want considered for inclusion in our newsletter such as articles, advertisements, letters to the editor or points of interest. If you do not want it printed, then do not send it to this E-mail address. The deadline for Issue #9--May/June 2002 is April 15, 2002. Thank you.

**Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** Please, use this E-mail address only for those letters which you want an answer to. Send tape, literature and newsletter requests and unsubscribes to this E-mail address. If you do not want or need an answer to your E-mail, then do not send it to this E-mail address. Thank you.

**Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** Please only send things to this E-mail address if you only want us to read it and you do not need or want an answer to it. Also, if you want to unsubscribe and do not need a notice stating you have been taken off, this is the place. Thank you.

**FAX**--We now have fax 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our Fax number is: (775) 239-2119.

**SNAIL MAIL**--When you send a letter or information via snail mail, and you do not need an answer back or if you do not want it printed, please be sure to clearly put that information in your letter. Our snail mail address is Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502. Thank you.

**WEB SITE ADDRESS**--[http://www.geocities.com/darwinlauralee/web\\_500\\_001.htm](http://www.geocities.com/darwinlauralee/web_500_001.htm)

**AD SECTION**--If you have an ad that you would like to have us print, please write it up and send it to: **Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** We may not print all ads, but we will read them for consideration of inclusion in this newsletter and then will let you know one way or the other. Some ads will also be posted on our Web Site.

**NEWSLETTER**--CHURCHES OF GOD UK Has a monthly E-mail Newsletter called OUTREACH ---- If anyone is interested in receiving this newsletter, request it by E-mail: [coguk@aol.com](mailto:coguk@aol.com)

**THE GREAT FALLING AWAY**  
by Don Esposito

This book is being distributed free of charge. Don's new book was just released with a Copyright of July 2001. If you are interested in getting a copy of this book, please write to: Don Esposito, 28 Swarthmore Drive, Carteret, NJ 07008 USA.

**"THIS BOOK IS NOT TO BE SOLD!** It is written and produced in the public interest to awaken and make Christianity aware of the lies and the distortion of facts in history and doctrine of the body of believers of Yashua the Messiah. If you would like to help produce more books for distribution, send your contribution to: Don Esposito, 28 Swarthmore Dr., Carteret, NJ 07008 USA" (This is a direct quote from the book "The Great Falling Away" by Don Esposito)

**FREE CATALOG...** the new edition of Freedom Biblical Information Center's catalog is now available. This catalog features free bible studies, tapes, magazines and newsletters from over 80 different ministries. The catalog is free of cost or obligation, as is most everything listed and confidential with no follow up. Send your request to FBIC, PO Box 1806, West Chester OH 45071 or email: [Freeinfo7@Juno.com](mailto:Freeinfo7@Juno.com)

**TAKE A 10 DAY TOUR OF THE HOLY LAND -- MONDAY APRIL 15, 2002 TO FRIDAY APRIL 24, 2002**

Dear Israel Pilgrim,

Greetings! It is truly one of the most exciting experiences that you will have in your life to be blessed to be able to take a Pilgrimage tour of Israel. After reading the Holy Scriptures for so many years, to be able to see with your own eyes, will be a life changing experience. My wife and myself have been living in and around the land of Israel for close to two years now. So we are very in tune to the situation both politically and also on the ground. Let me first say that if any conditions get too dangerous, we will cancel the tour with a full refund of all money. Our tour guide Micha Askenazi is a seventh generation Jew of the land, and has been doing Pilgrim tours for over 42 years. Believe me when I say, there is none better in all the land. I have included a full biography on Micha (If you are interested in this email us at [Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto:Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com) or Don at [espo7777@yahoo.com](mailto:espo7777@yahoo.com) ). He is a former historian, and archeologist, and puts that all together with a biblical viewpoint. It will truly be like being in school for a week. Just what you can learn from him alone, is well worth being on the trip.

We will see many archeological wonders, including the Red Sea crossing site in Egypt where 14th century BC chariot wheels have been found. There is also an underwater land bridge there, where the children of Israel crossed when Yahweh parted the Red Sea. You will also get to experience a drive down the Wati-Watir, the very road the Israelites took out of Egypt.

We will also go to the remains of the ancient city believed to be Gomorrah, where you can actually retrieve sulfur balls that are still there today, that Yahweh rained down from heaven. There is also an outline in ash of an ancient sphinx that we will see. Our entire site seeing is strictly based on historical, archeological, and biblical evidence. We will not be touring any Catholic Churches, or tourist traps, that so many guides try to take you to. We will also, for the first time on our tours, go to see the valley where David fought Goliath. We will also go to several locations where many of the wars of ancient Israel were fought, and experience the mountain terrain. Besides Mount Tabor we'll also get to see the ancient city of Bet Shean, and the valley of Meggido where Yahshua will fight his final battle at his return.

The total cost of all touring including airfare from America, hotel, visa cost to and from Egypt and two meals daily will be \$1899 per person. There is also a price of the land only package not including airfare. To be paid the following. Please immediately send a \$200 deposit with your filled out application (You can get an application by emailing us at [Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto:Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com) or Don at [espo7777@yahoo.com](mailto:espo7777@yahoo.com) ). All family members must fill out an application including children. The next payment will be due Jan. 1, 2002 for \$600. Then a payment of \$600 is due on Feb. 1, 2002, and your final payment will be due March 1, 2002 in the amount of \$499. Applications received after January 30th will have an additional charge of \$100 bringing the total cost to \$1999. Children under 10 will be discounted 10%, and children under two are free.

Your brother in Yahshua,  
Don Esposito

- Please make check payable to-Israel Pilgrim Travel.
- There is an additional \$200 dollar fee for single room occupancy. If you are traveling alone, we can try to put you with another brother or sister, to avoid the charge.
- We do have the applications here and can send them out snail mail for you, if you send a mailing address to us at [Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto:Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com) or send it to us snail mail at Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 or email Don at [espo7777@yahoo.com](mailto:espo7777@yahoo.com) or snail mail Don at Congregation of YHWH, 28 Swarthmore Dr., Carteret, NJ 07008. THANK YOU!!!

**PASSOVER--**We will observe Passover here at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota on the evening of Wednesday, March 27, 2002, at Sunset. We will serve a meal. Because we are serving a meal, we do need to know ahead of time whether you are coming or not, because we will need for anyone who attends to also supply some of the food which is served and we need to know so we can have enough tables and chairs set up for those in attendance. Please bring your own tub and towel if you plan to participate in the foot washing observance. The next day Thursday, March 28, 2002, on the First Day of Unleavened Bread, we will have services at 1:00PM. The door will be open at 12:00 noon for fellowship. At 5:00PM for anyone who would like to join us, we will meet for a meal and fellowship at the "North American Steak Buffet Restaurant" in Bismarck. On Wednesday, April 3, 2002, the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, we will have services at 1:00PM. The door will be open at 12:00 noon for fellowship. At 5:00PM for anyone who would like to join us, we will meet for a meal and fellowship at the "Royal Fork Buffet Restaurant" in Bismarck. We realize that not all people will be observing Passover or the Days of Unleavened Bread on the same days, so with this in mind, if you need a place to observe these days differently than we do, please contact us and if we can help you in anyway, we certainly will try.

**LETTERS SECTION**--This section can contain letters to the editor, to the brethren, or from the editor. Please keep in mind while reading these letters, that just because we print them does not mean that we agree with everything people say in these letters. Letters many times are filled with opinion and emotion and sometimes factual and un-factual information. This section is interactive. If you agree or disagree with a letter or an article in this newsletter and want others to know, this is the section for you. Please, if you want your letter to be printed, clearly say so and send it to [Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto:Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com) We do not print all letters that we receive. If you state you want your letter printed, then we do consider it for inclusion. If we receive a letter that we feel would be of interest to others, generally we ask the writer for permission to print it. If you clearly state that you do not want your letter printed, it will not be printed.

**by Name Withheld  
Location Withheld**

I have received your newsletter before and read most of it and found it interesting. Today I read the entire front page beginning with Who Are We? for the first time. It's all beautiful and encouraging to me to see how God is leading you. I am always thrilled when I see that He seems to be reaching down and touching this one and that one, independently, with these truths. It is not a "movement" like Promise Keepers or something, where someone is hyping people (not that I don't like promise keepers, just trying to explain what seems to me to be different about this) but seems to be the Spirit of our Lord calling this one and that one, as He so chooses. You are on exactly the same track that I am, or so it seems.

I think you may have picked up my address from my contact with Servants' News and I'm glad you did. But if so, you may know that I had no connection with the Worldwide Church of God, but came into awareness of the Sabbath, Holy Days and the New Testament ekklesia model of meeting from scripture--not knowing a single person that shared those views. Since then, and through my contact with Servants' News, I've attended in the past with a group of former Worldwide Church of God people for a couple of years and came to appreciate and love those people dearly. They are for sure after my own heart and I miss them! Since I moved, I am attending two different home ekklesias here, but neither is aware of the Holy Days OR the Sabbath, except that there are some Seventh Day Adventists in one group. But these two groups have seen the New Testament model of the church as Yahshua set it up and are seeking to follow it. Regarding the issues they have not seen, I am gently planting seeds. I feel that sprouting and watering will be a long process. I think most people can only come to one truth at a time. I am so encouraged by

what they ARE seeing. But even more so by the way that God is leading you and so . . .

. . . back to the newsletter. I thought everything you have on that front page is wonderful. Oh that you were here where I live.

I especially like your stand on the "sacred names" issue. One group I once attended had become very strong on that and it was very uncomfortable for me. I can see how it could erect a barrier between believers, without their intending to do that. They're trying to do right, but the pressure is on anyone that came in. I had to switch over to a different "language" when I went into the meeting in order not to feel that I was flaunting in their face something of which they disapproved--though they are too kind to ever reject me for it! I am a Hebrew student and I love the Hebrew names. But they carried it to the point where they didn't want me to say "God" but I could say Elohyim (as they did). As a Hebrew student, I could see no sense in saying "God" in a foreign language but it is not okay to say it in English. But they had read a book on the subject by someone with a lot more status than I so they didn't see my point. I felt that they didn't even consider it! Also I was not to call him Lord, yet the Bible calls him Adonai (Lord). And besides that no matter what anyone says, HE IS MY LORD! I saw that as wrong, to tell people they can't call the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob "Lord". He IS Lord and there is no other! See what I mean? This, at least, is my firm conviction and I was very uncomfortable with that.

When we start dictating to people that they can no longer follow the Holy Spirit (I believe He WANTS to be Lord in my life) then we are doing what the heirarchy-ists do, expecting people to follow us instead of following God. This is how it seems to me. So I really do think you're wise in taking that position. You are leaving people free.

But not just that--I want you to know I'm just glad you're out there. It seems to me you're right on target. Not only on this issue, however, but on that entire front page. Thanks

for the newsletter and for your ministry. And thanks for seeking to return to the pure Word of God and setting your hearts to walk accordingly! It's so wonderful to me to see that there are others out there trying to do the same thing I am. It's comforting to the heart!

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**by Alan Croyle  
Petersburg, Virginia**

Dear Darwin and Laura,

Thank you for your return letter. I'm very happy to read your fine publication.

I guess let this be as a letter to the editor, and as you know, in 1 John 4: 1 thru 3 the Bible confirms that every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, which I also believe and confess.

My subject is the ancient practice of lot casting, as was done by even sailors in the time of Jonah, and also by the apostles after the death of Jesus, when he was human.

I myself perform this practice, as mentioned in Proverbs 16:33 and 18:18. I first sat down in services in 1958 in Pittsburg, Pa., with Mr. C. Wayne Cole as pastor. Our first Feast for me was the 1960 one at Big Sandy.

My sister went to A.C. in Bricket Wood, England, married a minister, and my dad still - helps out as host of one of Gods' churches back in WV.

So the thing or service I now do is lot casting. As the scriptures say, "You shall live by every word of God", and, "Every word of God is pure", and, "the lots' every decision is from The LORD".

Therefore I trust in God concerning it, and have consulted with God weekly for several years now, using that ancient form of worship, consultation and prayer with our God. I consider it to be one of Gods' gifts, although perhaps not as significant as the gift of healing.

I have learned quite a few things, such as; The Beast of Daniel 7:19 is responsible for the hits of Sept 11; and, AS the congressman accurately noted, "its' a second Pearl Harbor", it in fact was the declaration of WW3, to end years from now when that same Beast fights Jesus Christ as He returns.

Plus, other interesting confirmations by lot. What I am trying to do is to feel out how all brethren feel about what is said, and how I could serve God and them. Also, I would like to be able to obtain listings of the scattered brethren, in the 330 scattered splinter groups, to see how they do. And I'd like some feedback on what people- think about what I've said today.

Well, I guess this is good-bye for now, God bless all of you, and please write.

Sincerely,  
Alan Croyle

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brought them and thank God for letting her enter their lives. In the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Norman Chrestenson

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#### POINTS OF INTEREST

**SECTION**--This section is meant for various items which may or may not be of interest to the general public. Again as a reminder, we are not in agreement with all things we print. If you have an item to be considered for inclusion in this section, please send it to:

**Newsletter-Only-Darwin-  
Laura@Juno.com**

#### FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2001 AT CUERNAVACA, MEXICO

by **Tamara Sampson**  
Arizona

This year the Building Bridges group in Phoenix, celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in Cuernavaca, Mexico. We had festival goers from as far as Georgia come and join us.

Everyone stayed at the Posada Taltenango Resort and enjoyed many of our meals together, as well as enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and perfect temperatures everyday. One of the pleasures of staying in one hotel, is the opportunity for fellowship. The hotel had a reasonably priced restaurant that overlooked the beautiful grounds. We could walk down for a meal and always meet up with other Feast goers no matter what time of day. God was always the topic of conversation.

We also had educational day trips to visit Taxco, a centuries old colonial silver mining town, that boasted hundreds of silver jewelry shops. We also spent a day exploring the underground caverns at Grutos and the Aztec pyramids at Xocbicalco.

The highlight of the Feast was spending the day with the Salvation Army orphanage in Cuernavaca. Similar to last year, we started out at Sam's Club to purchase many of the staple items that they require to feed and care for 50 plus children. When we arrived we

were greeted by very enthusiastic and excited children, ranging in age from 5 - 18. We were treated to the children singing in the orphanage sanctuary, "God is Here".

Our group was very moved and there were few dry eyes.

We were able to stock their shelves for at least 3 months with the items we purchased with our offerings from the first Holyday service. We then rolled up sleeves to set to work on the grounds, cleaning bathrooms, bedrooms, fixing whatever needed to be fixed. Haircuts were given to a majority of the children by one of the ladies in our group who is a hairdresser. A new experience for most of them.

We were impressed by the love and concern that these children had for one another. The husband and wife who helped to run the orphanage were a loving couple and treated the children with love and respect. Since there are so many children, they celebrate their birthdays all on one day. The day we were there was chosen as that special day and the children were allowed to stay back from school. The children celebrated with pinatas, cake, ice cream and dancing!

As a group we felt that we were blessed in showing God's love to these children.

We went home that day, with the feeling that in helping these children for one day, we changed our own understanding of God's love for us. In a very small way, this experience also gave us a different perspective of what "Day One" of the millenium will be like. We will be serving others first, as the earth recovers from all that transpired at the second coming of Christ.

This year was an exceptional Feast and Building Bridges Phoenix will be planning another Feast site next year.

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#### "THINGS I'VE LEARNED FROM TREASURE"

by **Vanessa Lorentzen**  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Vanessa Lorentzen spoke at the funeral - this is the text of her speech.

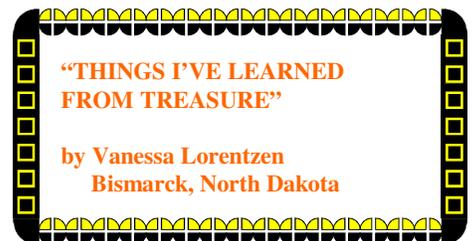
**"Things I've learned" February, 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002 as read at the Funeral**

I titled this little talk "Things I've



Dear Darwin and Laura:

It was very sad to open my e-mail today and learn about the death of Treasure Schneider. Ever since I started getting your prayer request list (and that of Rosemary Haley) I have been following the events of this little girl's life and, just reading about her, she has become a very loving child to me, even though I have only read about her and saw a picture of her in one of the e-mails. It was like I knew her personally and like she was one of my own grandchildren, of whom I have two that are 11 and 9 years old. I thought of her often, even when her name was not mentioned on a daily update (but always on a weekly list) and of course, I always prayed for her. Today I prayed for her family (parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, etc.) and her friends; that they be inspired by the life of this little girl who had so much God-like character in spite of her age. I pray that everyone who knew, and came to know her, will not be angry with God for allowing her to pass on. It is hard for any of us to really understand why He allows a child to go through so much trial and then allows her to die but He does have a reason and some day we may understand His purpose for these things to happen. For her family and friends, I pray that they will rejoice at the joy she



learned from Treasure"; because I realized that I couldn't speak about Treasure without telling you all how she impacted my life.

**This is what I learned from Treasure; How to be useful, or taking joy in the mundane things in life.** This one is put very simply; She did not know the difference between work or play.

And here is where the credit lays; her mother. The other night Nadine said to me, I had the perfect daughter. Here's the truth about "perfect" daughters. They come from "perfect" mothers. My friend has exclaimed to me many times, "How did I get a little gal that wanted to do everything with me"? Here's the truth; ALL little girls want to do everything; we sometimes are just too busy to notice. I've learned a lot, from watching my friend, Nadine, interact with her daughter. Instead of going down to her level, she brought her UP to her level. From the time she came home from the hospital as a newborn, the little gal spent her time with her mother, watching from the counter in the kitchen, and then began to get involved in everything that took place there. Nadine has a little joke, "she didn't start sewing or cooking until she was four!" This is why the little gal really did not know the difference between work or play, and liked each, equally as well. I'm so glad to have learned this secret.

**This is what I learned from Treasure; How to be fully engaged in Life,** I was most amazed by her ability especially at the end to want to continue living. Along with wondering how long her body could continue in such a decrepit state, I often wondered when is SHE going to just GIVE UP! Amazingly, she never did. Her physical heart finally gave up, but up until that point, she just kept on, keeping on.

At this point I want to add that I was very inspired by the conduct of her three brothers. To begin with, I think it was very hard for them to accept what was going on with their dear little sister. In fact, I think all three, could have easily slid into denial and "spaced out" the following months without a thought toward her. Instead they were very courageous as they faced the situation head on and sought out new ways to "be brothers". Because she was so sick, the old routines didn't work. No longer did she want hugs, or physical attention as her body was becoming more uncomfortable to live in. "The brubers" as she called them, became very gentle and would take little opportunities to show they cared. Like bringing her "Sweet Tarts", (she

loved this, whether she ate them or not), or just sitting with her in her room, as her mother worked, so she didn't have to be alone.

**This is what I learned from Treasure; Keep short accounts.** I rarely saw her cry because of the disease or being in real physical pain, in fact she would say ouch, ouch, ouch, but never wail or cry because of the pain. BUT, she did cry when her feelings were hurt. One instance was a couple of days before she died, when she felt betrayed by Colt and Starlit, as they had eaten her Mike and Ike's while she was asleep. They knew the rules. Tears were shed over the piddly remains. But here's the good part of the story. My daughter and her brother repented for their evil doing, and Treasure immediately forgave them. The tears were dried and life went on. So I've learned, this is how to handle things, don't pretend, get it out, deal with it, and go on. This situation worked in reverse as well, when the dear little gal got just a little snippy with her mother and I chastised her. I felt bad about doing this at the time, but thought, how can I let her get by with that, even though she is sick? She sat there stewing for several minutes, coming to grips with her own wrongdoing, then quietly she asked her mother to come over and said she was sorry. I was surprised, because I live with little, short, proud people who never want to admit they've done a thing wrong. I thought, this little girl is remarkable; this is how to live life!

**This is what I learned from Treasure; How to be thoughtful.** Another amazing thing about living life with Treasure was watching her prepare her artwork with someone else in mind. Just as Kathleen Hrubby said it last night, She just didn't decorate cookies, she decorated them with specific people in mind. I remember that her fatigue was great as she finished the project, barely able to stay upright, but with all her strength she completed her goal. Everyone had a decorated sugar cookie. How amazing to be thinking of others all the time! Wow, what would that do to my own life, what would that do for my relationships? AND just think, she had no time for a pity party, eh?!

She took delight in preparing artwork for people. I saw one last night that she had sent to my niece Shelby. In the corner it said, "I love you Shelby". She had people in her mind all the time. She would say, "When is Grandpa Ace coming?" Or the minute she saw her Grandma Dena, "Read Books". It's because her goal was to get YOU, right beside

her. One night early in the diagnosis Nadine told me that she said, "Mom, I want you." Nadine said, "I'm here!" But Treasure said, "No, I want MORE of you." You know that's the hearts cry of every little person on this planet. She had her ideas of what was "really living". **AND that, was to be with the people she really loved.** One of my favorite pictures she drew has herself, and her mother and her father all depicted as bears, but with cartoon thoughts above their heads, with big hearts. She would say, "We're thinking love about each other".

This little girl was remarkable because she had remarkable parents. I've learned from watching her parents. In fact, when I began getting involved I would wonder what to do. I felt so helpless, then the idea to watch them and do what they do, popped into my mind. So I did, and it worked! I became a caregiver that wiggled my way into the little gals heart. Ha! I didn't think it was possible. She was so shy, her inner circle so small. My main goal when I began was to be of service to Nadine. When this little child decided to love me, it was like getting a gift. SHE CHOSE ME.

**This is what I learned from Treasure;** Sometimes I would wonder about her tenacity to keep hoping and not get mad at God. When she would sing peace, peace in the valley, I would think, OK...isn't THIS, the valley. Shouldn't there be peace? Last night at the family service, I shared my thoughts on the verse "Neither Death nor Life can separate us from the love of God." Yes, as Christians we all understand that death cannot separate us from God when we have a personal relationship with our Savior. But now I understand how "LIFE" can "threaten" to divide us from Him. When life gets this hard, you can begin to wonder if this crisis will cause you to lose your faith. The good news is that even if we waver, **He doesn't.** She was an example for me follow. She could continue living in the worst circumstances, and not lose hope. Sometimes while I was entertaining her (trying to get her mind off her pain) I would switch to a "spiritual talk" trying to encourage her. Now I realize that it was SHE that was showing me how to do it, **YOU JUST KEEP GOING.** She had a faith that put me to shame. Rom. 8:18, explains, *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.* She understood completely that this life here on earth is but a vapor. Her eye was on the heavenly goal, and there she found her "peace

in the valley.”

Earlier I mentioned Nadine’s role, but the role that Dave played was really the most special and most amazing. **Because here is the biggest thing I learned from Treasure; Dependence on the Father!** The last couple weeks especially, Treasure was beginning to naturally pull away from the things of this world and began clinging to her Dad. She had always been crazy about him, but it puzzled me a little, as to why she insisted on him for everything. All of a sudden it was his name she cried out, day and night, and Nadine and I lost our significance to a degree. But on the night she died it became very clear to me. In those final moments she taught me about the only safe place. The only safe place to be is in the Father’s hand; John 10:27-28 *27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

Speaking of sheep hearing His voice. I think of how Treasure could detect her Father’s presence the minute he walked in the house. I remember having her in the tub with the water running and me talking away. She would hear him come in and immediately call out DA-da!

So, in those final moments she had her complete faith in the earthly model of what is above, or what is to come. I imagine that Dave suffered greatly as she died in his capable arms, because at that point, there was nothing more that he could do. But here’s the great thing; where he left off, our Heavenly Father took off. I believe that she went from one really “great” lap to a really GREAT lap. And I believe that the Father in Heaven will do that for each one of us here today, if we let him. Rom. 8:14-17 puts this very well, *14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

Here is a short reading that Nadine asked me to read one year ago, when she was thinking of each of you, that would be here today.

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean.

She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her, until at length; she hangs like a speck, a white cloud, just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says: “There, she is gone! “Gone where?” Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar, as she was when she left my side, and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port. Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says: “There, she is gone!” There are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: “Here she comes!” And that is dying.

**NOTE by Tim Lorentzen--**I have seen first hand, up and personally, what Dave & Nadine have gone through this past year and how they have handled it with love and compassion for Treasure and all the rest of us that kept coming around. They allowed the love of God to sustain them and they were secure in the hope of where they and Treasure are going when this life is over! They ministered to us although we were the ones trying to bless them! Dave & Nadine, you are my heroes of the faith!

**NOTE :**  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**  
**TREASURE ANN SCHNEIDER**  
**BORN ON JUNE 6, 1995**  
**DIED FEBRUARY 14, 2002**  
**BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA**

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**ARTICLES SECTION--**We are always looking for good articles written by ordinary people, to consider for inclusion in this newsletter. Darwin and I do not always agree with every single thing that we print. Darwin and I also do not know everything. Like most people reading this newsletter, we are still learning. We do strive to bring to you Biblically Based Articles--The problem is that opinion and interpretation of scripture varies from person to person. So with that in mind let’s let “iron sharpen iron” Proverbs 27:17--Let’s learn from each other. Send articles to:  
[Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto:Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com)

**THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH**  
**PART #2**  
**by Catholic Mirror 1893**  
**Baltimore, Maryland**

**CATHOLIC MIRROR--BALTIMORE,**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1893**  
(From page 8 of the *Catholic Mirror* of Sept. 9, 1893)

**THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH**  
THE GENUINE OFFSPRING OF THE UNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HIS SPOUSE. THE CLAIMS OF PROTESTANTISM TO ANY PART THEREIN PROVED TO BE GROUNDLESS, SELF-CONTRADICTORY, AND SUICIDAL

*"But faith, fanatic faith, one wedded fast, To some dear falsehood, hugs it to the last." - Moore.*

Conformably to our promise in our last issue, we proceed to unmask one of the most flagrant errors and most unpardonable inconsistencies of the Bible rule of faith. Lest, however, we be misunderstood, we deem it necessary to premise that Protestantism recognizes no rule of faith, no teacher, save the "infallible Bible." As the Catholic yields his judgment in spiritual matters implicitly, and with the unreserved confidence, to the voice of his church, so, too, the Protestant recognizes *no teacher but the Bible*. All his spirituality is derived from its teachings. It is to him the voice of God addressing him through his sole inspired teacher. It embodies his religion, his faith, and his practice. The language of Chillingworth, "The Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible, is the religion of Protestants," is only one form of the same idea multifariously convertible into other forms, such as "the Book of God," "the Charter of Our Salvation," "the Oracle of Our Christian faith," "God's Text-Book to the race of Mankind," etc., etc. It is, then, an incontrovertible fact that *the Bible alone* is the teacher of Protestant Christianity. Assuming this fact, we will now proceed to discuss the merits of the question involved in our last issue. Recognizing what is undeniable, the fact of a direct contradiction between the teaching and practice of Protestant Christianity - the Seventh-day Adventists

excepted - on the one hand, and that of the Jewish people on the other, both observing different days of the week for the worship of God, we will proceed to take the testimony of the teacher common to both claimants, the Bible. The first expression with which we come in contact in the Sacred Word, is found in Gen., 2d chapter, 2d verse "And on the seventh day He (God) rested from all His work which He had made." The next reference to this matter is to be found in Exodus 20, where God commanded the seventh day to be kept, *because* He had himself rested from the work of creation on that day; and the sacred text informs us that *for that reason* He desired it kept, in the following words; "*wherefore*, the Lord blessed the seventh day and sanctified it." (The scriptures quoted throughout in these editorials are from the Douay, or Catholic, Version) Again we read in 31st chapter, 15th verse: "Six days you shall do work; in the seventh day is the Sabbath, the rest holy to the Lord;" sixteenth verse: "it is an *everlasting covenant*," "and a perpetual sign," "for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and in the seventh He ceased from work."

In the Old Testament, reference is made one hundred and twenty-six times to the Sabbath, and all these texts conspire harmoniously in voicing the will of God commanding the seventh day to be kept, because God Himself *first kept it*, making it obligatory on all as "*a perpetual covenant*." Nor can we imagine anyone foolhardy enough to question the identity of Saturday with the Sabbath or seventh day, seeing that the people of Israel have been keeping the Saturday from the giving of the law, A.M. 2514 to A.D. 1893, a period of 3383 years. With the example of the Israelites before our eyes today, there is no historical fact better established than that referred to; viz., that the chosen people of God, the guardians of the Old Testament, the living representatives of the only divine religion hitherto, had for a period of 1490 years anterior to Christianity, preserved the weekly practice the living tradition of the correct interpretation of the special day of the week, Saturday, to be kept "holy to the Lord," which tradition they have extended by their own practice to an additional period of 1893 years more, thus covering the full extent of the Christian dispensation. We deem it necessary to be perfectly clear on this point, for reasons that will appear more fully hereafter. The Bible - the Old Testament- confirmed by the living

tradition of a weekly practice for 3383 years by the chosen people of God, teaches, then, with absolute certainty, that God had, Himself, named the day to be "kept holy to Him",- that the day was Saturday, and that any violation of that command was punishable with death. "Keep you My Sabbath, for it is holy unto you; he that shall profane it shall be put to death; he that shall do any work in it, his soul shall perish in the midst of his people." Ex 31 ch. 14 v.

It is impossible to realize a more severe penalty than that so solemnly uttered by God Himself in the above text, on all who violate a command referred to no less than one hundred and twenty-six times in the old law. The ten commandments of the Old Testament are formally impressed on the memory of the child of the Biblical Christian as soon as possible, but there is not one of the ten made more emphatically familiar, both in Sunday School and pulpit, than that of keeping "holy" the Sabbath day.

Having secured the absolute certainty the will of God as regards the day to be kept holy, from His Sacred Word, *because* He rested on that day, which day is confirmed to us by the practice of His chosen people for thousands of years, we are naturally induced to inquire *when and where* God changed the day for His worship; for it is patent to the world that a change of day has taken place, and inasmuch as no indication of such change can be found within the pages of the Old Testament, nor in the practice of the Jewish people who continue for nearly nineteen centuries of Christianity obeying the written command, we must look to the exponent of the Christian dispensation; viz., the New Testament, for the command of God canceling the old Sabbath, Saturday.

We now approach a period covering little short of nineteen centuries, and proceed to investigate whether the supplemental divine teacher - the New Testament - contains a decree canceling the mandate of the old law, and, at the same time, substituting a day for the divinely instituted Sabbath of the old law, viz., Saturday; for, inasmuch as Saturday was the day kept and ordered to be kept by God, *divine authority alone*, under the form of a canceling decree, could abolish the Saturday covenant, and another divine mandate, appointing by name another day to be kept "holy," other than Saturday, is equally necessary to satisfy the conscience of the Christian believer. The Bible being the only teacher recognized by the Biblical Christian,

the Old Testament failing to point out a change of day, and yet another day than Saturday being kept "holy" by the Biblical world, it is surely incumbent on the reformed Christian to point out in the pages of the New Testament the new divine decree repealing that of Saturday and substituting that of Sunday, kept by the Biblicals since the dawn of the Reformation.

Examining the New Testament from cover to cover, critically, we find the Sabbath referred to sixty-one times. We find, too, that the Saviour invariably selected the Sabbath (Saturday) to teach in the synagogues and work miracles. The four Gospels refer to the Sabbath (Saturday) fifty-one times.

In one instance the Redeemer refers to Himself as "the Lord of the Sabbath," as mentioned by Matthew and Luke, (Read also Mark 2:28), but during the whole record of His life, whilst invariably keeping and utilizing the day (Saturday), *He never once hinted at a desire to change it*. His apostles and personal friends afford to us a striking instance of their scrupulous observance of it *after His death*, and, whilst His body was yet in tomb, St. Luke, 23d chap. 56 verse informs us: "And they returned and prepared spices and ointments, *and rested on the Sabbath day according to the commandment*." "but on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came, bringing the spices they had prepared." The "spices" and "ointments" had been prepared Good Friday evening, because "the Sabbath drew near." 54 Verse. This action on the part of the personal friends of the Saviour, proves beyond contradiction that *after His death* they kept "holy" the Saturday, *and regarded the Sunday as any other day of the week*. Can anything, therefore, be more conclusive than the apostles and the holy women never knew any Sabbath but Saturday, up to the day of Christ's death?

We now approach the investigation of this interesting question for the next thirty years, as narrated by the evangelist, St. Luke, in his Acts of the Apostles. Surely some vestige of the canceling act can be discovered in the practice of the Apostles during that protracted period.

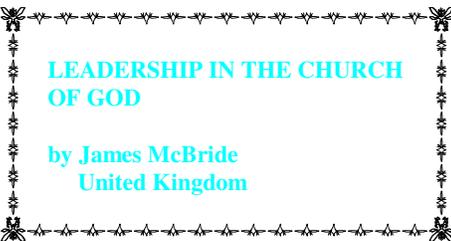
But, alas! we are once more doomed to disappointment. *Nine* (Should be Eight) *times* do we find the Sabbath referred to in the "Acts," but it is the *Saturday* (the old Sabbath). Should our readers desire the proof, we refer them to chapter and verse in each instance. Acts 13c., 14v.; again, same chapter,

27v., again, 42v.; again, 44v. [Acts 13:14,27,42,44] Once more, 15c.,31v. [Acts16:13] Again, 17c., 2v.; [Acts 17:2] again 18c., 4v. [Acts 18:4] "And he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue *every Sabbath*, and persuaded the Jews and Greeks." *thus the Sabbath (Saturday) from Genesis to Revelation!* !! Thus, it is impossible to find in the New Testament the slightest interference by the Saviour or his Apostles with the original Sabbath, but on the contrary, an entire acquiescence in the original arrangement; nay a *plenary endorsement* by Him, whilst living; and an unvaried, active participation in the *keeping of that day and no other by the apostles*, for thirty years after His death, as the Acts of the Apostles has abundantly testified to us.

Hence the conclusion is inevitable; viz., that of those who follow the Bible as their guide, the Israelites and Seventh-day Adventists have exclusive weight of evidence on their side, whilst the Biblical Protestant has not a word in self-defense for his substitution of Sunday for Saturday. More anon.

**DUE TO THE LENGTH OF THIS ARTICLE IT WILL BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #9--THANK YOU LAURA LEE (EDITOR)**

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**What principles guide leadership in the Church of God? That question might disturb some brethren, for it implies that the church can be 'led'. Should it? Is 'leadership' necessary? What are the Bible principles for the conduct of the local congregation?**

This article addresses the internal workings of the local assembly and its needs. We have established Biblically that church 'denominations' are humanly-devised devices for management and control in the church. The Biblical pattern is for local autonomy not structurally beholden to a central organization or hierarchy. So our question is: how is the

local assembly governed?

Everything In Order Even a cursory reading of the New Testament shows plainly that each local congregation should not be adrift in confusion but must be orderly, with properly appointed leadership. The apostolic writings make this quite clear. When the matter is discussed they advocate structure 'bishops [overseers] and deacons' (Philippians 1:1), writes Paul. 'Elders' according to Paul and Peter and James.

In no other situation would anarchy, lack of leadership be tolerated! Certainly not in business, or in a sports club, or in government! And the effect of such 'anarchy' in families is plain. The church of God, too, is designed to be an orderly society (I Corinthians 14:40).

The Bible evidence for internal structure in an assembly is overwhelming. But too often the form is misunderstood and abused. As a church evolves, human nature seeks to organize it and almost inevitably it comes to be dominated by a ruling class. Earlier centuries of Christianity witnessed the evolution of a hierarchy of sub-deacons, deacons, priests, bishops on up to - as in the Roman Church - an infallible Pope. Modern church history has witnessed an abusive hierarchy of apostle, prophets, evangelists etc. These are functions, not ranks.

God's heritage, the people of God, became limited to the 'clergy' [Gk kleroo = 'to assign a portion, an inheritance' - I Peter 5:3, Ephesians 1:11]. The brethren became 'mere laity'. And until recent times, the priest or vicar or minister wielded an authority that induced a spirit of fear in the people. The democratic 'spirit of the times' has generally diluted this power over the people. Many, however, remain confused as to the Bible teaching.

The adverse effects of hierarchical authority in the churches of God has been discredited by its 'evil fruit' - and abandoned in some degree. The danger, however, lies in the wholesale abandonment of all authority in the assembly. Past perceived hurts have induced a cynicism about the imposition of authority figures. Bible Christians, however, will be guided by the Scriptures.

#### **Principles of Leadership**

There are key guidelines in Scripture for leadership. Ignorance of - or ignoring - them will inevitably generate confusion and ultimate disintegration. The Bible guidelines include discussion on function, attitude,

origin, and qualifications for leadership.

Jesus, by word and by example, primarily addressed the matter of attitude. Instructing the apostles in leadership he warned them not to domineer as do secular leaders. The mother of James and John had on their behalf just sought from him an assurance of power positions - to the annoyance of the other disciples. Leaders are, rather, to be servants of the brethren, Jesus tells them (Matthew 20:20-28). As Paul put it, they are "helpers of your joy". He told the elders from the Ephesian assemblies: "Be shepherds of the church of God" (Acts 20:28). Peter described the role of elders in this way: "Be shepherds of God's flock that are under your care, serving as overseers - not because you must but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you but being examples to [patterns for] the flock" (I Peter 5:1-3).

Church leaders, in other words, are not isolated in some 'ivory tower', but toiling alongside the brethren in the work of the church - just as the shepherd is out on the rough and rocky hillside alongside the flock.

#### **Apostolic Function**

The church of God is a 'spiritual organism', the members of the Body being recognized fully only by God. The visible body in the beginning was in two parts - individual independent local assemblies, and a 'roving apostolate'. The latter, during the lifetime of the Twelve, exercised a dual role.

The apostles were commissioned and uniquely inspired by Christ to record and pass on to future generations the purity of his teachings. They also laid the foundation for maintaining the integrity and stability of each assembly.

The roles are inter-linked. The apostles personally taught the Gospel message as received from Jesus Christ - 'the truth of the Gospel'. But they also gathered around them 'students' to carry on their work. Timothy is one example. Paul told him: "...the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (II Timothy 2:2). Christ's message once for all 'breathed into' the twelve apostles had to be accurately handed down to following generations. Sadly, this did not always happen, witness the doctrinal disarray in the churches!

#### **Apostolic Delegates**

Through his missionary work the apostle Paul raised up churches in many scattered locations. He preached, some responded and Paul would move on. The new brethren met together for fellowship, and through evangelism their numbers grew. The apostle had a loving care for all these assemblies. He couldn't be regularly with them bodily so he wrote to them to encourage and guide. Also, in his place he sent out those he had personally trained: to combat error and to generally promote order and sound teaching.

Timothy, for example, labours temporarily in Beroea, Corinth, Ephesus, Thessalonica, Rome and is last seen headed for Jerusalem. He was well-known throughout the areas where Paul had ministered. Titus, too, accompanied Paul eg to Jerusalem but was also sent to trouble-shoot in Corinth, Macedonia, Crete and in Dalmatia. To the Philippians he sent Epaphroditus.

#### **Assembly Leaders**

The other major responsibility of the apostolate was to appoint leaders - elders - to the local congregations (Titus 1:5).

These elders were men from the local assembly - men who were suitably qualified for the task (I Timothy 3, Titus 1). Paul's model was the original pattern used by the Twelve for appointing leadership in Jerusalem: "...choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.... This proposal pleased the whole group.... They presented them to the apostles who prayed and laid their hands on them" (Acts 6:1-6)

Paul also drew on the inspired methods of Moses (Deuteronomy 1:9-17): "Take you [Moses said to the people] wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers [Heb. rosh=head] over you". Paul used this, for example, in Antioch and elsewhere (Acts 14:23). He would apply the qualifications for office, the same guidance he outlined to Timothy and guided by the congregations, who were best placed to know the man, he appointed elders in each city. (Leaders in the church are not churned out from some distant denominational or other institution and arbitrarily assigned to an assembly with which they have no previous connection.)

#### **Mature Guides**

Some have seen in this a form of

'apostolic succession'. According to the Roman Church, apostolic succession is 'the authoritative and unbroken transmission of the mission and powers conferred by Jesus Christ on St. Peter and the Apostles from them to the present pope and bishops'. That is considered to be effective through an unbroken succession of bishops passed on by ordination (laying-on of hands). Roman 'priests', contrary to Scripture, are deemed to be ordained till death whatever their life-style.

The need for 'letters of commendation' witnesses to the independence of local assemblies. There was no 'corporate headquarters' to authenticate traveling elders, evangelists etc. Each assembly had to ensure that visiting brethren were authentic. They had to 'test those who claim to be apostles' (Revelation 2:2, III John 5-8).

The notion of an unbroken chain, by means of ordination, of authentic 'apostles and elders' is a myth. Elders are appointed locally to fulfill a need in each local assembly. There is no mystery attached!

After the Apostles, 'ordination' was overseen under the mature guidance of 'an elder statesman' of the church, a 'wise head' with experience and discernment. It was later abused by power-hungry leadership. But such oversight is no less necessary in our day. It is vital that the appointment of an elder in a local congregation be supervised by someone who is highly respected in the wider church of God.

In a 'start-up' assembly he should be from outside the new group. The procedure helps to authenticate the appointment in the eyes of the church at large. For the church is indeed 'one Body' though separated in varied organizations. A leader appointed internally and without input from an outside experienced hand is more likely to be viewed with a degree of suspicion. He may, for example, have been appointed because he is sympathetic to a peculiar, and unbiblical, destructive false doctrine cherished by that assembly. Paul had divine wisdom guiding his instructions (see I Timothy 5:22)!

Of course, such an heretical group will probably ignore 'intervention' from outside. If so, their credibility as an authentic part of the Body would be noted, and it may become impossible to co-operate with them.

In sum, when an assembly is of sufficient size to require a formal structure (perhaps ten or so families in regular committed attendance) an elder ought to be appointed in accord with these criteria. They

are reliable local men of proven worth and 'known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom' (Acts 6:3), and 'famous in the congregation'.

#### **The Presbytery**

Clearly, to have multiple elders presiding over a dozen or so brethren would be a redundancy. So why 'elders in every city'? In Paul's day unlike today there were no 'denominations'. There was one visible body of believers, one flock. But they assembled independently in small groups, meeting in houses (see, for example, Romans 16) which may have been, as with the synagogues in Jerusalem, common language groups. Or perhaps brethren mostly assembled in various nearby locations in each city.

However divided, each independent group had a presiding elder. But being at that time visibly 'one church' the elders worked in concert. They acted together, for example in appointment of new leaders, as with Timothy (I Timothy 4:14). They were, too, familiar with one another (see Acts 2: 42-47, 20:13-37). In modern terms, all church of God elders and assemblies in, say, Greater London or in Los Angeles or in Sydney would be in harmonious co-operation!

While meeting independently, yet they all came together on various occasions. An example is for the purpose of taking part in the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:18) and at other times. Also in times of crisis as in the church at Antioch (Acts 14:27) or in Jerusalem (Ch. 15:4, 12). Indeed in Jerusalem in that first flush of fellowship they came together joyfully in the Temple daily.

#### **Spiritual Gifts**

As an assembly begins to grow, it will become apparent that the brethren are each gifted in some way by Jesus Christ. Wrote Paul to the infant Roman church: "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us" (Romans 12:6-8). He lists them and perhaps surprisingly 'leadership' doesn't head the list!

But all the gifts in an assembly are vitally needed. A mature assembly will be 'fitly joined together' to accomplish the work Jesus has set for it. [Each Christian should seek ways within or outside of a church institution by which he or she can hone their inborn skills and spiritual gifts for the benefit of the church, eg speech or music or accountancy training.]

It's essential that brethren 'don't forsake the assembling of yourselves together'

(Hebrews 10:25). Only by regular contact and committed involvement by everyone in the work of a local assembly can Christ achieve his purpose for it. A huge failing of the Body of Christ in our day is the 'butterfly Christian' who wings from group to group, never settling for long in one place and forever sampling but not becoming rooted and attached! He or she frustrates the work of Christ. Their spiritual gifts cannot be properly integrated into His work, nor his or her gifts of evangelism identified.

### **Real Relationships**

The intimacy of a small group favors fellowship, prayer, personal growth. Here's Paul's instruction: "Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing; but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

By face-to-face encounter perhaps literally across a table! We can indeed encourage and pray for one another, learn one another's needs, share their joys and their sorrows, deploy our spiritual gifts. Such a format aids our understanding and participation, as the brethren or visitors can have dialogue with one another. You might like to check the 'one another/each other' verses in the Bible! The only conceivable way for us to adequately follow God's guidance in the Scriptures is through intimate, regular face-to-face contact in a small intimate and loving group.

This kind of interaction favors and enhances the growth of the individual and of the whole church. The impersonality of a large assembly is a barrier, and favors cliques, boredom, ignorance.

In this sense the assembly is 'congregational'. Everyone has a part in its activity according to their gifts. But the whole congregation in turn is to honor and submit to its leadership.

### **What Do Elders Do?**

To maintain godly order in an assembly, therefore, demands someone who is properly gifted. They are not chosen from the 'old boy network' or because of their generous financial support, etc. Elders must have the gifts of the Spirit necessary to be an overseer (Acts 20:28). They will have demonstrated to their brethren these gifts along with proven godly character.

While being aware that we are all brothers, the shepherd must shepherd - he

leads. That's his job (see Psalm 23). Each is responsible for that part of 'God's flock that is under your care' (I Peter 5:2).

He is to 'feed my sheep'. He is to guard the brethren from predators from within and without. He is to maintain that assembly as a beacon of probity in its neighborhood. He is to be an example to the flock of righteous living. He must be a mature Christian 'not a novice' able to boldly defend the Word in face of false teaching, and be sufficiently Biblically literate to teach sound doctrine defined as good basic Christian practice (Titus 2, 3). He is to counsel, and to anoint the sick. He guides and encourages the assembly and nourishes the spiritual gifts of each of the brethren, preparing them for 'works of service'. He is, in a sense, the 'father' of that church family and presides over its spiritual and material welfare.

No small task, indeed! And it isn't surprising that he is to be open to scrutiny from others. All of us should 'weigh carefully what is said' (I Corinthians 14:29).

### **Responsible To Christ**

It's very clear that the strict Biblical guidance for eldership is by no means superfluous. One of the qualifications of an overseer, for example, is 'able to teach' (I Timothy 3:2). James writes that anyone who presents himself as a teacher of the people of God bears heavy responsibility: "Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly" (James 3:1, Jeremiah 23). By his brethren and by Jesus!

Every one, but especially those in positions of leadership in the assembly, is directly answerable to Jesus Christ for his conduct, and for what he teaches. Now that could be more scary than answering to a mere man or group of men!

But scrutiny by the church at large is essential for maintaining order and guarding against heresy (eg III John 10). It's noteworthy that assemblies and individual brethren often separate and isolate themselves. They reject commonly held teachings and do not submit their doctrinal innovations for the greater church to judge. Such vanities are a major cause of division in the church of God.

### **What We Must Do**

Given the heavy charge laid by God on the local church leadership, it's vital that all brethren be vigilant to ensure that anyone appointed to any church office is fully

equipped for that work. All of us need careful vigilance to ensure that the leadership of our assembly is of top quality and fulfills the Bible criteria. A check-list based on the Biblical guidance is a must. Probing questions must be asked before an appointment is made and without embarrassment!

Too often a candidate for appointment to a church office can be superficially plausible. He may have a pleasing personality, be well-liked in his assembly, be 'academic' and perhaps the richest or smartest. Such qualities can blind the brethren to his real motives. Hence the value of external scrutiny! It doesn't guarantee a good appointment but it does help us to avoid costly error (Acts 20:30-31).

### **Respect Your Elders!**

On the other hand, with such a burden of responsibility on elders, it's not surprising that the inspired Scriptures urge the brethren to support them. "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith" (Hebrews 13:7).

The inspired writer continues: "Obey your leaders and be submissive. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you" (v. 17). Paul adds: "Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you and are over you in the Lord and who admonish [counsel] you. Hold them in highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other" (I Thessalonians 5:12, 13).

The purpose is not to elevate the leadership on a pedestal - but simply to ensure a proper environment in which they can exercise their responsibilities.

For some reason many brethren find it painful to accept these clear instructions from Jesus Christ!

There can be no Biblical argument for thinking that leadership within an assembly of Christians is superfluous. What is unbiblical is men and women (whether officially 'appointed' or not) lording it over the flock for personal advantage whether financial or to deliberately undermine the faith or for personal power and influence. What is unbiblical is a local assembly torn by indecision and doctrinal squabbles through lack of, or lack of voluntary submission to, a qualified leadership, and focused inwardly rather than fulfilling the role for which Jesus

Christ has raised it up.

So - maintain vigilance. An assembly that's at peace with itself and willingly subject to wise and compassionate leadership is an assembly well fitted to fulfill its assigned work for the Savior locally, and within the wider Body of Christ.

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## FELLOWSHIP? WITH WHOM?

by Royce Mitchell, Jr.  
Manvel, Texas

That is a good question! Who exactly should we welcome into our fellowship? Should we fellowship with just anyone? Should we limit it to those who exactly share our opinions of what scripture means? Should our fellowship be confined to those who attend our own group? Or, should we expand that fellowship to those who are of other groups? How would we know if someone thought and believed as we do, anyway? What makes any one of us believe that we have the correct understanding of all things, or anything, for that matter? What do we do if a person with whom we have been fellowshiping suddenly seems to have beliefs that do not coincide with our own?

For the answer to these questions, we must surrender our own ideas to the clear teachings of Jesus Christ. We are to fellowship; therefore, we must know if any guidelines have been given to us. One guideline we are given can be found in Ephesians 5:11, which says, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them." (NKJ throughout, unless stated differently).

Those who are engaging in works of darkness are to be avoided. Does that mean someone who stumbles and commits a sin? In 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 it is stated, "And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. (15) Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother." Paul, in this instance, was talking about some who were not working but were spending their time in activities that burdened the congregation. Paul used the example of how he had worked with his own hands and did not burden the congregation when he was there. Clearly, if one refuses to

work but, instead, burdens the congregation with meddling in things that are none of that one's concern, that brother should be admonished, and then we refuse fellowship.

We certainly cannot admonish a brother with whom we have no fellowship! But, if such a one is sinning, we should admonish him or her, and then not keep company until they repent. This would go hand-in-hand with avoiding those who are engaged in "works of darkness." As a brother (or sister) we ought to admonish one who is caught in a sin (assuming of course that we have first-hand knowledge of the sin), but avoid fellowship until such is cleared up! We are not to consider them as enemies of the Way, as scripture clearly states. In effect, we shun the one who is in sin, once we have admonished them—assuming that they recognize that they are sinning.

But notice what else God says to us about sinners! In I John 5:16-17 we are instructed, "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death." We ought to be praying for that brother caught up in the sin! Certainly, we should not fellowship with them, but we must also be praying for them! The inference is that our prayers can be useful in causing a brother to be restored to life! Notice also that the sin is one of which we have first-hand knowledge--we actually saw the sin!

Is there anyone else with whom we should not have fellowship? An answer to this question is found in 2 Corinthians 6:14, where it is stated, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?" Unfortunately this scripture has long been abused to mean that we should avoid all who are not of our own group, organization or congregation. That idea is a perversion of this scripture. How do we know this? Continue reading in verse 15: "And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?" This verse is talking about avoiding fellowship with unbelievers, and in particular unbelievers who are associated with Belial—a condition completely foreign to the presence of God! This is *not* talking about those who keep as many of the commandments as they truly

believe that they are supposed to keep.

Therefore, we should be fellowshiping with believers then! Who is a believer? What should they believe? How do we know that they are a believer? Where will we find a definition so plain as to enable us to find a believer? Perhaps if we look to this scripture we can find some initial direction. 1 Tim 2:3-4 shows us, "... God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." It looks like we consider all men to be worthy of fellowship, initially, since God desires them all to come to the knowledge of the truth!

But, if we do that, how do we begin to narrow down that list to those with whom we really ought to have fellowship? The truth is, we do not know who it is we should be fellowshiping with until we get to know them! That is how we can see what it is that they believe. That entails being friendly! Therefore, step one is: be friendly.

What is the next step? We should look at the words of Christ when He told us who his mother and brother's were. He said, "And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother," in Matt 12:49-50. Obviously one who is doing the will of the Father will not be engaged in works of darkness! At least now we have the beginning of a standard by which we can find those with which we should fellowship! It is someone who is doing the will of the Father—at least as much as that one understands it. Attitude is everything!

What is the will of the Father? Whole books have been written on that subject. However, let us boil it down to a few items that can give us direction in our search for God's will. First, our fellowship ought to be with one who keeps the Commandments of God. Secondly, that person ought to have the testimony of Jesus Christ. What scriptures can we find in support of those basic standards? We find in Revelation 12:17 this statement: "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

There is an old proverb that states that the enemy of my enemy is my friend! Whoever the dragon, or Satan, is going off to make war with, could be described as one with whom we would want fellowship. They are those who keep the Commandments, and

accept Jesus Christ.

We should have fellowship with those who worship and obey the very God we do, and who accept the sacrifice of His Son. That is a pretty wide-ranging field. Does that exclude those who keep only nine of the ten commandments? Of course not! Those excluded are those who reject the commandments of God—or refuse to quit a sin, as we have already seen. We will find that there are precious few of those types of people!

Is there any in the community of believers with whom we should not have fellowship? This author could not find in scripture any believer, who is not actively engaging in some sin of which we are aware personally, with whom we should not allow ourselves to fellowship! We know that sin is defined for us in I John 3:4, where it says, "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law*" (KJV). Our fellowship, therefore, is neatly rolled into one simple definition for us. We fellowship with those who are actively seeking the obedience to God—as much as they know to do!

What of those who sincerely believe that the Sabbath is done away, but keep all the other commandments? God knows the sincerity of their heart. It is not our job to convict them; it is our job to love them. They are a subject for fellowship, certainly. How else will they see the beauty of complete obedience to the Laws of God?

Some have said that we should not fellowship with those outside of our own congregational groups, or corporate entities. When we appeal to scripture, where do we find such a command? We don't. The truth of scripture is that, unless people are in active rebellion against the Most High God, and His Laws, we can and should consider them brethren—current or potential—and we should fellowship with them as we have opportunity.

What about the Holy Days listed in Leviticus 23? If some don't keep these days, should we avoid them as sinners? How are we to judge what God has revealed to anyone? The truth is that nobody has the complete truth of the Way of God, and that we will all stand on our own, before the Throne of Judgment, to answer for what we did with what we knew! We will not be called into judgment for what someone else did or did not know! Our judgment will be for what we were given to understand. It is written in Romans

14:10-13, "*But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (11) For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God." (12) So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. (13) Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way" (emphasis author's).*

We should consider all men in such a way that we do not put a stumbling block in their way. When we engage in argument, and cast doubts on the conversion of others, just because they do not hold the exact same beliefs as we do, we judge them, and by our own attitude, could put a block in front of them that could cause them to doubt the very faith that God has given them. Such would be a grave sin against our brother! We would be boasting in our knowledge: such boasting is arrogance, and is evil (James 4:16)!

Differences in doctrine are not reasons to avoid fellowshiping with anyone. In truth, our similarities far outweigh our differences. Instead, we should look out for the welfare of each other. We should seek the best for each other, and pray for the peace and safety of each other. Let us pray that the Gospel of Christ would be furthered by our individual efforts, and that our combined efforts would be successful in bringing many sons to glory!

If we join hands in doing the work of our Father, as Christ Himself said He was to do, then we can rest assured that our ways will indeed be pleasing to God. We have many brethren, scattered amongst many denominations, who desire to keep His Laws and have His Spirit. We likewise have many friends who live lives in compliance with all of the commandments, save one. It is up to us to decide whether or not we will accept all of those children as brethren. It is up to us whether or not we will honor the command of God to maintain the same love, unity in spirit and purpose, with these children. Instead of looking at the ways we differ, let us instead look at how we can be united in love, doing His will, setting the proper example for all, including those who don't yet keep all of His commandments.

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## CAN YOU BE DECEIVED?

by Wayne Schatzle  
West Chester, Ohio

The apostle Paul warned that Satan has transformed himself into an angel of light and that he also has ministers who appear righteous (2 Cor. 11). He is trying to pawn himself off as Christ, the Messiah. He and his ministers appear to be God's servants! He won't look like the traditional devil, with the horns, tail, red body stocking, spade beard and evil grin—that wouldn't fool anyone into thinking he was Jesus. No, if he wanted to fool people he would have to appear like the traditional Bible story picture we have come to accept as what Jesus looks like. And what would his ministers look like? Well, they would have to appear friendly, polite, knowledgeable of the Bible, be called reverend or father, be trustworthy, and good respectable citizens. A good counterfeit is hard to detect. What are we to do, and how can we be sure our church, minister, and the one we follow is the true Savior? The simple answer is given by Isaiah (8:20), "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." It's as simple as that, preachers must speak according to the Bible and, people must hold them to that standard. The people of Berea were commended for receiving Paul's message and also for searching the scriptures daily to prove his words (Acts 17).

We study for school and work. We read all we can about sports. We watch our favorite stars on TV for hours. We listen all we can to the great names of the singing profession. We spend so many hours in vain pursuits, and so little time searching for God and salvation. The most important things of life are put on the "back burner" and we trust our minister to lead us to the promised land, without really knowing if he is on the right path. Jesus spoke of just this situation (Luke 6), "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?" He also said narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life and there are few who find it. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matt. 7). When you trust a man more than the Word of God, you are in effect following a man instead of God, which is the very foundation

of a cult.

The good news for Americans is, we are a land flooded with Bibles and Bible helps. A good start would be a new King James Version with marginal references, a Strong's concordance, and maybe a good Bible dictionary, and you can be skilled in the Word in just a short time. All this and more is also available on computer disks at very low prices.

All we need now is the determination to put forth the effort to study to show ourselves approved unto God. And we also need to ask God to lead us in His truth, and the willingness to make the necessary changes in our lives. Jesus promised that if we seek God with all our hearts we will find Him.

**"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"** (psalm 119:105).

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Today one of the most common names given to girls is the Biblical name Mary, just as the Biblical name John is given to boys.

"No female has been honored as has Mary by millions of people in all the world who have named their daughters Mary. This Hebrew name has ever been popular in all countries of the Western world, and has altogether some twenty variations, the conspicuous being Maria, Miriam and Miriamme." (1)

### The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

The genealogy of Jesus through his step-father Joseph is recorded in the book of Matthew in chapter 1:1-17. This genealogy begins with Abraham and continues through King David. Let's look at verses 16-17: "And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. {17} So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations."

The second genealogy of Jesus Christ is recorded in Luke 3:23-38. It begins with Jesus and goes back in time through Joseph, David,

Abraham to Adam.

Let's look at verse 23: "Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the *son of Joseph, the son of Heli*" (Luke 3:23 NKJV).

Let's notice the following from the Believer's Bible Commentary: "Scholars widely believe that this is the Lord's genealogy through Mary for the following reasons:

- ☉ The most obvious is that Joseph's family line is traced in Matthew's Gospel (1:2-16).
- ☉ In the early chapters of Luke's Gospel, Mary is more prominent than Joseph, whereas it is the reverse in Matthew.
- ☉ Women's names were not commonly used among the Jews as genealogical links. This would account for the omission of Mary's name.
- ☉ In Matthew 1:16, it distinctly states that Jacob begot Joseph. Here in Luke, it does not say that Heli begot Joseph; It says Joseph was the *son of Heli*. *Son* may mean *son-in-law*.
- ☉ In the original language, the definite article (*the*) in the genitive form (*of the*) appears before every name in the genealogy *except one*. That one name is Joseph. This singular exception strongly suggests that Joseph was included only because of his marriage to Mary. (2)

### Announcement of the Birth of

**John the Baptist!** The Apostle Luke records the story of the angel Gabriel appearing before Zacharias and saying: "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John" (Luke 1:13 NKJV). Let's continue in verse 24: "Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, {25} "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people" (Luke 1:24-25 NKJV).

### Christ's Birth Announced to Mary!

The Apostle Luke continues as he records the announcement to the Virgin Mary of the birth of Jesus: {26} "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, {27} to a *virgin* betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. {28} And having come in,

the angel said to her, "*Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!*" {29} But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. {30} Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. {31} "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. {32} "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. {33} "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." {34} *Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"* {35} And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. {36} "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. {37} "For with God nothing will be impossible." {38} Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her (Luke 1:26-38 NKJV).

In verse 27 the word "virgin" is mentioned which is a fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV) "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

### Why Did God Select Mary?

In Luke 1:28 Gabriel said to Mary "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" And also in verse 30: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

Gabriel addressed Mary as one who was highly favored with God. Gabriel did not worship Mary nor did he pray to her. He related to her that she had found favor with God.

Why did God find favor with Mary and select her to bear his Son in the flesh?

In the book of Deuteronomy the question is asked: "What does the LORD your God require of you?" Let's notice the answer: "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, {13} and to keep

the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?" (Deut. 10:12-13 NKJV).

Here are five qualities listed: fear the Lord, walk in all His ways, love Him, serve Him, and keep His commandments. There is no doubt that Mary had these five qualities. She was humble, she loved God, she feared Him and she was ready to serve by giving birth to Jesus, the Son of God. Keeping the commandments was a very important quality that God was looking for and he found that quality in Mary. Jesus was to live a perfect life without sin and God had to select the mother of His Son who would be diligent in teaching the commandments to Jesus and setting a right example for Him by living and keeping the commandments.

#### **Mary Visits Elizabeth!**

Luke 1:39-45 (NKJV) "Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, {40} and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. {41} And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. {42} Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! {43} "But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? {44} "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. {45} "Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

This passage does not reveal why Mary went to visit Elizabeth, but it may have been to avoid a scandal which would have arisen when her unmarried pregnancy was discovered.

#### **The Song of Mary**

In the following passage notice how Mary exalts and magnifies God, she abases herself in humility and is willing and ready to serve God as a maidservant: "And Mary said: *"My soul magnifies the Lord,* {47} And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. {48} For He has regarded the *lowly state of His maidservant;* For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. {49} For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. {50} And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to

generation. {51} He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. {52} He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. {53} He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. {54} He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, {55} As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever." {56} And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house (Luke 1:46-56 NKJV).

#### **Birth of John the Baptist**

{57} Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. {58} When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her" (Luke 1:57-58 NKJV).

#### **The Announcement to Joseph of the Birth of Jesus!**

Mat 1:18-25 (NKJV) "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. {19} *Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.* {20} But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. {21} "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." {22} So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: {23} "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." {24} Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, {25} and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS."

Let's notice how the New International Version translates verse 19: "Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly." In the N.I.V. Study Bible comments it says: "divorce her quietly" -"He would sign the necessary papers but not have her judged publicly and stoned."

This is referring to Deuteronomy 22:23-24" "If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed to a husband, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her, {24} "then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because he humbled his neighbor's wife; so you shall put away the evil from among you."

This law was in effect in the days of Jesus. The Apostle John records in John 8:3-11 the story of the woman taken in the very act of adultery and the scribes and Pharisees brought her to Jesus. They did this tempting Jesus so that they could accuse him. In verse 7 Jesus said: "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." Her accusers left and Jesus told her to "go and sin no more."

If Mary had been stoned then the life of Jesus whom she carried in her womb would also have been snuffed out.

#### **Jesus had Brothers and Sisters!**

Now back to the story of Joseph. An angel talked to Joseph and in Matthew 1:24 it is recorded: "Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, {25} and *did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son.* And he called His name JESUS."

In verse 18 it says: "before they came together" and in verse 25: "and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son."

"The teaching that Mary remained a virgin all of her life is disproved by the consummation of their marriage mentioned in this verse. Other references which indicate that Mary had children by Joseph are Matthew 12:46;13:55,56; Mark 6:3; John 7:3,5; Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 9:5; and Galatians 1:19. In taking Mary as his wife, Joseph also took her Child as his adopted Son. This is how Jesus became legal heir to the throne of David." (3)

The Apostle Mark records the names of the brothers of Jesus: "Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" (Mark 6:3 NKJV).

We can see from this verse that Jesus had four (4) brothers and at least two (2) sisters. Mary had at least seven children including Jesus.

### **The Birth of Jesus!**

Luke 2:1-14 (NKJV) "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. {2} This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. {3} So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. {4} Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, {5} to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. {6} So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. {7} And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. {8} Now there were in the same country *shepherds living out in the fields*, keeping watch over their flock by night. {9} And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. {10} Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." {11} "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. {12} "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." {13} And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: {14} "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Let's focus in on the shepherds in verses 8 and 9. Notice that God did not allow the angels to deliver the message about the birth of Jesus to the kings or to the priests, but to the shepherds who were on the lowest rung of the social ladder. Jesus and these shepherds also had something else in common. Later in Jesus' life, He would be identified as the Good Shepherd in John 10. See also Heb. 13:20.

Verse 8 also gives us a clue as to when Jesus was born. Adam Clarke states in his commentary: "*Shepherds abiding in the field*. It was a custom among the Jews to send out their sheep to the deserts, about the Passover, and bring them home at the commencement of the first rain; during the time they were out, the shepherds watched them night and day. As the Passover occurred in the spring, and the first rain began early in the month of Marchesvan, which answers to part of our October and November, we find that the

sheep were kept out in the open country during the whole of the summer. And as these shepherds had not yet brought home their flocks, it is a presumptive argument that October had not yet commenced, and that, consequently, our Lord was not born on the twenty-fifth of December, when no flocks were out in the fields." (4)

Jesus was probably born in the September/October time frame around the Feast of Tabernacles.

### **Mary Ponders These Sayings!**

Luke 2:15-20 (NKJV) "So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." {16} And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. {17} Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. {18} And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. {19} *But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.* {20} Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them."

We also would ponder these things if we had an angel appear to us with a message about our child. We would even ponder it if a friend says that they have had a dream about one of our children.

### **Jesus Presented in the Temple!**

Luke 2:21-24 (NKJV) And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. {22} Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord {23} *(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD")*, {24} and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

The law of the Lord mentioned in verse 23 is from Leviticus 12:1-8. Let's look at verses 6-8: "When the days of her purification are fulfilled, whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or

a turtledove as a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting. {7} "Then he shall offer it before the LORD, and make atonement for her. And she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who has borne a male or a female. {8} 'And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons; one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.'" (Lev 12:6-8 NKJV).

"Ordinarily parents were supposed to bring a lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or turtledove for a sin offering. But in the case of the poor, they were permitted to bring "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons" (Lev 12:6-8). The fact that Mary brought no lamb, but only two young pigeons is a reflection of the poverty into which Jesus was born." (5)

Another thought to ponder as to why a lamb was not offered is that Jesus was the future "Lamb of God" that would be slaughtered on Passover for the sins of all mankind (1 Cor. 5:7, John 1:29).

### **Grief Would Pierce Mary's Heart!**

Luke 2:25-36 (NKJV) "And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. {26} And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. {27} So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, {28} he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: {29} "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; {30} For my eyes have seen Your salvation {31} Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, {32} A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." {33} And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. {34} Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against {35} "(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Simeon blessed Joseph and Mary and then spoke prophetically to Mary. He told Mary that "a sword will pierce through your

own soul also". Simeon was predicting the grief that would flood Mary's heart when she would witness the crucifixion of her son, Jesus (John 19:25).

### **Wise Men from the East!**

Mat 2:1-12 (NKJV) "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, *wise men from the East* came to Jerusalem, {2} saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." {3} When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. {4} And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. {5} So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: {6} 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'" {7} Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. {8} And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." {9} When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. {10} When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. {11} And when they had come into the *house*, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and *fell down and worshiped Him*. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. {12} Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way."

The visit of the Magi is recorded only in the book of Matthew and this passage does not say how many wise men came from the east.

"Wise men originally denoted the priestly caste among the Persians and Babylonians (cf. Dan. 2:2, 48; 4:6,7;5:7)"...."It is entirely conceivable these men had made contact with Jewish exiles, or with the prophecies and influence of Daniel, and thus were in possession of O.T. prophecies regarding Messiah." (6)

Notice in verse 11 that the Magi entered into the "house" and worshiped Jesus,

not Mary or Joseph. There is no information given on the length of time that it took the Magi from the time that they saw the star (or angel) and then to travel from their land (probably Persia) to Jerusalem and then on to the house where Jesus, Mary and Joseph were then living.

### **The Flight into Egypt!**

Mat 2:13-15 (NKJV) "Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." {14} When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, {15} and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Even as an infant, the threat of death hung over Jesus, but God provided angels to protect Him. Verse 15 reveals that even in their flight to Egypt that prophecy was being fulfilled.

### **Massacre of the Innocents!**

Mat 2:16 (NKJV) "Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men."

"Bethlehem was not a large town, and the number of the children (killed) would not exceed from twenty to thirty babies. We must not think in terms of hundreds. It is true that this does not make Herod's crime any less terrible." (7)

### **Jesus at age 12 Amazes Scholars!**

Luke 2:40-52 (NKJV) "And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. {41} His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. {42} And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. {43} When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; {44} but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. {45} So when they did not find Him, they returned to

Jerusalem, seeking Him. {46} Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. {47} And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. {48} So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." {49} *And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"* {50} But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. {51} Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. {52} And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

It is hard to imagine that parents could leave a city and forget their child. This would indeed be a mother's greatest nightmare. The family probably traveled in a large caravan and they no doubt assumed that their obedient son whom they trusted was walking with others of His own age.

In verse 49 Jesus said: "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" His reply was like a sword piercing Mary's heart. At the young age of 12, Jesus knew His divine parentage which separated Him from others including His mother.

Jesus went back home to Nazareth with Joseph and Mary and was subject to them for the next eighteen years and yielded to their authority.

### **The Next 18 Years!**

"It is felt that during this period Mary lost the protection of her husband, for if he had been alive he would have been certainly mentioned in succeeding events. Joseph had been a carpenter, and on his death Jesus took over the village business. We now come to recorded incidents causing Mary to realize that Jesus had severed Himself once and for all from her control. There were to be further sword-thrusts as she understood that her illustrious Son was absolutely independent of her authority and of human relationships. For thirty years Mary had carried in her heart the secret of His birth and the prophecy of His Messianic mission. Now the moment of parting comes when Jesus leaves the home that has sheltered Him for so long. And the striking thing is that we do not read of Jesus

ever returning to it. In the home Mary had made for her Son, God had been preparing Him (for thirty years) for a brief but dynamic ministry lasting just over three years. As Jesus began His public life, His first miracle gave Him the occasion for impressing His mother with the fact that she must no longer impose her will and wishes upon Him (John 2). There must have been a pang in Mary's heart the day Jesus left home for good, and another heart-wound as she encountered the lack of official recognition as His mother. Whenever He met her it seemed as if He repelled her." (8)

### Jesus' First Public Miracle!

John 2:1-11 (NKJV) "On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. {2} Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. {3} And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." {4} Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." {5} His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." {6} Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. {7} Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. {8} And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. {9} When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. {10} And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" {11} This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him."

In verse 4 Jesus said: "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

"Jesus was not disrespectful when He used the term "woman," for such was the common mode of respectful address among the Hebrews. Thus, in the original the words addressed by Jesus to His mother are free from any element of disrespect or of hardness. His purpose in speaking to His mother as He did was to check any undue interference on her part of His mediatorial work." (9)

### Mary was concerned about her Son!

Luke 4:28-29 (NKJV) "So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, {29} and rose up and thrust Him (Jesus) out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff."

"After a double circuit of Galilee during which crowds gathered around Jesus for teaching and healing, so much so that He had little time, "to eat bread," His mother and brothers came to remonstrate (warn and plead) with Him to take care. Had not the men of Nazareth sought to throw Him over the brow of the hill? Now, anxious for His safety and fearing He would destroy Himself by His constant work and lack of food and rest, Mary and her sons "sought to speak with him, and to lay hold on him, for they said, He is beside himself" (Mark 3:21). (10)

Continuing in Mark 3:31-35 (NKJV) "Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. {32} And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You." {33} But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" {34} And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! {35} "For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.""

"Mary receives another mild rebuke in which He (Jesus) hinted that the blessedness of Mary consisted not in being His mother, but in believing in Him and in His God-given mission and in obedience to His words." (11)

### Behold Your Mother!

John 19:25-27 (NKJV) "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. {26} When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" {27} Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home."

Mary's deepest sword piercing came when in agony she stood beneath the cross of Jesus and witnessed the death of the One whom she had brought into the world and helped raise in God's way of life. She heard the blasphemies and reviling of the priests and the people and saw her son die on the

cross.

"Commending Mary to John, Jesus did not address her by name, or as His mother, but as "Woman." To John He said "Thy mother" (vs. 26-27). But even then she did not desert her Son. Some of His disciples forsook Him and fled, but her love never surrendered, even though her Son was dying as a criminal between two thieves." (12)

### The Last Glimpse of Mary!

Acts 1:12-14 (NKJV) "Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. {13} And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. {14} These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."

The last glimpse we have of Mary is where we find her among the group of believers gathered together in the upper room. She is mentioned, not first in the list, before the apostles but last, as if she were of less significance than they. This is the last glimpse we have of Mary. Her name is not mentioned again in the rest of the New Testament. **In Conclusion:** The story of Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a story of a righteous woman and a dedicated mother who loved her son from the moment that she received the message from Gabriel to Jesus' dying moments on the cross.

She set a beautiful example in her fear of God, walking in all His ways, loving Him, serving Him, and keeping His commandments.

The Bible says nothing about the worship of Mary. The scriptures portrays Mary as a faithful, humble and godly woman.

No woman could have received more precious words than those delivered by Gabriel when he said: "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

### Footnotes:

- 1) (1): Herbert Lockyer, "All the Women of the Bible", 1998, p. 92.
- 2) (2): William MacDonald "Believer's Bible Commentary", 1995, p. 1379.
- 3) (3): William MacDonald "Believer's Bible Commentary", 1995, p. 1206.
- 4) (4): Adam Clarke, "Adam Clarke's

- Commentary on the Bible*", 1967, p. 857.
- 5) (5): William MacDonald *"Believer's Bible Commentary"*, 1995, p. 1375.
  - 6) (6): *"Wycliffe Bible Commentary"*, 1962, p. 932.
  - 7) (7): William Barclay, *The Daily Study Bible Series, The Gospel of Matthew*, 1975, p. 37.
  - 8) (8,9,10,11,12): Herbert Lockyer, *"All the Women of the Bible"*, 1998, p. 97-98.

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What are the issues Paul was dealing with in the Gentile church of Corinth? (1Cor.11:3-16) Was it about women, whether they should wear head coverings of cloth or filmy veils over their heads? Was it not about women praying and prophesying with cropped hair, in church? Was it about men who wanted to wear cloth coverings, and veils? Was it not about men, with long hair, praying and prophesying in the church?

1 Cor. 11:14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? {15} But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

Paul includes both men and women who were prophesying in the local church. Then he discusses whether they should, or should not, have their heads covered or uncovered. Is this "covering" not hair?

Paul "exhorts" giving his personal opinion, not necessarily a command from God. As in 1 Tim. 2:1 Paul is "exhorting" or instructing. This is the only place in the bible that addresses these particular questions. This subject seems to be a new problem as there is no biblical precedent set. Paul admits in verse 16 that the church has no (established) custom regarding the topic.

1 Cor.11:16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such (Strong's Conc. #5108 = of this sort) custom, neither the churches of God.

Notice Paul did not say we have "no other" or we have "no different" custom, nor did he say, "this is the custom of the churches". He said "we have no custom of this

sort, nor do the churches of God." This is evident when no similar topic can be found elsewhere in the bible. Paul does not refer to any scripture or direct instruction from God, as he did in other places i.e. verse 23 and 1Cor.7:10.

Peter rightly stated that some of Paul's writings were difficult to understand and this appears to be an example of what Peter meant.

2 Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

To come to a conclusion there are several things to look at: The main question was about hair length of men and women (who prophesy and or pray in the congregation of the church). Should men have long hair covering their head or should their hair be short? There is no question in people's minds that Paul was addressing men's hair length. However, when it comes to the woman, even though Paul plainly said, "a woman's hair is given to her for a covering" there still remains a question, "was Paul talking about a cloth covering or long hair?" First we will look at Paul's instruction concerning men:

1 Cor. 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; {4} Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head (Christ). {7} For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: {8} For the man is not of the woman; {9} Neither was the man created for the woman; {11} Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, {12} even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. {14} Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? {16} But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Now this is what Paul says in regard to the woman:

1 Cor. 11:3 "and the head of the woman is the man; (would this not be a husband?) {5} But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered (short, cropped hair) dishonoureth her head (husband): for that is even all one as if she were shaven. (To have her hair cropped short

is in the same fashion as having it shaved, and would symbolize that she was not committed to a husband.) {6} For if the woman be not

covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. (Within that custom it was a shame for a married woman to have her head shorn or shaved. This was a custom reserved for female slaves and or prostitutes.) {8} but the woman (is) of the man. v. 9 but the woman (is) for the man. {10} For this cause ought the woman to have power (authority) on her head because of the angels. (So the angels can observe God's order of the family?) {11}, neither (is) the woman without the man, in the Lord. {12} For as the woman is of the man; but all things of God. {13} Judge in yourselves: is it comely (proper) that a woman pray unto God uncovered? {15} But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering... {7} ...but the woman is the glory of the man.

Along with answering some of their questions about hair lengths Paul discusses the order of authority in the family, beginning with The Father. First he says God the Father is over all, the head of Christ, Christ over man, man over his wife. Then he explains that a woman should not prophesy or pray before the congregation with short, shorn, or shaved hair. And as a symbol of her commitment and submission to her husband, as her head, she should have long hair. In other words in today's language, we would say having long hair shows she's taken, no longer available to be another man's wife.

In our modern customs men and women wear wedding rings for the same purpose.

It is rather clear, Paul is relying more on his own experience and "custom" for his advice than on a direct command from God, when he asks them to decide for themselves if it is proper for a woman to fill the prophetic position (Strong's Conc. Prophecy: #4395 = speaking under inspiration, foretelling future events, exercise of the prophetic office) while uncovered.

In verse 6 he states that if it is a shame (according to the custom) for a woman to have shorn or shaved head, she should be covered (have long hair). Since it was the custom for wives to have long hair to signify they were committed to their husbands, Paul encourages all wives to keep their hair length long enough to cover (as a veil hangs down). He reminds her that God gave her hair for her glory and her "covering".

If Paul was referring to cloth coverings why say in verse 15 "a woman's long hair is given to her for a covering?" On the other hand, if it was cloth covering he was talking

about, what difference would it make what length her hair was? A woman could cover any length of hair, whether shorn, shaved, or long, under a covering and no one in the congregation need know. But if she was using her hair for a covering everyone would know if it was shorn, shaved, or long.

Many people may argue that the custom's of their time had nothing to do with Paul's exhortation, that even though our customs differ we must disregard customs. However, even Paul refers to the "custom" in verse 16 when he was accused of teaching against customs. He argued with king Agrippa that he had kept the Jewish customs perfectly (Act. 21:21 and 26:3).

After having presented these scriptures no doubt, some will disagree and still insist that Paul was referring to cloth covering, not hair. I would ask, "Did the men of that time have a problem, wanting to wear veils or cloth coverings over their hair when they prophesied?" Do we have such a custom today? When Paul said in verse 7 "a man ought not to cover his head" were men wearing head scarves or veils then, or was he not talking about long hair?

But for the sake of argument, let's say that Paul did mean a cloth covering over a woman's head. Since this was a discussion concerning women taking part in the local congregational worship service by praying and prophesying, this would not effect those women who were not participating. On the other hand, unmarried women would no longer need to wear a cloth covering since Paul specifically said it was a symbol of her submissiveness to her husband. In this case, only a married woman who was praying and or prophesying would be required to wear a cloth covering on her head, regardless of the length of her hair. (Her hair would not be seen under a cloth cover). Any unmarried woman could prophesy without a cloth covering on her head. However, since this included the topic of women who were actively prophesying, would any woman be required to wear a cloth covering when she was not prophesying? As Paul said, "You judge".

If one wanted to carry this argument far enough, could we say that Paul was not talking about a woman just being under her husband's authority, but that she was under the authority of every man, because man was created first? How many men would accept that their wives are under the authority of other men? Would that not be terribly confusing? God is not the author of

confusion.

Men, of course were forbidden to wear any type of (cloth) covering on their head, or to let their hair grow long.

Many women, both married and unmarried, loose their hair from extreme stress or illness. Some aged women need shorter hair as their ability to care for it diminishes. In any case I doubt if a woman would want to participate in congregational prophesying until such a problem was solved. If a woman has a reason to shave her head, I would think most women would want her head covered with a cloth until her hair grows back to a desired length.

It is not our place to judge why a woman has very short hair. Only God knows the heart.

Ro. 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

But if a woman has the ability to grow long hair, she should let it grow long enough to look feminine. Men should not let their hair grow long enough to look feminine, but have short hair. According to Paul this is especially important if you are going to prophecy or take part in church services.

The subject of women's hair styles and dress is mentioned again in 1 Tim. 2:9 where Paul "exhorts" again that women not over dress by "broiding" their hair or wearing a lot of jewelry. Again, if the women were covering their hair with cloth coverings, how would anyone know that they were braiding their hair? Paul forbids women to twine or braid their (long) hair, which, as in any culture, was a show of exhibiting extreme style and wealth intended to attract attention. Yet, today, by our customs, braided hair (unless done elaborately) is considered a very modest hair style. No woman who simply braids her hair would be cited for having an extravagant hair style by those who advocate the wearing of scarves.

It is interesting that advocates of hair coverings for women often insist that these same women are commanded to keep quiet in church, not permitted to pray or prophecy in church at all, whether they wear head coverings or not. If that was the case why even discuss women's head coverings in relation to them praying or prophesying? It would appear very doubtful that either man or woman would only be prophesying to their immediate family. Likewise, it would not have been a question had these people not been

prophesying or praying in the congregation. Both men and women must have been among the congregation of the church.

Customs do have a strong bearing on our attitudes, decisions and our life styles. God allows mankind to adjust to the customs we have to live within as long as they do not conflict with his (God's) laws. There are no clear laws set forth in the scriptures concerning hair lengths of women. However, in certain cultures such as the Greek and Eastern cities their tradition (not God's) has forced women to wear cloth coverings, not only over the hair, but some women are required to cover their whole body and face. If a married (or unmarried) woman feels compelled to wear a headdress of cloth, there is no law against it, and she should be accepted graciously in any congregation of God's church.

But, if she does not feel "shame" or condemned for not wearing a cloth covering, she should also be accepted graciously. As Paul said, "we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

(De. 22:5) Paul's instruction concerning men not having long hair, and women not wearing shorn or shaved hair seems to tie in well with God's command that men and women not confuse their gender by dressing in each other's clothing. Paul's main point was that women were to look feminine, but modest, and men were to look masculine. He does not condemn a woman for prophesying in church, but insists that if and when she does she should not look like a man. Likewise, he insists a man cut his hair, and look masculine, for he does say, "it is a shame for a man to have long hair".

1 Cor. 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. {4} Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. {5} But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. {6} For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. {7} For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. {8} For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. {9} Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 24**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

When we put prayer requests in this newsletter, we won't publish the persons address for privacy reasons (unless they want us to), however we really think your cards and letters and E-mails are important for the sick and hurting, so send them to us and we will forward them to the sick or hurting person. Just write that persons name on the envelope some place, so we don't open it. We really feel that the Church of God has been lacking in this area of sending cards and letters to comfort the sick and hurting in recent years. You don't even have to buy a card, make it on your computer, or just send a short little note. Something which will help these hurting people to know that you really care and want to comfort them in their time of need. We Thank You Very Much for your concern in this area.

DECEMBER 17, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **CINDY HOGMAN**--My name is Gary "Nick" Hogman. My wife Cindy is 32 years old and has just been diagnosed a few days ago with stage 4 cervical cancer and her chances for survival are very slim. She was pregnant with our second child and had miscarried at 5 months and now we know why. This is a request for you to forward this email to everyone you know asking for prayer. The more people that pray for her to be healed the better. Pray and forward. It only takes a second to hit forward. Please do it and don't delete this, your prayer will save her life. Please pray and ask everyone you know to pray for the HEALING of Cindy, removal of all cancer in her body so she may enjoy all that life has to offer, and to continue to be the wonderful mother to our 5 year old son Michael. The power of Prayer is unsurpassed. Unsurpassed. I want the whole world to have her in their prayers the next few weeks. God will hear our cry. Please do not be offended by my plea. This is only a request for your help. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for reading this and helping with our quest for healing, no words can express how much power we have when we do a little extra to come together. Regards, Cindy's in-love husband, Gary (Sent by John Dickerson)

DECEMBER 18, 2001--**CINDY HOGMAN**--Yesterday we put out a prayer request for Cindy Hogman, which appeared to be written up by her husband Gary. Today, when I pulled my e-mail, at least 3 people had sent me e-mails stating this prayer request is a hoax, although it did seem to be legitimate at one point, and now appears that Cindy is actually in remission. Is there anyone out there who receives our prayer requests and updates, who personally knows Cindy or Gary Hogman? If there is anyone out there who personally knows Cindy or Gary Hogman and can get me a current update directly from them, please e-mail me as soon as possible. It is reported to me that Gary and Cindy Hogman live in Bedford, Texas. With that location in mind, is there someone in the Bedford, Texas area who

could either call Gary or Cindy Hogman and get back to me e-mail, or could someone be so kind to see if they are listed in the Bedford, Texas phone directory and if so, e-mail me their phone number and area code so I can phone them for a current update. Thank you.---  
-We are glad when people let us know a prayer request may be a hoax, so that we can check it out. We only had this happen once in the past with a little boy named Michael Novenche, and when we checked that one out, it just turned out to be a very old prayer request, but was not a hoax--Michael Novenche by the way still needs our prayers, he has "Astrocytoma" and his web site is at <http://www.geocities.com/michaelnovenche/> So please on the off chance that Cindy Hogman may need our prayers, do not forget to pray for her and just as soon as we can get more information on this, we will pass it on to everyone. In regard to Cindy Hogman's prayer request being a possible hoax we were sent the following web site address <http://www.lava.net/~higak/chain/sick/hogman.htm> Thank you Laura

DECEMBER 18, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **DONALD**--Pray for my eyes are weak and so is my faith. (Sent by Donald)  
DECEMBER 18, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **TREASURE SCHNEIDER**--I've been putting off giving this report. Denial, I guess. Treasure really seems to be going down hill. I am so profoundly sad about it. My hopes were up. But now I see the life is going out of her. She sleeps almost around the clock. Her eyes are dull and can barely send a spark when presented with something nice. Her strength is so minimal it's hard to continue on the little projects she enjoys, like drawing a picture. Her color is pale or somewhat purple at times. My husband put up a page on our web site so everyone could see the darling face. The picture was taken in June on her 6th birthday. The artwork is all her own. Please be praying for the family as they are now almost "hourly" bombarded with company who needs to "see" what's really happening. So far they are

passing the test and I marvel at the peace in the home. Thanks be to Yahshua, are only solid hope!

[http://www.timl.com/Treasure\\_art.htm](http://www.timl.com/Treasure_art.htm)  
(Sent by Vanessa Lorentzen)

DECEMBER 20, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **TREASURE SCHNEIDER**--As you know from my last report the outlook on Treasure was dismal. In fact it got worse as she appeared to be semi comatose most of the time. She could hear and would respond without moving or opening her eyes. When she did try to open her eyes, just her eyelids would go up, it was as though she was in a "drugged" state and couldn't get her body to obey her. In spite of this she was very peaceful and relaxed, sleeping on her parents around the clock. This went on about 4 days and at the time she had no interest in food when she did wake up for short periods. We assumed "this is it". Then we began using the Noni juice as suggested from a kind man in Indiana. Be it faith or be it Noni? OR maybe both?! Anyway, she is eating again! Spending MORE waking hours, AND back to trying to do her artwork. Yet, she is so very frail, a slight breeze could blow her over. Today she fell, as her body is so weak, and her balance is off. As I have said to others, I hate to label my reports as "good" or "bad". YOU, must be the judge. I am more than amazed at how this is going, we don't know what to make of it! Thank you for all your prayers! The family continues to "shine". In fact the channel 12 news (CBS Bismarck, North Dakota) crew is going to come over on Dec. 24th to do a piece on the family, as all are in amazement as to their peace in the midst of the tragedy. Please be praying the family can glorify their Father in Heaven, it is their hearts desire. (Sent by Vanessa Lorentzen)

[http://www.timl.com/Treasure\\_art.htm](http://www.timl.com/Treasure_art.htm)

DECEMBER 27, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **TOM ELTRICH**--I just wanted to ask you to take a moment to include my husband, Tom, in your prayers. He will be having minor heart surgery to repair a blockage tomorrow

morning around 11:00. Thank you. (Sent by Nancy Eltrich, Tom's wife) DECEMBER 27, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR HOWARD PAYNE--Please continue to pray for Howard. He has been in the hospital now for almost 3 weeks, and has under gone 3 surgeries since last Monday the 17th, with the last being at noon today. He is back in intensive care after being in a regular room for a few days. They had to clear fluid out of his lungs today. Please pray for Howard's complete healing. (Requested by Darwin & Laura Lee)

DECEMBER 28, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **JIM TURNBLAD**--Urgent Prayer Request for Jim Turnblad. Jim has been diagnosed with aggressive B cell lymphoma. This is an aggressive type of cancer but also may aggressively respond to treatment. The suggested treatments will last for four weeks. Jim's doctors are hopeful to save his transplanted kidney with mild treatment, however they have also recommended chemotherapy. He is also scheduled for several more tests to check the invasiveness of the cancer throughout his body. Please remember Jim and his wife Connie in your prayers. Jim is a young man of 36 and an invaluable member of the Mankato, MN congregation. Please pray for Jim's complete recovery and that his kidney would be saved. Cards may be sent to: Jim & Connie Turnblad, RT 2 Box 148, Nicollet, MN 56074 (Sent by Dona Fehr)

DECEMBER 28, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR **DAVID NICOLAY**--Greetings everyone !! It has been awhile since I have written but thought I might catch everyone up on David's progress and where we are with treatment, etc.---Things are going well. David "graduated" from Radiation therapy on Dec. 24th and brought home his "helmet" as a souvenir with great joy!!! He is now finished with the twenty-eight days of radiation to the head and is now waiting for his MRI scheduled for Jan 14th. This is a big day for us so please keep us in your prayers. He is not as tired as he was during the last week of his treatments and has been able to go back to work on an abbreviated schedule the past couple of days. He is "supervising" for the most part. His spirits are pretty good -a little anxious but ok. He is getting off of the steroids gradually and so he is happy not to be taking as many pills. He is still eating pretty well but has some discomfort afterwards. The

medication seems to help but I think he is worried that something else is going on. He will be cat scanned soon- I am not exactly sure when but I imagine it will be soon. ( I need to check on the status of this with the leprechaun) They have mentioned that he would have one after he was finished with radiation. He will return to see the array of docs after the MRI so for the moment he is in a waiting pattern. The neuro oncologist had told him that he was the optimist in the group and that the tumors in the head would be gone after radiation. We hope he is right! As far as we know, the disease was under control in the other part of the body but we will not know for sure until he is scanned.--David turned 45 today. He seems nonchalant about his birthday but happy that I made him a cake. It will be a quiet one this year but looking forward to many more.---We wish all of you well and much happiness and great health in the New Year. We think of all of you often and wish we were better in touch but hope this e-mail finds you with a big smile. God is Good- Keep the faith, much love, Anne (Sent by Anne Nicolay, David's wife)

DECEMBER 29, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **REY CRANDALL**--Many people in the churches of God know Rey Crandall. Rey Suffered a serious heart Attack on Thursday eve, and his heart stopped at the hospital but was shocked back to life. Friday he was operated on with quadruple by-pass. He has been complaining of weakness for several weeks. Now he is in very serious condition. Please pray for Rey Crandall. (Sent by Bob McElwee)

DECEMBER 31, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **PAT PATTERSON**--Pat is suffering from liver cancer and is still in need of your prayers. The tumors in his liver are growing and he is loosing his appetite. He has still been able to attend Sabbath services and wants to attend for as long as possible but is loosing his strength. When I spoke with my mother this morning she said that for the past few days Pat has been having severe nose bleeds. Please continue to pray for God's intervention and Pat's healing. We know that God can heal Pat and the prayers of all the brethren mean a lot. Thanks to you all..... (Sent by Linda Moers)

Please send your prayer request by snail mail to: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502  
By E-mail to: [Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com](mailto:Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com) By Fax to: (775) 239-2119.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** When we started this prayer request line, we had no idea that it would be so well received, that so many people would use it. We are very happy to provide this service to all of God's people and we will continue to do so, but in a little bit different way. #1--All prayer requests will continue to be sent via e-mail. #2--We will continue to publish all prayer requests, but in a different way. We used to publish them in this newsletter, however, as you can see, from December 17, 2001 to December 31, 2001, to publish them in this newsletter, takes up almost 2 print pages. When I print out the January 2002 prayer requests, I got 8 print pages. I have not as yet even tried to print out the February 2002 prayer requests. I think most people will see the problem we run into, in continuing to print all prayer requests in this newsletter. We just wouldn't eventually have room for anything else.

With all of this in mind, I was able to get a Web Site up and running. You will find our Web Site Address on page 2 of this newsletter. All of the January 2002 and February 2002 prayer requests are published on our Web Site, and I try to update them at least once a week--usually on Sunday or Monday.

We also realize that not everyone has a computer and that many people do not have access to either e-mail or internet access. For those who have no other way to receive prayer requests, we will send them to you via snail mail. If you want to receive prayer requests via snail mail, please fill out the following request and send it back to us as soon as possible. We will send the prayer requests to you probably on a monthly basis, starting with the January 2002 prayer requests. Thank you. Laura Lee

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE  
PRAYER REQUESTS AND  
UPDATES VIA SNAIL MAIL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:  
Darwin & Laura Lee  
PO Box 2333  
Bismarck, ND 58502

**SEND ORDERS TO:**

Darwin & Laura Lee  
320 N. Griffin St.  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
(701) 258-7172

**SEND TAPES & LITERATURE TO:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**NEWSLETTER--BACK ISSUES** [Snail Mail Only]

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. January/February 2001--Issue No. 1
  - A. UCG Attendance Policy Raises More Questions (From Servant's News)
  - B. Humor--Public Service Announcement (From Servant's News)
  - C. Ending the Cycle of Abuse in the Church of God--by Laura Lee
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. March/April 2001--Issue No.2
  - A. Humor--A Parable and Evolution
  - B. Is Disfellowshipping a Christian Practice?--by Arlan Weight
  - C. Just Judgment Important for Local Congregations--by Darwin Lee & Norman Edwards
  - D. Letter of Appeal--by Ned Dancuo
  - E. Go To Your Brother...--by Arlan Weight
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. May/June 2001--Issue No. 3
  - A. Are You Busy?--by Turning Point Ranch Ministries
  - B. Letters Section--What is Anger? What is a Heart? What is Division? What is Individual Responsibility?
  - C. Passover--by Arlan Weight
  - D. Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage--by Laura Lee
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. July/August 2001--Issue No. 4
  - A. The Titanic--Then and Now--by Myra McQueen
  - B. Woe...--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
  - C. Testimony of Abuse Within the Church of God--by Tawanda Ray
  - D. Bear Witness--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
  - E. God's Government--by Arlan Weight
  - F. Gifts of the Spirit--by Laura Lee
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. September/October 2001--Issue No. 5
  - A. Where Are God's People?--by Laura Lee
  - B. They Sang As It Were A New Song Before The Throne--by Author Unknown
  - C. Fat Cats, Fat Cats--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
  - D. First Love--by Arlan Weight
  - E. Why Do You Observe Saturday?--by John Currier
  - F. A Church Without Women--by Dianne D. McDonnell
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. November/December 2001--Issue No. 6
  - A. "Unless You Change..."--by Royce Mitchell, Jr.
  - B. Paul and Women Teachers--by Dianne D. McDonnell
  - C. Delight in the Sabbath--by James McBride
  - D. Physical Illness and Demon Possession--by Don Esposito
  - E. Demon Possession and How it Comes About--by Don Esposito
  - F. Truth--by Arlan Weight
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. January/February 2002--Issue No. 7
  - A. Junia, A Woman Apostle--by Dianne D. McDonnell
  - B. The Christian Sabbath Part #1--by Catholic Mirror 1893
  - C. Be Strong and of Good Courage--by Tommy S. West
  - D. "They Shall Not Hurt Nor Destroy..."--Arlan Weight
  - E. Take Heed That No Man Deceive You--by Garry D. Pifer

**LITERATURE** [Snail Mail Only]

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Why Were We Disfellowshipped By The United Church of God an International Association?  
by Darwin & Laura Lee 111 pages
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Wiley & Suzanne Black (Another Case of Abuse) by Bernard Kelly (The Bible Expositor--Last Issue) 16 pages

**THESE TAPES ARE FROM THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM IN MINNESOTA. FOR INFORMATION ON THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM YOU MAY CONTACT DALE & DONA FEHR AT [DLFehr@compuserve.com](mailto:DLFehr@compuserve.com) TAPES MAY BE ORDERED THROUGH US.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. C. Wayne Cole 12-18-99
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Ray Wooten 3-25-00
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Wayne & Claudia Speed 4-22&23-00
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Ken Westby 6-10&11-00 (2 Tapes)  
Marriage Seminar (5 Tapes & Study Papers)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Dave Havir 9-9-00
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Norm Edwards 11-18-00 (2 Tapes)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Dennis Moulard 3-10-01 (2 Tapes)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Ron Dart 4-28-01 (2 Tapes)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Ron Smith 5-26&27-01 (3 Tapes)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. David Antion 7-28-01 (2 Tapes)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Dean & Susan Wheelock 9-15-01 (2 Tapes)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Leon Sexton 11-17-01 (2 Tapes)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Marv Davis 2-9-02 (2 Tapes)

**OTHER TAPES**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Nimrod's Effect on the Church Today
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Spiritual Gifts (3 Tapes & Study Papers)  
Wes White 6-17-00  
Wayne & Claudia Speed
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Church of God Big Sandy Seminar (3 Tapes)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Interview With Dixon Cartwright, by Ken Westby  
12-23&24-00  
6-9-01
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The Holy Spirit
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Keynote Message For The Tulsa Conference  
Wayne Speed  
C. Wayne Cole & Dixon Cartwright 7-22-00
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The Hireling & the Wolf --Brian Convery (3 Tapes)

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20**

man. {10} For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. {11} Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. {12} For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. {13} Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? {14} Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? {15} But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. {16} But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

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