

# The "New" Church of God Messenger

A Newsletter for the People of God

March 13, 2021 --- Issue No. 6

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## Articles

### Does God Heal Today? by Bill Glover (Eugene, Oregon)

I have extremely mixed emotions as I write this article. My emotions are not mixed or confounded on the subject of healing itself but rather on the reaction of those who read this article. Many times, I have endeavored to address this topic in different forums and in most cases was rebuffed and criticized and even ridiculed. Some have reacted with "Who does he think he is?" This reaction caused me to avoid the subject altogether for a while even though I often encountered people who desperately needed God's blessings.

Eventually I realized how wrong I was in avoiding this subject and saw the need to bitterly repent to God for allowing the attitude of others to dissuade me in an important area of Christianity. God is to be praised and glorified even if humans scoff and ridicule.

DISCLAIMER: Thus, I see the need to present this "disclaimer" as I write this article. I caution every reader that this article may not be for you and perhaps you should not read further. If you choose to read further, then you will see that there is an Almighty God Healer who has made binding promises provided a person is able to accept and embrace these promises.

It is absolutely necessary to begin with Psalm 103 to introduce this subject. Here we find God stating, "Praise the Lord, O my soul AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS **BENEFITS**." This clearly shows that God holds out tremendous benefits to His people - - those who are truly *willing* and *able* to trust and serve Him. Then God continues ". . . who forgives all your sins AND HEALS ALL YOUR DISEASES." What have we just read there? Most of us actually believe that God "forgives all our sins" but do we actually believe He "heals all our diseases?" How can we truly believe that God forgives all our sins and yet disbelieve that He will heal all our diseases? If I cannot trust God to keep my body alive until He finishes working with me then how can I claim that I truly believe He will change my physical body to spirit and grant me salvation? We say we believe in His forgiveness but why is it that we cannot seem to be able to have the faith to claim the promise of healing and actually expect Him to grant the needed healing? Is that not what Paul is asking in 2 Timothy 1:6-14? Paul committed his physical life and his FUTURE into God's hands and EXPECTED God to guard and honor that trust until he had finished his calling. Paul made it clear that his physical life in the flesh was worthless to him - - but worth the blood of Jesus Christ to God (Acts 20:24)! [We will come back to this point later.]

The book of James has a very enlightening comment that we should consider. James 1:5 – 8 states clearly that we (true followers of Christ) can and should ask God for all our needs - - **healing is a need**. But these verses state emphatically “But, when he (the believer) asks, he MUST BELIEVE AND NOT DOUBT because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind (the wind of doubt and skepticism and even sarcasm). That man should NOT think he will receive anything (including forgiveness of sin or healing) from the Lord; he is a DOUBLE-MINDED man, UNSTABLE in all he does!”

What we just read are the words of God - - not the words of this writer! Yet I have been severely criticized and scoffed at because I emphasize that these words MEAN WHAT THEY SAY! They are NOT my words. I am merely a human instrument in God’s hands pointing out the priceless blessings God holds out to His people - - reminding people that we should NOT “forget all His benefits!”

There is a specific reason I am putting this down in written form. This way, if any of you are a skeptic looking for something to criticize then you can discard this article and just “forget all God’s benefits!” It is totally up to you! It truly is a matter totally BETWEEN YOU AND GOD. My job is to alert people to all of God’s great benefits and then allow each person to decide what reaction he will have. James stated clearly that if we doubt (disbelieve) then we will receive nothing from God. We individually have the choice of determining whether we will trust God for all His blessings.

James 5:14 – 15 explains Psalm 103:1 – 3 further by showing what God commands us to do when we are sick or afflicted. We need to study the very words of Jesus Christ as found in Matthew 6:25 – 34 very carefully. Again, these are the words of Jesus Christ - - not the words of this writer! Each one of us must apply these words to ourselves if we hope to reap “ALL HIS BENEFITS!” 1 Peter 2:24 states “He (Jesus the Christ) Himself BORE OUR SINS IN HIS BODY on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; BY HIS WOUNDS (STRIPES) YOU **HAVE BEEN HEALED.**” Did you grasp what you just read from that passage? We HAVE ALREADY BEEN HEALED BY HIS STRIPES - - **PROVIDED WE DEMONSTRATE FAITH (BELIEF) IN HIM AND HIS PROMISES.**

Many claim that healing and other miracles were only for that New Testament Church and that God does not grant such profound miracles today. The purpose of this article is to show that GOD HAS NOT CHANGED. He will do for us today what He has done for His people throughout history. Jesus did state many times “ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH (BELIEF) BE IT UNTO YOU!” (Matthew 9:29). If we ask God for His intervention in our lives and we do not receive the answer we seek then THE PROBLEM IS NOT WITH GOD! Jesus said “Seek first the kingdom of God and all our physical needs will be provided (Matthew 6:25 – 34). Do we really believe Jesus and His promises? Do we actually trust Him to keep His word?

Even though I know certain ones will scoff and criticize, it is imperative that I share dramatic events with all that choose to read this entire article. I am writing this for your benefit - - not mine. I personally have learned that God is trustworthy to keep His promises. I have claimed and received His promises far too many times to count - - for myself and for many others. The point I want to make clear is that there are witnesses who can and will verify the reports in this article.

## **A MIRACLE**

One of the most profound miracles I encountered occurred during Sabbath services in Pasadena, California. Ted Armstrong was delivering a sermon and I was following along in the Bible. Suddenly deacon Jim Duke grabbed me by my left shoulder and almost yanked me off my seat spinning me around. I knew something urgent was under foot so I dumped my Bible and notebook on the floor and quickly followed him into the outer hallway. This young seventeen-year-old woman (a Mrs. Greason) ran up to me and cast a baby in my arms crying out “My baby, my baby, he’s dead!” You must experience something like this to grasp the sudden impact such has on you. I had a dead three-day-old baby thrust into my arms with a frantic young mother loudly crying out in despair for help.

It is truly amazing how many thoughts can crash through your mind in only a second or two. The first impulse (thought) experienced was “Why give it to me?” For a brief moment fear tried to run through my very bones and my inner being. Thankfully, God’s Spirit took charge and compelled me to state to a deaconess (Annie Mann) sitting nearby “Follow us” as I led the mother to the anointing room.

This mother had another young girl staying with her after the birth while she re-cooperated from childbirth. Neither had transportation so this other girl scoured the neighborhood to find someone with a car. Finding a lady who agreed to drive them, they came to our church services. The interesting point needed making here is that the last words I heard from this non-church member woman was “Why did we bring this baby here - - why didn’t we take him to the hospital where he could get help?” [Interestingly, since the baby had been dead for well over an hour, what could the hospital do except issue a death certificate?]

Once we were in the anointing room, I placed the baby on the cot and we all knelt. Immediately my mind went to the Biblical example found in 1 Kings 17:17 - 23. In the anointing prayer I reminded God of what He had done for Elijah the prophet and ask Him to do the same for this child. I reminded God that He states emphatically that He does NOT change and that we can **expect** the same from Him today that he did for His people throughout the ages. Even though the baby was not breathing, was stiff and beginning to turn blue, as soon as I anointed him in accordance with James 5:14, he began to cry loudly. You normally do not think a baby's cry is a beautiful sound - - it certainly was in this case! [It is hoped that all of you reading this can experience the thrill I felt at that time knowing that God is God and that he will hear and answer our requests.]

Mrs. Mann, the mother and I went back to where Jim Duke and this lady were standing, and I gently asked this lady if she would please drive Mrs. Greason home.

## **ANOTHER MIRACLE**

Another outstanding miracle involved a complicated delivery at the birth of a baby. I was asked to go out on this call by another minister (a Dibar Apartian) to the home of Robert and Arleen (Bunnell) Petrey. This was a home delivery with a doctor and nurse present. When I arrived the right leg of the baby was out of the mother's body up to the knee. The other leg was doubled back into the mother's abdomen. The baby was stuck - - could not come out nor could it return into the mother. Since it had been in this condition for **over three hours**, that little leg was dark bluish/purple and swollen about four times its normal size.

This was an acute emergency where divine intervention was needed immediately. I had already noticed the presence of a doctor and a nurse. As I knelt beside the delivery table set up in their dining room, I noted that the doctor and the nurse were standing over by the refrigerator with their arms folded across their chests with the expression on their faces which indicated "What are we about to experience here?"

In the anointing prayer the very first thing I addressed was the presence of these medical people. I stated to God in that prayer: "Father in heaven you know that present here are a doctor and a nurse schooled in the medical profession. They are going to think it very strange that I will be taking a small amount of olive oil and placing it on this mother's forehead when she is having birth complications. I admit Almighty God that there is NO therapeutic value in this oil. But Father in heaven, as you know, the **ONLY** reason I am doing this is because that is what **YOU COMMAND**."

When I reached the point of the actual anointing, I opened my eyes to pick up my small bottle of anointing oil (I always keep my eyes closed during an anointing as I want no distractions as I take people before the very throne of God). Once I opened my eyes, I saw that the doctor and the nurse were prostrate on their faces on the floor. Due to my concentration during the prayer, I did not hear them go to the floor. But there they were prostrate before God even though they did not recognize Him as God. [Later, in retrospect, I realized that they could not help falling on their faces on the floor, as they had to have known that **at that moment** we were before the very throne of God.]

Once I finished the anointing I stood up and told the Petrey's I would go outside and wait in my car and for Bob to come out and tell me when the baby came. Within fifteen minutes Bob came out grinning and announced, "We just had a healthy baby girl - - as you were walking out the front door that little leg withdrew into Arlene's body and then out came the baby."

There were literally hundreds of witnesses to these miracles - - either directly or by conversing with others who had firsthand knowledge of these events. God has not changed! He will do for us today what He has done for His people throughout history!

I want it crystal clear that these events did NOT happen **because of me** personally. My part was to obey the command found in James 5:14 and to BELIEVE that God would honor the requests. And He did! I know fully that I am the least likely person for God to use (see 1 Corinthians 1:27-29).

I could literally write a book rather than an article if I recounted all the supernatural miracles I have witnessed DURING THIS AGE. From here on I will select a few at random to show different circumstances - - that God is NOT limited by time or circumstance. And I could cite many scriptural examples that would clearly support these miracles.

## **A PERSONAL MIRACLE**

In the summer of 2008, I was preparing for my second trip to Kenya. Two days before my departure I accidentally stepped on a 16-penny nail that went through the sole of my shoe and deep into the arch of my foot. I prayed a general prayer but, regretfully, did not take the matter as seriously as I should have. The next morning, I awoke with a swollen foot and a red/blue line running up my leg indicating blood poisoning. That is when I got real serious. I knew that God had made

this trip possible (as He had the first trip in 2007) and yet here I was developing blood poisoning that would literally take my life. So, I SERIOUSLY went to God and reminded Him of this pending trip and the fact that while in Kenya I would be teaching the Kenyan people about God and healing. [During our first trip to Kenya God granted many miracles]. I advised Him that I could not in good faith represent Him and teach about healing and other miracles if I did not personally live up to His standards in this regard. I made it clear to God that I planned to proceed with the trip even though at that moment I had blood poisoning. So, I proceeded with my preparations. The swelling and the red streak were still present when I went to bed the night before departure. The next morning as I arose, I noted that the swelling and the streak were gone - - only the puncture hole remained as evidence of the injury.

While in Kenya there were three occasions where I shared this experience with the people and actually removed my shoe and sock to show them the puncture hole. Many people crowded around to see the hole and were amazed. One man present at one of those meetings later contacted our representatives in Kenya and said, "If you represent the same God that healed Brother Bill's foot, we want to counsel with you." This event also gave many others the opportunity to develop faith and trust in God.

### **MORE MIRACLES**

In September 1961, a man (Arthur Hockwald) with a casual interest in the Bible truths we taught contacted me and invited my wife and me to his home for dinner on September 7. He called back to ask if I would mind if a few friends came by for a Bible study after dinner. I did not object.

At the dinner only two other people were present. But by the time dinner was over there were ten guests present. My wife and I were there in that Bible study for eleven and one half-hours - - until 5:50 the next morning.

During the evening one lady present (Jane Hickok) kept asking questions on the subject of healing. About 5:00 a.m. she said, "I guess you are wondering why I keep going back to the subject of healing. I live next door and one of my sons is extremely ill and the doctors cannot seem to help him." Then she began to stammer in her speech. I asked, "are you trying to ask for an anointing?" She said "Yes, but I do not know how!" My reply was "All you have to do is say 'would you anoint my son?'" I answered "Yes!" and we went next door.

This son had an extremely high fever. This was one of those times God revealed to me that He was going to heal. After the anointing I advised Jane not to come back to the Hockwald's with me as my wife and I had to go home. The report came back to me later that Jane had barely gotten in bed when this son grabbed her by the shoulder and asked "Mom, what's for breakfast?" The fever was totally gone, and he was completely healed.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #7**

## **Are You Sick and Tired?**

**By Brenda Branson (Hanson, Kentucky) Copyright © October 2007**

*"Are you tired of the way the world is turning? Are you tired of the way your life has gone? Do you long for some joy instead of weeping?"*

As I heard those words being sung, I wanted to stand up and shout with great passion, "Yes! Yes, I'm tired and I'm not going to take it anymore!"

I'm tired of the evil in this world—evil that threatens, slaps and punches; evil that hurls missiles of verbal abuse; evil that delights in dominating and demeaning others in order to make oneself feel more powerful and important.

I'm tired of injustice—watching helplessly as the perpetrator goes free without consequences while the victim struggles to regain sanity and safety.

I'm tired of lying lips and winking eyes—tools used by schemers who are so adept at distorting and manipulating the truth that even the wisest counselor is fooled by their charm.

I'm tired of flattery and cheap repentance—words with hidden meanings and insincere sentiments which cannot be trusted.

I'm tired of waiting for God to intervene—to make right out of wrong and vindicate those who are falsely accused.

I'm tired of being tired!

Then I'm reminded of who to turn to in my frustration and despair. When I gather all of my burdens and cares, financial woes, broken dreams, failures, and all of my worries and anxiety, Jesus will carry them for me while I rest in His promise to sustain me and direct my steps.

Here is God's promise to Moses (*and you!*): "*I will personally go with you . . . I will give you rest . . .*" (Exodus 33:14 NLT)

Jesus said, "*Come unto me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*" (Matthew 11:28 NLT)

King David gave this advice: "*Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him. Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.*" (Psalm 37:7 NKJV)

Are you tired?

Would you like to rest in the arms of someone who truly loves you?

He is waiting with open arms for you to come—no strings attached. You don't have to clean up your life before you come. His love doesn't require you to be beautiful—His love *makes* you beautiful and clean.

Now just because you're nestled in the arms of the Father who loves you doesn't mean your problems and pain will magically disappear. God may not choose to calm the storm around you, but He will calm your heart as He holds you close and walks with you through the storm.

Don't ever forget . . . the One who laid the foundation of the earth, who defined the boundaries of the seas, who commanded the morning to appear in the east, who controls the winds and waves by His words, "Peace, be still," who commands the symphony of lightning and thunder, who gives you the very breath that keeps you alive—He can be trusted with every detail of your life.

You can rest assured that His power is strong enough and His grace is sufficient to help you face all the uncertainties in life that lie ahead of you.

*"You can rest upon Him.  
When your measure of faith is spent  
You can rest, you can rest upon Him. <sup>1</sup>"*

<sup>1</sup> Words by Allison Durham; music by Allison Durham and Brian Spear; Recorded on *Walk Into Freedom* by Allison Durham, 1993, Star Song

## Does Scripture Support a Salaried Ministry?

by Ray E. Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

Eph. 4:28 "Let him that stole, steal no more. Rather, let him LABOR. Working with his HANDS that which is good. That he may have [extra] to give to the poor."

Most students of Scripture would quickly recognize the meaning and intent of the above words, "to give to him that has need". There are so many Scriptures that support this command. For example, the night of the last Passover service, Jesus told Judas something, by which he left the gathering. The disciples wondered why he left. And one of their thoughts was that he was sent out to "give something to the poor". The same poor that Jesus said would "always be with them".

Paul himself said that "We should remember the poor". And went on to add to this, "Which I was [ready] to do." And Paul "LABORED with his own hands", making tents to help do so. And, by HIS labors, he even saw to the needs of

those that traveled with him. Of course, his helping meant they likely worked with him. The point is Paul "set an example" as to how ALL in the True Churches should themselves be doing.

The question is, to whom was Paul addressing, when he wrote the words of Eph. 4:28? Was it only to the assembly, or was he writing the words to the "elders", and expecting them to pass it on to the assembly? Or was he addressing ALL of the assembly? Omitting none? Let us look at an example that would seem to say it was to ALL.

There came a time when Paul was headed to Jerusalem. He was apparently short on time, so instead of going to Ephesus to address all of the members there and around, he had the "elders" come and meet him at Miletus. You can read the whole account for yourselves. But please note the words that he spoke specifically to them. Acts 20:27 "For I have not shunned to declare to YOU [elders] ALL THE COUNSEL of God". Does ALL such counsel not include the words of Eph. 4:28? Do you see any "exception" that Paul makes to the elders? Excusing them from not having to "labor with their hands"?

Let us take the time to address some other words of the introductory verse. "Let him that stole, steal no more". Consider the two related verses, addressed to the Ephesus church, in which it clearly says that the "elders" were supposed to labor, and not to be "paid salaries" by the assembly. Were there some within said group of "elders", that were "taking wages" of the assembly, instead of working to make their own living? Were they "stealing" from the assembly, in an effort to show their superiority to the members, by expecting them to support them? Does this not seem to have been the mindset of the infamous "Diotrephes"? Sure, it does. And, it should be noted, that at the time of Diotrephes, at the end of the first century AD, the presence of the True Church, as a viable unit, is no longer viewed in history. It was there. But separated, and unseen.

From what source in Scripture, do todays "ministers, priests, rabbi's, and the like, gain their "authority" to take wages of their assemblies. Seriously, show from Scripture where they have EVER been given such command to do? How about the "old covenant book of the law"? Called Moses law? Were the "ministers, priests, rabbi's" paid salaries? Look at the law and see.

Most of today's religious leaders, if they use Scripture at all, claim that the Levitical priests were given a "tithe" as their "wages". Is that True? No! Yes, they were given a "tithe", but if it were put into perspective, as other tithing Scriptures show, their "tithe", was actually a "tenth". In other words, a tenth of a tithe. Meaning, they were given "one in a hundred, not one in a ten". Which, as other tithing Scriptures show, was to allow them to "observe the feasts". Which was the only use given to the tithing system at all. And, if all "twelve" other tribes each gave one in a hundred to the Levites, they would have more than the giver.

The Levitical priests DID NOT receive salaries. They would have been considered in Old Testament times, as those that were of the "poor". But they were "given" offerings for the many "labors" that they put out SERVING the assemblies. They worked "with their own hands" as well. Even on the Sabbaths and Holy Days, when the assemblies would enter into the temple or meeting site, and would be "fed meals", that the priests "cooked on the Sabbaths, served and cleaned up after on the Sabbaths". Even the despised Pharisees "worked with their own hands". Again, the Pharisee Paul, the "tent maker".

What is today's mindset of MOST of the religious systems today? Catholic, Protestant Sunday keepers, and even Sabbath observing assemblies? Simply put, they are of the Diotrephes mind set. For the most part. But, if one would consider, said mindset of Diotrephes did not come from Scripture, but from the Old Testament religious systems. You know, those of the devil?

## **Angel Sighting**

**by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)**

As a child, I never grew up in the church of God nor did I ever have contact with anyone who kept a Saturday Sabbath, at least not to my knowledge, so the true story I am about to tell you may change the way you look at those in other affiliations. Our family bounced from church to church, starting with the Congregational church which I believe changed

into or split into the United Church of Christ, where I was sprinkled as a 5th grader. That church lit candles apparently and my mother thought it seemed too Catholic, so she moved us to the Lutheran church where the minister's wife ran off with another man and due to that scandal, my mother moved us to the Methodist Church. At age 16 the Methodist Church sent me a bill for offering money, which I ripped up and mailed back to them.

Even though my family generally always had a church affiliation of some sort we hardly ever attended. As I grew up, we also had the Jehovah's Witnesses at our house several times and I had a girlfriend who was Mormon, so I attended sometimes with her. Our babysitter was Pentecostal (Assembly of God) and when I got married the first time it was in a Baptist Church. From the time I was in 3rd grade until I was 17 years old, I attended the Pentecostal Church the most. I even kept that one and the Baptist Church throughout most of my life until the early 90's when I first learned about the Worldwide Church of God.

As a very young child I always knew that the Sabbath was Saturday, but never to my knowledge, did I ever have contact with any Saturday Sabbath Keepers. When I asked my mother why if the Sabbath is Saturday, why do people keep Sunday, she got mad at me and that was the end of that conversation.

Now that you realize that at the time these things happened, I was not a Saturday Sabbath Keeper of any sort and that I hardly ever attended any Sunday Keeping church either, perhaps this will help you to have more compassion for those who are not yet called, because their time will come and God will real them in, sometimes from the deepest sin infested life a person could be living. I know a lot about the sin infested world we live in today because I was a member of it until God called me and changed my entire life when I was in my late 30's.

In the mid 70's I was on my way to pick my daughter up at daycare when I had an automobile accident. Many of you reading this are familiar with the Wis. Dells, WI area. I was born and raised in the Wis. Rapids, WI area and lived there until the late 80's. That is about one hour north of Wis. Dells. Highway 13 goes north from Wis. Dells to Wis. Rapids. Back in the 70's highway 13 in Wis. Rapids was a treacherous two-lane highway. There were a lot of accidents on that stretch of road in the Wis. Rapids area and I was one of its statistics.

I had just left work to go pick up my daughter at daycare and was going south on highway 13. It was winter, and I missed my Church Ave. turn. I saw a driveway for a restaurant and went to turn in to turn around and found that the driveway was not plowed, and the ditch was deep, so I was stuck. I was on the opposite side of the road now and I could see a car coming fast in the lane I was now in, so I did not have any time to back up and get back into the lane I had been in. I figured that I was off on the shoulder of the road far enough and had my headlights on that surely the other car going north would see my car and go around me. Well, as it turned out, he cut my car in half and never broke a single window. My trunk was laying in the ditch several feet from the rest of my car. His car was a quarter mile down the road in the opposite ditch.

Back in those days it seemed like everyone had CB radios in their cars and I was no exception. It took the police a half hour to forty-five minutes to get there, but I remember hearing everyone almost that went by calling this accident into the police channel while I listened. A man came to the window of my car and asked if I was okay. I said my leg hurt. I was holding down the break peddle so hard when the accident happened that my leg hurt from the stress. Otherwise, the guy who hit me and myself escaped with no injuries. The police understood what happened and I never did get a ticket for being in the wrong lane, however my insurance company did pay for the other guy's car after nine months of trying to get out of it. Turns out we both had kids in the same daycare.

Well, that could have been a worse accident than it was and what happened afterwards was something I kept my mouth shut about for years because who would believe me. The people in the world just don't believe these kinds of stories, not for the most part.

It was faster for me to go from work down highway 13 south to Church Ave. to pick up my daughter from daycare and so that is what I still planned to do, even after my car accident and I did. Shortly after my car accident, I was on my way to pick up my daughter at day care and I always had to stop at the stop sign for a four way stop on the edge of town, so I did and then my car would not go south on highway 13. All on its own, my car turned down county road Z and I had to take the back roads to go to the daycare center. Those back roads hardly ever have traffic on them except a car or two, but this day there were all kinds of cars going the opposite direction as I was. They were being detoured off highway 13 due to an accident.

My daughter went to that day care for a couple of more years before and after she started school and, on any day, when there was an accident or about to be an accident on highway 13 my car always turned onto county trunk Z. So, we are talking about intervention from God which lasted for several years and happened to a person in the world, who was into

the sin of the world. It was like a power was turning my steering wheel and I was totally unable to make that steering wheel go the way I wanted it to go. Once the car was going down highway Z I could drive it just fine and I always got to see all the detoured traffic coming towards me while I took those back roads to the daycare center.

My angel sighting happened in the late 80's as I was traveling Interstate 80 in Iowa on my way to Phoenix, Arizona. I am clipping along, and my service engine light came on. I had just bought the car I was driving in Phoenix and I didn't want to wreck it, so I pulled over on the side of the interstate and got out and put my hood up to wait for the State Patrol or someone who would help. My car was pointed west and though I honked my horn at passersby, no one would stop to help me. I was looking east because the traffic going west on the side of the interstate I was on was all coming from the east. Then I looked west and there was parked in front of my car a full-size semi-truck and trailer and one never passed me as I was looking east. There was no truck and then there was a truck. A man got out of the truck and he was dressed from head to foot in white. To this day I remember he was a man but even though I looked right at him I don't know what his face looked like. He was a man of few words. He took one look under the hood of my car and said you broke a belt, he pointed and said you can go up there and get it fixed. I saw nothing up there due to a small hill, so he said follow me. I got into my car and followed his truck. He turned into a restaurant on the left and I turned right into the place where he said they would fix it for me.

So far what makes this a strange story is that a full-size semi-truck and trailer had to have passed me as I am watching traffic going west on an interstate highway, and no semi passed me and yet here it was parked right in front of my car facing west. The driver was dressed in white from head to foot. My Dad and 3 of my brothers were all semi-truck drivers, my Dad since the 50's, I grew up around trucks and truck drivers and I never in my life to that day or after have seen a single truck driver ever dress in white from head to foot.

The story gets stranger. I saw the same truck driver that helped me, park his truck in the parking lot at the restaurant before I went into the gas station to see if they would fix my car. I went into the gas station and I explained to the guy that I had a broken belt and that I only had \$30.00's and I needed to have some of that money in order to eat. He said it would cost me \$25.00's. I had money in a bank in Phoenix, but my ATM card would not work in Iowa, but it would work when I got to Nebraska. So, I left my car and walked to the restaurant where the truck driver was. I wanted to thank him for helping me.

His truck was still parked outside the restaurant, so I went into the restaurant where I saw a waitress wiping off tables. The restaurant looked very empty, so I asked her if a man had come in to eat. She said, no, no one has come in in quite some time. I practically ran to the door I had just entered and when I looked out the truck was gone but it wasn't on the interstate either, which I could see for miles from where I was standing. That semi-truck, trailer and driver disappeared just as it had appeared.

Through the years I have had other truck drivers help me when I broke down on the road, but I saw them come and go and they wore blue jeans or a uniform of some sort. If this trucker in Iowa wasn't an angel, then who was he? And remember at this point in my life I still did not know about the Worldwide Church of God nor did I know any Saturday Sabbath Keepers to my knowledge.

As I was getting ready to move from Fort Atkinson, WI to Bismarck, ND, I had just finished work for the day in Lake Mills, WI when I had a strange encounter. I had my own cleaning business in Wisconsin at the time and I was also now a Sabbath Keeper for approximately six years.

I was tired after work and I just wanted to stop at the grocery store and go home. So, I went in got what I needed and went to checkout. I was in line behind one or two people and the cash register was working just fine. When it was my turn to check out, the cash register jammed and even though three different employees tried to get it to work, it would not. Then suddenly the cash register just started working again. The employees were surprised and had no idea why it quit working or why it started working again so suddenly.

I left Lake Mills and continued to the intersection of highway 18 and stopped for the stop sign. There was a three-car pile-up that had just happened at that intersection. Two cars were in a farmer's field a half a block from the intersection and another one was scattered on highway 18. The police were not yet there so I just missed this accident. I now knew why the cash register jammed and then started again so suddenly.

These are the three that stick out most in my mind, but there have been numerous of these strange happenings throughout my life. To say that God doesn't guide and help those who are still in their sin is not true. A person can be in the process of being called for many years before it happens. Everyone will get a chance at some point. I didn't tell anyone about these things for many years in some cases as I felt no one would believe me and even then, I told few

people until now. God is probably working with far more people than we can even imagine so always be ready to give an answer to those who ask, as you may be a part of their calling.

**A version of this article was printed by Dixon Cartwright in “The Journal: News of the Churches of God” under the title: “Motorist believes helpful truck driver was an angel”.**

## Cobras & Pit Bulls

**by Brenda Branson (Hanson, Kentucky) Copyright © 2003 All Rights Reserved**

In their book, *When Men Batter Women*, Drs. Jacobson and Gottman describe battering as “*physical aggression with a purpose to control, intimidate, and subjugate another human being. Battering is always accompanied by injury and is virtually always associated with fear and even terror on the part of the battered woman.*”

Knowing what makes a batterer tick can help determine whether an abusive relationship can be salvaged or whether it is beyond repair.

Drs. Jacobson and Gottman have found that batterers tend to fall into one of two categories: **Pit Bulls** (men whose emotions quickly explode, who are insecure and have an unhealthy dependence on the women they abuse) or **Cobras** (men who are cool and calculated as they inflict pain and punishment on their victims).

During their study, Jacobson and Gottman confirmed that **there is nothing a battered woman can do to stop the battering**, and once it begins, it rarely stops even though the batterer may go through a treatment program.

Usually when physical violence decreases or stops, it is simply replaced by verbal threats and emotional abuse. This type of battering does not leave marks and is not against the law, but it works because it scares battered women as much as physical abuse does. It is especially useful to abusers because they can control their victims through threats and verbal reminders of previous battering while keeping themselves out of trouble with the law.

The following chart describes the major differences between Cobras and Pit Bulls. **Although there are some distinctive differences, both are very dangerous and unpredictable.**

Cobras	Pit Bulls
Calm internally while battering; cool and calculating or out of control explosions	Internally aroused (anger increases) as battering continues
Evidence of criminal traits, shows violence toward others, little or no remorse	Usually violent only toward partner, feels some level of guilt, but usually blames partner
No fear of abandonment, but desperate need to control; superficial commitments	Emotionally dependent on partner, frequently jealous, paranoid and obsessive
Motivated by desire for immediate gratification and control	Motivated by fear of being abandoned and need to control
Strikes fast and hard combined with belligerence and emotional abuse, but can be distracted after victim leaves	Strikes hard and refuses to let go; frequently stalks victim for years after she leaves
Harder to leave initially, but safer to leave in the long run	Easier to leave initially, but more dangerous to leave in the long run
Knows how to con police officers, judges, and therapists by saying the right thing	Feels like a victim and believes wife is the perpetrator
Justifies battering wife to teach her that he has control	Feels some guilt, but blames wife for making him lose his temper
Gains control by ferocious abuse or explosive anger	Gains control by isolation and mind control; denies the woman’s experience of reality until she doubts her own sanity

Control means being left alone and not being told what to do by a woman	Control means taking control of a woman's life, monitoring her activities, and turning her into a puppet
Resists household rules and intimate involvement; refuses to make personal changes	Demands change from their partners, but are never satisfied with partners no matter how hard they try; avoids change in themselves
Very frightening, but captivating and charming; highly effective tactics of control and intimidation	Charming; Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde personality; uses violence and entrapment to control
Feels superior to other people and above the law	Feels like a victim; frequently depressed; rationalizes his actions by blaming others
Violence is generally more severe, involving weapons and death threats	Capable of chronic and savage brutality
More emotionally abusive initially	Becomes emotionally abusive as they become more enraged
Traumatic background involving violence from more than one family member	Some violence in the home, with the father frequently being a batterer
More severely violent in active relationship	More severely violent after relationship is ended by separation or divorce
Very rarely, if never, helped through therapy or programs for abusers	Sometimes helped through therapy and programs for abusers

### Other Items

## Brethren in Need

by William P. Goff (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

Greetings Brethren from your 3<sup>rd</sup> world country brethren. My name is Bill Goff, and a member of the cog. There are many of our impoverished brethren living in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries around the world who need our help. I myself have had my feet on the ground in E Africa for many years, especially Kenya and Tanzania. Most of our brethren are peasant farmers and suffer a lot. Some current needs include supplies for keeping the upcoming Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. They cannot afford Passover wine, or flour for making Unleavened Bread which is to be eaten each day of the seven-day Feast. Many (if not most) are already rationing their food just for survival. It is common to see people dying from starvation often in these impoverished countries.

If you can help, that would be wonderful. No one here is on any payroll or anything like that, all funds reach the brethren. Please check out our "Update Page" it documents what we have been doing with the funds donated over the past many years. The link is: <http://khofh.org/>

### A Blast from the Past

## Are You Busy?

Sent by Rusty Ames (Proctor, Texas)

Satan called a worldwide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels, he said, "We can't keep the Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from forming an intimate, abiding relationship experience with Christ. If they make and keep a personal connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken."

"So, let them go to their churches, let them have their conservative lifestyles, but steal their time, so they can't gain that experience in Jesus Christ."

"This is what I want you to do. Distract them from maintaining a vital connection throughout their day with their Savior!"

"How shall we do this?" shouted his angels.

"Keep the people busy with the nonessentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow."

"Persuade the wives to take a job and to leave their children at daycare. Convince them that school is the place to teach children truth. Allow them to think children don't need to pray or recite the ten commandments. Let the husbands work 6 or 7 days a week, 10 to 12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles. Have them focus on the nice things they can buy their children."

"Let the children get their self-worth from designer jeans and NBA endorsed sneakers, gangs or drugs. Give them many extracurricular events to make life stressful. Keep the parents from spending time with the children. As the family fragments, the home will offer no escape from the pressures of work!"

"Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive. Pound their minds with world news and commercials 24 hours a day. Over stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear God's still, small voice."

"Keep their TV, VCR, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their homes. Let them become busy at doing nothing! See to it that every store, restaurant, and business everywhere plays worldly music constantly. This will pre-occupy their minds with messages of the flesh and break that union with Christ. "

"Fill the house with magazines and newspapers portraying fantasy lifestyles. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, catalogues, sweepstakes, lotteries, and product catalogs and every type of home business newsletter filled with false hopes."

"Make sexuality pervasive. Put sexy, beautiful models on the magazines so husbands will lust after external beauty and they will become dissatisfied with their wives. Give them movies that portray a luxurious, gaudy, lusty lifestyle that does not actually exist. Keep them disgruntled. "

"This will force them to be excessive in pleasure seeking. Make their recreation stressful, ego driven and competitive. Have them return home exhausted, full of self and disquieted. Don't let them go out in nature to reflect on God's wonders. Give them thrills at amusement parks, sporting events, concerts, and movies instead. "

"Keep them busy, busy, busy!"

"And when they do meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip, envy, or self-righteousness, so that they leave with troubled consciences. They will then restrict their conversations to shallow, vain, unimportant topics."

"Go ahead, let them be involved in soul winning. But crowd their lives with so many causes they have no time to seek power from Christ. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and families for the cause. They will lose sight of how important a human soul really is."

"It will work.... I tell you....it will work!"

It was quite a convention. And the evil angels went eagerly about their assignment of causing "God's people" to be busy, busy, busy, busy, and to rush here and there.

The evil angels even stole the God-ordained day of rest!

Ask yourself...

Does this describe my family?

Who is glorified by my lifestyle?

Does God want my life to be different?

Am I willing to do what it takes to change?

**(This article has been updated and re-printed from "The Church of God Messenger" May/June 2001— Issue No. 3.)**

## Iron Sharpening Iron

### Holy Days 2021

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

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

**Pentecost - May 17, 2021**

**Trumpets - September 7, 2021**

**Atonement - September 16, 2021**

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

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