

INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES,
BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP, PLUS THIS NEWSLETTER

September/October 2001-Issue No. 5

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 E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@juno.com

Fax: (701) 258-7172 M-Th. 8AM-5PM CST Website: Possibly in the future.

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

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 (see 2nd page). We generally do a phone hookup rotation with one of the following: Dave Havir in Texas, Ray Wooten in Alabama or Ken Westby in Washington.

We also welcome live speakers, special music, cassette tape sermons, and video sermons, by or brought 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, August 24, 2001

Friday, November 16, 2001

Friday, December 28, 2001

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 November/December 2001 Newsletter is October 15, 2001. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

FEAST OF TABERNACLES--SITE SPONSORED BY SERVANTS' NEWS

October 2, 2001 to October 9, 2001

Chadron State Park, near Chadron Nebraska, will be the location of an interactive, family-oriented Feast. We will share many services, recreational activities and meals together. Finished, heated cabins at the Park cost from \$54 to \$65 per night and sleep 4 to 6. Call the Park at (308) 432-6167 to make reservations for cabins or camping. The cabins will probably be all taken by June. Nearby Chadron has many accommodations, ranging from the Westerner Motel (308) 432-5577 at \$200 per week to the West Hills Inn (877) 432-8305 with a heated indoor pool at \$53 per night for rooms and \$78 for a Jacuzzi suite.

For information about the schedule of events and optional meal plans, contact Servants' News, PO Box 107, Perry, Michigan, 48872; (517) 625-7480; info@servantsnews.com or read the Internet article at <http://www.servantsnews.com/sn0011/chadron.htm> or Fax: (517) 625-7481

FEAST OF TABERNACLES--SITE SPONSORED BY MID-MISSOURI CHURCH OF GOD (MMCG)

October 2, 2001 to October 9, 2001

Mid-Missouri Church of God (MMCG) will again be sponsoring the Feast of Tabernacles (October 2nd through the 9th) at the 54,000 acre Lake of the Ozarks in central Missouri.....to be held this year at the beautiful new Baymont Inn in the town of Lake Ozark. Members of all Church of God organizations will be welcome. Information and registration will be at 5:30PM in the Baymont Conference Hall, with opening services commencing at 7:30PM on Monday night, October 1st. (A traditional format is planned--with worship services at 10:30AM on most days.)

If you're planning to be at the Lake of the Ozarks site, and would be interested in sermon, sermonette, Bible study or seminar presentation.....or serving as a choir member, individual or group special music volunteer, accompanist, or assisting with the children's Bible classes, please get in touch. Or perhaps you'd be interested in helping out with such things as registration, information and activities table, literature and handouts table, ushers, and greeters.

In planning stage are such activities as "First Day of the Feast" Fellowship Luncheon, Breakfast with the Seniors, Night out with the Singles, Ozark Music Night, Afternoon Lake Cruise, Pie and Ice Cream Social, and a Family Picnic and Cook-out at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. In addition, there are more than a dozen beautiful golf courses and some good fishing spots just a short drive from the Inn.

To request an information packet (and motel rates), please write to Duke and Dotte Schneider, Festival Coordinating Team, at 31879 Triangle Cove Road, Gravois Mills, MO 65037. Or telephone (573) 372-3221; E-mail messages can be sent to ddinmo@advertisnet.com

Note: If you think you might be attending the feast at Lake of the Ozarks, it would be most helpful if you could let us know as soon as possible--for planning purposes. Thank you!

FAX--We now have computer fax capabilities. Our Fax number is: (701) 258-7172. Our computer must be on in order for us to receive a Fax. Faxes may be sent to us Monday thru Thursday from 8AM to 5PM Central Standard Time (except on Holy Days and during storms). If you need or want to send a fax at other times, please notify us ahead of time so we can be ready to receive it.

FEAST OF TRUMPETS--Tuesday, September 18, 2001, services will be at 320 N. Griffin Street, Bismarck, North Dakota at 1:00PM. The door will be unlocked at 12:00Noon for fellowship. At 5:00PM we will meet at "North American Steak Buffet" 2000 N. 12th Street in Bismarck, North Dakota for a meal and fellowship. Please, feel free to join us for the meal, even if you do not attend our services or bible studies.

DAY OF ATONEMENT--Thursday, September 27, 2001, services will be at 320 N. Griffin Street, Bismarck, North Dakota at 1:00PM. The door will be unlocked at 12:00Noon for fellowship. At Sunset, Approximately 7:30PM we will meet at "Bonanza Family Restaurant" 1704 E. Main in Mandan, North Dakota for a meal and fellowship. Please, feel free to join us for the meal, even if you do not attend our services or bible studies.

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

NO SABBATH SERVICES--There will be no Sabbath Services at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota on Saturday, October 6, 2001. Have a nice Feast.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES--INTERDEPENDENT WISCONSIN DELLS AREA FEAST SITE--BARABOO, WISCONSIN
October 2, 2001 to October 9, 2001

We will be holding the Feast at Papa's Place Conference Center in Baraboo, WI, approximately 7 miles south of the Dells. Opening night hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be Monday, Oct 1st, starting at 7:30pm in the main hall. Room rates at the convention center are \$40/night for 2 doubles or 2 queens. King bed rooms with sofa sleeper are \$50/night; and jacuzzi rooms are \$65/night. We also have cabins very nearby for \$35/night, some with kitchenettes. If you have any particular questions, call our toll-free line at 1-866-82FEAST or better yet, check on the Wisconsin Dells Feast web site at http://www.geocities.com/berean_fellowship/feast01.html.

We need volunteers for special music, song leading, sound, and set up. If there is anyone that has a seminar or special topic they would like to present, we could still make room ... Please call Tim Lindholm at 1-866-82FEAST.

Just a note ... if you reserve your hotel room through us, you will not have to pay state and local taxes.

Also this year we will be having a lunch buffet each day, and we need help with numbers ... how many are interested in the buffet each day. Pricing should be approximately \$6.95/adult plus gratuity (no tax). Children 5-10 years of age are \$4.95; children 5 and under are free.

For those of you who would like to participate in special music at the Interdependent Feast Site just south of the Wisc. Dells at Papa's Place Conference Center in Baraboo, WI, please contact: Pat Arnold at (763) 441-1397 or e-mail at: PNArnold2@juno.com

BUILDING BRIDGES--OSSEO SENIOR CENTER--OSSEO, MINNESOTA
GUEST SPEAKER IS DEAN WHEELOCK

September 15, 2001

Building Bridges Invites you to hear guest speaker Dean Wheelock

Dean and his wife, Susan are co-founders of Hebrew Roots, a ministry dedicated to exploring the Hebraic roots of the Christian faith. Together they write and publish the Hebrew Roots journal and conduct a tape ministry from their home in northern Wisconsin. The topic is "The Wedding of the Messiah".

Saturday, September 15, 2001

Osseo Senior Center

20 - 4th St. NW.

Osseo, MN

Meeting begins at 1:30pm

(a question and answer session will follow the message.)

Please join us after the Q & A for a potluck dinner and fellowshiping. Please bring a hot dish, salad or dessert. We have plenty of outlets for crock pots and the use of an oven.

Building Bridges is not a church, but a way to provide opportunities for fellowship, edification and education to interested brethren. If you have any questions call: Dale & Dona Fehr (763) 572-8377 or Email: DLFehr@compuserve.com

WHERE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE?

by Laura Lee, Bismarck, North Dakota

We have our own concerns and people we pray for. Is this person in the "church"? Is a member of this person's family in the "church"? Is this a list of more people I don't

know? Oh good, tithing isn't required of me, so I don't have to do it anymore.

The above statements may not apply to you, and I hope they don't. I've heard these statements and many others come from the mouths of people who profess to be in the

"church", and I am sickened by them. Our view many times is far too narrow. What if we were that person that nobody knew, wouldn't we still want prayers? What if we had no food or shelter? What if all we required was friendship? What if...? When I read my Bible, I don't see any corporation boundaries,

or you are not in the "church" so I'm not required to pray for you??? In fact, we are told to pray for our enemies. If someone needs something and you can give it, do you? There are many people out there who send you free spiritual material also. Few of them are independently wealthy and postage especially to foreign countries is high. Not all people can help, but if you can help someone, would you?

NEED A PEN PAL?

Dear Darwin & Laura,
This is to say MANY thanks for all your efforts to have fellow Sabbath keepers pray for me after my beloved husbands death May 10th. That hard experience has been greatly helped & relieved by the many prayers to the Lord and letting me know of it with cards too. I believe it was the hardest time of my life (and I have had many since I became a Sabbath observer in the 1960's).

It is not quite 3 months now since his death--but I can see a light in the dark tunnel, finally. There is now a reason for living again. Doors are opening again for my being useful. Here at the Retirement Home, I am finding many women to help in many ways.

This is the Sabbath evening and just tonight someone slipped a lovely card under my door, saying that a task I did for a lady was much appreciated, and that God was to bless me. I didn't even know that she believed in God. I merely offered to take her mail parcels to the main desk here as she missed the mail delivery and uses a "walker" to get around in. Earlier today another lady in a walker asked me to walk with her as she tried to go up a hilly sidewalk. I did and kept her from foolishly attempting to go up higher. But she was pleased she wasn't alone and could at least do the part she did.

My outlook in this near future is to try and share the Bible with the people here. Perhaps at your younger age you and others are not aware of the thoughts of we older folk. I know that at my age of 73 I even was NOT aware of how unpleasant old age can be, until things kept getting worse in my experience, here. I was always looked upon as a strong positive thinker. Many are trying to be cheery but yet one hears of: "I just hope I wake up dead in the morning." (Sort of amusing though--how can one wake up if dead!) That was stated by a man.

The hard part for me was that no Sabbath keeping church here helped me. I even had my mail man (who I learned was a Jehovah Witness), send me two ladies to help me with my depression. They were kind! So The Lord did answer your many prayers! Again Thanks! God Bless You Much!

L. Barch

PS: Mail is welcome, if anyone has time to write.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If anyone out there wants to write letters to L. Barch, please start by sending them here. Again, please mail it to: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502. Write L. Barch someplace on the outside of the envelope, so that we don't accidentally open it. We will forward these letters to L. Barch, and as she answers them, she will be responsible to give out her own address as she wants to. THANK YOU. Laura

IN HONOR OF KEN AND EVELYN SEALS by Bobbie Warf, Middlesboro, Kentucky

I have no idea whether you can honor my request or not, but I will hope and pray you can. I would like the people who read your newsletter to know of a couple here in our town who need your prayers, help, cards, letters, etc. They are Ken and Evelyn Seals. Ken Seals is a former member of WWCOG and is now on his own, doing his best to serve God. In our small town he is the only one to observe the Feasts, Holy Days, etc. His wife and family have been going to Feasts for 33 years, with him. Evelyn Seals especially enjoys your articles of past groups, because she has endured every put down that the "so called" leaders of past groups could do. Like so many others the Seals have been rejected by lots of folks and accepted by few. They go on serving and believing in God's goodness.

As you see by the article (the article titled "Evelyn Johnson Seals" that was sent to us, follows), the constant thought of these people is to help others. Every year they bring afghans to the Feast and pass them to wheel chair bound people or simply folks needing a little cheer. They are on call 24 hours a day to help others. Ken Seals has anointed many and had many miracles of healing. Presently they are struggling due to a year long illness of Evelyn Seals. She could not walk and refused

to let her back be operated on. She walks now and was healed! Thank God!

I thought your newsletter would be a great way to tell of these great people. Maybe some readers would send a card. (Please send cards to Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502--Write "Ken & Evelyn Seals" name on the envelope someplace so that we do not accidentally open it. Thank You.) Evelyn Seals is my sister and God sent Ken Seals to our family. He took care of my mother and now my mentally handicapped brother also.

EVELYN JOHNSON SEALS by Author Unknown

The operator of a private local charity, Evelyn Johnson Seals has literally opened the doors of her home to help people.

Blessings House is a non-profit charity to help the needy in the Middlesboro area, she said.

A small building stands in her yard--a gift from the television show, "America's Talking" Several years ago, she was featured on the show for her work with the needy and she had really outgrown her own home, Seals said.

The charity provides food and clothing for the needy, to the point of taking blankets to people in the streets during the winter, she said. Working with craft business in North Carolina, the charity also provides Afghans to nursing homes, the hospital, shut-in elderly, and anyone that needs them, said Seals.

"We give what is given to us, we are not funded by anybody," she said.

People that are helped by the charity, also do their part in helping other people. For example, one man often leaves a bag of laundry on her porch and she washes it, Seals said. In return, there could be something in the neighborhood that needs to be done--like mowing the lawn of someone that is unable to do so, she said.

Another program that she is involved with is "Warm Up America," a program dedicated to providing bedding and blankets to the needy. Public agencies and other private charities often refer people to her for blankets and bed coverings, said Seals.

She also works with Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon--an organization that works with the families of alcoholics. Though she acknowledges that she is not a doctor, she has had family members that have had alcohol problems, she said. For roughly 25 years, she attended AA meetings--now she mostly works with people on a one on one basis, Seals said. Parents will often call her to talk to their children about alcohol, she said.

Seals works with the department of agriculture as well. They provide seeds for a gardening program that she has spearheaded--an effort to try to help people get more food, she said.

A talented writer, Seals has authored three books--"Mist of Memories," "Of Appalachia: It's Heart and Soul," and "Shadows of Forever." Her first book--"Mist of Memories,"--a collection of poetry was part of the poetry collection of the late Princess Grace of Monaco.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If anyone out there wants to help the Seals family or Blessing House please send letters to: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502. Write Ken & Evelyn Seals or Blessing House someplace on the outside of the envelope, so that we don't accidentally open it. We will forward these letters to Ken & Evelyn Seals or Blessing House and as they answer them, they will be responsible to give out their own address as they want to. THANK YOU. Laura

CAN ANYONE HELP?

Dear Darwin & Laura,
Greetings to you in the name of Jesus our Lord. I was a Pastor of Eglise du Gabon until God opened my eyes to the amazing Sabbath truth. I was confronted by this saving message by a preacher who preaches through World Harvest Radio International in Indiana, United States. God spoke to me concerning the Sabbath and the need to surrender my entire life to Him and for service. The preacher Spoke on the second coming, the law, etc. At first I was not comfortable with what I saw as a false teaching, but I was compelled to keep on listening and judge with the scripture. I tuned in each weekend and the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to see the truth. I began to thank God that I did not turn off the radio on the first day. God brought a great change in my life and I made up my mind to follow the

true gospel and to keep His Sabbath. I shared my testimony with my wife and she accepted the message for which I praised the Lord. We became Sabbaterians at heart, pending when God will permit me to present this truth to the whole Church. During our national convention my wife encouraged me to present the message without fear and allow the will of God to be done. I told her I will be mobbed, but through her prayers I was fortified and I presented the truth as it was. At the end of the convention several members besieged my house and demanded for my resignation, excommunication and sack. The Church council gave me two weeks to vacate the premises as they accuse me of preaching false gospel. God made it possible for us to leave unhurt and 33 other people came out with me. We now meet for worship and fellowship on the Sabbaths and week days. I am now sharing a room with a brother in his house. My children no longer go to school, no food, no money and my wife had to return to the village as I can no longer afford an accommodation. WHAT A GREAT PRICE TO PAY FOR THE TRUTH. However, our nation is in a deep spiritual darkness and only this true gospel can set her free. Since I embraced this truth I have found peace, joy and assurance. There is a freedom of worship in our country but the Bible based Christianity is lacking here. There is a mixture of paganism and Christianity in worship in our country, almost all the Churches are victims. Demons of alcoholism, sex, gambling and ancestral worship are holding millions imprisoned. There is a custom or what would I call--that is very common here, young girls and ladies having children outside of wedlock. In most cases no one claims responsibility for it. The situation is very appalling and even the so called Christians are victims, scarcely do you see a family without illegitimate children. My only heart desire is for the Sabbath truth to be circulated all over Gabon and the entire Central African region for the salvation of man before He comes. We are ready to stand in the gap lest we be destroyed. I believe God led me to the truth at this time for a purpose and I am ready. We are ready to circulate this truth to every nook and cranny of Gabon if supported. There is hunger in the land but not of bread and wine but for the undiluted word of God. We need large quantity of Bibles for our converts, students, etc., who crave for them. God is bringing revival to Gabon and we want you to help us. I have a burden to go to the villages, cities, towns, etc. to circulate

the message. We shall also need books, tracts, audio/video tapes, study aids, copies of study Bibles, Sabbath School manuals, etc. in English and French. Can you provide us with any help? We need some financial assistance and would want you to come over to Gabon and take over this Ministry as we are financially handicapped to meet our goals, but if the Lord can use you to uphold our hands we will conquer many territories. Above all we need your prayers to stand firm and faithful even in the midst of trial. Let us hear from you, the night is far spent, help us to bring this light to Gabon and to other nations around us. Remain blessed as we anxiously wait for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Yours in the blessed hope,
MICHAEL & STELLA PORTER

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you can help with any of their needs, you may contact them directly at: Michael & Stella Porter, B.P. 4150 Libreville, Gabon, Afrique Centrale, phone number: 00241.264255, Fax is 00241.762804 and E-mail is paroledevie60@hotmail.com

SEND A CARD TO SOMEONE, PLEASE?

Dear Darwin and Laura,
Greetings in the name of Yashua.

We visited with our daughter Stephanie yesterday and gave her the envelope containing the cards from members of your e-mail list who made the effort to write.

She was overwhelmed and could not even read the cards right then. She needed to be alone with the precious cards. She sobbed because she felt the love and concern from people who did not even know her come through the cards.

The Heavenly Father took a few simple kind acts and turned them into something mighty. May he be praised.

When we think we are unable to be a diligent worker for our Heavenly Father by preaching, teaching, healing, anointing, etc. to further the Father's work, we need to remember the simple tasks of expressing love to brethren who are hurting.

The power of a simple expression of love to a hurting stranger can only come from the Creator of the Universe. He alone can take a simple act and turn it into a profound

experience. He is to be praised. Each of us should exhort one another at every opportunity to glorify our Heavenly Father.

Praise Yahweh for your ministry and for the love and concern of all who pray and write to those whose needs you make known.

Rusty Ames

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

trnpnt2@comanchetx.com

www.turningpointtranch.org

EDITOR'S NOTE: I cried when I received this E-mail. Do you see how important just a card is to a person who is hurting? No one needs a masters degree to help another person in this respect. We also do not need to know the person personally in order to send them a card. Thank you to all who send cards on a regular basis. Laura

IN NEED OF PEN PALS FOR PRISON MINISTRY--CAN YOU HELP?

Greetings brethren in the name of Christ, our Savior.

My name is Lisa Henderson and I am the Director of Sabbath Keepers Fellowship & Prison Ministry. I would like to share with you one of the things that we are currently involved in at Sabbath Keepers Fellowship. That is our newest and most exciting venture, the Prison Pen-Pal Program. Our Pen-pal Program has been well received by the inmates we serve, not only in Texas, but across the nation. Both the inmates and the brethren that correspond with them have received huge blessings from doing so. Following are a couple of excerpts I want to share with you from letters of inmates to their pen-pals.

An inmate named Thomas writes to his pen-pal, "I just re-read your letter and the Lord put it on my heart to tell you how very important your ministry is. Maybe you don't realize it or know what an impact your letters and word's of encouragement mean to people such as myself. Let me try to explain. When you have lost everything and everybody because of consequences of your own actions; when you don't even get a letter from your own children, loved ones or so-called friends; when it seems like the only thing you have to look forward to everyday is when the darkness comes and hides all the pain and suffering and then sleep is your only sedative for the pain

all around you, you are truly thankful for any sign of caring from anyone. I know Jesus is real because He lives in my heart, but when you can not see His love demonstrated through anyone's action's you ask, "Lord, Lord! Where are you?" When your letters come and you take the time, not only to share His love with me, but to share yourself, your family and your all just as He did, I hear Him answering, "I am here, Thomas". Thank you and God bless you, and thank God for allowing me to see and feel His love through you."

Another inmate named Tony writes, "It's amazing how the Lord can use His faithful followers to guide His newly converted children to a better understanding of just how loving and forgiving He is. I have been doubting my salvation because I would still (and still do) have trouble controlling my anger. I was under the impression that once you placed your life in God's hands and asked for forgiveness, all the bad thoughts and feelings of resentment and anger would just disappear. Oh, I'm no longer filled with anger and hate. The Lord has definitely blessed me with the strength to rid myself of all the ugliness in me, but I do still slip up now and then with my anger and each time Satan is right there telling me, "Man, you'll never change so why keep trying?" Well, he can't use that trick on me anymore because I understand now that just because I may slip sometimes, as long as I get back up, ask forgiveness and repent, then I'm good to go because I am a child of God, I am forgiven and with His help I will overcome my sinful habits! Thank you so much for your patience in teaching me. The love of Christ shines through you!"

Thomas and Tony are just two examples of men whose lives have been touched by God through their pen-pals. They and their pen-pals have reaped great blessings from their relationship through letters and the results will last throughout eternity .

I want to strongly encourage everyone to experience the joys and blessings of sharing God's Word and love with an inmate who needs it. If you would like to become a pen-pal with someone like Thomas or Tony, please contact us. There are many more like these two men who are just waiting for someone to reach out to them. Will that someone be you?

Contact information: Lisa or Nancy at Sabbath Keepers Fellowship & Prison Ministry PO Box 302 Chandler, TX 75758. Phone: (903)849-1955. E-mail skfpm@prodigy.net.

Sabbath Keepers Fellowship & Prison Ministry is a non-profit organization that has served men and women behind bars and their families, for the last 6 years. We teach obedience to the 7th day Sabbath, as well as the holy days outlined in Leviticus 23 and the dietary laws of Leviticus 11. We also use and teach the names of Yahweh and Yashua, but believe that is a personal and individual choice and so do not insist on the use of the names by anyone else. Our main focus lies with teaching others to walk as Christ walked. We are a small ministry with a big heart. Our needs are supported solely by the grace of our Father and the charitable donations, contributions and tithes of our friends and the general public.

Our personal outreach ministry has many facets. We write and publish a small monthly newsletter called "Freedom's Call", which includes a bible study, inspirational poetry, humor and encouraging short stories and testimonies. Our Pen-Pal Program seeks to connect inmates with suitable Christian pen-pals that can provide personal correspondence, friendship and Christian fellowship. We distribute tracts, pamphlets, booklets, and calendars. We also provide bibles and concordances as our funds allow. Everything we provide is always free of charge to those we serve and their families. We visit inmates on a regular basis through both personal correspondence and visits at the prison.

YEAR 2000 FEAST IN MEXICO--- PUERTO VALLARTA NEWSPAPER by Humberto Aguilar Camarena, reporter

NOTE: English Translation of article Written in Puerto Vallarta Newspaper.

Group from Seattle, WA., and Phoenix, AZ., donated more than \$10,000 USD in Food Staples, Notebooks and New Tires for a Children's Bus.

Four Needy Neighborhoods Received Foreign Aid.

People of the Christian Faith from Seattle and Phoenix, who are staying at the Fiesta Americana Hotel, and La Jolla de Mismaloya, gathered to do charity work for the needy neighborhoods of El Progreso, Mojoneras, Magisterio and the Municipal City Dump.

The group of approximately 50 people, many of them with their spouses, and some with their children decided to get together in Puerto Vallarta in a very strange and curious manner.

There is an email address hosted by Pastor Saul Gonzalez, through which Anushka Posegay started a relationship, because she wanted more information on an article that appeared in a newspaper. Nancy Nystrom, who works in Manzanillo several months of the year on behalf of the children, -- Manzanillo is four hours south from Puerto Vallarta, -- suggested Anushka to contact Saul, too.

Pastor Saul got in touch with Anushka and her husband Rob, as well as with Mr. Wayne Speed, and between them they organized this group, which includes couples from other parts of the United States.

While in Puerto Vallarta they were hosted around by Pastor Saul Gonzalez, whom they requested to take them to a department store, in order to buy some products that they could distribute in the needy areas.

The purchases were made at Sam's, where they bought varied products. Then the group was taken to personally distribute the notebooks, food staples, and other school articles to these four neighborhoods: El Progreso, Magisterio, Mojoneras, and the area that surrounds the City Dump, where there are many families who live off of what they collect for recycling from the garbage. They also bought a full set of new tires for the Feed the Children's bus. Aprox. \$10,000 USD were spent in all the effort made by the group.

They returned to the Fiesta Americana Hotel where they gathered to praise the Lord and pray.

Humberto Aguilar Camarena, reporter, and David Diaz, photographer) Vallarta Opina. October 23, 2000

FEAST OF TABERNACLES--SITE SPONSORED BY BUILDING BRIDGES

October 2, 2001 to October 9, 2001

Building Bridges is hosting another Feast in Mexico. This year it will be in the city of Cuernavaca, which is 1 hour southwest of Mexico City. It is located in the mountains and has lovely year round temperatures. They call this the city of eternal spring. This is an equal to serve feast site, which means women have equal opportunity to present and participate in services if they wish .

The hotel we have chosen is called Posada Tlaltenango. It is a small quaint colonial style hotel. The rooms are \$70.00 a night. We will all stay in the same hotel and the meetings are in the hotel in their conference room that they have provided for us. There is a restaurant on the premises and a large pool. They also have a spa, facials, sauna, etc.

We will be doing a community service project for one day of the feast. We will be taking our holyday offering and going to Sam's Club to purchase food for the poor. We will also be working with an orphanage in some capacity.

We have some tours planned also. We will be going to Taxco which is a colonial silver mining town. This is where most of Mexico's silver jewelry is produced. It is very quaint with cobble stone streets. We will also visit the pyramid's and Grottos which are caves like Carlsbad Caverns.

You need to fly into Mexico City and then take an inexpensive bus ride to Cuernavaca which is an hour away. We'd be happy to have you join us and if you need any other information, you can contact Wayne and Claudia Speed at their e-mail address at: wspeed@webtv.net or you can call them at (623) 465-0418.

**PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO--
FEAST 2000
by Claudia Speed, Cave Creek, Arizona**

The Feast in Mexico was life changing! Forty-seven of us gathered in Puerto Vallarta Mexico at a Building Bridges Feast site and we did indeed build bridges. Most of us were from Phoenix, but we had a large group from Seattle and a family from Georgia. All of us, on an adventure, that would change our perspective greatly. Our experiences enriched the whole eight days. We bonded together because we worked together. We spoke about God for what seemed like twenty four hours a day, We were in the same hotel, had services in the hotel, ate together and played together. We built bridges with each other and now across the miles also.

I had decided a few years back, that I had not

looked at the Feast and how I kept it appropriately. There is day one of the millennium and it won't be a beautiful hotel, spending freely and eating lavishly. In other words, not a self-indulgent time. I felt for thirty plus years my family had represented the millennium selfishly and self indulgently. You can't get from the opening of the seals and the tribulation, to instantly a beautiful millennial setting. There is a day one and maybe year one or year five, however long it takes to clean up a whole world that has been devastated. It struck me that I had never been given the skills to prepare for people that would be crawling out from under rocks and rubble, lives in disarray and I would be there to somehow help them. I hadn't been taught how.

We decided as a group to do a community service project, for a full day, to represent day

one of the millennium, since none of us has ever been trained in anything other than eating, drinking and spending at the Feast. Through a series of interesting events, we were put in contact with a Christian group in Puerto Vallarta, that cares for forty families that live in the city dump. They educate, feed, and help in any way to better their lives, and we were going to be a part of this for one day, the adults as well as the children who met with us.

We had collected our Holyday offering and decided to use it for the project. We spent the morning and early afternoon helping with feeding the kids at school and other small projects. The highlight was going to Sam's Club as a group with our offering in hand and purchasing food and essentials for these people. All of us, lined up with carts full. What a sight to behold. We went back to the school and sorted and bagged the food and loaded the bus once again. We were now going to deliver it to the families. Words cannot describe the abject poverty that they live in. They live and work at the city dump. The smell alone was overwhelming, and the hovels they live in were made out of things they found in the dump. We unloaded the bus and all the food and began to carry the bags of food from family to family. also handing out formula, diapers, soap and essentials for living.

I know there are some who will ridicule what we did and say it's a waste of time to do this because you can't change the world. But it's made a difference in the lives of those who participated in the project, to look into the eyes of someone with such great need and be able to reach out to them and show them God's heart.

I learned we have to be more than constipated Christians, taking in doctrine and never expressing it outward. We learned to put our money where our mouth is. God is looking at where the rubber meets the road.

This wasn't about changing the lives of the people in Mexico. This was only one day of service to them. This will not change the world, only Christ's return can do that. This was about changing me. It gave me a perspective I'd never seen before, it was life changing. I guess God is right, it is more blessed to give than receive.

We talk about being in a hotel as a temporary dwelling or even building succoths, so we try to represent the millennium by what we do. But for years I never represented day one of the millennium until this year. It would be my greatest desire to see the Feast sites all over the world, doing an act of service, a community service project to represent this most important day - day one. When people stumble out of caves and from under rubble and they stand in front of me, are they going to see God's heart revealed? How can I show them that, if I haven't practiced.

There's so much to be said and no room to say it. So if you're interested in what we did and how you can organize a similar project at your Feast next year, call Wayne and Claudia Speed at (623) 465-0418, or e-mail us at wspeed@webtv.net

"THEY SANG AS IT WERE A NEW SONG BEFORE THE THRONE"

by Author Unknown

In Rev. 14:1-5, God speaks of 144,000 redeemed from among men--first fruits--virgins--who follow the Lamb wherever He goes--not defiled with women {church groups}--having the God-Family Name written on their foreheads. It is these redeemed that begin "singing" {speaking of} the new way (Ps. 138:5) to rightly worship God and follow Christ, and make Them your God and put away your idols far from you. ONLY Jesus Christ was anointed to be your Mediator--none else!

In Is. 42:8 God says no longer He will give His glory and praise to your carved images {men who lead you to err in all these groups}. Vs. 9 it is that former way, God says, has come to pass and He declares new things. Yes, it is quite new--never before heard--that one is to become detached from men who teach and rule over you in these groups! Read I Cor. 15:24; Gal. 4:1-7 where it speaks of a time when Christ will put an end to all men's rule, authority, and

power over His Bride! Is. 28:9-10, explains how you must be "weaned" from Church groups (the breast) to grow in knowledge--one on one with God as your Teacher. ONLY He teaches right things! {Is. 45:19}.

No longer does God want them to receive His glory of being the True Lord (Ruler). Is. 42:16 God says, "I will lead them in paths they have not known." Yes, it is new to think you do not need to be in a group, under a man's rule, to be saved!!! V. 7 God is delivering His people from the prison house (as He calls it) and from those that walk over them (Is. 51:23).

To be "redeemed" is to be bought for a price--Christ's ultimate sacrifice paid that price--so it is when you stop dwelling among men {Rev. 14:4} your sin of idolatry is 'passed over' and you know you are to follow the Lamb wherever He goes--and no longer be defiled with adulterous groups {Eze. 16:31-34} that hire men (ministers) to be your lovers instead of Jesus Christ--it is then that you become a "first fruit" and blameless before the Throne of God! A first fruit is one of the first to become ripe--best quality fruit--precious. A "first fruit" is the beginning of a great harvest of the whole land. Ultimately, the first fruits set the example for others to imitate--Christ was the Firstborn, then those that follow Him wherever He goes share in His inheritance.

No longer do the "redeemed" sing the old

FAT CATS, FAT CATS

by Tawanda Ray, Hamilton, Alabama

Fat cats, fat cats on faculty row,
Don't you see the fruits of the seeds you sow?
One tithe, two tithes, three tithes...four?
"Put your heart in the work and send us some more!"

Salaries, expense accounts, service well spent
Never mind the little ones who's lives you've rent.
"We are the head, you are the tail,
Keep the money flowing, how can we fail?"

"Be good little Christians and close your eyes
Sing your little songs and pay your three tithes.
Don't have an opinion and don't make a fuss,
Just hop on aboard and leave the driving to us!"

song {Eccl. 7:5}. "HWA restored all things" or "HWA is that peg in a sure place" or "you have to be in a group and have a minister rule over and teach you". Those are the "lyrics" that give praises to a man {NOT to God}, that will be forgotten. Is. 43:18-19 "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it?" And in Jer. 33:3 "Call to Me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."

It is these ministers that God is angry with for putting Jerusalem in such ruins (Act 15:16-17; Is. 28:14; Eze. 34). God, Himself, makes a New Jerusalem---a job only He can do. No man is fit (Is. 59:16; Eze. 22:30).

When you step out in faith, and assemble before God, fear Him, not men, then it says in Ps. 25:14 you will be given the secret of the Lord and shown His Covenant and you will begin to "sing" the NEW SONG!! {Please read Ps. 40:1-10; Ps. 149; Ps. 98; Ps. 96:1-10; Ps. 22:22; Ps. 33:3; and Is. 42:10}. Ps. 118:8-9, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

May God speed the day that ALL will lift up their voices together, in one accord, and sing praises to the One True God, before His Throne of Grace and Mercy!!

FIRST LOVE

by Arlan Weight, Bismarck, North Dakota

Just where is the church today? It's been only 15 short years since the death of Herbert W. Armstrong and how many splits and factions are there? Oh sure, some folks split off from the Worldwide Church of God prior to 1986, but that was miniscule compared to today. But why all the groups? What is it that makes us split up? And why all the Armstrong bashing? It seems as though the church is in a confused state. Was Herbert Armstrong a false prophet?

All these questions and more deserve an

answer. If we are ever to make any sense of things in the church today we must get to the bottom of it all. To this writer the answer is somewhat simple, and yet at the same time profound. The reason the church is scattered today appears to be the same reason it became scattered after the death of Paul, and the other apostles.

It seems as though history repeats itself. The New Testament church began on Pentecost 31 AD. The last apostle to die was John, which may have been somewhere at the turn of the century. The scattering of the church began a bit earlier, but about the same time of John's death the church seems hidden from view and doesn't appear until much later. According to many Bible scholars, when the church reappeared, it looked quite different from what the apostles started out with.

This modern era of the church began about 1900 years later or somewhere about 1931. Herbert W. Armstrong died in January of 1986 and here we are at the turn of the century again. Can we see some similarities between the original church of 31 AD and that of our time today. Where is the visible church? Is there any one of the so called 'Church of God' groups that is dominantly the true Church of God . . . the one Jesus said he would build? (Mat. 16:18)

Of course we can't know all the details of what happened in 100 AD, but if present conditions are any hint of the past, we can see many people began separating and splitting off, just like today. But what caused the splits back then? Does the Bible offer any clues? Let's take a look.

Paul gives one clue when he says, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another gospel**." (Gal. 1:6) Paul could see this sort of thing beginning to happen to the Galatians. But also, he told the Ephesian church elders (Acts 20:17) what was to befall them after he was gone. "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking **perverse things**, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:29-30)

So in Galatians Paul indicated they were beginning to be fed with **another gospel**. What was the gospel that Paul preached? "And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the **kingdom of God**, shall see my face no more." (Acts 20:25) When Paul was nearing the end of his life in Rome he was still preaching the same message. . . that of the kingdom of God. Notice Acts 28:23. "And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging to whom he expounded and testified **'the kingdom of God**, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening." (Acts 28:23) "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the **kingdom of God**, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him." (Acts 28:30-31)

So from the discussion here in Acts and Galatians the underlying problem had to do with the message. Various individuals, apparently, began deviating from the message first delivered to the church. The message from the beginning was what Jesus brought to this earth. "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the **gospel of the Kingdom of God** . . . repent ye and **believe the gospel**." (Mark 1:14) "And Jesus went about all Galilee teaching in their synagogues and preaching the **gospel of the kingdom**" (Mat. 4:23)

The Greek word for 'gospel' is '*euaggelion*' and is used 76 times in the new testament. From the Eerdman's Bible Dictionary the meaning for the word 'gospel' is **good news**. The word '*euaggelizo*' appears to be the verb form of the word which means 'preach the gospel or bring glad tidings'. (Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible)

Another clue of what went wrong with the first church era was that they 'left their first love.' Notice what Jesus said of them in Revelation 2:1-5. "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks I know your works and your labour, and thy patience, and how thou

canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love**. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place except thou repent. . . "

So what was their 'first love' and what were the works they were involved in? The word 'first' comes from the Greek word '*protos*' meaning foremost. The word 'love' comes from the Greek word '*Agape*' meaning an outgoing concern for something or someone. Eerdman's Bible dictionary describes it this way. "In it's basic sense the Greek word designates the divine, selfless love which will **go to any length** to attain the well-being of it's object.

Apparently, '*Agape*' is the highest form of the word love. It is the same word for 'charity' in 1 Corinthians 13. In short it is the highest, most exalted fruit of God's spirit. (1 Cor. 13:13) It is the first one listed in the nine fruits of God's spirit of Galatians 5:22.

So whatever this '**love**' was, it was what they left off doing. So again what was this love and why did they cease from doing it? To find out we need to back up to when the church first started.

The First Century Church

In Acts 4:32-37 it describes how people sold their property and gave freely of their possessions. Think about it. These people were so excited, so stirred to action, so motivated by the witness of the apostles and the resurrection of Jesus that they would **go to any length** to give out this good news and see that the needs of each other were met. So what was it that drove them, gave them such zeal to do what they did?

The church was taking off with great power and causing quite a stir, especially among the

leaders at that time. Religious leaders especially began to see their power base slipping. They were, no doubt, quite angry and frustrated, but no matter what the consequences, these new converts were not deterred. Nothing was going to stand in their way. . . nothing. Many of these same folks, at that time were a 'living sacrifice' (Rom. 12:1) They really did fit the definition of 'agape love'. They would go to **any length** to attain the well being of it's object.

It becomes quite evident these folks had a vision of something that gave them great hope. In addition to the miracles they saw, they also remembered Jesus teaching about the **kingdom of God**. For example they may have remembered parables of certain ones given the opportunity for rulership. The parable of the 'pounds' showed how many cities certain ones would be given based on their efforts. The word city comes from the Greek word '*polis*'. It is used 159 times in the new testament and has no other meaning but that of a **city**.

In the beginning their eyes were focused on that future time and the promises Jesus talked of. Everything else was secondary. Notice Mark 10:29-30. . . "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come **eternal life**.

This message that Jesus talked about had substance. It was not a 'pie in the sky' thing. It was real. The people, who heard him speak, saw themselves in that kingdom. It's very likely they also thought it would happen in their life times, or very shortly thereafter. So when Jesus didn't return when they expected him, what happened?

The word's written to the Galatians, mentioned above, were penned about 55 A.D., which was about 24 years after Christ's resurrection and the beginning of the New Testament church. It was then that they were

turning to another gospel. So 24 years later people began to change - why? People began to doubt and lose hope. Most of all though, it was because they lost their focus of the original message of God's kingdom and the world tomorrow.

Paul mentions in Galatians 1:7 that "there be some that trouble you and would **pervert the gospel of Christ**." This was the real crux of the matter. It was the thing that began to undermine their zeal. They began to lose sight of that future, that wonderful world tomorrow when God's kingdom would usher in a time of peace and prosperity for all, including their own reward in that kingdom. They began to talk less and less of that future and focused more on their own time and circumstances. Consequently, their **love** for this **message**, and even each other began to wane. They began to say, "what's the use!" They began to give up this hope.

As we read carefully through the scriptures, we can begin to see certain dissension concerning who the people would follow. Notice 1 Corinthians 1:11. Paul was exhorting them to stay united with the message. . . stay focused and not get hung up on who was their favorite leader. Some liked Apollos. Some liked Peter. And, no doubt, there were others who were gaining a following.

As time marched on the original message of God's kingdom continued to dim. Paul's life was about to end, and he tells Timothy, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." (2 Tim 4:6) So he gave instruction to him to continue to focus in on the preaching of God's kingdom, and to be ready for the time when Jesus would return. For he says the time was coming when people "shall turn their ears **away from the truth**, and shall be turned unto fables:" (2 Tim. 4:4) It's very likely at the close of the 1st century the love they once had, so slipped, so faded, that instead of being a living sacrifice to each other, many would betray one another.

In Matthew 24:10 Jesus is painting the picture of the end time events. When persecution really begins in earnest He says, "And then shall many be offended and shall betray one

another and shall **hate** one another". It's very likely these words were played out, at least to some degree, in the 1st century.

Paul knew this was going to happen and the longer the time passed from Jesus' resurrection, memories of events faded as eye witnesses continued to die off. Soon no one would be alive to remember. Their **love** for the **message** of God's Kingdom continued to slip. It's a matter of record now. We can read about it and wonder why? Why did it happen? What could have prevented it from happening?

No doubt persecution also played a part in their zeal to remain faithful. So the church began to compromise on many things to the point where it (the visible church) was unrecognizable from the original. Much more could be written. Much more can be studied about what happened to the church of the 1st century A.D., but let's fast forward to the church age of the 20th century to see if there are any parallels between the two church ages.

The 20th Century Church

My first encounter with the church, more specifically the Worldwide Church of God, was in 1966. At that time a friend of mine gave me a stack of Plain Truth magazines. These caught my interest as they seemed to give some practicality to the Bible. It was far different than what I was acquainted with in my protestant background.

Shortly thereafter, I began listening to a radio broadcast called 'The World Tomorrow'. The very title and it's introduction each time, set the stage for what would be spoken on the program. "**The World Tomorrow**. . ." Immediately these words stirred my imagination. What was he about to say? What would be the message? Would it be a doomsday message, or a message of hope?

At that time we were in the tumultuous 60's and the Vietnam War was raging. There were conflicts, both at home and abroad. If ever there was a time we needed to hear a message of hope, it was then. We were sick of war and what was happening to our nation. It seemed

like we were being torn apart. Many of us began to ponder questions like, why war? Why does man always try to use war to settle matters rather than peaceful negotiations? Why can't nations find a better way? On the home front, why all the broken homes, along with all the other social unrest? Why shouldn't we have peace? If only we could put away our human tendencies for '**anger**', for selfish ambition at the expense of our neighbor. If only we could treat our neighbor the same way as we would want to be treated, we could have peace. **This world could be utopian**. People could be extremely happy. If only. . . If only . . .

Then, the larger questions began to form. Was there a purpose for man? Was there really a God? If so, why does he permit war... this wretchedness. Why the empty lives? Many people, we could see, seemed to have no answers. What was the meaning of it all?

As we continued to listen to the 'World Tomorrow' broadcast, we began to see some answers put forward as solutions to man's dilemma. The voice of this program claimed the answers have been there all along. It's just that the world has been deceived.

So this is what was drawing us, This is what was holding our attention. It was this message. But were they just empty words? Could it really be true? Was it possible for a utopian world? This voice not only said it was possible, but that it was going to happen. Furthermore, the voice of this radio broadcast claimed this was the **message** that had been hidden from mankind all these years, but why?

As I look back on it now, as we all can, was it not this **same message** that had been preached by Jesus, Paul and the other apostles, that was stirring our hearts? We all not only read our magazines, but listened intently to the broadcast each day. In addition to that, we could hardly wait until each Sabbath came when we could fellowship with people who also had this new found interest.

The following is a sampling of one such radio broadcast beginning with the announcer Art

Gilmore, who has since died. For those of you who remember, think of the background music also as you listened to these words:

"Herbert W. Armstrong brings you the plain truth about today's world news and the prophecies of the World Tomorrow".

"Well greetings friends, this is Herbert W. Armstrong with the good news of the world tomorrow. Yes, it's a wonderful thing that the news is going to be good. . . tomorrow. There's a reason why it isn't good today. And it isn't good because we haven't made it good. It isn't good because human beings don't know the way of peace. We are reaping exactly what we've been sowing.

Now there is a way that seems right to a man, the ends thereof are the ways of death. That's the way we've been living. We're living now in a world of chaos growing up into world revolution. We look out over this world and look at the suffering, the unhappiness and the heartache, the empty lives. There's a cause for it all. And we're not going to have a world of peace, a world of real happiness and abundant living, and prosperity for all, until we come to find the way into those things. And we are going to be forced to learn that way and in our time and in our generation . . ."

Try to recapture the dynamics and intensity of Herbert Armstrong's presentation! But more than that, were the words true? Were they believable? If they were believable then, are they still believable today?

First off, he says it's a wonderful thing that the news is going to be good. . . tomorrow. Meaning at some indeterminate time a new world order is coming. Is that statement true? Well it depends on who you talk to. Those who believe in the Bible as God's word can see that new world order described through the pages of Isaiah and elsewhere. The Bible plainly says that there is a time coming when all people will know God from the least to the

greatest, as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9) There's a time coming when **all** people will learn how to have peace with his neighbor. Do they know it now? It's obvious they don't as we think of wars in the Middle East, Yugoslavia and elsewhere.

So this message rang out over the airwaves loud and clear that there is a new world coming. One where there will be universal peace. One where even the vicious wild animals will be at peace with mankind. (Isaiah 11:6-10) How wonderful! How tremendous! This was a message like we never envisioned growing up in the Protestant or Catholic backgrounds. On and on the Bible explains this in various places. Herbert W. Armstrong hit us with this good news (gospel) right up front on most every radio broadcast he ever did. It was the heart and core of the gospel message that Jesus preached. It was the same message Paul and the rest of the apostles preached. It was the message of the hope of **God's kingdom** and the **world tomorrow**.

Listening to Herbert Armstrong and following along in our Bibles we believed a new utopian era was about to dawn upon us. We were so inspired by this prospect that we wanted to be a part of it. We saw ourselves as being in that new world. Furthermore we saw the proof in our own Bibles. If we could prove that God exists, and if He really did inspire this book, the Bible...?

Herbert Armstrong made this message come alive. It had been almost dead, it seems, for these 19 millennia, and now it was alive again. As we listened and pondered we were gripped with excitement. It made sense. We began to understand how the world was deceived. (Rev. 12:9) It seemed only a very few people understood these timeless truths. Why could we envision this new world, and why did these things make sense to us and not to most people? We felt drawn to the message. It was different all right. And we were following right on as he read the words out of the pages of our Bibles.

But going on, Herbert Armstrong said today's world is a world of our making and the way of peace we just don't know. He stated that there

is a cause for all the suffering and heartache today. Was he accurate about that? I think it is every bit as accurate today as it was then. Aren't many, if not most of our problems, self inflicted? And aren't most of our problems of a spiritual nature? If we could only get a handle on anger on our selfish desires and turn them around to love our neighbors as ourselves. We could see how a utopian world could happen, but when?

The one thing he said oftentimes was that this new world would culminate in our generation. Now that is something that he would not know, nor can anyone know for sure. Although, if we look at Matthew 24 where Jesus is describing the end time events, He says, "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.** (Mat. 24:33-34)

The urgency of these words seemed to say, this is happening now. We must be living in the end time. But didn't Jesus own followers of the 1st Century hear these words and how about every succeeding generation? Maybe each generation has thought, "it can get no worse, we must be living in the time of the end." There seems to be evidence to prove this to be true. But what makes our generation unique is that no other time in history did the possibility exist for all human life to end with a big bang! Not like our time. . . What with endless array of war machines and the technology to operate them. With the push of a button, whole cities can now be obliterated. The scenarios of chemical and biological warfare are even more frightening.

Conditions for global warfare are continuing to move ever closer. So just when do these words of Matthew take effect. We thought they were true in Herbert Armstrong's day, and so did he. But are not conditions more likely today than they were back then? Just think of the computerization of everything since 1986. Surely the words of Daniel 12:1, 4 are more appropriate today than they were 15 years ago. So was it wrong for Herbert Armstrong to lead us to believe we are or were **that generation** of Matthew 24:34. I think not.

But think about these words of Isaiah how he describes this physical world that is coming...Don't they hit at the heart and core of what involves peoples hopes and dreams? And just how good is technology anyway, if you can't live in peace to enjoy all the endless gadgets?

I think you will have to agree with me, Herbert Armstrong's message began in a dynamic way and continued on hitting the nail squarely on the head. The message he talked and wrote about appealed to all of us then, and it is one that should appeal to all of us now. But why all the splits and what happened to this good news. Herbert Armstrong continues. . .

"Now my friends why is it that you have **not heard the gospel of Jesus Christ**, but a different gospel about his person? A gospel that teaches exactly the opposite of what Jesus Christ did. Why is it that you have been brought up to believe exactly the **opposite of what the Bible says**. Exactly the opposite of what Jesus Christ taught. Why is it that you have been brought up from childhood **practicing customs** that are exactly the **antithesis of those that Jesus practiced**, setting us an example that we should follow his steps, and do as he did. Exactly opposite that the apostle Paul taught to the Gentiles that had been converted Christians."

This was a bombshell! Never had we heard any preacher say such things. Could something like this actually be true? It sounded like a far out claim that for 19 centuries we had "**not heard the gospel of Jesus Christ**." It sounded a bit preposterous, even a bit arrogant, for anyone to make this claim. But could it really be true? This was the challenge he put before us. The more we pondered it the more it began to ring true. Whenever had we heard sermons in the churches of our worldly background about the message Jesus preached? Wasn't it always about his person? We were not ignorant about what Jesus did in giving of His life so that we may live. This was not something we were strange to. But little did we remotely realize or take to heart what He talked about. . . a **God Kingdom**, a place in that kingdom, and

the physical effects of it **on this earth**.

Think back 20 or 30 years ago. Look at the zeal we all had for this message! Were we any different than the 1st Century church? No, I would say not. We fell in **love** with this message. We embraced it. We believed it! We began proving it out of our own Bibles.

Many people at that time gave generously of their time and substance, just like Acts 4:32-37. Some even sold their farms and moved in to town so they could be nearer to the church and other people of like faith. For those that remained far distant, they drove...and **drove**... Each week they got up early and headed down the road to church, sometimes 200 miles or more, each way! Once at church, they stayed the rest of the day and then turned right around and headed back home, arriving late, just in time to greet the 1st day of the new work week. Sometimes people stayed over night at church brethren's homes. These folks were happy to help out as well with meal and other accommodations. This they did week after week, month after month, year after year, in all kinds of weather...for many years! Was this not **love**?

Yes, there was **zeal** alright. There was **love** alright...not only for the message, but for one another as well. We were in the process of bonding with each other stronger than we ever had with even our own physical families. Never, would we ever expect to drive this far to hear a speaker, or fellowship with other people. How was it possible? Some extended family members, as well as others who knew what was happening, thought we were crazy!

As the months and years passed we were learning more and more about what the Bible says. We were actually '**coming out of this world**'. We began to learn about God's Holy Days verses the counterfeit ones the world observed. Did it cause a stir in families? You bet, and how! Many people lost their jobs because of their desire to observe the Sabbath and not work that day. Many families were broken up. Was it easy living in families where there was a lot of yelling and screaming because of this new found fanatical religion of Herbert Armstrong's? They did not remotely see it as God's commands. To this day, they

do not. But was it easy? No, but it made our determination stronger when we saw the words Jesus spoke. "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a **man's foes shall be they of his own household**. (Mat. 10:36)

No it wasn't easy. . but we had joy. Life began to have meaning. We saw God's plan unfolding to us through the Holy Days. We began to see that God's purpose for creating man was far greater than anyone could have imagined. And it was through this message that we were called, and let's be honest about it. The messenger at that time was Herbert W. Armstrong.

When Jesus came to this earth he brought a message of hope, and the 1st century church started out with a **fervent love of that message**. We can look back and it seems amazing that the whole world, basically, lost sight of His message and followed after a different message. . that of his person. It appears that Satan, who is the god of this world, was quite effective in making it seem right, while at the same time diverting mankind's attention away from the goal. . . **God's Kingdom**.

But how much more amazing is it when we contemplate our present era. When we can see how quickly the message **has changed** again. Can Satan actually use the same tactics and deceive folks just as easily this time as he did in the 1st Century?

How Did It Happen?

Think back, how many years after Herbert Armstrong's death was it that the keynote address at the Feast of Tabernacles was not reflective of that future time and the new world order, but was mainly again about the person of Christ? Was it one year or was it two?

The change was gradual but none-the-less, it was changing. The deviation of messages

given from headquarters was very slight at first. In fact it was almost indiscernible. But as time went on it became more and more noticeable in just about everything the church was involved with. Even the hymn books were changed. Why? What was going on? To this writer it seemed someone could not wait until Herbert Armstrong was dead and wasted no time to affect these changes.

The 'World Tomorrow' telecast, the 'Plain Truth' magazine, the booklets, everything began to be refocused. I was in charge of our local church library, and as I recall, nearly every week a new 'official' listing was sent out as to what was now to be acceptable church literature. We were told to get rid of many of the reprint articles and booklets as they were no longer valid. What? How could this be?

The church appeared to be focusing itself more and more on itself and less and less on giving out the gospel of God's Kingdom, the message we once embraced and committed ourselves to. In short, the church had taken it's eyes off the goal. It had lost it's way. Why? Because it had **changed the message**.

It was a conditioning process. It took about 7 years from the time of Herbert Armstrong's death to make the complete change over. It started at the time of his death or possibly shortly before, and by July 1992 was complete. Notice the July 27, 1992, Pastor General's letter to the church.

"I call the changes we have made **growth**, not to obscure the fact that they are changes, but because I believe they **are** growth! It grieves me that someone can actually feel that the spiritual health of the Church is threatened **because we preach Jesus Christ!** Jesus says that if any will deny him before men, he will deny them before his Father in heaven. (Matt. 10:33). Jesus Christ, the Son of God who dwelt among us, died for our sins, and was raised from the dead, and sits on the right hand of God as our Intercessor and Ruler, is the focal point of all the Bible. **He is the Gospel. He is the kingdom of God.** He is the light of the world, the bread of life, and the prince of peace."

There it was! What started out to be a gradual, almost indiscernible leaning in the message, now was in print. The bold statement was made changing the message from what Christ preached to the person of Christ. Doubts began to enter the minds of some. They began to reason. . . "maybe we've been led down a blind alley. . . maybe the message we had heard was not all we believed... maybe the world's churches were not so wrong after all."

Just think of the effect these words had on the church at that time. Whether we realized it or not, saying 'Jesus is the Gospel' or that 'He is the kingdom of God', made Herbert Armstrong out to be a somewhat of a liar. Maybe it was not so bold at that time to make the statement, but his credibility was on the line. Suddenly some began to think Herbert Armstrong was not as truthful as we once thought. "Why, how do we know he didn't just think up this plan to build his own empire." Soon all kinds of rumors and allegations began to surface. They didn't need to be verified. But the writing was on the wall. From this point on many began to lose heart. Why?

Why should this appear strange as happening? The Bible is quite explicit about certain things like this, but for some strange reason, we never thought any error could emanate from headquarters. Why that was 'holy ground', or so we thought. But somehow we seemed to forget the words Herbert Armstrong drilled into us that we should not believe him or anyone else simply because they said it... "**prove it from your own Bible.**" "Somehow or other we had forgotten the words of Paul as shown before that men would rise up "of your own selves. . . speaking **perverse** things (Acts 20:30)

When we think of the word 'perverse', we generally think of something totally immoral or dirty. It carries with it that type of connotation. We say things like, "he's a pervert . . ." meaning a total deviate or shameful person.

The Greek word for 'perverse' here is '*diastre*', which means "to turn diversely". (Young's Concordance) In Galatians 1:7 Paul says, "there be some that trouble you and would

pervert the gospel of Christ." The Greek word here is '*metastrepho*'. It simply means "to turn".

So there you have it. The word in the Greek does not necessarily carry with it an evil or immoral connotation, except as maybe in the context of how it is used. It simply means to divert from going in one direction to that of going in another. It does not even mean something totally opposite either. It can mean a very slight change.

But what were the words of Paul? What did he tell them to do? He says, "But though **we** or an **angel from heaven** preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Here, even Paul recognizes that it would be possible for an 'apostle' to begin teaching something different. Didn't we know that?

Yes, many did. And from that time forward many began to withhold tithes and offerings. The interest, the enthusiasm people once had suddenly began to wane. The change in the message seemed to have a direct connection with the financial health of the church. Notice the August 25, 1994, Pastor General's letter.

"Income seems stable at about 7 percent below last year . . . The unpleasant news I bring to you now is that our projections for next year **must again anticipate a decline.**"

By March 27, 1995, the income had suffered severely. Layoffs were now imminent.

"Last month I shared with you my sadness about having to terminate **hundreds** of church employees due to a **30 percent decline in income**". . .

How quickly the church had gone from growing, to a steady decline, and splitting up. Could it have been the same as what happened to the 1st church age? Again the words of Revelation 2:5.

"Never-the-less I have somewhat against you, because you have left your **first love**. Remember therefore from whence you art fallen, and repent and do the first works or else I will come unto you quickly and remove your candle stick out of his place, **except you repent**". . .

Had the candle stick been removed 'out of his place'? Had God removed his blessing from the church? Did the church of the 20th century rewrite the same history of the 1st century? Did we lose our **first love**? Did we substitute something else for the love we once had for that **message**?

Conclusion

Throughout the 50 years from the mid-30's to the mid-80's the message Herbert Armstrong reintroduced to this world was that of God's kingdom and the world tomorrow. This was far different from what the churches of this world, even those claiming to be Christian, taught. Throughout that time also, he pointed out that the real god of this world is Satan and that this message struck at the very heart of what he has deceived the nations about.

Since Herbert Armstrong's death in 1986, many articles and books have been written condemning him and the Worldwide Church of God. But let's stand back and really think about it. Who taught us to really open up our Bibles and let it be that which we believe? He was the one who really showed us God's Holy Days verses the days this society observes.

As a result of his persistent efforts over those years we've come to really see some things we never knew before. Things which the so called Christian churches never taught us. We've come to see God's plan for mankind in his holy days and by observing them we had come to understand these truths more fully. We've come to see God's plan offers life to all and that he has a timetable to deal with it. These things we came to see by observing the true holy days. In short we've come to understand the truth of the Bible is far more fantastic and exciting than we ever thought before.

We began to see the Old Testament and New Testament as one. The message of the Old Testament is basically that of the same Christ and the apostles preached in the new. The Old Testament writers talked about rebuilding the 'old waste places, deserts 'blossoming as a rose', and people living long, abundant and satisfying lives. There are hints of a resurrection and eternal life also in the Old Testament when you consider some things written in Job, the Psalms and elsewhere.

Chapter 11 of Hebrews talks of God giving many promises to the forefathers of old, which have never been fulfilled in their day. But the time is coming when they will be. How close are we to that day. In one sense we are 15 years closer than when Herbert Armstrong died. In another sense we are as close as our next breath, because we don't know when that next one is that will be our last.

Yes, it's true, the **true gospel** has not changed, but some have tried to 'pervert' it or change it in some way. The god of this world would have us get our eyes off that future hope and stop growing, stop being excited about it. We must not let that happen. For many of us it was a hard fought battle at first to commit ourselves. It was like Matthew 13:46 finding that '**pearl of great price**'. Once we found it we sold all and bought it. Why now do we want our money back. Has the 'pearl' lost it's value? No. Of course not!

Again, there are many voices out there who would have you believe all the effort and sacrifice you gave, by believing the gospel **message** was in vain. But let's clearly understand what the Bible says is **vain** and what is not.

In Matthew 15:9 and Mark 7:7 Jesus said, "In **vain** do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Jesus clearly says it's possible to worship him and do it all in vain. Until Herbert Armstrong came along, I did not know that this world's religions are following doctrines & practices that are not commanded in the Bible. When talking about Christmas, notice what it says in Jeremiah 10:3. "For the customs of the people are **vain** . . .

To the contrary learning what we did in the Worldwide Church of God, while Herbert Armstrong was alive. . . , what God says we ought to observe, is not in vain. But many folks are going about saying it was all for nothing . . .wasted time and effort. But look what God thinks of that kind of talk. "Your words have been stout (hard, severe) against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, what have we spoken much against thee? **Ye have said, It is vain to serve God:** and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance. . ." Mal.3:13-14

What good was it to keep the "Feast" days? Yes, many voices out there are telling you it was foolish for you to travel each Sabbath 200 miles to observe it, listening to messages promoting the true observances. Many are saying we wasted our substance by tithing...spending all that money to promote the **true gospel**. They are saying it was utterly futile to support a building program for Ambassador College, which was to be a showcase to the world promoting **true values**. The words telling you these things God says are **hard, severe** against him.

If we begin to have regrets about everything we've ever learned about what's true and what isn't, **that is the real tragedy!** But if we go on and so continue to fear God in the proper way by observing His Holy Days, striving to keep the commands he tells us, striving to overcome our own human natures, he says it's worth it.

He says, "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought on his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels (**special treasure**) and I will spare them, as a man that spareth his own son that serveth him. **Then** shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Furthermore is God forgetful to forget your prior service? Just because the 'church' is presently scattered, doesn't mean he's

forgotten you or the commitments and love you displayed toward Him or the other members you fellowshiped with in the past. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of **love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." (Heb 6:10)

So take heart, God says there's a time coming when we will know just who's who. He says it's not in vain to observe His Holy Days or that we have tithed & sacrificed in other ways. Quite the contrary . . .there is great reward. . .

Rather, let's look back on those times in the past when we had joy in fellowship concerning the big questions of our existence and that of the future. . .our lives and the hope of all mankind...the true gospel message...**the kingdom of God**. Let's remember our **First Love**.

WHY DO YOU OBSERVE SATURDAY?

by John Currier, Douglasville, Georgia

This is a fair question and one that is asked quite often of those of our faith. I mean, after all, isn't Sunday the day that people are supposed to worship God? All the churches counting from the Roman Catholic Church right on through the Baptists, the Methodists, the Pentecostal churches, and even the Mormons and the Jehovah Witnesses observe Sunday as the day of worship. So, if all these churches say that Sunday is the day of worship, how can we claim otherwise?

Well, the answer lies in your Bible. Is there any place that Jesus said to change the day from the seventh day Sabbath to the first day of the week, Sunday? Are there any examples of the apostles observing Sunday as a day of worship? Did any of the apostles say that the day should be changed? **How** and **when** was it changed and **why** was it changed, and **who** changed it?

Many people today assume that the day of worship has always been Sunday. Others presume that it doesn't make any difference what day is used? Sunday is sometimes referred to as the "Christian Sabbath." Are any of these things according to God? Let's go to the only true source of knowledge--the Bible.

There are only eight places in the Bible that mention the first day of the week. Six of these have to do with the Resurrection of Jesus and in no way relate to a worship service. The other two (Acts 20:7 & I Cor. 16:2) have to do with Paul. Obviously, from the text in **Acts 20:7** he and others had come together to eat an evening meal. This was apparently on Sunday, but there was no intention of a worship service. There was no singing of songs of praise. There were no prayers being offered. There was no worship being done. What was being done is that Paul was teaching. And why was he doing this on Sunday? Because he was planning on leaving the next day and the people were wanting to hear as much as possible from him before he left. And so, he taught all through the night! At best, one may describe this as a "Bible Study" but certainly not a worship service.

In **1 Cor 16:2** Paul writes the following: "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made." NIV Paul is not saying that he is coming on the first day of the week, but for the people to set aside a sum of money on that day. Why? Because this is the first day of the week--- the business day. Set aside the money on that day before they have spent it during the week. Then, when Paul comes, the money will have already been collected. There is no mention of a worship service. Those who support Sunday as the day of worship try to read into this that it's a **tithe** that is being collected during worship service. It is not.

Where did the idea of Sunday worship come from? From the ancient pagans!

This was the day all the "sun gods" were to be worshipped. These pagan gods had been worshipped in one form or another throughout

the world for hundreds of years. Only the Israelites--the Hebrews-- the Jews knew the command of God to worship on the Sabbath and of course, to worship Him only. The rest of the world worshipped on Sunday the pagan false gods.

When the Gospel began to go into the world, it was spread east by the apostles through Asia Minor and into Greece, etc. When it went to the west, it began to become distorted in the area of Alexandria, Egypt and on into Rome. In order to gain followers, the western church not only allowed many of the pagan rites and rituals to become part of the church, but actually adopted some of the thinking of those cultures. One of the things that made it easy for the pagans to accept this new religion is that they still worshipped on Sunday.

As time went on, there were many controversies between the eastern and the western churches. The western church wanted more authority and more power in the church since they had the larger following. It became their intention that they would separate themselves from everything that was "Jewish." This, of course, meant the Sabbath! However, they had to have some just cause for doing this. First they claimed that the "Jews" had killed Christ. Second, they claimed that Jesus was resurrected from the dead on Sunday and therefore, Sunday was now the "Christian Sabbath." In 325 A.D., the emperor Constantine, being a good sun god worshiper, declared and enforced the day of worship to be Sunday! Anyone observing the true Sabbath would be arrested and put to death. The western church had won!

The enforcement of the Sabbath went throughout the world. It wasn't until the Reformation started by Martin Luther that the subject was brought out again. Since then, many people have given their lives in support of the Sabbath of God. Remember, what Christ said in **Luke 6:5**:

Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." He did not say that He was Lord of Sunday!

Did Jesus say to change the Sabbath to

Sunday? NO! Did the apostles say to change the Sabbath to Sunday or did they give any examples of worshipping of Sunday? NO! Do you think that any day is just as good as any other day to be the day of worship? God thought enough of that particular day to include it in the Ten Commandments and after so many thousands of years, why would He change it? He didn't!

We can see plainly that neither God the Father, nor Jesus Christ the Son, nor any of the apostles ever sanctioned the changing of the Sabbath to Sunday. We see that it was the church in Rome that was at the core of this. But what do the other churches of today say about the Sabbath? Let's read just a few comments: (All emphasis and underlining mine)

1. **Episcopal-** "Is there any command in the New Testament to change the day of the weekly rest from Saturday to Sunday? None." **Manual of Christian Doctrine, p. 127.**

2. **Methodist-** "Take the matter of Sunday...there is no passage telling Christians to keep that day, or to transfer the Jewish Sabbath to that day"- **Harris Franklin Rail, Christian Advocate, July 2, 1942.**

3. **Baptist-** "There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day but that Sabbath day was not Sunday...it will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week... Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament---absolutely not. There is no scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week." - **From a paper by Dr. Edward T. Hiscox, author of The Baptist Manual.**

4. **Christian-** "There never was any change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. There is not in any place in the Bible any intimation of such a change." - **First Day Observance, Pp.17,19.**

5. **Congregationalist-** "The current notion that Christ and His apostles authoritatively substituted the first day for the seventh, is absolutely without any authority in the New Testament." - **Dr. Lyman Abbott, Christian Union, January 19, 1882.**

6. **Church of Christ-** "I do not believe that the Lord's day came in the room of the Jewish Sabbath or that the Sabbath was changed from the seventh to the first day."- **Alexander Campbell, Washington Reporter, October 8, 1821.**

7. **Lutheran-** "Observance of the Lord's day (Sunday) is founded not on a command of God, but on the authority of the church."- **Augsburg Confession of Faith, quoted in the Catholic Sabbath Manual, part 1, Chapter 1, Section 10.**

8. **Presbyterian-** "The Christian Sabbath (Sunday) is not in the Scriptures and is not by the primitive church called the Sabbath." **Dwight Theology, vol. 4, p. 401.**

9. **Roman Catholic-** "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we (Catholics) never sanctify."- **James Cardinal Gibbons, The Faith of Our Fathers. P. 111.**

"Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles... From beginning to end of Scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first." -**The Catholic Press, Sydney, Australia, August, 1900.**

"Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the (Roman Catholic) Church, has no good reasons for its Sunday theory, and ought logically to keep Saturday as the Sabbath." - **John Gilmary Shea, American Catholic Quarterly Review, January, 1883.**

"It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church." - **Priest Brady, in an address, reported in the Elizabeth, NJ "News", March 18, 1903.**

"Protestants...accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change... But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that... in observing the Sunday, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the Pope." -**"Our Sunday Visitor", February 5, 1950.**

10. **Dictionary-** "The notion of a formal substitution by apostolic authority of the Lord's Day (meaning Sunday) for the Jewish Sabbath (or for the seventh day)_ and the transference to it, perhaps in spiritualized form, of the sabbatical obligation established by promulgation of the Fourth Commandment, has no basis whatever either in Holy Scripture or in Christian antiquity." - **A Dictionary of Christian Antiquities, vol. 2,p. 182. Article "Sabbath"**

11. **Encyclopedia-** "It must be confessed that there is no law in the New Testament concerning the first day."- **M'Clintock and Strong, Cyclopedia Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature. Vol. 9, p. 19.**

Note: Though some individual pastors may argue the point, we have not found one single Sunday-keeping organization yet, which did not in its official literature plainly admit that there is no Scripture to support Sunday observance.

Since there is no Biblical evidence to support the change from the seventh day Sabbath that God has commanded to the first day of the week, Sunday, it is our belief that this command is still to be obeyed. This has been a very short paper and a little information in support of the Sabbath. There is much more evidence to be shown throughout the Bible in

support of the Sabbath and if you're interested in the information, then please contact us through this web-site. May God bless you in your search for the truth.

The Church of God, Dallas-Ft. Worth was formally organized March 23, 1997. Our Pastor, Dianne McDonnell, has a Bachelor degree in education and has been a member of the Church of God for over 30 years. John Currier our Pastor-Overseer earned his Bachelor degree in theology in May of 1994. We are a Bible believing church, observe all the Holy days of God and believe in total submersion baptism. For further information see our Statements of Beliefs and more information about our church family. Web Site: www.ChurchofGodDFW.com

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A CHURCH WITHOUT WOMEN

by Dianne McDonnell, Arlington, Texas

For decades we have all been taught that women should not offer prayers, lead the song service, give Bible Studies, sermonettes or sermons. We have a church without women. How did we get this doctrine? Did Jesus teach this doctrine? Jesus commands: "Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, **even to the end of the age.**" Matthew 28:19-20.

Jesus **commanded us all** to make disciples and **to teach** and He never placed limits on women. All of our present doctrine is based

on **only two passages** spoken not by Jesus, but by Paul. Paul can not negate the commands of Jesus. Since these two places contradict Jesus, they must be either **misunderstood or mistranslated**.

We have many scriptures written by Paul that praise women active in a teaching role and explain that there is no difference between males and females in the church. Paul teaches, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, **male nor female**, for we are all one in Christ Jesus." Gal 3:28. He is saying in the Church **it makes no difference whether you are a female or a male!** If there is no difference between male and female then why don't we allow converted women to participate in our church services?

Most of our doctrines are based on many scriptures, here a little and there a little, throughout the entire Bible. Present doctrine on women is based on **only two passages** in the writings of Paul. The first is found in I Cor.14. Notice the member participation in services and disorder in the Corinthian church centering around prophesying:

I Cor 14:26-40 (New King James)

- 26 How is it then, ***brethren?** Whenever you come together, ****each of you** has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. (*"adelfoi" 80, a fellow believer, Thayer's Greek Definitions, ****Paul** indicates that each member, male or female, could participate.)
- 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.
- 28 But if there is no interpreter, **let him keep silent in church**, (Paul tells **men to "keep silent"** under certain conditions using the same verb "**sigatoo**" that he uses in vs. 34 addressing wives!) and let him speak to himself and to God.
- 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.
- 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.
- 31 For you can **all** (again Paul indicates both male and female participation) prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be

encouraged.

- 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. (Paul is clearly dealing with disruptive outbursts. He explains that prophets can control their spirits and insinuates they should control themselves.)
- 33 For **God is not the author of confusion** but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.
- 34 Let your women (or wives "gunaikes" 1135) keep silent ("sigatoosan"4601, same basic verb "sigatoo" used in correcting the men in vs. 28) in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. (This refers to Gen.3:16 "...he will rule over you." Indicating a wife's submission to her husband within her marriage, not submission to all men. There is no other principle Paul could be quoting.)
- 35 And **if they want to learn something**, (These wives do not understand, and may not want to learn) let them **ask their own husbands at home**; (their believing husbands should teach them at home) for it is shameful for women (or wives "gunaiki" 1135) to speak in church. (These were unconverted wives and were not allowed to participate in services as converted women members were doing! These disruptive women were probably prophesying as pagan prophetesses did, because Paul asks sarcastically if God's original words came from them!)
- 36 Or did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached?
- 37 If anyone (male or female) thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, (these wives considered themselves prophets) let him (male or female) acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. (Paul sets a policy that the unconverted wives are not permitted to have a part in services!)
- 38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant. (Ignorant of Paul's decision on this.)
- 39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not

forbid to speak with tongues.

- 40 Let all things be done decently and in order. (Again, avoid disruption!)

When Paul writes in verse 31, "For you can **all** prophesy in turn..."He was saying, "You'll each get your turn." Both men and women **members** were participating, but some uproar had occurred, possibly pitting some of the Christian prophets against unconverted wives who considered themselves prophets sent by pagan gods to straighten out these Christians! Paul corrects first the men, and then the unbelieving women in I Cor. 14:35, "**If they want to learn something**, (*showing they do not yet understand, and may not really want to learn*) **let them ask their own husbands (indicating believing husbands) at home; for it is a shame for women (wives) to speak in church.**"

Remember, some upset had occurred and Paul was setting guidelines to prevent further **disorder**. These unconverted wives were disrupting services, probably prophesying as pagan prophetesses did! Corinth was just across the bay from Delphi where female priests presented a famous "oracle". Verse 37 reveals, "If any **think themselves** to be a prophet, or spiritual, (*these wives believed themselves to be spiritual*) let them acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord." **These wives were unconverted, untaught, and thus were not permitted to take part in services.** The earlier part of the passage tells us "...you may **all** prophesy one by one" and Paul is not changing that. The "**every one**" used earlier in vs. 26 shows **converted women** would continue to participate in an orderly manner. These unconverted wives were to be in submission to their husbands, even if they did consider themselves to be prophets! Untaught, they are not permitted to speak. Paul concludes in verse 40, "Let all things be done decently and in **order**." Looking at one half of the correspondence is like hearing only half of a telephone conversation. We have greatly misunderstood what Paul was saying, and cannot continue to use this passage as "proof" in denying **converted** women participation in our services.

Paul praises "**...women who work hard in the Lord**" (Romans 16:12). How does one work hard *in the Lord* without teaching about

Jesus? Paul records Pricilla going on an evangelizing trip and **teaching** the minister Apollos. He praises **Pricilla** (listed first) and Aquila as "fellow workers in Christ Jesus" to whom he owes his life and greets the church that meets at their house, Acts 18:18-26, Romans 16:3-5.

He praises a man and **woman**, Andronicus and **Junias**, saying, "They are outstanding among the **apostles**, and they were in Christ before I was." Romans 16:7 NIV. How can a woman be "outstanding" as an **apostle** and yet never teach a man? Would God put such a restriction on her? Is it against God's will for a woman to teach a man to better understand God's truth? If so, why did Paul praise both Junias and Pricilla? It is vital to understand that Junia was imminent "among" the apostles and not just admired or noted by the apostles. Like Paul, they had been imprisoned for their active leadership roles.

Paul lists spiritual gifts including, "the message of wisdom", and clearly explains these gifts are for **all** Christians, "Now **to each one**

("hekastos" 1538) the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." I Cor. 12:7 NIV. Also, "It was he (Christ) who gave **some** to be apostles, **some** to be prophets, **some** to be evangelists, and **some** to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Eph. 4:11-12

Here "**some**" the Greek "tous" 3588, **is used and not the word for "man"**. Christ gives these spiritual gifts to **both men and women!**

The female apostle Junias is further proof that **both men and women were serving in each of these offices** using their spiritual gifts! Early historians such as Origen (2nd century), John Chrysostrom (4th century) and many modern scholars affirm that Junia was both female and an apostle. See U.S. News and World Report, August 10, 1998, page 52, "A **woman named Junia is called an 'apostle.'**" Thayer's also confirms Junias was female, "A Christian **woman** at Rome..." All spiritual gifts come from God as He sees fit to build and strengthen His Church. The gift given does not depend upon a person's sex.

God is not opposed to women in leadership positions for God put **Deborah** in charge of Israel as a prophetess, judge and leader of his nation, Judges 4:1-8. God spoke directly to Deborah, told her who was to be the military commander under her, and went on to give a

great victory. **God does not change**, He is the same in our era as He was then. "**For there is no partiality with God,**" Romans 2:11. God can call women leaders today.

The **second of the two passages** used against women is I Tim. 2:11-12 NKJ, "11. Let a woman learn in silence with all submission 12. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence." ." Paul was writing to Timothy in Ephesus where there was a problem with false teachers as you can see by the first few verses of 1Timothy. Ephesus was dominated by the cult of Diana, also known as Artemis, and the city was believed to be founded by Amazon women. The Amazons believed in female superiority, and in studying chapters 1 and 2 there are indications that unconverted wives were teaching false concepts of female superiority. Did Paul's rebuke to the wives of Ephesus leave all women unable to follow Christ's command to teach? Let's study the Greek words and see what we can learn.

THE ORIGINAL ORDER OF THE GREEK WORDS of I Tim. 2:11-12					
Greek	gunh <i>Gunee</i>	en <i>en</i>	hsucia <i>heesuchia</i>	manqanetw <i>manthanetoo</i>	
English Strong's*	1 Wife/Woman 1135	in 17 22	peacefulness 2271	2 I let learn 3129	
en <i>en</i>	pash pasee	upotagh hypotagee	didaskein <i>didaskein</i>	de <i>de</i>	
with/in 1722	all 3956	obedience 5292	3 to teach 1321	4 But 1161	
gunaiki <i>gunaiki</i>	ou k <i>ou</i> k	epitrepw <i>epitrewoo</i>	oude <i>oude</i>	auqentein <i>authenthein</i>	
5 wife/woman 1135	not 37 56	I am allowing 2010	6 not even 3761	7 to dominate 831	
andro <i>andros</i>	all <i>all</i>	einai <i>einai</i>	en <i>en</i>	hsucia <i>heesuchia</i>	
8 husband/man 465	but 23 5	to be 1511	in 17 22	peacefulness 2271	

*Strong's Hebrew/Greek Dictionary(Strong)

1. "Gunee" can be translated either wife or woman, Strong's 1135, "a woman;...a wife."
2. (I) let learn The w ending indicates "I" as in "I am allowing" two lines below. Basic Greek in 30 Minutes a Day by Jim Found, Page 84. Most translations omit this.
3. didasko **Jesus** uses a form of the same verb, "didasko" 1321: "Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching** ("didaskontes" 1321) **them** to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20.
4. de In Greek usage the particle "de" modifies the word that comes directly before it, and becomes "but to teach" in this case.
5. "Gunaiki" translated "**wife**" in I Cor. 7:3 and 27. Can be a wife or a woman. (see 1)
6. "Oude" translated "not even" in I Cor. 11:14, "Doth **not even** nature teach...."
7. to dominate - Vincent's Word Studies of the New Testament I Tim. 2:12, "The King James Version 'usurp authority' is a mistake." Strong's: to act of oneself, **dominate**.
8. "Andros" can mean **husband** or man, Thayer's Greek Definitions, 435. The same word is used in Luke 2:36, "Anna...lived with her husband seven years...."

"A wife, in peacefulness, I let learn in all obedience (not causing angry disputes), but to teach (a) wife I am not allowing (present indicative tense—he is not presently allowing a wife to teach), not even to dominate a husband, but to be in peacefulness."

Paul is expressing his solution to a local problem of wives becoming false teachers. The Strong's numbers can be used to easily look up definitions. "Gunee" and "gunaiki"

can be woman or wife. "Gunaiki" is translated "wife" in I Cor. 7:3, "Let the husband render unto the **wife**", and translated also in verse 27, "bound unto a **wife**". Paul writes first, a woman/wife "**I let learn with all obedience**" which indicates that the wives he is addressing are still in the learning stages and not yet ready to be teachers. Paul goes on in I Tim. 2:13 to talk about Adam and Eve, husband and wife. This is further indication that in I Tim. 2:12 he is instructing wives not to dominate their husbands. For a more in depth study of this passage and chapters 1 and 2, see the paper, **Paul and Women Teachers**, by this same author.

Remember Mary was allowed to learn at the feet of Jesus, Luke 10:42. Why did Jesus teach her? Someday she was to teach others, both male and female, the things Jesus had taught her! She was learning, and someday she would be ready to teach.

Christ commands his disciples **to teach** new disciples through the end of the age.

In Titus 2:3 NIV, Paul instructs, "Likewise, **teach the older women** to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but **to teach** what is good." Here the original Greek translated "to teach" means "**a teacher of the right**" (Strong's 2567), the right way of life! Women are to learn to teach so they may become **teachers of the right way of life**. Scriptures that follow suggest they start by teaching the younger women, but does not limit their teaching to women only.

We have always said that we must study **all** of what the Bible has to say on a particular doctrine, here a little and there a little. Yet, in this case our focus has been narrowed to **only two passages** of Paul's letters. Our church doctrine, based on these two misunderstood passages, **conflicts with all the rest of Paul's writings and contradicts the words of Jesus!** We have **ignored all other scriptures** Paul and others wrote that show God is impartial and uses women as well as men to spread His gospel. Jesus never intended doctrinal restrictions be put on women who serve Him, restrictions preventing women from using all the spiritual gifts He has given them! Women in the early church served Him fully. **It didn't matter whether you were male or female!**

Paul wrote about two women who "**contended**

at my side in the cause of the gospel" Phil. 4:2-3 NIV. These women were teaching both men and women, contending for the true gospel at Paul's side. Women hosted churches meeting in their homes, Col. 4:15 (NAS, NIV), Acts 16:14-40. The book of II John was written "to the chosen lady" (chosen by God) and loved by "all who know the truth," obviously a very well known female church leader. Romans 16 praises a woman traveling on church business, and praises many others serving the Lord, including one woman Paul calls an outstanding apostle! **Many women leaders served the New Testament church.** Did Jesus intend for our church today to be **operating at only half capacity** as we face the end times? Did He plan a church with fully 50-60% of its membership forced to work only in the background? Is He pleased that over half of His children are unable to fully use **all** their spiritual gifts? **Did Jesus intend for His Church to become a church without women?**

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OUR MAIL--We are slowly catching up. We are trying hard to keep all current mail caught up. All current mail is caught up to 8-21-2001. In the process of changing computers and learning how to operate the new computer, we got behind. We have some E-mails & Snail Mails dated between 4-27-2001 and 6-14-2001 which are not answered yet. We have not forgotten you. We are trying very hard to catch up. We are sorry for the delay. Laura Lee

As you can see, this newsletter has all been reformatted. Please let us know how you like it or what you would like to see different. Thank you. Laura Lee

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.

PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE FROM RICK & EILEEN BELTZ--From Roy Heathcote, Zimbabwe-Political uprising in Zimbabwe-wants to thank you so very much indeed for your concern, prayers and fasting for us here in Zimbabwe. He says, "Yes the security situation is somewhat serious but two days after your prayers and fasting there was a dramatic change of mind by the Government, unheard of before. They decided to tell the War Vets to stop invading factories and beating up and extorting money and that any grievances were to be dealt with by Government Labour Departments as before. Everyone is at a loss to understand the change of heart, but we realized why... Whilst the situation has improved dramatically there are still pockets of them giving trouble, but at least the situation is worth living with now. For how long we do not know, as situations change daily. Please tell all those who fasted and prayed for us, of this miracle and express our very sincere appreciation. This is the second miracle in 4 months as a result of prayer and fasting. At least we can go to work now knowing we will return home safely in the evening.

RON & KATHY VOLK REQUEST PRAYERS for their daughter **HEATHER VOLK**. Heather's leg was injured while participating in a sports activity. Please pray for Heathers full recovery from this injury.

ITS ANOTHER MIRACLE FROM GOD--UPDATE--We sort of lost contact with **JEAN PRESTBROTEN**, at least temporarily--she lost our E-mail address. Well she E-mailed a couple days ago. Jean had a severe eye problem and became very depressed, because she couldn't see to do anything. Well, Jean can see, and she is back on her computer and she can drive her car again. Please continue to pray for Jean's continued good health. She gives credit for her healing to God and thanks everyone who went to God in prayer on her behalf.

ARLAN WEIGHT is requesting prayer for his sister-in-law **MADLINE** who has been battling ovarian cancer for many years. She has been through many treatments and has suffered much with this. Madeline has a positive attitude, but doctors have now told her there isn't much else they can do. Please pray for Madeline's full recovery.

UPDATE ON LEO SWEET: Leo Sweet died of colon cancer on June 12, 2001 at approximately 7:00PM. His funeral will be in Lodi, Wisconsin on Friday and he will be buried in Sherry, Wisconsin. He is survived by his wife Pat and 2 Sons and grandchildren. Please mail cards to **Pat Sweet, W12801 Highway 188, Lodi, WI 53555**. Please pray for Leo's wife, children and grandchildren as they go through these next several months of mourning his loss. This was a very close family, so this will be a very hard time for them.

JUNE 22, 2001--UPDATE ON HEATHER VOLK, daughter of Ron & Kathy Volk. Heather's leg is getting better, but please continue to pray for her full recovery.

JUNE 23, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR MICHAEL NOVENCHE--John & Nina Novenche, and Walt & Joan Hoffman are requesting prayers for Michael Joseph Novenche who was born on July 24, 1997 and who suffers from a condition called "Astrocytoma". Michael has been undergoing chemo for a long time now in hopes of shrinking a brain tumor which was discovered when he was 2 years old--he is soon to be 4 years old. Recently Michael has broken out in hives from the chemo, and needs prayers for that. On July 10, 2001 his family will have results of an MRI explained to them. For more information and for updates on Michael's condition, you may visit his Web Site at <http://www.geocities.com/michaelnovenche/> Pray for his complete healing.

JULY 13, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR

NOAM YEHUDA--Don and Petra Esposito are requesting prayers for Noam Yehuda who was just born to a very poor sister they know in Israel. Noam has water on the brain and he may need an operation, and a plate inserted in his head. Please pray for this new born babies full recovery.

JULY 19, 2001--UPDATE ON MICHAEL NOVENCHE--Michael's family has provided the following update: Michael's MRI showed no change in the tumor from the last MRI. The films have been sent to the NCI to Dr. Kathey Warren for a second opinion. We are also exploring alternative medicines. We again ask for prayers for Michael and Thank all who have been praying for Michael. Please continue to pray for Michael's full recovery.

JULY 19, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR STEPHANIE, DAUGHTER OF RUSTY AMES--Rusty Ames requests prayers for his daughter Stephanie who has a brain tumor. They are waiting for a future MRI exam. Please pray for Stephanie's full recovery.

JULY 21, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR WALT HOFFMAN--Joan Hoffman is requesting prayers for her husband Walt who has recently been suffering from anxiety attacks and insomnia. They have no idea what is causing this. Please pray for Walt's full recovery.

JULY 27, 2001--UPDATE ON STEPHANIE, DAUGHTER OF RUSTY AMES--From Rusty Ames-Praise God for His Mercies. After a second review of the abnormality in Stephanie's pituitary tissue which was initially presumed to be a tumor, the physicians have determined the pituitary is normal and there is no tumor. Stephanie still suffers severe migraine headaches and we continue to ask for prayer for her healing. We thank you all for the prayer and support you have given during this trying time. May our Heavenly Father be praised for his wisdom and mercy. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!** Please continue

to pray for Stephanie's full recovery.

JULY 31, 2001--UPDATE ON **NOAM YEHUDA**--From Don Esposito-I have great news, and prayer update. Little Noam Yehuda is completely healed. The doctors went to do the operation and found there was only a blood clot that was causing the problem, and he is completely healed. Praise Yah, the fervent prayers of Yahweh's people are being heard. Thanks for your service of this prayer network. Please pray for Noam's continued good health.

JULY 31, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **ROY (RICK) ECKERT**--Rick is requesting prayers for himself. He was stung in the right eye by a honey-bee yesterday evening. He had a reaction from the sting and ended up in the local emergency room until 1:00AM, where they gave him the standard medication for bee stings and now he is experiencing side effects from the medication, such as high blood pressure, ruptured blood vessels, etc. He has decided to skip the medication and put the entire matter in God's hands. Please pray for Rick's full recovery.

AUGUST 3, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **HOWARD PAYNE**--Howard is requesting prayers for himself. He is having circulation problems in his legs and must undergo surgery next week to replace some of the veins in his legs. Please pray for Howard's complete recovery.

AUGUST 3, 2001--UPDATE ON **ROY (RICK) ECKERT**--Rick reports: The bee-sting has been totally healed - the swelling (which was enormous) went down literally in one day, contrary to the doctor's prognosis that it would take at least a week with steroid and anti-histamine use, which I refused to use. I haven't checked the blood pressure, but am believing that it, too, has been corrected - God is not in the business of half-healing only. Thank you for the prayers and concern - prayer works, and we should be a praying body!!!

AUGUST 3, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **DON & PETRA ESPOSITO**--Petra and myself want to put in a prayer request for ourselves. We were in a car accident today on the way to the dentist in Texas. The car was totaled, but praise Yahweh we were not hurt seriously. I have a bruised nose, hurt ribs, and back and neck injuries, as well as a cut on my

arm. Petra has a bruised chest and pain in her womb, as well as her back. Please pray for recovery with no complications. Please also pray that Yahweh will work out for us to get transportation back to New Jersey.

AUGUST 3, 2001--UPDATE ON **DON & PETRA ESPOSITO**--Greetings in Yahshua's name. Thank you for the prayer request. I spoke to the insurance company and praise Yah it looks like they will get us a car back to New Jersey. But my neck pain seems to be worsening, and my nose is cut and very sore, but I don't believe it to be broken. Petra seems to be doing better, but still has back and chest pain. My air bag did not function so my head hit the steering wheel. But thank God we both had our seat belts on, or it would have been much worse. Thank you so much for your concern and prayers. Please pray for Don & Petra's full recovery and a very safe trip back to New Jersey.

AUGUST 8, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **EVELYN SEALS**--Evelyn Seals is requesting prayers for health and financial needs due to a long illness. Please pray for her full recovery from both.

AUGUST 8, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **HAROLD JOHNSON**--Evelyn Seals is requesting prayers for her brother Harold Johnson who is suffering from lung and liver problems. Please pray for his full recovery.

AUGUST 8, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **DAN**--Arlan Weight is requesting prayers for his Father-In-Law, who is in a great deal of pain from a crushed vertebrae in his back. Please pray for his complete recovery.

AUGUST 10, 2001--UPDATE ON **DON & PETRA ESPOSITO**--Thank you so much for all your prayers. We are doing much better, except for some back and neck pain we are doing fine. Please continue to pray for Don & Petra's continued and full recovery.

AUGUST 14, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **GERALD KLOSS**--Myra McQueen is requesting prayers for Gerald Kloss. Gerald will be seeing a doctor tomorrow to examine a potential prostate problem. Please pray that doctors will find nothing serious wrong with Gerald and that he will have a full recovery from this problem.

AUGUST 16, 2001--UPDATE ON **DAN**--

Arlan Weight's Father-In-Law Dan, was operated on yesterday morning for a crushed vertebrae in his back. Doctors did not want to operate on Dan, however one doctor did finally say he would operate on Dan. Dan woke up from the operation and expressed the fact that he was still alive, not in pain any longer and even went home today. The Doctor who operated on Dan expressed the fact that this was a miracle which he couldn't hardly believe. We here in Bismarck, know that God healed Arlan's Father-In-Law, and we thank each and every one of you for your prayers. Please continue to pray for Dan's continued good health.

AUGUST 16, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **LARRY GRAFF**--Larry has requested prayers for himself. He has either bruised or cracked ribs. Please pray for Larry's full recovery from this problem.

AUGUST 19, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **DAN**--Arlan Weight's Father-In-Law Dan, is still doing well after back surgery last week and his back is not a problem now, however he now needs prayers for kidney function problems, due to that surgery. Please pray for his complete recovery.

AUGUST 19, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **BRENDA BIRCHER**--Brenda is suffering from severe depression and suicidal tendencies. Please pray for Brenda's full recovery from this problem. She is living by herself in Zurich, Switzerland with no close relatives. She came home for a visit this summer but has not felt any better. She has not gone to a doctor, counselor, or minister about her problem. She also is feeling very guilty about the death of her brother. Her mother, Delores is now praying and fasting.

Please send your prayer request by snail mail to: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502
By E-mail to: Darwin-Laura@juno.com By Fax to: (701) 258-7172 Fax hours are as follows:
Mon. thru Thur. Only, 8AM to 5PM Central Standard Time Only.

SEND ORDERS TO:

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

SEND TAPES & LITERATURE TO:

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THESE TAPES ARE FROM THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2000 HELD AT THE RAINTREE RESORT IN WISCONSIN DELLS, WISCONSIN

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ 1. What the Feast of Tabernacles Pictures
Garry Pifer 10-14-00 | _____ 7. Listening to God In Attitude of Service
Neil McIver 10-18-00 |
| _____ 2. Come Let Us Go Up to the Mountain of the Lord
Mitchell Smith 10-14-00 | _____ 8. The Gift of God is Eternal Life And...
Garry Pifer 10-19-00 |
| _____ 3. Road Building
Hal Geiger 10-16-00 | _____ 9. Depression, Arrogance, and Ignorance
Dennis Mouland 10-20-00 |
| _____ 4. Practice True Religion
Tony Stith 10-15-00 | _____ 10. Tithing
Garry Pifer 10-20-00 |
| _____ 5. The Meaning of Succoth
Hal Geiger 10-16-00 | _____ 11. Greatest Risk God Undertook
Dennis Mouland 10-21-00 |
| _____ 6. What is Your Future?
Dave Havir 10-17-00 | |

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 TAPES MAY BE ORDERED THROUGH US.

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ 1. C. Wayne Cole 12-18-99 | _____ 7. Norm Edwards 11-18-00 (2 Tapes) |
| _____ 2. Ray Wooten 3-25-00 | _____ 8. Steve Collins 1-6-01 (3 Tapes) |
| _____ 3. Marriage Seminar (5 Tapes & Study Papers)
Wayne & Claudia Speed 4-22&23-00 | _____ 9. Dennis Mouland 3-10-01 (2 Tapes) |
| _____ 4. Ken Westby 6-10&11-00 (2 Tapes) | _____ 10. Ron Dart 4-28-01 (2 Tapes) |
| _____ 5. Dave Havir 9-9-00 | _____ 11. Ron Smith 5-26&27-01 (3 Tapes) |
| _____ 6. David Antion 7-28-01 (2 Tapes) | |

OTHER TAPES

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ 1. Nimrod's Effect on the Church Today
Wes White 6-17-00 | _____ 4. Spiritual Gifts (3 Tapes & Study Papers)
Wayne & Claudia Speed |
| _____ 2. Church of God Big Sandy Seminar (3 Tapes)
12-23&24-00 | _____ 5. Interview With Dixon Cartright, by Ken Westby
6-9-01 |
| _____ 3. The Holy Spirit
Wayne Speed | |

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. Have We Passed OVER The Passover?
by Berean Bible Study Group 35 pages

ARTICLES AVAILABLE VIA SNAIL MAIL AND E-MAIL [If you need larger print--please ask]

- _____ 1. Go To Your Brother..., by Arlan Weight, Bismarck, North Dakota (From Issue #2)
- _____ 2. Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage, by Laura Lee, Bismarck, North Dakota (From Issue #3)

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

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER? (Please ask people first if they would like to receive it.)

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