

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

November/December 2001-Issue No. 6

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Darwin-Laura@juno.com)

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

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**--The deadline for submitting articles and letters for possible inclusion in our January/February 2002 Newsletter is December 15, 2001. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

**SABBATH SERVICES**--Every Saturday unless stated other wise (see 2<sup>nd</sup> page). We generally do a phone hookup rotation with one of the following: Dave Havar 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, November 16, 2001

Friday, December 28, 2001

Friday, February 8, 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.)

**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.

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

#### **E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL**

Recently many of you have seen the following information flash across your E-mail screens. Everyone will get these often until the end of the year and then we will send them yet, just less often. We are trying to enlist every ones help in unjamming our mail. The mail we receive is overwhelming for one person. We are asking for your continued patience as I continue to try to catch up on the back logged mail and keep current with the new mail. We are doing our best to straighten this out and get it flowing smoothly. Thank you! Laura Lee

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**---Click on the address for the one you need. It should automatically go to your write screen.

**Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com** Please use this E-mail address for prayer requests, prayer request updates, and prayer request inquires and information. Thank you.

**Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@juno.com** Please use this E-mail address for anything which you want considered for inclusion in our newsletter such as articles, advertisements, letters to the editor or points of interest. If you do not want it printed, then do not send it to this E-mail address. Our next newsletter, Issue #6--November/December 2001, will be a little late this time, due to my not being here until 10-28-2001. The deadline for Issue #7--January/February 2002 is December 15, 2001. Thank you.

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

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

We also have computer fax Monday thru Thursday from 8AM to 5PM, Central Standard Time. Shortly we will be looking into possibly having a Web Site--If anyone has suggestions please E-mail us at either [Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com](mailto:Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com) or [Darwin-Laura@juno.com](mailto:Darwin-Laura@juno.com) depending upon whether you want a reply or don't want a reply.

**SNAIL MAIL**--When you send a letter or information via snail mail, and you do not need an answer back or if you do not want it printed, please be sure to clearly put that information in your letter. Thank you.

#### **THE GREAT FALLING AWAY** by Don Esposito

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

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

**"UNLESS YOU CHANGE..."**

**by Royce Mitchell, Jr.  
Manvel, Texas**

What is the lesson that Christ was trying to teach us about ourselves when He took up a little child in his arms and proclaimed that the disciples needed to become like little children? Was Christ trying to proclaim a message to us? If so, *what* could that message have been? Perhaps a look into the scripture in question would be a good place to discover an answer!

In Matthew 18, we find that the disciples had come to Christ with a question that had bothered them on more than one occasion. It was, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" On more than one occasion, one or more of the disciples had been concerned about position or rank in the coming kingdom. But on this occasion, Christ called a "little child" to Him, and used that child to demonstrate an important principle to them. What was that principle?

Matthew 18:3-5 states, And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the *greatest* in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name *welcomes me.*" (NIV, emphasis mine throughout).

Christ had placed the importance of becoming like a child in context with the question of greatness! Further, He had made the startling statement that unless one becomes like a child, that they would *never* enter the kingdom! Finally, Christ equated the humility of a child with the answer to the disciples' question of who would be greatest! These are eye-opening statements indeed, especially in light of Christ's warning of being left out of the kingdom.

So, it would behoove us to find out exactly what Christ was trying to teach us with that example. What is it about a child that God finds so endearing? Being concerned about having lived a life in conformance to the law of God, and then not being found with the

childlike qualities that Christ demanded we exhibit, I wondered, "How could anyone ever understand what needed to be done?" Then, it happened, I became a grandfather, for the second time! But, this grandbaby I was to see frequently, and was able to observe, and learn from her!

Her name is Felicity, and she has been an education. As I have been privileged to watch her grow up, and now also her two younger sisters, Elayne, and Emily, the lessons have been driven home clearly. So, what are the lessons that we can learn from little children? It is my hope that I can clearly illustrate the answers to that question in this article.

Obviously, the first quality was referred to by Christ Himself. That quality is humility. Some will say that pride is a part of the make up of a child. To that I say, "True!" but what form does that pride take? When is a little child the proudest? It is when they have humbled themselves to please their parent! They have pride, but in a humble kind of way! It was this dichotomy that Christ was attempting to illustrate to the disciples, and by extension, to us. There are many warnings to avoid pride in scripture, yet here Christ pointed out how being like a child, and the pride that comes from pleasing God, was a thing to be sought!

When we stop to consider it, when are *we* happiest? When we are pleasing God, of course! There is a joy that comes from knowing that we are doing that which is pleasing in the sight of God, our Father. For too many years the Churches of God have focused on the fact that we can not please the Father without the Spirit. There is no argument with that statement on my part. However, the joy that comes when we can go to the Father and say, "Daddy, I did it!" only comes when we actually resist that overpowering sin for the first time. It is that pride which is really humility! We did not seek our own, but the desire of "Daddy."

Beyond that, what other qualities can we find exhibited by children that our God finds acceptable in His sight? By observing my grandchildren I have found other traits that God discusses in His Word as being traits that are pleasing to Him. One of them is trust. Anyone who has children or grandchildren knows that they are very trusting, even to the point that we have to warn them to be careful. As a part of trust, children are very willing to

forgive a breach of trust.

I remember when Elayne first started walking, she got in the habit of following me around our house on her visits. On one occasion, she had come up behind me, and when I turned to walk, I knocked her down, bumping her head on the floor. Of course, tears flowed freely on her part. Yet, she willingly allowed me, the one who had been so careless as to not look out for her, to soothe her pains, and calm her. After several minutes of hugging and kissing (and the offer of a cookie), she was all smiles, and back to following me around the house. What an attitude!

Does God want us to be as forgiving, and trusting as that? Let's see what He has to say: "Who is a God like you, who *pardons sin and forgives the transgression* of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but *delight to show mercy.*" (Micah 7:18 NIV). That willingness to forgive is a quality of God Himself! It is no wonder God finds children to be worthy of the example that Christ gave!

There are other qualities that children have that are clearly delineated as profitable for us to adopt. One of them is the attitude of being willing to learn. One of the things that one notices about children, when they spend much time around them, is that they want to know about everything. How many of us have been worried almost to distraction over the constant, universal question of all children, "Why ...?"

Does God find that questioning, searching, longing for understanding to be a good thing? In preparing for this article, there was found that there are at least 35 references to studying or learning in God's word. One obvious one is that we should study to show ourselves approved, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15). Another is, "*Learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless; defend the orphan, plead for the widow.*" Isa 1:17 (NAS). Learn to do good! Little children naturally want to do good, to please their parents! They have not yet learned that there is another way! Indeed, that constant craving for understanding that is a part of the makeup of little children is also what God wants to see in us.

Another quality, and one that I have found is of great importance to our God is that little

children are in awe of their parents. In the eyes of little children, the parents *are* God! That very attitude is how God desires us to see Him. Notice the following verse" Ps 72:18, "Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds." (NIV). The implication here is that only God does marvelous deeds, and the only thing He does is marvelous deeds! Should we hold the One in awe who created our marvelous bodies from the dust of the ground? King David did. In Ps 139:14, King David stated, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." (NIV). King David was said to be a man after God's own heart! Throughout the psalms we see how much in awe he held our Creator God.

Being able to observe my granddaughters has been an education in the principles that God desires to see in us. He wants to see that we are humbled by His presence in our lives, yet proud to have overcome sin, always acknowledging His power in doing so! In Ps 31:23, David wrote, "O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer." (KJV). There is a Godly pride, and that Godly pride is in our going to God in joy at having overcome the world, at least for the moment!

Our God also wants to see that we are trusting. That trust is one that encompasses the virtues of mercy toward others, and repentance, seeking mercy, for ourselves. He wants to see that we are eager to learn more about His Way. This is not to say that we are blown about by every wind of doctrine, but instead that we are willing to diligently seek the truth through His word when confronted by such winds. Beyond that, God wants to see that we are hungry for more of His truth.

And finally, God wants to see that we are in awe of Him, that we recognize that His glory is far beyond our understanding. He wants us to see Him as "Daddy!" He wants us to adopt the same attitude toward Him that Christ did, when He said, "Abba, Father, ... everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Mark 14:36(NIV). That was what Christ was doing when He prayed those words. He was saying, "Daddy, save me from this!" Yet, He was willing to endure whatever it took to move the plan of God to end-game.

These are all attitudes of children which God finds pleasing. They are hard attitudes to adopt as adults. Yet, it is vital to our salvation to adopt them. Christ warned us, unless we do adopt them we will not enter the kingdom of God! It is a vital concept to learn.

How do we adopt those attitudes which have become so foreign to us as adults? That is the subject for another article. As God's children, we should understand that our keeping the commandments is equated with understanding the milk of God's Word. True enough, even the commandments can not be fully understood without God's intervention in our lives. But, that understanding is but the beginning of the understanding of the mysteries of God. We must move on to those things which will make us profitable servants of the Most High God.

If we have not already begun to adopt the attitudes and attributes of a child that are pleasing to God, let us begin. Today is not too late!

*Royce Mitchell Jr. is a member of the Houston Church of God Fellowship. He may be reached with comments at [rmitchel@flash.net](mailto:rmitchel@flash.net) Comments and inquiries are invited!*

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**PAUL AND WOMEN TEACHERS:  
Understanding 1 Timothy,  
Chapters 1 & 2**

by **Dianne D. McDonnell**  
Arlington, Texas

Paul has a problem. He left Timothy behind in Ephesus to deal with false teachers--both men and women. "As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may **command certain ones** ("men" is not in the Greek text but "tisin" meaning ones) **not to teach false doctrines** any longer nor to devote themselves to **myths** and endless **genealogies**. These promote **controversies** rather than God's work..." 1 Timothy 1:3-4, New International Version Bible quoted throughout.

The situation has gotten so bad that Paul

writes the young minister Timothy that he must **command** some to stop their false teaching of "myths and genealogies". He describes the situation further.

1 Tim 1:6-7 "Some have wandered away from these (a pure heart, a good conscience, and faith) and turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but **they do not know what they are talking about** or what they so confidently affirm."

Paul complains that these would-be teachers don't know what they are talking about, yet are expressing their wrong opinions confidently. Then Paul launches into a discussion of sin and the law that seems to be refuting concepts taught by these wrong "teachers of the law". We see only Paul's half of this communication; we do not have the message from Timothy that explains the current problems in Ephesus that Paul is responding to.

**What was Ephesus like?**

Ephesus was a wealthy city that revolved around the massive Temple of Diana, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Understanding the religion of Diana, also known as Artemis, is very important in understanding the background of the Ephesians. Notice in the passage below that Diana/Artemis was believed to protect women during childbirth.

"Artemis of the Ephesians' was not a Greek divinity, but Asiatic. This is shown by the fact that **eunuchs** were employed in her worship--a practice quite foreign to Greek ideas. She was not regarded as a virgin but as mother and foster-mother, as is clearly shown by the multitude of breasts in the rude effigy. She was undoubtedly a representative of the same power **presiding over conception and birth** that was adored in Palestine under the name Ashtoreth. Her worship, **frantic and fanatical** after the manner of Asia, was **traced back to the Amazons**. Her temple at Ephesus was one of the wonders of the world, but its great glory was the 'image which fell down from heaven' (Acts 19:35)." New Unger's Bible Dictionary published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois, 1988.

Thousands of women died in childbirth or in illnesses following childbirth. A goddess that

could supposedly protect them would have a very loyal following.

How were men attracted to this religion of a multi-breasted goddess? Ritual prostitution was a part of the worship of Diana. Paul may be fighting these sexual practices when in chapter 1:20 he addresses "adulterers and perverts" and then urges Timothy to "fight the good fight (against wrong doctrines), **holding on to the faith and a good conscience.**" Some who have rejected faith and a good conscience (meaning they are engaged in sinful practices) are Hymenaeus and Alexander whose teachings are blasphemy.

Next Paul urges prayers for peaceful lives. Recorded in Acts 19:24-41 is Paul's violent conflict with Demetrius, a silver craftsmen making shrines to Diana and the city-wide riot that followed. Paul probably has this specific episode in mind when he urges church members at Ephesus to offer "prayers...that we may live peaceful and quiet lives..." 1Tim 2:1-2. The word he uses for peaceful, (heesuchion from hesuchios, Strong's 2272), is the male form of the word and it translates as "peaceful". The feminine form of the same word (hesuchia, hay-soo-khee'-ah, 2271); is used twice in 1 Tim. 2:11-12 describing the atmosphere in which a woman should learn and what Paul feels should be a woman's attitude. The same word used in the same chapter should have the same translation, "**peaceful**"-a peaceful learning atmosphere-the same atmosphere Paul urges them to pray for so that they might have undisturbed lives! Instead of being translated as "peaceful" as it is in the male form, the female form of the same word was translated as "**silence**". There are many clues in the second chapter of 1 Timothy that an angry dispute has occurred in church, and **peacefulness** is the exact attribute that Paul advocates for both women and men.

So in 1 Tim 2: 11 when Paul uses the female form of the same word, he is requesting a peaceful atmosphere free of anger and disputing. But lets go on with our understanding of the ideas that Paul and Timothy were fighting at Ephesus.

#### **Myths and Genealogies**

Remember when Paul argued against "myths" in 1 Tim 1:4? It was commonly believed at Ephesus that the original founders of the city were Amazons, and that the present residents

were descended from these Amazons. An "AMAZON, was one of a **race of warlike women** who made slaves of the men they captured. According to ancient Greek tradition, ....The largest city they built was Ephesus. There they built many magnificent temples for the worship of Ares and Artemis." The World Book Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, article by Padraic Colum, pg. 344.

The Amazons are believed by some historians to have been real women whose exploits were magnified into myth. These Amazons are reported to have believed they were not only equal to men, but **far superior to men!** Therefore, proponents of the Amazons' goddess Diana taught female superiority, and this background was causing marital problems for the Christian couples of Ephesus! Paul addresses this problem in Ephesians 5:22 as he urges wives to defer to their Christian husbands. The problem was that Ephesian women had been taught in their pre-Christian days that they were descended from Amazons--a superior female race! This would explain the false teachers devoting themselves to "**myths and endless genealogies**" mentioned in 1 Tim 1:4. The long genealogies linked them to their Amazon predecessors, whom they believed to be real people that founded Ephesus. Paul was convinced that they were mythological.

There is another hint that there were some angry confrontations going on in the Ephesus church when Paul inserts in 1 Tim 2: 8, "I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, **without anger or disputing.**" Would this comment be necessary if there hadn't been some anger and some disputing going on? Paul is correcting the men who participated in these angry outbursts, urging prayer not anger or arguments!

What was the likely cause of these disputes? The next verses tell us. Some women were dressing immodestly, even indecently, and were dripping with gold and pearls like the prophetesses of Diana. These women were very likely advocating that one old standby of Diana's religion...female domination! Paul upbraids them for their indecent clothing and tells them to "dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls...but with good deeds, appropriate for **women who profess to worship God.**" Did you notice his sideways swipe at "women who profess to worship God"? Paul felt these

women weren't truly worshipping God, only professing to worship God!

#### **A Dilemma of Unconverted Wives?**

At Pentecost both men and women miraculously spoke foreign languages, Acts 1:14, 2:4. Acts 2:7 should read, "...are not all **these** (The word "men" is not in the Greek in verse 7, 8, 13, or 15) who are speaking Galileans?" Because women were speaking also, Peter felt the day of Pentecost fulfilled the prophecy of Joel 2:28-30. "...Your sons and daughters will prophesy..." Since women spoke languages during Pentecost services, following Pentecost, both men and women members could use their God-given spiritual gifts during church services. **Women were praying and prophesying during services,** 1 Cor 11:5, and a controversy arose over women wearing veils in public.

In this setting, **men bringing unconverted wives to services** could create problems. Were these wives allowed to participate as converted women did? If so, would they teach false doctrines? Was this the case with the wealthy women with low-cut dresses, gold and pearls, who "profess" to worship God, but still are loyal to Artemis and the Amazons? Notice especially 1 Tim 4:7, where **Paul links "godless myths" directly to wives!**

After dealing with the immoral appearance of these women, Paul launches into his decision. **A literal translation** from the Greek is: "A wife, in peacefulness, I let learn in all obedience (learning quietly and not causing angry disputes), but to teach a wife (the Greek for wife or woman is the same word, "gunee") I am not allowing (Paul uses the present indicative tense), not even to dominate (a) husband, but to be in peacefulness."

Paul is letting an Ephesian wife learn peacefully, obediently, but he is not allowing a wife to teach nor to dominate a husband, but to be in a peaceful state. **Were unconverted wives** the ones who first needed to learn peacefully and who were not presently allowed to teach because they were spreading myths? We lack Timothy's account sent to Paul.

The following chart shows the original order of the Greek words and information about their translation. The simplified, unaccented Greek is followed by English transliterations, and the numbers are from Strong's Greek-

THE ORIGINAL ORDER OF THE GREEK WORDS  
of I Tim. 2:11-12

Greek	γυνη <i>Gunee</i>	εν <i>en</i>	ησυχια <i>heesuchia</i>
English Strong's	<b>1. Wife/Woman</b> 1135	<b>in</b> 1722	<b>peacefulness</b> 2271

μανθανετω <i>manthane too</i>	εν <i>en</i>	παση <i>pasee</i>	υποταγη <i>hypotagee</i>	διδασκειν <i>didaskoin</i>
<b>2. I let learn</b> 3129	<b>with/in</b> 1722	<b>all</b> 3956	<b>obedience</b> 5292	<b>3. to teach</b> 1321

δε <i>de</i>	γυναικι <i>gunaiki</i>	ουκ <i>ouk</i>	επιτρεπω <i>epitrepoo</i>
<b>4. but</b> 1161	<b>5. wife/woman</b> 1135	<b>not</b> 3756	<b>I am allowing</b> 2010

ουδε <i>oude</i>	αυθεντειν <i>authentein</i>	ανδρο <i>andros</i>	αλλ <i>all</i>
<b>6. not even</b> 3761	<b>7. to dominate</b> 831	<b>8. husband/man</b> 465	<b>but</b> 235

ειναι <i>einai</i>	εν <i>en</i>	ησυχια <i>heesuchia</i>
<b>to be</b> 1511	<b>in</b> 1722	<b>peacefulness</b> 2271

Hebrew Dictionary. The English words below the Greek are from accepted Greek-English sources.

1. "Gunee" can be translated either wife or woman, Strong's Greek Hebrew Dictionary, 1135, "a woman;...a wife."
2. 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 uses the Greek verb form that indicates **present action**, not a command verb form, **for the present** he is not allowing these women of Ephesus to teach.

"Paul does not command the women not to teach. He employs the **present active indicative** for "allow." The present tense in Greek principally denotes continuous present action. It can refer to present necessity and obligation and to potential action. Greek has its own imperative mood which is not here employed. Commands can also be phrased in the aorist or the future indicative. Neither of these tenses is here used. Nor does Paul use the perfect tense to denote an action in the past which has changed the state of affairs. **Paul is saying: 'I am not presently allowing a woman to teach.'**" Beyond the Curse, Aida Besancon Spencer, Pg. 84-85.

An already established universal rule on women not teaching would already be understood by Timothy. Paul would not be writing in the present active indicative mood.

"Paul does not assume that Timothy already knows this rule. Had this rule been established and universal, is it possible that Timothy, who had worked many years with Paul, would not have known it already? Paul often reminds readers of traditions they should know by saying, 'You know,' or 'Do you not know?' or 'According to the traditions which I delivered to you.'" Paul, Women and Wives, Craig S. Keener, Pg. 112.

### **Wives Dominating Husbands?**

The fourteenth Greek word in this passage, "authentain" is used only this one place in the entire New Testament so there is some controversy about its rightful interpretation. Several sources say that the KJV "to usurp authority over a man" is over translated, meaning more is added than is in the original word. Vincent's Word Studies of the New Testament states of 1 Tim. 2:12, "The King James Version 'usurp authority' is a mistake." Strong's defines "authentain" 831, "to act of oneself, **to dominate**".

What were these errant wives teaching? They taught the old doctrine from Diana, female superiority! They were teaching "to dominate a man" (Strong's 831) or more specifically, "to dominate a husband".

Paul uses the first married couple as his example. "For Adam was formed first, then Eve," verse 13. Paul is saying, "Wives can't be superior to husbands! Adam, the first husband, was formed before his wife, Eve! Next Paul argues in 1 Tim 2:14, "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman (wife) being deceived was in the transgression." Not only was Adam formed first, he was also not deceived, but his wife was deceived! (Here Paul presents a doubtful argument, as both were tricked by Satan.)

Remember that Diana promised wives protection during the dangerous process of childbirth? Paul deals with this next in 1 Tim. 2:15, "But women (wives) will be saved through (or throughout) childbearing (she will be protected throughout the dangerous process of childbearing)-- if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety." The Phillips Bible translates the first part, "Women will come safely through childbirth".

Some think that this passage refers to spiritual salvation, but Paul knew that salvation can come only through Jesus Christ. The literal translation is "But she (the wife) shall be saved throughout the childbearing, if..." Paul is encouraging these women, "You wives don't need Diana to save you during childbirth, God will save you if you stay in faith, love and holiness!" This **reference to a safe childbirth** is another strong proof that he is dealing with wives influenced by the teachings of fertility goddess Diana/Artemis of the Ephesians.

Notice that **childbirth was normally for**

**wives**, not for all women. Paul is concerned with wives who were teaching wrong concepts of female superiority and teaching other women to dominate their husbands. Since he says in verse 10 that the women in question "**profess** to worship God," Paul seems to have misgivings about their real intentions. They claim to worship God, yet he implies that these particular elaborately dressed women with the ornately braided hair may not really be worshipping God. Paul seems to be dealing with problems arising from unconverted wives still clinging to pagan myths and teachings, and these wives are passing myths and false doctrines on to others in the congregation. They are not to teach or practice female superiority any more!

Again, **what were these wives teaching** that was stirring up controversy? Most likely they taught the old myths that they were descended from Amazon women with long genealogies to prove it! Remember the charge not to devote themselves to myths and long genealogies in 1 Tim 1:4 "nor to devote themselves to **myths** and endless **genealogies**. These promote **controversies** rather than God's work-- which is by faith."

There had been an angry dispute in the Ephesus church causing Paul to urge the men: 1 Tim. 2:8 "I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, **without anger or disputing**."

Paul has obviously been asked to mediate in a fight over women in Ephesus teaching female domination, and his answer was to stop letting those Ephesian wives teach! At the start of Paul's letter he had urged "command certain ones not to teach false doctrines any longer". We begin to see that some of these false teachers were female.

### **Paul tells Elder Women to Teach**

Yet in Titus 2:3, Paul tells Titus that elder women should be teachers of the right way of life:

"Likewise, teach the older women (elder women) to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, **but to teach what is good**," (or, to be a "teacher of the right" way of life).

Paul says elder women are to be "teachers of the right" in the original Greek phrase "kalodidaskalos" Strong's 2567, a teacher of

the right. He suggests they start with instructing the younger women, but he does not limit them to teaching only women.

**Paul was not against all women everywhere teaching**, he was against Ephesian women teaching female superiority as was one of the many problems in Ephesus. Paul argues that Adam was formed before Eve, and therefore wives can't be superior to husbands. Also he reassures Ephesian wives that God will save them during childbirth!

**Paul is reacting to a local problem.** He is not dealing with dedicated Christian women teaching the Ten Commandments and true doctrines.

In Paul's second recorded letter to Timothy, 2 Tim. 2:2, he writes, "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to reliable** 'anthroopois' (**men and women**, Strong's 444-- defined by Thayer's Greek Definitions as 'a human being, whether male or female') who will also be **qualified to teach others.**" If a person, male or female, is reliable, sound, and qualified-- then Paul says he or she should teach others God's truth!

There are **many instances of Paul praising women who teach** the truth such as **Priscilla**, see Acts 18:2, 18, 26; 1 Cor. 16:19; and Romans 16:3; **Phoebe**, a "diakonon" servant/minister in Romans 16:1, **Junia** in Romans 16:7, "outstanding among the apostles" **Nympha**, and "her house church"-- the only leader mentioned by name in Laodicea, Col. 4:15. Also **Euodia and Syntyche** who "contended at my side in the cause of the gospel" Phil. 4:1-3. He hails many other women as co-workers in Christ Jesus. Had Paul issued a blanket edict against all women teaching everywhere he would have reprimanded these women instead of praising them!

#### The Words of Jesus

Jesus tells us "...**whoever** practices and **teaches** these commands (the Ten Commandments), **will be called great** in the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:19. Jesus put no gender restrictions on teaching, but said "whoever" and promises **greatness** for both men and women who teach the commandments. Paul was not dealing with dedicated Christian women teaching the true gospel, he was dealing with false teachers

teaching myths and wrong ideas learned from the religion of the goddess Diana of the Ephesians.

Jesus praised the woman of Samaria that publicly preached the words of Jesus to the men and women of her village. **He did not tell her to stop teaching them** because she was a woman! Jesus praised her and told the disciples that they were harvesting where she had sowed. As a result, "Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, ...." John 4:39. Her public witness --her teaching-- resulted in conversions, and **Jesus praised her** and held her up as an example for the disciples!

The words of Jesus are clear commands for **all of us to teach** the true gospel, and we must never be misled by anyone who contradicts Jesus Christ.

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### DELIGHT IN THE SABBATH

by James McBride  
United Kingdom

#### The weekly Sabbath is for Christians a day in which to delight in God's presence

"Sabbath rest" is a concept far removed from the hurly-burly of modern life. The day is, for most, consumed with a round of strenuous (or couch-potato) leisure activity or shopping or visiting - leaving no time for recovery from the weekly grind. Besides, the notion of a day set apart for religious purpose is simply old

hat.

But what if you consider Sabbath observance important to your Christian walk? Is it a day to hibernate in gloomy solitude? A day crammed with restriction? What is a Sabbath rest?

The manner of observance of a weekly "holy day" varies from, Bible in hand, staying in bed all day - through to minor adjustments to the normal daily routine. What is a godly balance?

#### Brief History of Time

Health experts praise the benefits of a weekly time of rest. It's approximately twenty-four hours of physical recuperation. And certainly Sabbath observance provides that - a charging of our depleted batteries. But there's more to it. For, apart from the physical benefit, Sabbath has no eternal value unless we are in a personal relationship with the Lord of the Sabbath.

Jesus Christ is that Lord: "The Son of man is also Lord of the Sabbath" (Luke 6:5). As the Father's representative and executive, it was he, who was instrumental in creating the material universe and the creation of time itself. Writing of Jesus, the apostle Paul told the Colossian Christians: "...by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible...and he is before all things and by him all things consist"

#### A Day of Joy

Certainly such a memorial must encourage a joyful response. Yet many believers dread the approach of the Day! It's traditionally dourly viewed as merely a time of boring inactivity punctuated by a church visit followed by the long-awaited end of the day. Others will invest the day with an endless round of "dout's" to the extent of suppressing the joy of the Sabbath.

Whatever way observed it is a personal matter between each of us and our Creator. What guidance has He given us in the Scriptures as to its observance?

Sabbath is a day of God's appointment - a day He has set aside to meet with His people. It will be useful to note what God has said about this day. To Moses He said: "...the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy

convocation (Heb miqra)" (Leviticus 23:3). That is, a separated day for assembling in His presence. And as the Almighty Creator, He determines the time and the day! He tells us, too, the attitude we ought to have on the Sabbath. Following their seventy years of serfdom in Babylon (imposed by God for Sabbath neglect!) the Jews returned chastened to the land of Israel. They protected the Sabbath by numerous regulations (included in their Oral Law), many of which went contrary to the divine intent of Sabbath observance. Joy was largely emptied from this special Day!

God set the Sabbath aside for rest: "...in it you shall do no work" (Exodus 20:10). To fulfill this, the Pharisees minutely defined "work". It was forbidden to pluck a head of grain, for example (Matthew 12:1ff) - that's harvesting. But it was permitted on the Sabbath to circumcise, which is work for someone (John 7:22). Permitted also to attend to distressed animals (Luke 13:15, 14:5) - a logical exception. For the Pharisees the day of joy had become a burdensome ball and chain - eased only by the addition of humanly-devised circumventions.

#### **Made For Man**

By contrast, how does the Creator of the Sabbath expect us to spend this precious twenty-four hours? Through the prophet Isaiah God makes it crystal clear: "If you refrain from doing your own business on the Sabbath, on my sacred day, and hold the Sabbath a delight, and the Eternal's sacred day [the true "Lord's Day"!] an honour, not following your own wonted round, not doing business and not talking idly, then you shall have delight in the Eternal's favour" (ch 58:13-14, Moffatt). God wants us to enjoy His Day!

Jesus picked up on the same theme. He saw no conflict when the disciples plucked some grain on the Sabbath. (This wasn't theft but was permitted in the Law, though the Pharisees said `not on the Sabbath'! That would be work.) He accepted the Pharisees right to circumcise and to attend to the needs of livestock. In essence, Jesus made it clear that "the Sabbath was made [created] for man" - ie, for our benefit (Mark 2:27). He cited the fact that the divine Law permitted the priestly work to proceed on the Sabbath. He cites also the example of the starving David and his men. [NB This was a one-off emergency situation!] They ate the shewbread

- forbidden to all but the priests. Jesus refers here to the Jewish oral tradition (based on Leviticus 24:8) that the loaves were baked on the Sabbath, and that it was on this day David ate it.

From this incident, Jesus draws the conclusion that "the son of man is lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:28). Sabbath is our servant - for physical re-creation, and above all to provide spiritual nourishment through our contact with its Creator. In a special sense, Jesus Christ is with each of his brethren on that appointed day. *Clear the decks*, Adam was created in the dying hours of the sixth day, and although he didn't need a physical rest, he stepped right into joyful Sabbath communion with his Creator. That's the fundamental purpose of Sabbath. Sabbath, then, is indeed a time for physical rest. It's a day for joyful celebration. It's a day to spend extra time with the Saviour in prayer and in perusing God's Word. It's a time for fellowship, where possible, with brethren. It's even a time, following the example of Jesus, to "stroll through the cornfield". And to enjoy these benefits to the full we should "clear the decks" by preparing for it on the day before.

The vast majority of mankind, of course, treads all over God's holy day without a thought for their Creator. They will work in restaurants and power stations. They will serve in shops and deliver the milk and the newspapers. The Sabbath means nothing to them. In a sense that doesn't matter so long as they don't have a personal relationship with their Creator and Saviour. Are we not glad we can on the Sabbath switch on the power for heat and light and a cuppa! And if away from home can benefit from the services of transport and restaurants and service stations? That we can rest assured the emergency services are at the other end of the 'phone link?

#### **Balanced Choice**

Wise King Solomon made a helpful statement which applies well to our keeping of the Sabbath. He wrote: "Do not be overly righteous, nor overly wise. Why should you destroy yourself [ie be desolate, miserable]?" (Eccles. 7:16). As with life in general, our observance of the Sabbath is a matter of balanced choice. Each Christian must decide how he or she can in their situation best fulfill their weekly appointment with their Creator - in the liberated spirit of the example of Jesus.

The Colossian Christians had a thing about how to observe the weekly and annual Sabbaths. They had taken on board the then prevalent austere practices. Paul told them to lighten up! He wrote: "So let no one judge you in food or in drink or regarding a festival or new moon or sabbaths... Therefore if you died, with Christ, from the basic principles of the world why as living in the world do you subject yourselves to regulations - 'do not touch, do not taste, do not handle' - which all concern things which perish with the using, according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh" (ch. 2:16-23).

The apostle continues by focusing their minds (ch 3) on the important issue - through the risen Christ conquering our base human nature. It's largely through our Sabbath contact with the Saviour that we can so overcome!

Sabbath, then, is a day for the people of God to rejoice before Him, and a day in which to delight.

---[This article was published in New Horizons - the bi-monthly outreach magazine of the Churches of God Outreach Ministries, distributed worldwide. Readers are invited to request a (free) subscription ([coguk@aol.com](mailto:coguk@aol.com)) and to view back issues at [www.abcog.org](http://www.abcog.org)]

For another very good article about the Sabbath, request newsletter Issue #5.

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#### **PART 1**

#### **PHYSICAL ILLNESS AND DEMON POSSESSION**

**by Don Esposito  
Carteret, New Jersey**

There have been many misconceptions about mental illness and demon possession. As a matter of fact there have been many misconceptions about healing in general. I want to, in this article, clear up from scripture

some of these misnomers.

First of all, it is naive and wrong to assume that every person with mental health problems has a demon. I have personally been blessed by Yahweh to cast out demons from people over the years of my ministry on numerous occasions. I have also experienced and counseled different people with mental illness, and there is a difference. This does not mean that someone with mental illness may not have a demon. But to say that all people with a mental illness are demon possessed is pure prejudice. Many times mental illness such as manic depression is caused from an unnatural chemical imbalance in the brain. Today, through advances in science, many of these cases can be treated with a simple treatment, and many of these people can live a normal life. Other people have mental illness from a hormonal imbalance that again can be treated with a safe and natural remedy.

Well, how do we know the difference? It may sound over simplified, but in most cases the Holy Spirit will convict you one way or the other, if we are letting it lead our lives. The problem is most people are not. They are being led by emotions or feelings, or even worse their own human conscience (heart, mind) **which is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked (Jer.17:9)**. Once when at a prayer meeting, a woman started speaking in gibberish that she claimed with a tongue prayer. The spirit in me not only rejected it, but also literally was pressing against my chest almost lifting me off the floor. (Phi. 14:7) States: **"And the peace of Yahweh that surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts and mind through Yahshua Messiah."** Through discernment of the Holy Spirit, I will know almost immediately when a demon is present. But what if one does not have this gift of discernment? How will he know the difference? Let us look at some biblical examples for the answer.

The first thing a believer must understand is the difference of being led by an evil spirit and being possessed by an evil spirit. James 4: 2-12 tells us that we are drawn away from Yahweh when we lust after the things of the world. All good things come from Yahweh; all evil comes from Satan. What we must realize is every time we give in to lust, greed, anger, or any other fruit of the flesh we are being led by evil spirits. 1 Kg. 22:22-23, tells us

Yahweh sent a lying spirit out in the mouth of the prophets to deceive Ahab the King of Israel. Ahab was allowed to be deceived because he was given over to lust, greed, and murder. If he had been obedient to the law of Yahweh, and had stayed under the protection of the everlasting Covenant he would never have been allowed to be deceived by the lying spirit. (Ja. 4:5) **"Do you think that the scripture says in vain, The Spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy?"** This is speaking of our human spirit. (1 Cor. 15:42-43) tells us we are sown in corruption, and dishonor. That is why we must put our grace on daily. When we are not humbly asking for and putting on our grace daily, we are risking giving ourselves over to the influence of evil spirits. And there are all kinds of them. There are lying spirits, there are angry spirits, and there are silly spirits, sexual ones, and also spirits of lust, greed, and covetousness. Many will look at a handicapped person because he may look different, and think oh, he has a demon, but will never look at their own self-righteous judgmental gossiping self, to see that it is Satan and his demons who are bringing and tempting all these evil traits that we give in to. Brethren, we need to take the plank out of our own eye, before we can take the speck out of someone else's. Many times what handicapped people need more than condemnation is love, and moral support. Also prayer for healing. (Jn. 9: 1- 7) **When asked who sinned that this person was born blind, Yahshua 's answer was "that neither the man or his parents sinned, but that the works of Yahweh might be manifested in him."** Maybe someone is handicapped so hands can be layed on for healing and Yahweh can be glorified. Or maybe Yahweh is more glorified in the person's weakness and infirmity. **Paul stated in (1 Cor. 12:10), "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Messiah's sake: FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG."** We know of a wonderful little 15-year-old handicapped girl in Israel. If you look at her you may think that she has Down syndrome, but she does not. She has had many spinal operations, and is in severe pain most of the time. She also has the mind of a child and can not speak. But she is always happy, and never complains, and has been baptized and is led by Yahweh's spirit. She is so overjoyed when a new believer is baptized, or when we worship Yahweh and Yahshua. And it is interesting that she can not speak, but

when she prays I can hear the words in my mind. She also has the gift of discernment that when a person with an evil spirit comes in she knows right away. Now I ask as in John 9, who sinned that this girl was born this way? As Yahshua answered, neither her nor her parents sinned but that the works of Yahweh should be manifest in her. She has several beautiful spirit filled sisters, but no one is writing or talking about them. They are all amazed at Patricia, who was told at birth that she would be a love child. That she is, Praise Yahweh. (1 Cor. 1: 27) **But Yahweh has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and Yahweh has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty."**

I do not argue with the fact that all sickness does come from sin ultimately. Whether our own or Adam and Eves. But we must watch not to judge a sick or handicapped individual, always assuming they must have done something wrong to be that way. Sometimes they are that way to show the glory of Yahweh in their life. It takes a very courageous and strong of faith person to be able to glorify Yahweh each and every day through a health problem. Instead of judging these people we need to be more supportive. Was Nebuchanezzar demon possessed when he ate grass like a wild animal for 7 years? No, he wasn't, but again it was to show the supremacy of Yahweh over the whole earth. Was the woman in Lk. 13:16, who was bound by Satan, and hunched over for 18 years demon possessed? There is no indication of that in scripture, yet the demon was able to keep her hunched over, but did not possess her.

I would now like to discuss what actual demon possession is, and how it comes about.

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## PART 2

### DEMON POSSESSION AND HOW IT COMES ABOUT!

by Don Esposito  
Carteret, New Jersey

I have stated previously that all bad acts and

sin ultimately come from sin and Satan. We sin when we are drawn away by our lust, and are led by evil spirits. All of us are led away into sin from time to time. But what I would like to discuss now is all out demon possession and how it comes about, and how to get rid of it.

A demon can not literally enter a person unless he of his own free will allows that to happen. Yahweh will allow demons to tempt us, to ultimately draw us closer to him, and to teach us valuable lessons in our spiritual walk. Job the 1st chapter verses 6-12 is a perfect example of this. Look at verses 8-12 ***"And Yahweh said unto Satan, hast, thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in all the earth, a perfect and upright man, one that fears Yahweh, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered Yahweh and said, Does Job fear Yahweh for nothing? Has thou not made a hedge around him, and about his house, and about all that he has on every side? Thou has blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And Yahweh said unto Satan, behold, all that he has is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thy hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of Yahweh."*** What many people seem to forget is the simple fact that Satan is powerless over us. That he can only do what Yahweh allows. That he was defeated by Yahshua at Calvary 2,000 years ago, and he only has the power that we give him by not being close to Yahweh and living to the lust of this world. (Ja. 4:7) ***"Submit yourselves therefore to Yahweh. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*** (Lk. 10: 19) ***"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."*** Demons have no power over a human being as long as he is in the will of our heavenly Father. What I have personally experienced is that most demon possessed people have given their soul over to demons by some sort of either witchcraft or some mind-altering substance such as drugs, or alcohol. Even pornography can be mind altering and give an in to demons. The erroneous tales of demons just taking over anyone they wish is Hollywood. It is impossible as we read in James for a demon to enter a person against his or her will. It is only when someone has lost control of his will

or senses through some avenue as drugs that the demon will enter. Remember, evil spirits lead us all astray when we give in to our own lusts and sin, but that is not demon possession. Demon possession is where the demon is actually dwelling inside the person. Besides mind-altering substances, any form of witchcraft such as tarot cards, fortune tellers, Jewish Cabala reading can bring demon possession. In this world today horoscopes and Palm readers are looked at as harmless vices, but I am telling you from first hand experience they are not. Many of these people are being controlled by demons, and Yahweh's peoples should stay completely away from them. (1 Sam. 28:3-23) Tells the whole story of King Saul who went to the witch of Endor, and his imminent demise. He literally had the Kingdom ripped out of his hand for going to this fortune teller. This was such a heinous act that (Ex. 22:18) tells us " thou shalt not suffer a witch to live". Today this is looked upon with scorn. Many people are involved in Wicca, and say it is harmless, but it is giving an avenue for evil spirits to dwell. Most people in this wicked age that we live in give their minds over daily to hours of pure ungodliness on TV, and watch every form of soap opera, and horror movies to give the adversary an edge. We have to guard our minds from the wicked pollutions that Satan has in his world to tempt us away from Yahweh. It must be taken serious. Many even in the body of believers, are so numb to the ungodliness of this evil age that they don't even know the difference any longer. We have to, as the body of believers, put on the mind of Yahshua Messiah, and live holy lives acceptable to Yahweh.

If someone is possessed by a demon how does he get rid of it? First of all you must realize that it is not your power to cast out the demon, but our King of Kings Yahshua Messiah. (Acts 19:15-16) ***"And the evil spirit said Yahshua I know, and Paul I know but who are you? And the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of the house naked and wounded."*** We must never go on our own power. If the demon asks your name, tell him "You come in the name of Yahshua Messiah." Your name is not important. Then you use the authority that Yahshua gave you (If you have been given that authority) to cast the demon out in his name. You must believe totally in the one who sent you (Yahshua). If you lack faith it

will not leave. Then after the demon is gone, you must explain to the person who had the demon that he must keep his house clean lest 7 more come back with the first one, and the end of that person will be worst than the beginning. The person must ***repent*** of the sin, ***revoke*** the act that brought the demon and ***replace*** the act with a positive deed. That is the only way to stay clean. I will say that although demons are rampant in this world today, all out demon possession is rare. But it is getting more and more common as we are getting closer to the end.

We as the people of Yahweh more than ever need to be praying for the gift of judgment and discernment. Judgment is nothing more than knowing right from wrong. Yet is so lacking in the body today. There is such a spirit of immaturity. We are getting close to the great tribulation, and the return to earth of our Savior Yahshua. If ever there was a time to wake up, and start maturing like never before, it is now. There is real spiritual warfare out there, and it is only going to get worse. We must as the body of believers be able to discern a poor handi-capped person who needs love and encouragement from a sick demon possessed person. The only way to do so is by much prayer, and fasting, and putting on true Holiness, that without you will not see Yahweh (Heb. 12; 14).

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**TRUTH**

**by Arlan Weight  
Bismarck, North Dakota**

Recently a person who once attended the Worldwide Church of God commented on how his son, who is in his early twenties, is blaming him for his lack of social skills. He claims that, because he was kept from participating in school activities on Friday nights, he was deprived of something that now limits his ability to relate to other people.

His story is, no doubt, the story of many **thousands** of others around the world dealing with similar accusations in their own families. What are we to think of it? Did parents in the Church of God do wrong by keeping their children from things other children had the

chance to participate in? Should they now regret the course of action they took in withdrawing them from Friday night activities as well as other events relating to Christmas, Easter, Halloween, etc.? Could they have done it differently? Could they have avoided some of these nagging problems as they hear their own children telling them these things?

As stated above, these accusations from our own children are common to many thousands of Church of God parents. It is one of the things that sometimes has caused one of the deepest, most bitter rifts in families. Why? Because maybe, the way our children saw it, they were made to feel like outcasts, different from society. Some have withdrawn themselves from people, as this young man, mentioned above. Is this what we would have wanted? No, of course not.

How should parents receiving these accusations, respond? What should they say? Emotions can run hot and there can be a lot of anger and frustration. How can it be explained? In Matthew 10:34-36 Jesus gives us a hint as to what is happening when he says, "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 daughter against her mother, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."

Why would Jesus say such a thing? Haven't you always heard just the opposite? Of course! But why, or how would Jesus **set a man at variance against his father?** The word 'variance' comes from the Greek word *'dichazo'*. It means 'to make two, divide into two' (Young's Concordance) In verse 34 Jesus says he came to send a 'sword'. What do swords do? They cut, they divide, and it's even painful.

But why did Jesus say this? Doesn't Jesus want unity? In Psalms 133:1 it says "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in **unity**." If Jesus inspired these words in Psalms, is he contradicting himself in Matthew 10:34 when he says he came to divide. . . cause division?

Is there a contradiction here? On the one hand Psalms 133:1 says it's good to have unity and then Christ comes along and tells us he's sending division and divides families. Could it be he's telling us something here, which we need to ponder and think about? Could

it be he's telling us he wants unity alright, but in these few verses he's saying that **truth** has a higher priority than unity and that **it** will cause division in families. . .even church families.

When Jesus was on trial for his life He made it plain to Pilate that there is such a thing as truth and error. He told Pilate, "**to this end was I born, and for this cause** came I into the world, **that I should bear witness unto the truth.** Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice." (John 9:37)

If this world was following the ways of truth there would be no reason for Jesus to say such a thing. Pilate himself must have been confused when Jesus said what he did. He (Pilate) then asked, "What is **truth?**" (John 9:38)

This world is following after a spirit of error. It's not following after a spirit of **truth**. It can't. Notice John 14:16-17 Jesus said, "If ye love me keep my commandments and I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter. . . even the **spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive.**"

Imagine that! The world, the society we live in, **cannot** receive the spirit of truth. The Bible says this world is deceived. Look at Revelation 12:9. "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world.** . . ." There's the answer. That's why this society can't receive the 'spirit of truth'. There's someone guarding the door. And it's none other than Satan. He and his angels are the present rulers of earth. Their influence is everywhere. Mankind, of and by himself cannot accept truth.

So back to the questions asked above, what should parents have done? Once we heard the truth of the Bible should we have turned a blind eye and go on. Should we, could we have continued to send our children to 'Sunday' school when we once learned Sunday is not the commanded day of rest. Should we have continued to teach our children to observe Christmas, Easter, Halloween and all the days society observes, once we learned they all have their roots in paganism? Should we not teach our children to observe the days God says to observe?

Let's think about it. . . If we wanted to measure up to being a 'Christian' according to the Bible definition, we had no other choice. We were faced with a decision. . . There was no way of dodging the issue. How could we look our children in the eye and tell them lies, or not teach them the truth we had learned. Maybe some could but for many this was a crossroads.

Let's think back to that time. For me it was the mid-sixties-early seventies. Many of us were just starting our families. We were young exuberant people striving to be successful, striving to fulfill dreams of making our mark in life or just striving for happiness, like everyone else. Our children were young also, just babies or preschool. In our neighborhoods different families were attending various churches of either protestant or catholic denominations. We, too attended different churches of our choosing. Maybe we were content, maybe not.

Then one day we stumbled across a voice on the radio that claimed most of these churches were in error. That's right **error**. . . How could that be? How could all of these churches, claiming to be Christian be doing contrary to the Bible? Don't they get their religion out of that book?

Apparently not, because many of the things we did in our Protestant or Catholic backgrounds are not there. We began to find opposites in our Bibles, or things contrary to what we had always done or believed. We were somewhat stunned at first. How could this be? It seemed amazing that this knowledge had been there all these centuries and yet religions were not following the book that they claimed as their foundation. The following are some of these things we were shocked to find out.:

1. The Sabbath is not Sunday but Saturday. Most, if not all, mainstream religions acknowledge this but continue to observe Sunday anyway.
2. Jesus did not die on Friday and the resurrection was not on Sunday.
3. The law (Ten Commandments) has not been done away or replaced by something else as some denominations teach. Rather Jesus kept it and taught us that we ought to do so also.

4. Jesus was not born on December 25th. Even if he was, we are not taught anywhere from scripture, to observe it.
5. Except for Thanksgiving, most, if not all the holidays, this society observes, come from origins predating Christianity. The Bible plainly tells us not to learn or practice these days but that it is simply worshipping God in vain (Jeremiah 10)
6. Rather, we are taught to observe the Holy Days God commands listed in Leviticus 23. Jesus, and his disciples kept them. If Jesus is to be our example of how to live why aren't we keeping the same days?
7. Man does not now have an immortal soul. Salvation is possible but it is quite different than what this world's religion teaches.
8. The reward of the saved is not heaven.
9. Evolution is a lie. God exists and is provable in a number of ways.
10. The Gospel, the message of God's kingdom, the message Jesus brought to this earth, has basically not been taught for 1900 years.

This is a short list. There is more. . .much more. It was only the beginning of the things we began to discover. On the one hand we were excited about learning this new knowledge, but on the other hand we could see the problems coming our way once we began to embrace this understanding. Over time we began to see how religions of this world, even so called 'Christianity', were following after tradition and not God's commands at all. They only had 'form', but no real substance.

What were we to do? We had a fork in the road. We could either forget what we heard and read or we could take up the challenge to begin to follow after the Biblical instructions. We could continue to observe Sunday, Christmas, Easter etc., or we could begin to keep the Sabbath and all God's Holy Days.

For most of us with families this was no easy task and it was not just something we casually changed over to. It meant **trouble** for many of us. It meant hostile mates or parents, especially when they began to see our

determination to follow biblical instruction rather than tradition. It was unsettling to them. It was new to us, but it was an **earthquake** to them!

"What? Take off from work or school and go some where to keep what. . . The Feast of Tabernacles? What's that? What, are you crazy? And what. . .no more working on Saturday? How are we to get anything done around home. Don't you realize that's the day when we do the things we can't do the rest of the week?"

And so you respond, "We have Sunday, certainly we can get our work done. It's not like we've lost any time. . .", only to hear, "No way!. . .that's when all our neighbors are resting. Besides what will they think? And, "we're sending our kids to Sunday school, and that's that!"

Oh yes, our children. . ., what about them? What will we teach them? What will their friends say when they can no longer participate in Halloween parties or Christmas things? And what will their teacher say when you pull them out of school for eight days to go off to some 'stupid' thing called the. . .the. . ."Feast of Tabernacles"?

For some it was not as difficult when husband and wife both resolved to follow after this new way of life, but this was not the situation with many. Many found they were faced with an uphill battle on two fronts. There was the one at home with family, and then there was the other with friends and work associates. In some cases it meant our very jobs. Some lost them for their resolve not to work on Saturdays.

Again the words Jesus spoke in Matthew 10:34-36 suddenly came alive. What kind of effort, what kind of conviction was needed to follow through. Just like building a house or going into business, we needed to 'count the cost'. Notice again what Jesus said, "For which of you intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" (Luke 14:28) Could we measure up? Did we have what it took. Could we finish the job? Luke 14:26-33 showed us what was required. Up to this point we had a little taste of what we could expect, but could we go on? Could we go all the way?

So now, as this article started out, what are we to make of it when our own children, who are grown, blame us for things as they do? Should we not have taught them the '**truth**'? Or was this not just one of the things we should have expected. . . one of the things we should have considered in 'counting the cost'?

As a parent looking back to those years, is there anything one could have done differently? As we've seen, we were faced with the decision of either committing ourselves to the truth or forget we ever heard it and kept right on doing as we always had done.

Again, as we think deeply about it, we made the correct decision to step out and do what we did. We were compelled to commit ourselves to the truth and we saw in Scripture, where we also were **commanded** to teach our children. Notice the words in Deut. 6:6-11. "And these words, which I **command** you this day shall be in thine heart. . ."

Were the things we were hearing and reading in our hearts? Yes of course. We were committed to them. We could see the way the world was traveling and it was not the way of the Bible. So most definitely, the Bible commands were in our hearts.

Then it says, "And you shall **teach them diligently unto your children**, and shalt talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up". . . (Deut. 6:7) Nowhere in all of the Bible is there a more direct command of how we are to teach our children. What to teach them is spelled out in succeeding chapters and elsewhere. The things we were to teach were the commandments, statutes and principles God gave to our ancient forefathers. It also included things not to teach them, such as indicated in Jeremiah 10.

It was plain to us and so we proceeded to do so. We wanted our children to have the best in education. We saw the need to be **truthful** to them. We could also see how it affected their relationships with other children. We could then, as well as now, see the truth of Jesus words. They are still ringing in our ears. But was there something else we could have emphasized, while teaching them **truth**. Notice what Jesus emphasized to his disciples.

Just before Jesus was to give his life he gave his disciples instruction as to what they should expect. Basically, he was telling them the world was not accepting him and that they should expect the same treatment. In John 15:19-20 He says, "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. **If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;** if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

Jesus told them, "These things have I spoken unto you, **that ye should not be offended.** They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. . . . But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, **ye may remember that I told you of them . . .**" (John 16:1, 4)

The disciples, while they were with Jesus were like little children. They were somewhat shielded from criticism. Our children, too, were shielded from things when they were small. Jesus emphasized to his disciples that it was not going to be easy. It seems apparent to this writer that our children needed this same type of emphasis. It was a kind of encouragement so that when they were taunted and criticized by other children, or even their teachers, they would also, just like Jesus' disciples, remember that we had told them so. All the while we needed to teach them to **love truth** in all aspects of their lives, not just in the religious aspect, but in all areas.

As far as Biblical truth, when our children got to be teenagers, many of them began to think it over. They began to say, "I don't want to stand out this way." Some of them began to withdraw from friends. Others chose the other course of action and withdrew from parents choosing their peers over them. What would we have done? Might we not have had a similar attitude? Might we not have had a little bitter attitude over not being able to participate in Friday night activities? Quite likely. Unless our children came to the same conviction that we did, and **loved** the truth as we did, they would not stay with it.

The church, at that time saw what was happening. It saw that our children were

being alienated from others of their peers and so it introduced the Y.O.U. program. (Youth Opportunities United) Because our children were not able to engage in sports and other activities on Friday nights, the church sensed this overwhelming need to do something. Did it work? Was it the right thing to do?

Looking back we can see it worked . . . at least partially. It allowed for our children to participate in some events. That's true, and our intention was certainly noble and good. They would not have to abandon their parents or their desire for the sports activities. This seemed to make life a little easier for them. Parents too breathed a bit easier, as now the children had a semblance of what all other children their age had to enjoy. Besides, parents thought, "now our kids can have mainly church kids as their friends . . ."

But did it deal with the real issue of our children following Biblical truths because they were committed to them as the parents were? To this writer it appears now to have been somewhat of an escape. Not only for our children, but for parents as well. It was a way of not having to face the fact of having to go contrary to the world. Parents knew by this time it was not fun for them and they wanted very much to help their children. They did the best they could, or knew how to at the time. And why? Because of the **love of the truth.**

Since that time 25 to 30 years have passed. Our children are now adults. Many of them have their own families with children of their own. They now are faced with the same decisions we faced three decades ago. What will they teach them? Will they remember what they were taught? Will they sense the same compelling need to teach them **truth**? Or will the pressures of society cause them to pull back?

By this time, it should be apparent, that, only if they have a **love for truth**, will they go on and teach it to their children. Just as we were given it, and we received it, so must our children be taught to **love truth**. It's not enough to just know the truth. It's something we must love. It's a character trait that has to be ingrained in us, to **love truth** and **hate falsehood.**

If we teach our children this, then we have taught them. We will have set them on a path to ask questions. We will have taught them to

test & prove things. We will have taught them the importance of it. They will then take it from there and seek out truth, even more than what we have done. Once they discover things they have proved, they will learn to **love** it and live by it.

This world, this society, is riddled with deception, but truth is available. We must seek it, but before that, we must have a love for it. In the future scripture seems to indicate a time is coming when people are going to fall for deception 'en masse'. Up until this time the whole world has been deceived, basically everyone, except for those God has drawn and given understanding. But a time is coming when **deception** is going to appear very much like **truth.**

'False Christ's and false prophets are going to wax more eloquent and more believable even to the point of deceiving the very 'elect', if that were possible. Notice Matthew 24:24. "For there shall arise false Christ's, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, **if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**"

Do you suppose this will be the same time when that great counterfeit Christ will appear on the earth? Notice 2 Thess. 2:8-13. "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the **working of Satan** with all power and signs and **lying** wonders. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they **received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them **strong delusion**, that they should **believe a lie**: that they all might be damned (judged) **who believed not the truth**, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and **belief of the truth**:" Do you suppose, in order to remain undeceived at that time, it's going to take something more than just knowing truth. It's going to mean one will have to have a **love** for it.

#### **Truth Divides Church Families**

As was stated before, truth can divide church

families as well as biological types. To this writer it's quite evident the many splits and schisms that have occurred since 1986 are a result of different groups beginning to look deeper into the things they once believed.

Upon research, some issues appear to be somewhat flawed, while at the same time many others are more deeply ingrained. Some people are maturing in that they are really doing what they have been instructed to do as it says in 1 Thess. 5:21, "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good."

Maybe some things we've heard or done in the past were not 100% accurate, but does this mean everything? No, of course not. But proving things, holding on to some, while rejecting others has an unsettling aspect to the leadership of some of the 'Church of God' groups. For some, it's not a problem. However, for some leaders, there appears to be an unwillingness to allow any other explanation than that which has been followed. If any is proposed, or openly discussed, it is viewed as divisionary, causing disunity. The person, or group of persons, are thus barred from attending services or interaction with others who hold with that leadership.

This is nothing new. Take a look at 1 Corinthians 11:18. Paul had just finished discussing the issue of hair length & covering with men and women. In verse 16 it indicates that certain of these kinds of issues were generating a lot of contention. When in verse 17 Paul said he was not happy about the contentiousness.

It appears that, when they got together, there could have been a lot of arguing and bickering. Maybe sometimes, when they got together, they got into shouting matches and were generating a lot of strife. "Now in this that I declare unto you **I praise you not, that you come together not for the better, but for the worse.**"

They appeared not to be coming together so that they got a better balance or understanding of some issue, but rather to argue and fight. It was not that they should not discuss things, but it was primarily their lack of **love for truth.**

The whole issue then, as it is today was attitude. If all individuals would have had a

deep down love for the truth of any matter, they would be willing to hold their tongue while another is given a chance to talk. They all would be willing to analyze facts and proofs and be willing to submit to that which is true. None would have the attitude of being locked in time over any issue simply because of tradition, but rather what's right and what's wrong, what works, and what doesn't work.

But what was happening? Paul goes on, "First of all, when you come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; . . . The Greek word for 'division' is '*schisma*' meaning a 'rent, cleft or schism'. "For there must be also **heresies** among you that they which are **approved** may be made manifest among you." (1 Cor 11:19)

The Greek word for 'heresies' is 'heresis' meaning 'choice opinion, sentiment'. (Young's Concordance) Normally the word **heresy** has a bad connotation of going contrary to some established understanding. But here it doesn't follow that same meaning. The word for 'approved' is '*dokimos*' meaning 'tested, tried'. (Young's Concordance)

1 Corinthians 11:19 has always had a negative aspect to it showing disunity, but when we investigate the meaning of these Greek words it appears quite the opposite. If we read it with their intended meaning it would go something like this. "For there must be also choices, opinions and sentiments, that those things, or people, that have been tested or tried will stand out and become evident to all."

Paul quite likely understood that everyone did not see eye to eye and automatically have unity on everything, and saw the need for some kind of discussion and testing, proving what's right and what's not.

Today, some 'Church of God' leaders view open discussions as leading to disunity and discourage their congregations from doing so, or at least do not feel comfortable when it happens. But quite the contrary, many topics need this kind of airing out. To this writer, it also must not be only for the ministry or leadership to do it. (Matt. 23:8-12) Everyone should participate. Open discussions are healthy and reveal each others mind. As we do this we actually can better test and evaluate things. We are then developing within us this **love** for truth.

Furthermore we must not get into a rut by saying, "this is the way we've always understood this, or this is the way it has always been done." The Bible is quite clear that understanding truth is a process of learning and growing. Notice John 16:13. "How be it when he," God's Spirit, "is come, he will guide you into all **truth.**" Peter said it a little differently when he said, "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which links back to the words Jesus said in John 18:37, "everyone who is of the **truth** hears my voice."

Finally then, in 1 Corinthians 14, Paul gives a short but clear discourse on how we ought to learn and interact with each other. Indeed it appears this instruction is how the church services were conducted back then. Maybe we can take a lesson from this and apply it to our time.

"Let the prophets (public expounder - Young's Concordance) speak two or three, and let the other judge. If anything be revealed to another that sits by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may **all** prophesy (publicly expound) one by one, that **all** may learn, and **all** may be comforted (exhorted)." (1 Cor. 14:29-31)

### Conclusion

Truth is a very broad topic. Truth verses error exists in every facet of our lives. In the religious sphere when we first began to understand some things, it began to separate us from the world's teaching. It also began to separate us from various members of our family who had different thoughts.

As time went on the learning and growing continued. Up until 1986 the level of **truth** or understanding depended solely on the one who first taught us all. . . and that was Herbert W. Armstrong and the leadership in the Worldwide Church of God. After he died learning and growing did not end. For indeed, then is when the process began where all that had previously been taught, was looked at more closely.

This process has continued to lead to further divisions, of the Church of God. **Truth** continues to be the thing that divides. Not that truth is the culprit, but that some are drawn to it, no matter where it leads, while others are not quite sure they want to go there. Another explanation is that some may **love** it

more and are committed to it, while others accept truth more superficially. Whatever is the case it's not a time for us to judge one another or be critical of each others understanding. This is best left in God's hands, who is the perfect judge.

With all the barbaric behavior of human beings going on in the world, we are more and more aware of how little true knowledge there really is. Nations are in the process of gearing up for war. The main reason is the lack of truth and sharing of it. Underlying that there is very little **love** for it.

This is the world, but it need not be this way in the Church of God. Here is where there ought to be a great deal of love and forbearance, recognizing that most everyone is being tested and is being proved. We need to encourage each other more and more "speaking the **truth** in love." (Eph 4:15)

We also ought to consider what it says in Heb. 10:25. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.

The young man mentioned in the opening remarks, is destined to come to grips with the issue of **truth**. In fact the whole world is destined for an awakening. It will happen in a big way when Christ returns to establish his government. Then **truth** will be taught everywhere. It's not taught everywhere today, as the one in charge is also the father of lies. "He was a murderer from the beginning, and **abode not in the truth**, because there is **no truth in him**. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." (John 8:44)

For now only those God draws (John 6:44) are being enlightened, but one day all people will be. (Jer. 31:34) For those who accept the challenge to follow after truth now there is great reward. For those who are willing to accept criticism, being ridiculed and rejected there is great hope. One day they will be greatly honored for doing so. (Matt 5:18)

Only when Christ returns and Satan is removed will there be any hope for peace. Only then will **truth** prevail and be spread abroad. Those who are ingraining this **love for truth** now will have that opportunity to teach it at that time. \*\*\*\*\*

### A LETTER FROM A READER

by Tawanda Ray  
Hamilton, Alabama

Hello Darwin & Laura,

Thanks for your latest newsletter. I really enjoy reading articles like the ones written by John Currier ("Why Do You Observe Saturday?"--*Issue No. 5*) and Dianne McDonnell, ("A Church Without Women"--*Issue No. 5*).

For years, in a hierarchical run "church" organization headed by a lone man, it was unheard of for "common" folk who were not ordained to produce such articles of study and share them with others. Instead, we were subject to a local "minister" who had to come up with a sermon every week in order to teach us and keep us in line. Or, during a bible study, we could ask this same man the questions of mind and he, again, would teach us. Never mind that in some cases, the members had been reading and studying the scriptures longer than the "minister" had been alive.

The prevailing attitude of the situation was that the common person (unordained) could not learn on his own and he needed the instruction of the ordained clergy in order to learn truth. And where do you suppose this mentality came from? The Catholic Church!

Since I have left the organizations, I have been in contact with many "common" people who have written great articles concerning various subjects of interest and it is quite evident they have knowledge and wisdom of spiritual things as God gives these gifts to all not just to a chosen elite of "ministers".

Now I'd like to comment, if I may, on Dianne McDonnell's article concerning women.

She brought out some great points. It is quite evident that the translators have done a number on the scriptures on various subjects. Authority verses subjugation.

Norman Edwards, in his booklet, on the subject, commented on this fact. The translators took one Greek word, "diakonos"

and gave it three different meanings which spelled out an authoritative class system in religious circles. After all, the common "unordained" people, especially the women, who were referred to as "diakonos" could not possibly be on the same par with Paul or the other apostles.

So, a hierarchy of sorts had to be made out of this word. Hence, we have the minister who is the very top "diakonos". Next comes the deacon and deaconess--though I'm not sure how the female deaconess could be on par with the male and be "over" the common man--and lastly we have the servant (lowest of the "diakonos") where all the unordained fit in.

Dianne's article was aptly entitled "A Church Without Women" for indeed it was.

At one point in time, women were not even to hand in questions during bible study. I guess that was due to their understanding of be silent and **if** they were to learn anything let them ask their husbands at home.

Paul contradicts himself and also Jesus if we are to accept the common teaching that groups like WCG held for so long on this subject.

Those who have adhered to and promoted these ideas of a church without women's participation overlook so many scriptures to the contrary.

For instance, Eph. 5 tells us that Jesus' relationship with His church is a husband/wife relationship and He condemns the authority/subjugation roles.

In Mt. 20:25, Mk. 10:42 and Luke 22:25 Jesus plainly shows the attitude we should have toward one another.

He condemned anyone ruling and exercising authority (lording over) on any one else. "It shall not be among you"!

Among who? The church--the whole church--including women!

Jesus says to His church, "...I am among you as he that serves"--as a common waiter of tables. (Luke 22:25)

Why have we failed to understand these words where women are concerned?

Christian men need to realize that spiritually they are “WOMAN”! They are “WIFE”! They should treat their wives just like they want Jesus to treat them.

Question:

- ❖ Does Jesus tell His wife to keep silent?
- ❖ Does He condemn her teaching?
- ❖ Does He allow her to pray, prophesy?
- ❖ Is she “subject” to other men’s authority so that she can hold no position whatsoever “over” men?
- ❖ Does He control His wife? Micro Manage her?
- ❖ Does He make all decisions for Her? Or... does He serve her? Did He give His life for Her and does He daily use His life for her good?

Men, wake up! God is not a male chauvenist as some religious leaders (especially H. W. A.), have made him out to be!

When Jesus returns to earth to claim His bride, she will occupy the seat right beside Him as He sets out to establish the Kingdom of God on earth... This rulership will be one of service. Jesus and His bride will be ONE BODY, a SHEPHERD, to bring peace to a war torn world.

Don’t think for a second that Jesus’ wife, His Body, will not participate. She will not be told to keep silent, to not teach or to submit in authority to all males!

These ideas of women’s subjugation to male authority did not come from God. Satan does not want mankind to understand the relationship mankind can have with their creator or the true relationship Jesus has and will have with His betrothed wife.

It is evident by mankind’s history that Satan despises human beings and obviously, he especially hates women--possibly because we symbolize the wife of Jesus who will help to dethrone and destroy him.

We should get beyond the ways of the world where so much emphasis is placed on exercising authority over others. We should

get beyond the ways of the world where so much emphasis is placed on exercising authority over others. We should get beyond the attitude that one half of Jesus’ Body has the right to dominate the other. The Body which includes women has one Head--Jesus!

The idea that 1 Cor. II constitutes authoritative rulership and domination, as some claim, goes against 1 Cor. 12, Mt. 20:25, Mk. 10:42, Luke 22:25 and so many others.

In the WCG under HWA, there was a man’s club called the Spokesman’s Club. It emphasized the man’s role and how important it was for all men in the church to receive this training in order to prepare to be the leaders in the Kingdom of God. The club’s manual spoke of creating a “masculine society”!

Little, if any, emphasis was placed on the women’s need to prepare to be “leaders”.

Not only did they strive to have a church without women. They seemed to think the Kingdom of God would have little need of them either.

Some will argue this point but, actions speak louder than words!

So, I hope you will continue to print articles like this one that disspeles some misguided time honored teachings.

Hats off to you!

In Friendship,  
Tawanda Ray

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**A LETTER FROM A READER**

**by Tawanda Ray  
Hamilton, Alabama**

Dear Darwin & Laura,

Hi--me again. I recently wrote to you concerning your last newsletter. In it were two articles on which I commented. I especially enjoyed the one about women and I hope you will carry more of those in the future.

Now, I’d like to put my two cents in concerning another article entitled “First Love” (*Issue No. 5*) by Arlan Weight. Arlan has written several great articles that I have enjoyed in past issues of your newsletter.

However, the feel I get from some of the points Arlan brought out is that HWA is getting a lot more credit and honors than he should concerning the true Body of Christ.

First of all, to believe “the church” (modern era) began with HWA is to negate any and all people as the Body of Christ who did not come under the jurisdiction of this one man. How in this world can we make that judgment?

And what of all those people who saw the hypocrisy and lies of HWA’s regime and his lavish and luxurious living made possible by “widows mites” and who left “the church” because of it. Were they leaving their first love or were they leaving a hypocritical organization?

All anyone has to do is to review HWA’s membership letters (available by request from Servants’ News) to see him as he really was. Not only that, his own literature indicts him as anyone can see by perusing the old P.T.’s, G.N.’s and W.N.’s.

There is a saying I really appreciate. “A doctor buries his mistakes, a lawyer jails his but a journalist prints his for all the world to see”.

So it is with HWA and his hierarchy! We don’t need any of his enemies to bad-mouth him in order for us to see what his “administration” was all about.

Arlan asks, “Why all the Armstrong bashing? Was HWA a false prophet?”

So, let’s take the first question. Exposing someone for the wrongs they’ve done to a large group of people over a long period of time is not “bashing”. Exposing a con man is not bashing!

Was HWA a false prophet? HWA had some truth--but none that he came up with all on his own. He “barrowed” from other teachers/writers but somehow forgot to let people in on that. To those who weren’t aware of these other writers, it seemed like HWA

indeed was bringing these wonderful truths to the world for the first time in 1900 years!

So--was the organization HWA built THE true church (with no exception)? Was HWA a true prophet as opposed to a false prophet?

A true prophet of God will bring true prophecies from God. How many times was HWA "off" in his prophecies? Did he set dates? Did they fail?

How many times did he change back and forth ON doctrine? Which one was of God?

The point was made that Christians in the early era left their first love and the comparison was made in that today people have also left their first love. He (Arlan) compares his coming into HWA's organization and its work as "first love", due to the teachings of a coming utopian world.

Yes, HWA had knowledge of this coming utopia and it was wonderful to hear. But, this was not new knowledge. Others also had it and anyone who picked up a bible and actually read it could have it. No, this message had not been hidden for 1900 years! If the church has existed from its conception till modern ages, why would God withhold this information from every generation of it until HWA came on the scene?

Most likely, as it is in most churches today, people don't bother reading the bible themselves. It's easier to pick out a suitable church and attend every little while to let the preacher preach to them.

HWA used to say, "Don't believe me, believe your bible". And yes he was right on some things--but so were others. And... he was very wrong on many things!

Examples:

- ⊗ He lived an expensive lifestyle all the while demanding the membership to sacrifice and send more money. (Don't believe me? Check the membership letters.) How many of us sported a fraction of his \$200,000.00 income? And he emphasized the widow's mites were "mites" not "mite".
- ⊗ He put himself squarely between us and God! After all--"God always works

through one man". That's what a hierarchy is all about! In HWA's regime, we had many men between us and God. And if we ever saw scripture different than they did, we kept it to ourselves. HWA wanted us to read the bible and prove what he said was true. To speak out otherwise would result in a disfellowshipment. It happened over and over.---In fact, some of the membership spoke out about doctrines of HWA which weren't right and were quickly dealt with only to see HWA later embrace the same mindset. Did he apologize to those he kicked out?

- ⊗ Many of his predictions fell flat. At times he blamed the church's unreadiness for Jesus' not returning when he (HWA) predicted.
- ⊗ His hobnobbing with the "great and near great" and comparing that with preaching the Gospel was laughable and pitiful! He was praised and honored by heads of state--those whose affections he bought with so many widow's mites! The apostles were persecuted, beaten, dishonored and finally killed for their efforts. See any difference?
- ⊗ Comparing himself to the pope, he ruled as one who had to answer to no one.---If we could look at his words concerning the Kingdom of God as a utopian world and none of his other myiade deeds, we could perhaps honor the man somewhat as a teacher. Unfortunately this cannot be.---It is one thing, falling in love with messages of hope from the scriptures, it is entirely another thing, attributing this message to a man, saying for 1900 years no one knew about the Kingdom of God nor had the gospel Jesus taught.---That concept is false and it was used to promote the one man and the one organization.
- ⊗ HWA also made dire predictions concerning the Tribulation at the end which are false. Remember the detailed accounts of Gerald Waterhouse? If HWA did not promote these details, why did he allow and pay G. Waterhouse to roam the globe and preach it as FACT! More false prophecies!!! Tremendous time and money was spent in promoting false prophecies.

⊗ Remember D&R? He split up whole families due to his own personal understanding of this subject. Later, he changed it in order to marry a divorced woman!!

⊗ Many members fore went medical attention--some died--due to his personal understanding on this issue--only later to have to watch as some of the "ministers" (using the medical people), explained why it was ok for them to use the doctors. Also did we not wonder about the medical staff being with HWA himself in his home?

I could go on but I think I've made my point.

The "first love" should be toward God alone--not HWA and/or his organization.

It is interesting to note that the good news Jesus sent out by his apostles did entail their eyewitness account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection as well as the words Jesus gave them to speak. The good news did concern the fact that Israel's Messiah had come and given His life for their redemption.

Yes, it also entailed the future Kingdom for Israel.

HWA spoke nothing of Jesus Christ to the heads of state! He spoke of how bad things were and alluded to a "strong hand from someplace". Compare that to the power of the message Jesus gave through His apostles.

The whole world would hate, persecute and kill them. Certainly, they would not be honored and praised like HWA was.

No, HWA was not as truthful as we thought. And he, at our expense, did build up his own empire! What does Corporate Sole mean anyway? He owned it! He had no checks and balances! His own literature compared him to the Pope! He had all authority and answered to no one.

Speak of believing perverse things! To believe him in many of his teachings was to believe perverse things!

⊗ He taught sternly three tithes of money was to be separated from our incomes. Not only that, he insisted on generous offerings being given to the point of the

sacrifice of necessities. And this, while the membership met in beer halls or where ever they could. The elaborate structures of A. C. stood as a prime example of the excellence of God while the majority of the membership struggled at times simply to find accommodations in order to meet together.---I challenge anyone to prove by scriptures that Jesus or any of His apostles/disiples ever collected tithes of money from people. The only scriptures that concern tithes are very clear as to what those tithes were and to whom they went.---HWA threatened people with the Tribulation or even the lake of fire if they did not tithe money to him.---Concerning the festivals, where in all the bible does God commad the festivals to be kept in anyway but the way He commanded Israel to keep them? Their going up to the place God chose to place His name was to the site where His Temple stood. It was not going up to any place any person chose. It also revolved around offering sacrifices upon the altar and feasting on the cooked food.--Today, what we've known the festivals to be resembles nothing to the way God set them. HWA claimed the right to place God's name in cities all over the globe. Talk about taking God's name...!

- ⊗ Concerning the fall festival--Tabernacles--prove by plain scripture that this entails the picture of lavish living in the Kingdom of God. How does living in temporary dwellings picture lavish living?
- ⊗ Concerning the eighth day festival--by using plain scripture, explain that one.---Most of us did what we did with a heart that yearned toward God and it is good that God looks at our hearts.---Thy fault with HWA is not with his heart but with his deeds. We are cautioned to judge deeds. "By their fruits, you shall know them."

HWA spoke some truth, but he also spoke untruth as well. To attribute things to HWA that he does not deserve is unwise. To honor him as a great man of God who has delivered the true gospel to people for the first time in 19 centuries is unwise.

Our actions in following HWA if done with a

pure heart is not at fault. Obedience to our understanding of what scripture obligates us to do is never done in vain. But sometimes, the results are!

Consider the whole empire of HWA. Where is it now? All the money that we struggled to send in. What did it accomplish? Where are all the greats and near greats that he hobnobbed with? His Japanese sons? His work of giving money right and left to every cause, his heads of state friends, wanted for their countries?

Some today (groups and their leaders) still insist on doing this the way HWA did. They can't, however, they don't have the money.

It is good to look at our first love unless it is tainted with connecting that with a man and his organization. That first love has been available to God's people in all eras of time since the beginning. It certainly did not begin with Herbert Armstrong.

Since leaving his organization, I have learned many things as I grow in biblical understanding. Many of HWA's doctrines and teachings have fallen in the dust. Yet, God is still here.

These are just my perceptions on points made in this article. I don't mean to bash the article as he also made some good points.

I give permission to print this at your own discretion. I realize some will construe this letter as being negative.

In Friendship,  
Tawanda Ray

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### A LETTER FROM A READER

by Michael & Stella Porter  
Afrique Centrale

Dear Brethren,

Greetings of Calvary in the name of Jesus our soon coming King of kings.

With the joy of the just concluded Feast of

Tabernacles we sent our greetings! How are you all over there? There is no doubt that you and yours are still refreshing in the blessings that follows the feast You must know ours was just the first feast we ever celebrated and we don't know how to explain our blessings and excitements.

Some of you may recall that the devil wanted to stop us from celebrating the feast due to lack of money and some of you even misunderstood us. But we did not hide any grudges against any one because you never knew us and in a situation like that, one needs to know very well whom he or she is dealing with. So may all of you accept our apology in any way we embarrassed you.

Our heavenly Father who only knows everything, came to our rescue and used a wonderful sister from Bermuda to make everything possible at the dying minutes, by sending us a sum of \$300.00. Just like the Hebrews of old we were like them that dreams as our PAPA has done what we never expected. May all the glory and honor be unto Him. This sister, since the first day she heard of us has never ceased from helping us and praying for us. For instance she has sent us more than \$2000.00 to support our work and also more than 220 copies of the holy Bible and books. Recently large quantities of audio tapes and books for children's evangelism etc. were sent to us, and to cap it up she purchased a PC with scanner/printer/copier. What a wonderful love and more importantly loving and trusting some one you have never known. Now what is a friend.

Friends are hard to come by these days. It is hard to find the friend that is described in Proverbs 18:24- the friend that "sticks closer than a brother." Why is that? Has the society become so used to using people that we don't even value anymore? Has the act friendship become, not what can I do to benefit this person, but what can I gain from the relationship? Is it all about the other person? Or is it about yourself? I believe that the friendships God designed for us to have are not ones that are based on the selfish desires of the flesh, I believe that God created us to help one another grow in Him! Everything we do should be for the glory of God----. Our heartfelt thanks also goes to sister Tina who sent us a sum of US \$200.00 several months ago with some quantities of books, etc. She never knew us but what linked us is our

acceptance of the Sabbath message. And she believed that what we are, and it is true. May our heavenly Father replenish them all hundred folds and you who has contributed through prayers and articles. But you can even start from today to help us in Central Africa. All over Gabon only one Sabbath group I know celebrate the feast, but they don't use the Sacred names and also wears white garments for which without you will not partake of the fellowship.

We had a blessed feast of Tabernacles which started with song "The Days Of Elijah". This song is very special to us since we heard it. It was our official theme song during the celebration. When ever we sing the song YHWH would take our spirit to a new height as we blow the shofars and dance before the presence of our heavenly Father. Many of us had never danced before the creator before but we all did it with ease and joy. The exuberance of His people gave me strength as I was leading the worship. We danced, sang, we studied, we played, we ate, etc. We projected for about 250 people but more than 600 were in attendance for which we glorified the name of our great Father. We baptized 74 persons including 3 Muslims and a former Roman Catholic Catechist. The brother from Ghana well taught us how to celebrate most of the feasts and we studied such topics like; "MESSIANIC/CHRISTIAN HOMES, MARRIAGES, SABBATH, HIS SECOND COMING, SALVATION? FAITH AND WORKS etc. All week long I saw people with obviously different backgrounds, and some pretty strong opinions coming together to learn from one another. There were a few debates. It was like a practice session for Messiah's return, which was what Tabernacles is all about. A rehearsal dinner for the true Wedding Feast of the Lamb of YHWH. When Yahshua returns His people will come from all the nations. May we all be humble enough to learn from one another during this preparation period. We all have much to learn.

Once again thank you for making the feast possible for us. We have talked of the feast with much joy. I am aware of the work and effort you put forth and the Father will water the precious seeds you all planted. YHWH's personal name makes us agog with joy and the accurate understanding of the millennial Kingdom and the knowledge of brothers and sisters who will walk in like mind into the

Kingdom. Most of our problems are untouched yet. The government has given every unregistered religious Organization here up till December 2001 to get registered with the government or be disbanded. I am very sick concerning this and truly don't know what to do next and would not like to affiliate with false Sabbaterians here neither our people. The ban on house fellowship by the government made it impossible for us to break in small groups. Please make this your prayer concern and ask our heavenly Father to raise for us some one who can help us with the finance to get registered with our government so that the work will continue and spread to many cities. The people who attended the celebration are from various Sabbath groups and many may be no more due to the government move. But if some one can help us we can work with them. We need \$2,020 as YHWH has already provide us with a sum of \$425.80 which were contributed during the feast. The total cost is \$2,470.00.

We are still Feast high! With much anticipation we look forward to our meeting again. May the living God bless all you and please continue to mention us in your daily prayers as we are sincerely seeking Him.

Shalom!

Yours in the blessed hope.

Michael & Stella Porter  
B.P.4150 Libreville, Gabon  
Afrique Centrale

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**MID-MISSOURI CHURCH OF  
GOD (MMCG)--FEAST REPORT**

**by Dotte Schneider  
Gravois Mills, Missouri**

Lovely autumn days were enjoyed by the 85 brethren registered for the Feast of Tabernacles at **Lake of the Ozarks**. The number of expected brethren was somewhat increased, much to everybody's delight, by daily attendees from other organizations. A late afternoon check-in and registration took place on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, followed at 7:30 p.m. by a "Welcome to the Feast"

opening service. Holy Day services on the morning of Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, were followed by a gala Festival Fellowship Luncheon in the afternoon. Unfortunately, organized classes were not available this year, but workbooks and materials were provided to a number of children according to their age group. Later in the week a luncheon in honor of our singles was well attended, as was the senior breakfast at one of the area landmark restaurants. And perfect weather seemed to be the order of the day on the afternoon of the family picnic and cookout at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Other activities during the week included a coffee fellowship each morning, a night of contemporary gospel music by "New Beginning," the very popular pie & ice cream social, a special night of table games & munchies out at the Riverview Campground clubhouse, Bible study and hymn-along, and lots of varied special music at the daily services. The festival theme, "*The King is Coming*" was reflected in each of the messages from seven different speakers. And finally, (another of those Kodak moments) came the "Blessing of the Little Children" observance on the Last Great Day. Mid-Missouri Church of God extends its sincere gratitude to all those that helped to make the Feast such a success and appreciation to the many that have sent in thank you cards and letters conveying their good wishes.

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**Building Bridges Guest Speaker:  
Leon Sexton  
Saturday, November 17, 2001  
Shiloh Bethany Church (In the  
Dining Hall) Meeting begins at  
1:30pm  
4301 Benjamin St. NE.  
Columbia Heights, Minnesota**

**Leon and his wife Gloria currently  
live in Thailand. They founded  
Legacy Institute in 1998 to help  
scattered brethren in Asia and  
empower them to preach the gospel  
among their own peoples.**

Dale & Dona Fehr (763) 572-8377  
E-mail: [DLFehr@compuserve.com](mailto:DLFehr@compuserve.com)

## 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.

AUGUST 25, 2001--UPDATE ON **DAN**--Arlan Weight's Father-In-Law Dan, is still doing great. He is no longer in pain from his back after the surgery and his kidney function has now returned. He is 87 years old, so this great. God does heal.

AUGUST 28, 2001--UPDATE ON **BRENDA BIRCHER**--Brenda is doing better, and has made an appointment to see a doctor. Please continue to send Brenda cards of encouragement and pray for her continued wellness.

AUGUST 29, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **KEN & EVELYN SEALS**--Evelyn Seals brother Harold Johnson died in her arms on Tuesday August 21, 2001. He was 55 years old and had been ill since 1978. He lived with Ken and Evelyn. Evelyn says: "Thank you for your prayers. His suffering is over. Continue to pray for us. We have huge bills, of course." (If anyone is able to help this family financially, please do. Evelyn herself had been confined to a bed due to a back injury for 8 months, and now with the death of her brother, the family is having financial problems.)

SEPTEMBER 5, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **PAUL WEINER**--Don Esposito requests prayers for Paul Weiner. I wanted to ask for prayers for a little boy we know in Pennsylvania. He is 5 years old and has cancer in the brain. It is currently in remission, but we pray for Yahweh's will for complete healing. His name is Paul Weiner. Thank you, Don.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2001--UPDATE ON **WALT HOFFMAN**--Walt & Joan Hoffman are very happy to report that Yahweh has heard the prayers of the brethren and has taken the anxiety attacks away from Walter! He is also sleeping much better. This relief set in during the past week and is truly a blessing for him. Thanks to all for the prayers and love.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **INDIA EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS**--Jake Harmina reports that due to an earthquake which happened in India on 1-26-2001, there are many people who were affected by this earthquake who very much need our prayers. Let's remember what these people are going through and continue to pray for their healing from this disaster.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **ALEX KISSER**--Delores (Mother of Brenda Bircher) has requested prayers for 11-year-old Alex Kisser of Saskatchewan who broke his hip in a tractor accident and is now in serious condition. Alex, while in the hospital has contracted flesh-eating disease. Please pray for Alex's healing and comfort for him and his family. Thanks for your concern!

SEPTEMBER 16, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **DON & PETRA ESPOSITO**--Rusty Ames is requesting prayers for Don and Petra Esposito who have just arrived in Israel for an extended missionary trip. They will be ministering there until after the Feast of Tabernacles.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **NEW YORK CITY TERRORIST ATTACK VICTIMS**--Words seem inadequate in light of what happened in New York City on September 11, 2001, however, as each and everyone of us get on with what we all call day to day living, let us all continue to pray for all who have been affected by this terrible tragedy. Let us also pray for our leaders that they will do all of the right things and not bring further tragedy on us all. Let's all pray that Christ return very soon. Requested by us in Bismarck, North Dakota.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **HAL GEIGER**--Dona Fehr is requesting prayers for Hal Geiger who had a heart attack on Tuesday, the Feast of

Trumpets. He is in stable condition in the intensive care unit. This is all we know about it right now. Please pray for him and his family. Hal has been playing a very active part in organizing the Feast in Baraboo, WI. The Geiger's address for those of you who want to send them a card is: **Hal & Scarlet Geiger, N5396 Hwy P, Helenville, WI 53137**. Please pray for Hal's full recovery.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2001--UPDATE ON **HAL GEIGER**--Dona Fehr got an update yesterday on Hal's condition. He had angioplasty and a stint put in. He can't work for 4-6 weeks. He was able to go home Friday and even attended church yesterday. He said to thank everyone for their prayers. He appreciates it very much. The Geiger's address for those of you who want to send them a card is: **Hal & Scarlet Geiger, N5396 Hwy P, Helenville, WI 53137**. Please pray for Hal's continued good health and full recovery.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **GWEN & COLIN BAY**--Wayne and Doris Cole request your prayers for long time friends and members of God's church, Gwen and Colin Bay. Gwen is afflicted with aggressive breast cancer. She once worked in the church office in Sydney, Australia and later transferred to the Auckland, N.Z. office. Gwen and Colin now live at: **34 Wyatt Crescent, South Burnie, Tasmania 7320, Australia**--Please pray for Gwen's full recovery.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **LORRAINE KNOWLES**--Claudia Speed is requesting prayers for Lorraine Knowles, wife of Brian Knowles. Lorraine gets one or more migraine headaches a week, which usually lasts for a couple of days or more each time. Please pray for her complete recovery.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **RICHARD RAPP**--Claudia Speed is requesting prayers for Richard Rapp,

who is the son of Brian & Lorraine Knowles. (I may not have the information on the relationship here totally correct, but Richard Rapp is some how related to Brian & Lorraine Knowles.) Richard was diagnosed with cancer. He has a tumor which is behind his lungs, and cannot be operated on. Chemotherapy was/is being used to try to shrink the tumor and from the Chemotherapy, he now has severe burning in his throat and chest area and is also suffering with pain and numbness in his hands and feet. Richard is unable at this time to support his family. Please pray for Richard's full recovery from this illness and please pray for the needs of this family as they go through and recover from this trial. If anyone is able to help this family financially, please do.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **MYRA COLE & DAUGHTERS, LYNN & JANN**--Wayne Cole has informed us that his brother, Raymond C. Cole died on September 25, 2001. Raymond had suffered a stroke several weeks ago that left him unable to speak and paralyzed on the right side. On the 25th just after he had been given a physical therapy session and had been put back in bed, he had another seizure (apparently another stroke) and did not recover from it. Raymond was born on Dec. 14, 1926. He would have been 75 years old this Dec.----Raymond was one of the pioneer students to attend Ambassador College in its first year of operation in 1947. He was an evangelist in the Worldwide Church of God for many years. Since 1974 Raymond has conducted a church work from his home in Eugene, Oregon. His church was named The Church of God, the Eternal.----He is survived by his widow, Myra Cole and two daughters, Lynn and Jann.----Please pray for Myra, her daughters and others in the family.----If interested, cards may be sent to **Myra Cole, P. O. Box 775, Eugene, OR 97440**

OCTOBER 8, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **MICHAEL NOVENCHE**--Nina Novenche is again requesting prayers for Michael Novenche that the tumor show some shrinkage on Oct 10th. Please continue to pray for Michael's full recovery.

OCTOBER 14, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **HOWARD PAYNE**--Darwin & Laura Lee are requesting prayers for Howard Payne. In the past week, Howard has had a heart attack, and has had one kidney shut down

completely. Please pray for Howard's complete recovery.

OCTOBER 14, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **JOYCE SEELIG**--Wayne and Doris Cole are requesting prayers Joyce Seelig. Joyce has breast cancer that has spread to other areas. She needs the prayers of God's people. Joyce is a long time member of the Church. This year, had she been able to attend, would have been her 49th Feast of Tabernacles to attend. One of her sons, Gerald Seelig, works in the office of the United Church of God, AIA in Cincinnati, Ohio. Please pray for Joyce's complete recovery.

OCTOBER 15, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **AGNES JACOB OBI & HER FAMILY**--Please pray for Agnes and her family, for both emotional and physical healing.

OCTOBER 17, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **ELIZABETH BOZONIE**--Michael and Janis Miller are requesting prayers for Elizabeth Bozonie. Elizabeth is suffering from 'manic-depression' and is going into a manic phase; she hasn't slept in 5-6 nights. Please pray for Elizabeth's complete recovery.

OCTOBER 18, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **WILLIAM T. CLEVINGER**--I would like to request prayer by God's scattered brethren for my brother, William T. Clevenger. He is currently at the VA Medical Center in Johnson City, Tennessee, critically ill of cirrhosis of the liver. Thank you all very much. Jerry Clevenger

OCTOBER 22, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE FOR **MICHAEL NOVENCHE**--Michael's MRI Of Oct 10th showed no shrinkage of the tumor. We are happy that it also showed no new growth. We are still hoping for prayers that someday "The tumor" will be gone or that it never grows. He feels so much better now that he is off the chemo. I don't think anyone realizes what devastation chemo does to the body. He will have another MRI in three months to see what the tumor is doing. We thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for all the prayers. We are positive that the prayers are stopping the growth. God has been an intervention at most of the dreariest days. At one point in his life, it didn't look like he would make it another day and today he is running and playing. Thank You God and thank all of you again for all

your encouragement and prayers. The Novenche family.

OCTOBER 26, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **GERALD KLOSS**--Dotte Schneider is requesting prayers for a good friend, Gerald Kloss, who is facing surgery in the near future for a double hernia. The surgery had to be delayed because of heart problems. He is having chest pains and there is concern about the possibility of a heart attack.

OCTOBER 27, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE FOR **JOYCE SEELIG**--This is a note to let you know that Joyce Seelig, for whom we had requested prayers, lost her battle with cancer and died on October 26th at 6:30 PM. Thanks very much for the good service you are providing. Wayne Cole

NOVEMBER 1, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE FOR **STEVE & KIM THULL**--Terry Ramlow sends the following update: Please REJOICE for Steve & Kim Thull for God's mercy in their lives in answered prayers regarding Steve's health issues and also some much needed financial relief. Our continued prayers are much needed/appreciated.

NOVEMBER 1, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **DON ROTH**--Received from Terry Ramlow: I just learned that Don Roth, father-in-law to Linda [mlroth@nconnect.net](mailto:mlroth@nconnect.net) and a member of the church (for more years than I can remember) took a nasty fall from over ten feet onto concrete. Broken leg, damaged elbow and other injuries.

NOVEMBER 1, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR **JERRY**--Received from Terry Ramlow: Cathy Folker's [cfolker@presenter.com](mailto:cfolker@presenter.com) uncle Jerry needs our prayers as he has heart and back problems.

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

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

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. January/February 2001--Issue No. 1
  - A. UCG Attendance Policy Raises More Questions (From Servant's News)
  - B. Humor--Public Service Announcement (From Servant's News)
  - C. Ending the Cycle of Abuse in the Church of God--by Laura Lee
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. March/April 2001--Issue No.2
  - A. Humor--A Parable and Evolution
  - B. Is Disfellowshipping a Christian Practice?--by Arlan Weight
  - C. Just Judgment Important for Local Congregations--by Darwin Lee & Norman Edwards
  - D. Letter of Appeal--by Ned Dancuo
  - E. Go To Your Brother...--by Arlan Weight
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. May/June 2001--Issue No. 3
  - A. Are You Busy?--by Turning Point Ranch Ministries
  - B. Letters Section--What is Anger? What is a Heart? What is Division? What is Individual Responsibility?
  - C. Passover--by Arlan Weight
  - D. Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage--by Laura Lee
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. July/August 2001--Issue No. 4
  - A. The Titanic--Then and Now--by Myra McQueen
  - B. Woe...--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
  - C. Testimony of Abuse Within the Church of God--by Tawanda Ray
  - D. Bear Witness--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
  - E. God's Government--by Arlan Weight
  - F. Gifts of the Spirit--by Laura Lee
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. September/October 2001--Issue No. 5
  - A. Where Are God's People?--by Laura Lee
  - B. They Sang As It Were A New Song Before The Throne--by Author Unknown
  - C. Fat Cats, Fat Cats--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
  - D. First Love--by Arlan Weight
  - E. Why Do You Observe Saturday?--by John Carrier
  - F. A Church Without Women--by Dianne McDonnell

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

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

**OTHER TAPES**

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

**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

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

**SEND ORDERS TO:**

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

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