

**INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES,
BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP, PLUS THIS NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004---Issue No. 24**

WHO ARE WE?

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

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

Country: USA Phone: (701) 258-7172 FAX: (919) 640-1806

E-Mail: darwin-laura@earthlink.net

Website: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

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 some literature besides the distribution of newsletters 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@earthlink.net

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 1:00 PM, but may vary.

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

We also welcome live speakers, and special music, by others on a volunteer basis. Please ask us about hosting.

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 12, 2004
Friday, December 24, 2004
Friday, February 4, 2005

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

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--The deadline for submitting articles and letters for possible inclusion in our January/February 2005 Newsletter is December 15, 2004. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

AD SECTION--If you have an ad that you would like to have us print, please write it up and send it to: newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net We may not print all ads, but we will read them for consideration of inclusion in this newsletter. Some ads will also be posted on our Web Site. We print ads and post them on our web site as a courtesy to others and not because we agree with everything said in them.

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

- October 16, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #45--The Identity of the True Church (Part 19) Christ first/second coming; Israel is God's witness; God pours Spirit on Israel; Deliverance of the elect, all Israel justified.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #46--The Identity of the True Church (Part 20) Judah called out of Babylon; Jacob/Christ, the servant of the Lord; Israel-the light and covenant to the nations; Israel delivered from Babylon; Holy city delivered from uncircumcised.
- October 23, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- October 30, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #47--The Identity of the True Church (Part 21) Israel's redeemer dies for his wife, Israel and humanity; Israel to inherit nations; Israel's maker is her husband/redeemer; Spiritual restoration of Israel; God will forgive Israel.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #48--The Identity of the True Church (Part 22) Israel's sins; Zion's redeemer to come back for her; Gentiles bring offerings and restore Israelites to land; Gentiles serve Israel; Royal priesthood.
- November 6, 2004----Hosted by James Glasser
- November 13, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #49--The Identity of the True Church (Part 23) Israel to be married to God and rebuilt; Judgment of false church, beast; Isaiah bemoans Israel's punishment, prays to restore her.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #50--The Identity of the True Church (Part 24) God's response to Isaiah's prayer; God promises to punish wicked, restore wife/Israel, and make new heaven and earth.
- November 20, 2004----Hosted by James Glasser
- November 27, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #51--The Identity of the True Church (Part 25) God is married to Israel, will redeem her; Reunification of both kingdoms of Israel; Restoration of Israel out of the north; Resurrection of David; Jacob's trouble and restoration.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #52--The Identity of the True Church (Part 26) Captivity and redemption; The Savior, Israel's God; God's eternal love of wife Israel; New marriage covenant with Israel/Judah.
- December 4, 2004----Hosted by Arlan Weight
- December 11, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #53--The Identity of the True Church (Part 27) Future marriage of Israel/Judah based on Law of Sinai not written in hearts; God regathers Israel, gives new heart, makes eternal covenant.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #54--The Identity of the True Church (Part 28) God offers restoration to remnant of ancient Judah; Jacob offered salvation; Israel's sins blotted out.
- December 18, 2004----Hosted by the Lee's (Special Presentation)
- December 25, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #55--The Identity of the True Church (Part 29) Israel-though an unfaithful wife, she won't be rejected.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #56--The Identity of the True Church (Part 30) Lucifer and physical counterparts; false shepherds of Israel-Chief shepherd will deliver His sheep; God's judgment of Israel's enemies Babylon and Edom.
- January 1, 2005----DVD Kent Hovind--Age of the Earth
- January 8, 2005----Teaching the Law--Lesson #57--The Identity of the True Church (Part 31) Israel's sins, redemption through new heart/spirit; Resurrection of House of Israel; Gog/Magog attempt to invade newly restored Israel.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #58--The Identity of the True Church (Part 32) God/Jesus destroy Israel's enemies; "Ezekiel's Temple" and Law in Messiah's Kingdom.
- January 15, 2005----DVD Kent Hovind--Garden of Eden
- January 22, 2005----Teaching the Law--Lesson #59--The Identity of the True Church (Part 33) "Ezekiel's Temple" in Christ's Kingdom; Law of the Temple; Uncircumcised in Spirit/Flesh not allowed in Christ's temple; Christ's attitude toward straying and faithful spiritual leaders of Israel.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #60--The Identity of the True Church (Part 34) Division of land to Israel's 12 tribes; Jerusalem-learning city and Christ's/Israel's headquarters; Law of temple; Living water under throne; Daniel's prayer and its fulfillment, 70 weeks prophecy and deliverance of holy people.
- January 29, 2005----DVD Kent Hovind--Dinosaurs

If you want to host Sabbath Services and need 2 Sabbaths in a row for your presentation and/or would like to have your presentation listed on our Sabbath Schedule in our newsletter which is sent out to the public, the next deadline for that would be: December 15, 2004. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL:

prayer-requests-darwin-laura@earthlink.net For Prayer Requests & Updates and letters in regard to them.

newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net For items meant for print in our newsletter or on our web site.

questions-section-darwin-laura@earthlink.net For Biblical Questions Only (50 words or less).

answer-me-darwin-laura@earthlink.net For personal letters or letters with non specific biblical content.

darwin-laura@earthlink.net If you don't know where to send it, send it here and we will sort it.

archeology-exchange-darwin-laura@earthlink.net For the exchange of Archeological Information.

FAX--Our Fax number is: (919) 640-1806

SNAIL MAIL--Our snail mail address is Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502.

WEB SITE ADDRESS--<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

FINANCIAL DISCLOSER:

We do not charge for the services that we provide to the brethren. We also do not take any wages from the gift donations we are sent. The services we provide do however cost us money. From 2001 to 2003 our total balance left owing for expenses for services provided was **-\$5434.36**.

Donations for 2004 total **+\$1230.00**. Expenses for 2004 are as follows: Postage **-\$820.08**, Telephone **-\$87.99**, Internet Services **-\$273.52**, Printing Charges **-\$188.75**, Local Services **-\$156.65** and Research Materials **-\$146.42**. Total balance for 2004 is: **-\$443.41**.

If you need a year end receipt, please request one. We truly appreciate the help we receive in helping others. Please make all checks out to Darwin and/or Laura Lee. Thank you Darwin & Laura Lee.

WE DO NOT HAVE EVERYTHING RECORDED YET.

NOTICE: WHY ISSUE #24 IS SO LATE

Newsletters and everything else, is running way behind at this point. On September 22, 2004, I was coming down our basement stair case at 7:15AM, going to our office. When I got to the 4th step from the bottom which is also where the railing to hang onto ran out, my foot slipped and I landed full force on my right ankle. Darwin heard me screaming all the way upstairs and came running. He called the ambulance. They sent an ambulance and one fire truck, and took me over to one of the local hospitals. They took x-rays and the doctor came in and said, you are going to need surgery to fix this. Darwin and Arlan Weight anointed me and that evening the doctor did the surgery. They cut my ankle open on both sides. On one side I have a plate and six screws and on the other side I have a bunch of wire and one screw. They said that if the hardware bothers me I can get it taken out in February of 2005.

We did go to the Feast in Rapid City, South Dakota one week later. Since I was unable to put any weight on my right ankle for several weeks, we had to rent a wheel chair for the Feast. One day after the Feast on October 8, 2004, we were on our way to get the stitches out of my ankle when Darwin accidentally slammed my right hand in our sliding van door. Darwin was unable to get my hand out of the van door right away because it was stuck because my hand was in it. Finally the door opened and we went to the clinic where they now had to x-ray both my foot and my hand. X-rays showed I now had a broken finger on top of having a broken ankle. The hand was very badly swollen as well as black and blue for weeks.

My hand is now able to move as it did before with some swelling remaining yet in the area of the broken bone. My ankle is coming along day by day and is still quite swollen. Anyway, this is why Issue #24 is so late. Laura Lee

You can still enter the Ministry of THE CHURCH OF GOD by attending the NEW and now fully accredited Ambassador Christian College for the 21st Century. Class Attendance is required. No degrees can be awarded through distance education. We teach traditional CHURCH OF GOD doctrines of the Law plus a greater emphasis on the PERSON of Jesus Christ. For more information call Keith Slough, Ph.D., at 704-938-6415

Publish America says *Beyond Babylon's* official publication date is January 17, 2005, but that it will be ready shortly! HalleluYah!
<http://www.publishamerica.com/shopping/shopdisplayproducts.asp?catalogid=7144> David Ben-Ariel

The Great Commission: Minneapolis Evangelism Conference, January 15 - 16

From Guy Swenson:

Look around you in your congregation this Sabbath. How many brand new families are there? How many brand new families have begun attending in the past year - five years - ten years?

If you don't see many new families, then we should ask ourselves the question, why? a. Some have said God isn't calling many new people today. Their "little flock" is all that God is working with. In a leap of fatalistic reasoning they say that if God wanted us to have more people in the Church, they would be there. b. Others have said that our commission is to preach a warning message - to try and make new disciples is taking God's prerogative to call people away from Him. c. Some like the people they are fellowshiping with and don't want to be bothered with trying to make new disciples d. Quite a number think "evangelism" is the "thin edge" of a heretical wedge and don't want anything to do with it e. How many justify their own apathy by saying "When our church leaders tell us to do it, we will. Until then, we don't want to go against our church government by promoting evangelism without their permission." Our desire is not to persuade those whose minds are closed to evangelism and the Great Commission. Congregational sterility is the consequence of disobedience to the mission Jesus gave His disciples.

We feel it is time to support those individuals and congregations in the Churches of God who have decided to stop making excuses for past failures and who now realize that they have a personal and collective responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 where it says:

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In this conference we will demonstrate that Sabbath keeping is not a barrier to evangelism. False teachings, personal opinion that contradict Scripture and tolerance of personal and ministerial disobedience to the Great Commission are barriers to making disciples. For those who are ready, it is time to make a difference.

On Sabbath, January 15 and Sunday, January 16 we will be conducting a conference on evangelism based on the Great Commission of Matthew 28 and: a. Showing the Biblical truths about the role members, congregations and ministers play in making disciples b. Exploding myths, landmines and erroneous teachings that have hampered making disciples and evangelism as Jesus commanded His disciples c. Demonstrating how other Sabbath-keeping groups are growing at a rate far beyond the Churches of God - and doing so in North America d. Identifying the factors that have limited the Churches of God from being effective in making disciples - and show what can be done to become fully engaged in making disciples and fulfilling the will of God. For two days we will be engaged in forward-looking sessions that clear up questions about the Great Commission, evangelism and focus on key strategies that have brought other congregations into harmony with what Jesus intends for them to do. We invite those members, ministers and congregations who want to learn how to become "fishers of men" to join us for this very special event. Sabbath services will be included.

For information about the conference contact Dona Fehr at: DLFehr@compuserve.com or at (763) 572-8377

Where will those Israeli Hellenists lead Israel, just following their fascist orders? Where will the civil war they seek to incite end? ISRAEL UNDER EUROPEAN OCCUPATION, as foretold in Beyond Babylon: Europe's Rise and Fall. A must read for every Knesset Member and citizen of Israel to hear and heed and prevent the coming holocaust!

<http://www.publishamerica.com/shopping/shopdisplayproducts.asp?catalogid=7144>

INFORMATION SECTION -- This section is meant for various items which should be of interest to the general public. If you have an item to be considered for inclusion in this section, please send it to: newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net We are not necessarily always in total agreement with all things we print.

**LET ALL NATIONS AND PEOPLES
PREPARE FOR JERUSALEM'S
HOUSE OF PRAYER!**

**by David Ben-Ariel
Toledo, Ohio**

The Jews have prayed for 2,000 years to see again the Temple upon the

Temple Mount. It's past time for prayers alone: ACTION is necessary to put faith into practice!

Let the Muslims submit to the Word and Will of God concerning the Temple Mount. It's sole purpose is to House the Temple of the God of Jacob-Israel, that all nations may come to know, love and obey the God of Abraham.

May they agree the Rock of Abraham has been preserved by the "Dome of the Rock," and that it was created for the Jews to continue their worship upon the site of Israel's Temple. It has served its purpose and now it's past time to restore spiritual sovereignty to the Jews upon the Temple Mount that they may build the House of Prayer for all peoples to come and worship.

May the Jewish leaders repent of their

woeful neglect of the Temple Mount and end Jerusalem's abomination of desolation - a Temple Mount without a Temple!

May the pope encourage Judah to obey God and build His Royal House, His Heavenly Embassy, in the noble spirit of King Cyrus, and restore the Temple treasures to Jerusalem.

May the Vatican release the silver, release the gold, that Rome stole from Jerusalem! May they immediately return the Menorah to stand again where it belongs: upon the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, within the Temple!

The Vatican chambers will have served their purpose of protecting and preserving such consecrated items for this time.

Let construction begin and may all

nations and men seek and find the Great Creator God of the Bible, the God of Israel, and learn of His Word and ways and be blessed!

**SANHEDRIN LAUNCHED IN
TIBERIAS (Received 10-14-04)**

**Sent by Jeffrey Caldwell
Cupertino, California**

A unique ceremony - probably only the second of its kind in the past 1,600 years - is taking place in Tiberias today: The launching of a Sanhedrin, the highest Jewish-legal tribunal in the Land of Israel.

The Sanhedrin, a religious assembly that convened in one of the Holy Temple chambers in Jerusalem, comprised 71 sages and existed during the Tannaitic period, from several decades before the Common Era until roughly 425 C.E. Details of today's ceremony are still sketchy, but the organizers' announced their intention to convene 71 rabbis who have received special rabbinic ordination as specified by Maimonides.

An attempt to reconvene the Sanhedrin was made several centuries ago in Tzfat. The body in fact ordained such greats as Rabbi Yosef Karo, the author of the classic Jewish Law code Shulhan Arukh. However, the opposition of other leading rabbis soon forced the end of the endeavor.

One of the leaders of today's attempt to revive the Sanhedrin is Rabbi Yeshai Ba'avad of Beit El. He said that the 71 rabbis "from across the spectrum received the special ordination, in accordance with Maimonides' rulings, over the past several months." Rabbi Ba'avad explained that the membership of the new body is not permanent: "What is much more crucial is the establishment of this body. Those who are members of it today will not necessarily be its members tomorrow. But the goal is to have one rabbinic body in Jerusalem that will convene monthly and issue rulings on central issues. This is the need of the generation and of the hour."

Rabbi Yisrael Ariel, who heads the Temple institute in Jerusalem, is one of the participating rabbis. He told Arutz-7 today, "Whether this will be the actual Sanhedrin that we await, is a question of time - just like the establishment of the State; we rejoiced in it, but we are still awaiting something much more ideal. It's a process. Today's ceremony is really the continuation of the renewal of the Ordination process in Israel, which we marked several months ago. Our

Talmudic Sages describe the ten stages of exile of the Sanhedrin from Jerusalem to other locations, until it ended in Tiberias - and this is the place where it was foretold that it would be renewed, and from here it will be relocated to Jerusalem."

Rabbi Ariel said that the rabbis there included many from the entire spectrum: "Hareidi, religious-Zionist, Sephardi, Ashkenazi, hassidi, and many others - such as Rabbi Yoel Schwartz, Rabbi Adin Shteinzaltz, and many others... We can't expect a great consensus; that's not how things work here. But sometimes that's how the process goes, from the bottom up."

THE LORD CARES MINISTRY

**Sent by Jim Burge
Long Beach, California**

Korean War (peak troop numbers, by country, excluding Republic of Korea forces):

- United States: 348,000
- Great Britain: 14,198
- Canada: 6,146
- Turkey: 5,455
- Australia: 2,282
- Philippines: 1,496
- New Zealand: 1,389
- Thailand: 1,294
- Ethiopia: 1,271
- Greece: 1,263
- France: 1,119
- Colombia: 1,068
- Belgium/Luxembourg: 944
- South Africa: 826
- Netherlands: 819
- Total: 16 nations; 387,570 combat troops

Iraq War (troop numbers, by country, as of July 2004, excluding Iraqi forces):

- United States: 126,500
- Great Britain: 8,300
- Italy: 3,120
- Poland: 2,400
- Ukraine: 1,650
- Netherlands: 1,400
- Australia: 850
- Romania: 800
- Japan: 600
- South Korea: 600
- Denmark: 520
- Bulgaria: 485
- Thailand: 450
- El Salvador: 380
- Hungary: 300
- Singapore: 200
- Norway: 155
- Azerbaijan: 150
- Georgia: 150

- Mongolia: 140
- Latvia: 120
- Portugal: 110
- Czech Republic: 110
- Lithuania: 105
- Slovakia: 105
- Albania: 70
- New Zealand: 60
- Tonga: 45
- Estonia: 40
- Kazakhstan: 30
- Macedonia: 30
- Moldova: 10
- Total: 32 nations; 149,985 combat troops

In terms of overall troop level, the Iraq war is a much smaller war than the Korean War. Yet the number of nations in the Iraq war coalition currently doubles the Korean War coalition. Moreover, the United States was by far the largest contributor of military personnel in the Korean War, even though that was a U.N.-led coalition. And Poland, the Ukraine, and the Netherlands each contribute more military personnel to the Iraq War coalition than France contributed to the Korean War.

The Korean War was fought with minimal support from France, no support from the then-Federal Republic of Germany, and against the Russian-backed Communist regime in North Korea.

RELIGIOUS WAR

**Sent by Alfred Green
Lakeside, Oregon**

Last month I attended my annual training session that's required for maintaining my state prison security clearance. During the training session there was a presentation by three speakers representing the Roman Catholic, Protestant and Muslim faiths, who explained each of their belief systems.

I was particularly interested in what the Islamic Imam had to say. The Imam gave a great presentation of the basics of Islam, complete with a video. After the presentations, time was provided for questions and answers.

When it was my turn, I directed my question to the Imam and asked: "Please, correct me if I'm wrong, but I understand that most Imams and clerics of Islam have declared a holy jihad [Holy war] against the infidels of the world. And, that by killing an infidel, which is a command to all Muslims, they are assured of a place in heaven. If that's the case, can you give

me the definition of an infidel?"

There was no disagreement with my statements and, without hesitation, he replied, "Nonbelievers."

I responded, "So, let me make sure I have this straight. All followers of Allah have been commanded to kill everyone who is not of your faith so they can go to Heaven. Is that correct?"

The expression on his face changed from one of authority and command to that of a little boy who had just gotten caught with his hand in the cookie jar. He sheepishly replied, "Yes."

I then stated, "Well, sir, I have a real problem trying to imagine Pope John Paul commanding all Catholics to kill those of your faith or Dr. Stanley ordering Protestants to do the same in order to go to Heaven!"

The Imam was speechless.

I continued, "I also have a problem with being your friend when you and your brother clerics are telling your followers to kill me. Let me ask you a question. Would you rather have your Allah who tells you to kill me in order to go to Heaven or my Jesus who tells me to love you because I am going to Heaven and He wants you to be with me?"

You could have heard a pin drop as the Imam hung his head in shame.

Senders words: Needless to say, the organizers and/or promoters of the 'Diversification' training seminar were not happy with Rick's way of dealing with the Islamic Imam and exposing the truth about the Muslim's beliefs. I think everyone in the US should be required to read this, but with the liberal justice system, liberal media, and the ACLU, there is no way this will be widely publicized.

Please pass this on to all your email contacts. This is a true story and the author, Rick Mathes, is a well known leader in prison ministry.

POEM BY JUDGE ROY MOORE

**Sent by Robert McElwee
Antelope, California**

BearHolt1@aol.com wrote:
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL
America the Beautiful,
or so you used to be.
Land of the Pilgrims' pride;
I'm glad they'll never see.

Babies piled in dumpsters,
Abortion on demand,

Oh, sweet land of liberty,
your house is on the sand.

Our children wander aimlessly
poisoned by cocaine,
Choosing to indulge their lusts,
when God has said abstain.

From sea to shining sea,
our Nation turns away
From the teaching of God's love
and a need to always pray.

We've kept God in our temples,
how callous we have grown.
When earth is but His footstool,
and Heaven is His throne.

We've voted in a government
that's rotting at the core,
Appointing Godless Judges
who throw reason out the door,

Too soft to place a killer
in a well deserved tomb,
But brave enough to kill a baby
before he leaves the womb.

You think that God's not angry,
that our land's a moral slum?
How much longer will He wait
before His judgment comes?

How are we to face our God,
from Whom we cannot hide?
What then is left for us to do,
but stem this evil tide?

If we who are His children,
will humbly turn and pray;
Seek His holy face
and mend our evil way:

Then God will hear from Heaven
and forgive us of our sins,
He'll heal our sickly land
and those who live within.

But, America the Beautiful,
if you don't - then you will see,
A sad but Holy God
withdraw His hand from Thee.

Judge Roy Moore
Pass this on and let's lift Judge Moore up
in prayer. He has stood firm and needs
our support.

II Thessalonians 3:17-18

**WE HAVE LIMITED SPACE FOR
PRINT, SO IF WHAT YOU
SUBMITTED DID NOT MAKE THIS
ISSUE, PLEASE LOOK FOR IT IN
ISSUE #25 AND BEYOND.**

**4th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BIBLICAL FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

**by Doyle Carter
Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Greetings from Doyle Carter of the
Biblical Fellowship Group.

I want to announce the 4th
anniversary of the Biblical Fellowship
Group which was July 10, 2000.

A little over four years ago, I placed
an ad in the local paper to announce
meetings for Bible studies on the Sabbath.
This ad brought six individuals to form a
group that met at the local library. The
name for this group originated from the
fact that an individual can not reserve a
room at the Tulsa library, but a group or
organization can. So we decided to call
our study group by this name.

Over the years, we have developed
various methods on how to advertise
booklets and courses and other church
literature and have even started an
internet course which is sent once a
month.

At present, we are now a group of
independent people from various places in
the USA which share our information and
sources to assist others in the churches
and communities in spreading the Gospel
to others. We are only an information
ministry to assist others in their part of the
Work.

One of the many activities that are
being done is courses, which are printed
by Mr. Justus, are being sent once a
month to individuals at request by e-mail
and snail mail. These courses have been
the most successful in getting the Work of
God out to others.

Plus, I am a part of ACTNET which
was developed by Mr. Walsh about two
years ago. This non-profit organization
was created to assist individuals overseas
in their part of the Work of God.

And, yes, I send prayer cards out to
those on Rosy's Prayer list every week
with the assistance of Church of God
Tulsa Fellowship with Pastor Ray Kurr.

Also I am in contact with a hand full of
individuals who do a Work in other
countries and assist them in their part of
God's work as funds allow.

There is so much Work that can be
done in the world and I pray that whatever
your part is that God will bless you in your
efforts as we have been.

You are welcome to contact us with
any questions or comments:

Photocrazy88@cox.net

Questions Section--Send your Biblical Questions to us anonymously. We do not need to know your name for this section, no name's will be printed in this section, only the question and the answer and the name of the person answering the question. Questions submitted should be 50 words or less. Please send your questions to us snail mail at: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 (Make sure you identify your correspondence by writing "Questions Section" on your letter someplace where we will see it.) or email your questions to: questions-section-darwin-laura@earthlink.net

QUESTION #17

The account of David's anointing is similar to which story in the book of Genesis?

Let's take a look at that account:

11. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.
12. And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.
13. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. (1 Sam 16:11-13 KJV)

There is no example that closely parallels this account in the Book of Genesis to the best of my memory. The closest thing that your author could determine that fits as an answer to your question is the account of Joseph.

Joseph, although greatly loved of his father, like David was greatly loved by God, was considered among the least of the clan, just as David was. Joseph was set aside for a high position in government, the de facto ruler in Egypt:

7. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great

deliverance.

8. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. (Gen 45:7-8 KJV)

We already know that David was set aside to rule all of Israel. Beyond these points, I can think of nothing else similar that would be an answer to your question.

Answered by:
Royce Mitchell
Manvel, Texas

QUESTION #18

How does David convince Saul to permit him to fight the Philistine Goliath?

I don't know that "convince" is the right word to use in this instance. No other man in the Israelite army dared to go against Goliath. David was the only choice. However, it was not an easy decision for Saul. The losing side would be servant to the other.

We don't know what caused Saul to tell David to "Go, and YHVH be with you." However, just prior to that point we find David saying the following to Saul:

34. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:
35. And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.
36. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.
37. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. (1 Sam 17:34-37 KJV)

Maybe it was the fact that nobody else volunteered to fight Saul. Maybe it was the courage of David being obvious to Saul. Maybe it was the fact that God had been with David against powerful beasts in the past. Maybe it was the acting of God's Spirit on Saul that caused Saul to tell David to go for it. We don't know how or even if David was the one who convinced Saul to allow David to fight Goliath. Scripture simply doesn't answer

your question.

Answered by:
Royce Mitchell
Manvel, Texas

QUESTION #19

What happened to change Saul's admiration for David into hatred?

The turning point appears to be the following event:

6. And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.
7. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.
8. And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?
9. And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. (1 Sam 18:6-9 KJV)

Saul wanted to pass the kingdom on to his son. He had forgotten that God gave him that kingdom to begin with. In fact, we find that upon David's anointing, the Spirit left Saul and he became quite troubled. David was searched out to play the "harp" before Saul to quiet the troubling spirit within Saul. David was made to stay with Saul and appeared before Saul regularly.

However, we find later that Saul did not recognize David when David was brought before him, a clear indication of the state of mind that existed in Saul.

Saul became upset that David, who had slain Goliath when Saul had not dared to go out to fight Goliath, was given greater acknowledgment in the songs of the women than he was. It was a sign of his twisted mind that Saul would allow this to bother him instead of doing what most politicians would do, keep David close to secure the support of the people.

Answered by:
Royce Mitchell
Manvel, Texas

QUESTION #20

Please explain Acts 2:38-39?

Let's take a look at that scripture to see what it says first: "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.'" NKJV

One of the first rules in trying to understand scripture is to look at it in context. In this case, we find that Peter has just finished preaching an incriminating "sermon" showing how those listening had been responsible for crucifying Christ. As verse 37 shows, the people hearing this were hurt to the heart for what they had done and asked what they should then do. Obviously the wrong could not be undone so what was to be done?

Verses 38 and 39 are Peter's answer. First Peter commanded them to repent. And, after repentance they were to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the "remission" of sins. We see that repentance and baptism are required for remission of sins, but what is remission? And, what is repentance? And baptism?

We find in Webster's 1828 dictionary the following definition of "remission:" "Forgiveness; pardon; that is, the giving up of the punishment due to a crime." The greek word, found defined as NT:859 in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, is "aphesis" (af-es-is); from NT:863; freedom; (figuratively) pardon." Therefore, in order to receive forgiveness--or "freedom" from sin--we must first repent and be baptized.

What, then, does repent mean? The word translated "repent" can be found in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, or at least a form of that word, which is given the identifier NT:3340. The greek word in that case is: "metanoeo (met-an-o-eh'-o); from NT:3326 and NT:3539; to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider." Repent, therefore, means to think differently. Other definitions compare it to turning around and walking the other direction. Repentance, then, is changing the direction you are going, turning around and going the other way. It isn't some fake, syrupy sorrow that lasts until you sit down from an altar call. It is a true changing of direction. When seen in the context of John the Baptist's addressing the pharisees, where he said for them to

bring forth fruits of repentance, it is easy to understand that repentance is not just sorrow but sorrow with action.

What of the word baptized, then? That word is translated from the greek word: "baptizo" NT:907 (bap-tid'-zo); from a derivative of NT:911; to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the N. T.) of ceremonial ablution, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian baptism" Clearly, to be baptized one must be submerged, fully wet. It is a ceremonial ablution or washing.

We see now that in order to be forgiven that we must first change the direction we are going and get cleaned up! That is what Paul was telling those whose heart was hurt over what they had done.

We too are to be hurt to the heart by our actions because they crucified Christ as surely as the Roman soldiers did. When we are hurt to the heart, then we are to change the direction we have been going, showing those fruits John the Baptist talked about, and then get washed up or cleaned up. The physical ceremony is symbolic of the true washing that takes place in the blood of the Lamb.

Many think that this is the end of it all--the goal. It is not. This is merely the beginning. It is our entry into a lifelong walk with Christ and the Father--given witness by the indwelling presence of God and Christ through the Spirit. From the time of our baptism, and our receipt of the gift of the Spirit spoken of by Peter, we are to continue walking down that new path, the path illuminated by God's laws. We are to grow in grace and knowledge, becoming ready to give an answer to all who want to know about the hope within us. We are to become useful tools in the hands of our Savior.

Finally, we find Peter talking about a promise. This promise is of the Holy Spirit referred to in the previous verse. The promise is to all who are to be called by God through Christ, who were destined to the calling before the world began. This requires an overly long explanation that is not necessary at this point to understand the thrust of the verses in question. However, it is your author's personal opinion based upon evidence in scripture that eventually nearly everyone who has ever lived will be called and given a chance to understand the beauty of the plan and Way of God.

In conclusion, Peter is giving an answer to the question "I have sinned; what do I do now?" He tells them to turn around from their way of sin and get washed up properly, in this case, in

Christ's blood. Then he tells them that they will receive the Spirit because it was promised to them and to all who are called. This short set of verses provides a valuable bit of insight into the very beginning of a Christian life. It is from there we can be built into a mighty tool of God suitable for His use.

Answered by:
Royce Mitchell
Marvel, Texas

QUESTION #21

Is there a woman mentioned in the bible by the name of Lillith?

Liliyth is mentioned in Isaiah 34:14. The screech owl is the Hebrew "Liliyth" which is a Jordanian night demon that inhabits desolate places; symbolically a nocturnal animal that inhabits desolate places.

Information Source: Hermeneutika Bible Works 4.0, Computer Bible Research, explanation of "screech owl" in Isaiah 34:14.

Answered by:
Wily Elder
North Miami, Florida

You are not a
trailblazer
unless you kick
up some dust
and dirt on your
journey.

by Alan Ruth
Farmington Hills, Michigan

LETTERS SECTION--This section can contain letters to the editor, to the brethren, or from the editor. Please keep in mind while reading these letters, that just because we print them does not mean that we agree with everything people say in these letters. Letters many times are filled with opinion and emotion and sometimes factual and un-factual information. This section is interactive. If you agree or disagree with a letter or an article in this newsletter and want others to know, this is the section for you. Send your letters to: newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net We do not print all letters that we receive.

Letter Received:
April 24, 2004

Subject: "WHEN IS PENTECOST?"

by Jeffrey Caldwell
Cupertino, California

This letter is continued from Issue #23, pages 9 & 10.

Jeffrey writes:

I see no Scriptural evidence of a calendric controversy between the New Testament church and Pharisee or Sadducee leaders -- and many priests became Christians (Acts 6:7).

Laura writes:

I also see no Scriptural evidence of a calendric controversy, however I do see the following command given by Jesus himself which is as follows:

1. Then **spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,**
2. **Saying,** The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:
3. All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. Matthew 23:1-3.

Please check your Bible from cover to cover and show me where Jesus ever commanded us to follow the Sadducee's in anything. The Sadducee's did not even believe in a resurrection. (Matthew 22:23) The Sadducee's were more interested in politics than they were in religion.

We should be following Christ and what Christ says, instead of following a group of people such as the Sadducees who did not even believe in Christ.

Jeffrey writes:

I'm sure -- I suppose you agree -- that if Christ and his disciples follow either a Pharisee or Sadducee doctrine for observing a holy day it is only because they understand that particular doctrine in our same way. They do what they understand to be God's will -- it's not a matter of following Pharisee or Sadducee! So it is, I suppose, for you or I and other disciples today -- our practice, in our own minds, does not hinge on extra-biblical knowledge, but flows from our particular understanding of Scripture -- which may, however, be influenced by extra-biblical 'knowledge', especially in this area of practice and study.

Laura writes:

First of all, Christ was God, see the following:

23. Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us.** (Matthew 1:23)

Christ had no need of blindly following one man or another man. Christ was God. As God, Christ knew when the Holy Days were.

Again, the reason why most people with an ex-Worldwide Church of God background follow the Sadducees in keeping Passover and Pentecost, is because this is what Herbert Armstrong taught many people for many years. It sounds like it's driven by outside influence to me.

If you read and study Exodus 19, you will come to understand that the first recorded Pentecost did take place on Sivan 6. I do not see any other recorded dates for the keeping of Pentecost anywhere in the Bible. If you can show me where there is a different day being kept for Pentecost anywhere in the Bible, other than the date recorded in Exodus 19, please send us the information so we can cover it in this newsletter.

Christ knew and kept all the right Holy Day dates, because he was God. Men are influenced by other men and easily led in wrong directions because they do not study these matters for themselves. To just read something is not to study it. To study something you must literally dissect it. We want people to study these things.

Jeffrey writes:

I assume -- as you seem to agree -- the New Testament church met on the "holy days" -- like Pentecost -- that conformed with the general practice of the temple. If Christian belief or practice was different from the temple practice, it seems strange to me that the New Testament is silent on the issue. However I'm not convinced of what you seem to believe, that Pentecost is "always Sivan 6". Nor am I convinced that the temple worship in New Testament times conformed to an "always Sivan 6" model.

Laura writes:

Again, Christ was walking among the multitudes and teaching them. Christ told people which group of men were keeping the correct Holy Days, see Matthew 23:1-3. There was no Holy Day controversy in the New Testament because Christ was there and the multitudes were keeping the Holy Days as taught by Christ himself and the Pharisees. The Pharisees kept a Sivan 6 Pentecost then and now. Temple practice was according to the Pharisees.

Jeffrey writes:

Laying aside doubtful and possibly politically motivated versions of 'history', the Holy Bible plain and simple is what I choose to rely upon.

Laura writes:

Good for you. I want you to study this subject from the Bible. A Sivan 6 Pentecost is in the Bible (Exodus 19). I do not see the other ones which you and many others choose to keep.

Jeffrey writes:

If the counting point always begins on the 16th of Nisan, the second day of unleavened bread, as Darwin asserts, for what reason does YHVH refer to it as "the day after the Sabbath" (Lev. 23:15)?

To me "the day after the seventh Sabbath" (Lev. 23:16) seems reasonably enough to always be a first day of the week, but not always the same date -- and to me "counting" seems reasonable for arriving at an observance that doesn't always fall on the same date. Repetition of "Sabbath" (Lev. 23:15-16) seems reasonably enough to me to refer to the weekly Sabbath, the more so since the word "weeks" refers to periods denoted by weekly Sabbaths. If indeed, as many believe, the "count" begins after the weekly Sabbath during the days of unleavened bread -- and thus *it is* a matter of *counting* days and weeks and not from any "fixed" date of the month, but rather, from a weekly Sabbath -- then *sometimes*

the day, by count and date, would be Sivan 6 -- but not *always*. If the Sabbath in question really is the first day of unleavened bread, why doesn't YHVH refer to that day with the word "Sabbath" when mentioning it just a few verses earlier? (Lev. 23:6-7).

Laura writes:

6. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.
7. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. (Lev. 23:6-7)

So are you saying that because the word Sabbath was not used in verses 6 and 7 that one cannot use it as the Sabbath being spoken of to count from to arrive at Pentecost?

Even though the word Sabbath was not used literally in verses 6 and 7 above, we still have other scripture showing that the Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread is a Sabbath. See below and also see Mark 15:37-42, Mark 16:1, and Luke 23:53-54.

31. The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the **sabbath day**, (for that **sabbath day** was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. (John 19:31)

All of the Holy Days are Sabbaths as well as every seventh day which is also a Sabbath.

15. And ye shall count unto you from the **morrow after the sabbath**, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; **seven sabbaths** shall be complete:

16. Even unto the morrow after the **seventh sabbath** shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord. (Lev. 23:15-16)

Pentecost is referred to as the "Feast of Weeks" in the Old Testament.

22. And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end. (Exodus 34:22, see also Deut. 16:10, 16 and 2 Chronicles 8:13.)

It says to count from the "morrow after the Sabbath." Which Sabbath, the weekly Sabbath or the annual Sabbath?

Arlan Weight wrote an article which was printed in this newsletter titled "Counting to Pentecost" and can be found in Issue #10 on page 8. In this article Arlan shows the different methods which

people use to count to Pentecost. When you use the weekly Sabbath to count from, much confusion is created. In some years the Sabbath used to count from is not even within the Days of Unleavened Bread and many times the count used has the Wave Sheaf happening on a Sabbath.

If however one starts their count from the day after the Sabbath, which is Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread, one never runs into any confusion. When the count starts with Nisan 16, it always falls within the days of Unleavened Bread and the Wave Sheaf is never done on a Sabbath. Pentecost then always falls on Sivan 6 as Exodus 19 backs up and also as Joshua 5:10-11 shows.

For a more detailed explanation of Exodus 19, read the article titled "Biblical Evidence in Support of a Sivan 6 Pentecost" by Laura Lee. It can be found in Issue #20 on page 18.

For a more detailed explanation of how the Wave Sheaf fits in with the count to Pentecost, read the letter and answers by Richard Kraft and Laura Lee which appeared in Issue #16 on page 5.

One last point, in verses 15 and 16, it would be better translated as follows:

15. And ye shall count unto you from the **morrow after the sabbath (Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread)**, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; **seven sabbaths (weeks)** shall be complete:

16. Even unto the morrow after the **seventh sabbath (week)** shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord. (Lev. 23:15-16)

Remember in the Old Testament, Pentecost was called the Feast of Weeks, not Pentecost. We should be counting weeks not days.

9. **Seven weeks shalt thou number** unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from such time as thou beginnest to put the sickle to the corn. (Deuteronomy 16:9)

We are told to start to count the weeks on the day of the wave sheaf offering or the day they "put the sickle to the corn." The Pharisee's always did the wave sheaf offering on Nisan 16, the day after Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread. In Joshua 5:10-11 it clearly states:

10. And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

11. And **they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover**, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day.

(Joshua 5:10-11)

They could not have eaten the food of the land on the day after the Passover/First Day of Unleavened Bread if they had not first done the Wave Sheaf offering. They also were not allowed to cut grain on a Sabbath Day, as that would have been considered to be work.

The word Sabbath can also be translated as the word "week" and could be any combination of seven days in a row, See Strong's Concordance.

Jeffrey writes:

A friend of mine -- deep into charting - has worked out a chronology for the whole exodus -- days of the week and dates of the month and the years -- that is the most convincing I've seen -- it is well integrated into the most convincing chronology of the rest of Scripture that I've seen. I don't have his study handy, but what he learned from it did not by any means persuade him that Sivan 6 is *always* the feast of weeks. Depending on the method of reckoning it, the fact it fell that way during the exodus at the time of the giving of the law isn't proof that it *always* falls on Sivan 6.

Laura writes:

You seem to agree with me that Exodus 19 shows a Sivan 6 Pentecost is being kept but also at the same time you go on to say that, that is not proof that a Sivan 6 Pentecost was kept every year. May I ask what would be proof to you?

The Bible gives us only one set of instructions for how to count to Pentecost each and every year. In the Worldwide Church of God and in many of its off shoots they use more than one method of counting from year to year, which creates quite a large amount of confusion.

If one believes that Exodus 19 does show the Israelites keeping a Sivan 6 Pentecost and there is no place anywhere else in the Bible showing Pentecost being kept on some other date, then why wouldn't we keep Sivan 6 for Pentecost as it is revealed to us by God in Exodus 19? Don't we believe God's Word to be true?

Many people can put charts and scripture together that looks good to those reading it, but only those who do not know what their Bible actually says will be fooled by such things if they are not true. One needs to study their Bible in regard to each issue that comes up. If one does not study these issues personally, one will always be confused or badly influenced by outside charts and articles which many times are put together by those who themselves do not understand.

TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #25*****

Letter Received:
November 24, 2004
Subject: COMMENTARY FOR
THANKSGIVING DAY
by Tommy West
Wake Forest, North Carolina

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1THESS. 5:18, KJV.)

The aforementioned verse may be familiar to most of you. AS we prepare for another THANKSGIVING DAY here in the U.S., it behooves us to consider or to reconsider the apostle Paul's admonition.

The aforementioned verse is not the only Biblical reference on the subject of thanksgiving. According to STRONG'S COMPLETE DICTIONARY, the Bible makes mention of giving thanks to God a total of 103 times. It is an important matter to our Creator and it should be important to us not only during this festival but all the time "in all things".

We, as Americans, are richly blessed. Even though many problems exist in this country and in other spots of the world, freedom is still a right that is enjoyed by all of us. It is true that the Patriot Act limits our freedoms to some extent, but we are still governed by a Constitution with a Bill of Rights specifically setting down our freedoms. Let us not forget to bow in gratitude on this Thanksgiving for these rights.

Let's further remember our government leaders -- a newly re-elected President Bush and those who will serve with him in the next administration; let's be sure to remember our troops serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places who willingly lay their lives on the line to protect our way of life.

Don't forget the needy -- those who are hungry, indigent, homeless, sick or in prison. In any way we can, let us be of service to these as well as to the widow and orphan. (This is defined by James as "pure and undefiled religion". James 1:27). Those who do these things in the right attitude will "inherit the kingdom prepared .. from the foundation of the world." (Matt. 25:34).

Let's be sure to offer thanks for our families, our health, our jobs and careers and for the bountiful fields that produce our abundant crops, for the farmers who raise and harvest the poultry and livestock from which comes our meat.

Most importantly -- let's be eternally

thankful for the gift of salvation made possible only by faith in Jesus. This certainly is the greatest blessing to consider during this time of thanksgiving.

To all my family members, friends and acquaintances, HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!
Tommy West

Letter Received:
May 7, 2004
Subject: IN REGARD TO
PRAYER REQUESTS &
UPDATES
by Robert McElwee
Antelope, California

I want to thank you for all your good work, and I am sure that many people appreciate it. However, I don't know any of the people back there and we have so many local requests here that it is hard to respond to them all.

Seems that as we get older we get sicker more often. It is a shame though that so many rely upon the professional medicine men and their pharmaceutical products instead of looking to GOD. They can have the elders pray and lay hands on them also.

Often, though the causes of so many of the problems come from our current lifestyle and food choices. Keep up the good work and continued hospitality. You show by example what the Gospel teaches. Love Bob

Letter Received:
April 28, 2004
Subject: TORTURED FOR
CHRIST
by Isaya Ouma Owak
Kenya

Dear Darwin and Laura,

I am writing this letter to you so that it may be published in the newsletter so that those who are suffering for Christ both physically and spiritually may know that their fellow brothers in Christ in the other parts of the world are experiencing the same thing.

I was in the Worldwide church of God

and I came out of that church in 1995, due to the orthodoxy which came in. I joined the Church of God AIC which split from United Church of God AIA. I thought it was the church I was to be in. I did not know that it was a small jail where people are tortured spiritually, after being there. A Minister of that church from South Africa found me with books from other church of God groups and other ministries which came out of Worldwide Church of God.

He told me not to read such kind of books again or else he will deal with me. When he came back in the year 2000 he disfellowshipped me and appointed someone else to take care of the church and he gave that man money to bribe the Police officers to arrest me if I refuse to back off. As you know in our country, corruption is very high.

I decided to join UNITED where I thought I would be free to worship God in a peaceful way but my thought cheated me. After organizing people who were scattered a minister from U.S.A., a place called AMPIRE PALACE started telling me how much money they have in America, and that they will be helping the people of Africa if we agree to follow them in all ways.

I started to question in my mind what if some teachings will not be as the Bible put them? In 2001 I started knowing some teaching which was not par with the truth of God i.e. Divorce and Re-Marriage and giving newly converted people a chance to preach. After I was reported to them that I am against their command I was disfellowshipped right away. This was the torturing I had in the hand of the so called ministers of the churches of God.

Your brother in Christ.

Isaya Ouma Owak

Letter Received:
June 15, 2004
Subject: IN REGARD TO: WHAT
IS THE CONDITION OF YOUR
MARRIAGE?
by Phillip Frankford
Kirkwood, Missouri

This letter is in regard to the article titled "What is the Condition of Your Marriage" by Laura Lee, which appeared in Issue #21 on page 18.

Phillip writes:

Dear Laura Lee,

I'm writing this in a very blunt and very terse way. I want my views to be plain and unmistakable. I can only hope that you are a wise person as the Proverbs speak.

- Proverbs 13:1 A wise child loves discipline, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.
- Proverbs 25:12 Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise rebuke to a listening ear.
- Eccl. 7:5 It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools.

Laura writes:

Please understand that the very scriptures you have quoted above also apply to you as well as me.

Phillip writes:

Please stop and pray for wisdom from YHWH before continuing to read this.

Laura writes:

We also hope that you will pray for both wisdom and understanding as you read my answers to your letter.

Phillip writes:

Much of what you have written in your article entitled "WHAT IS THE CONDITION OF YOUR MARRIAGE?" is very good. Men for the most part do not understand their responsibilities to their marriage. But, frankly, neither do women.

Laura writes:

This article did not in anyway let women off the hook as far as responsibility not to sin within the bounds of marriage.

Phillip writes:

Most people -- husbands and wives -- get caught up in the "I'm not GETTING" syndrome.

Laura writes:

This article was not about the "I'm not GETTING" syndrome. This article dealt with the responsibility of men within the marriage relationship and how women respond to the husbands love or abuse, whichever he is dishing out within the marriage relationship.

Phillip writes:

During courtship each party is seeking the welfare of the other first.

Laura writes:

Actually women are generally responding to the kindness of the

husband to be as he dates her, and showers her with gifts and treats her as an equal.

Phillip writes:

After marriage, when the honeymoon is over, the struggles of life wear and tear on folks. When kids come, life can be very hard to deal with. Problems with money and finances only place more stress on a relationship.

Laura writes:

Many men do not need the above stresses of life to change how they treat their wife after the wedding. I know of many marriages personally where the man treated his bride to be with a great deal of respect before the wedding and then on the very day of the wedding after the vows, she became his property and respect for her flew right out the window.

In a good marriage the more the stresses of life are there, the stronger the bond of love will become within that marriage. In a bad marriage not based in love the stresses of life will tear the entire family apart.

The stresses of life are no excuse for not treating your wife with love and respect and if you feel it excuses you, I suggest you seek some type of marital counseling.

Phillip writes:

- Proverbs 7:7 Surely oppression makes the wise foolish, and a bribe corrupts the heart.

The oppression of life -- or what we feel is the oppression of life -- can turn our eyes from seeing the good in the other person to only seeing the bad. What might have started out as a small flaw in our spouses character soon can become viewed as something too much to deal with -- the switch from being Dr. Jeckle into Mr. Hide. The facts are that our perceptions might have change ... Instead of our spouse.

Laura writes:

When a man feels oppressed from the stresses of life, turning around and oppressing his wife also will not make the situation better. Again, oppression is no excuse for any man to mistreat his wife or children and if you are doing this you need to seek help. If you are finding the problems of life within marriage to be too much to deal with then perhaps the character flaw is with you.

Phillip writes:

The plain and simple truth is:

- 1) It is about God and his will in our lives and not about what we are getting cheated out of.
- 2) He wants Godly children.
- 3) He hates divorce.

Laura writes:

Again, this article was not about what anyone is getting cheated out of but about the husbands responsibility within the marriage relationship. The husband has been ordained the leader of his family by God and is commanded to lead his family in a Godly manner, void of abuse.

The only way that any married couple will get Godly children is within a good, loving Christian marriage relationship void of abuse. Most people have trouble achieving this perfectly because we are not perfect people. We should however all be striving for this perfection especially where our children are concerned.

When you teach children from little on up to honor and respect both parents, they generally do the same in their own families when they grow up and get married. On the other hand, if all your children see is you abusing your spouse and fighting all the time, this is generally the legacy they will pass on to their own families.

God definitely hates divorce, which is why it is so important for all men to lead their wives and children in a Godly manner. If a husband is unable to show true love to his wife, that marriage will most likely, eventually end in divorce.

Phillip writes:

It is our DUTY to conform to his plan and design. It is not HIS duty to conform to ours. He gets to be the truth teller and we get to be wrong. He is correct and we get to change and repent.

Laura writes:

It is most certainly our choice to conform to what God says and when we sin we need to change and repent.

Phillip writes:

From reading your article it appears to me that you are engaged in defense of someone's personal justification of error. I only hope it is not your own. If it is, then you need to repent and seek the healing that Christ can only provide.

Laura writes:

This article did not justify anyone's error, man's or woman's. Everything presented in this article was geared to helping people to have better marriages.

TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #25*****

ARTICLES SECTION--We are always looking for good articles written by ordinary people, to consider for inclusion in this newsletter. Darwin and I do not always agree with every single thing that we print. Darwin and I also do not know everything. Like most people reading this newsletter, we are still learning. We do strive to bring to you Biblically Based Articles--The problem is that opinion and interpretation of scripture varies from person to person. So with that in mind let's let "iron sharpen iron" Proverbs 27:17--Let's learn from each other. Send articles to: newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net

PERSECUTION ARTICLES

(This is the 2nd in a series of articles in regard to the subject of persecution. If you have an article in regard to persecution, please send it for our consideration to print.)

TOPIC OF MARTYRDOM

by Doyle Carter
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Recently at a Bible study on Friday night, we discussed the topic of martyrdom, because we know that this will occur during the End Times to True Christians as it states in many places in the Book of Revelations. This discussion ended on a positive note and I wanted to share it with you. We used as our source the Bible and only a few reference books. Let's see what the Bible says on this topic.

In Webster's Dictionary, it defines the term "Martyrdom" as "the death or sufferings of a martyr, i.e. one who testifies by his death to his faith or principles." The focus of this article will be the death of Christians for their faith, because martyrdom can and has occurred in many religions and many times in history.

In the Old Testament, there are recorded many instances where individuals were martyred for following God.

In 1 Kings 18: 13, it says, "Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord..." So we see in this verse that Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord.

Also in 2 Chr. 24:20-21, it states, "And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest which stood above the people and said...Why transgress you the commandments of the Lord that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has also forsaken you. And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king..." This is not the same prophet who wrote a book in the Bible, but we do see that he died for just giving a message from God to the king.

In Smith Bible Dictionary, on the subject of Isaiah, page 267, it states, "Rabbinical tradition says that Isaiah, when 90 years of age, was sawn asunder in the trunk of a carob tree by orders of Manasseh, to which it is supposed that reference is made in Heb.11:37." Isaiah was martyred too.

Jesus Christ even warned his disciples that martyrdom can come upon them as well.

In Matt. 10:17-33, it states, "But beware of men: for they WILL deliver you up to the councils, and they WILL scourge you in their synagogues [churches] ...but when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what you shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what you shall speak. For it is not you that speaks, but the Spirit of Your Father which is in you. Brother shall deliver up brother ...cause them to be put to death... BUT he that endures to the end shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee you into another... whosoever therefore shall confess me [Christ] before men, him will I confess also before my Father... But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I deny before my Father..."

Many points can be drawn from these verses and need to be looked at. I only quoted various parts of these verses to establish a point here, but I encourage you to read the entire set of verses mentioned.

First, Christ does say that you will be delivered to synagogues and in the presence of kings. This point can be shown in the case of Paul and what happened to him during his ministry.

Second, we are told that we are not to meditate on our answer when we are presented to these kings or whoever we are to witness to. The promise here is that God the Father will help provide you an answer for your faith.

Does this mean that you do not have to study the Word of God in order to answer others about your faith? The answer is no.

In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter wrote, "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you the reason of hope that is in you with meekness and fear [reverence]." In doing this, you must study God's Word and divide it rightly.

Third, you may be delivered to these people by your closest friends such as your brother or parent. This point is repeated again in Matt. 24:9.

Fourth, you must endure to the End which is also repeated in many places such as Matt. 24:13.

Fifth point, in verse 23, we are told that when we are persecuted in one city that we can flee to another city. This means that we do not have to be martyred, but God may allow us to continue to preach the Truth to others in many places.

Remember, in 1 Cor. 10:13, Paul wrote, "There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it." So we can conclude from this verse that if you cannot bear a certain persecution or endure martyrdom, then God would spare you of it.

In Matt. 23:34, Jesus Christ says, "Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them shall you kill and crucify; and some of them shall you scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city..." You can see that even Jesus said again that his followers will go from one city to another.

To continue in verse 37 of this chapter, Jesus said, "O Jerusalem, O Jerusalem, you that killed the prophets, and stoned them which are sent unto you, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not!" This verse explains why we are here. We are to warn others of their sinful life that is against God's way and help them see their errors and encourage them to seek God and His Way.

But you may ask, why should I die for the faith if it comes down to that?

In Hebrews 11:35-37, it states, "...and others were tortured, NOT ACCEPTING deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: and others had trials of cruel mocking and scourging, yes, moreover of the bonds and imprisonments: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain by the sword..."

Why? The answer is in verse 10 of this same chapter which states, "For he

looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." We, like Abraham, should be looking for a city "which builder and maker is God."

Plus, in verse 35 of this chapter, we read that these people died to "obtain a better resurrection." We should be seeking a better resurrection with the promise of eternal life.

In the end time, we will see that many Christians will be martyred for the Truth as shown in the following verses: Rev. 11:7-11; 12:11; 16:6; and 17:6.

This does not mean that you will be a martyr during your life time, but that martyrdom has occurred in the past and is at present occurring in many countries around this world. In the future, a world power will cause many True Christians to die for their faith.

But as long as we look to God the Father and Jesus Christ during our life on this planet we should place our trust in them and the promises that are presented to us by them, even if it means to the point of death.

Paul tells us in Rom. 8:35-39 that "Who shall separate us from the love of God? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For your sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that love us. I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angel ...shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

PERSECUTION ARTICLES
Present Day Persecution:
Port Austin, Michigan Sabbatarian
Community in Crisis

TAKING IT TO THE CHURCH

by Darwin & Laura Lee
Bismarck, North Dakota

by Royce Mitchell
Manvel, Texas

Open Letter to the Body of Christ from the Lee's,

Below you will find an "Open Letter to the Body of Christ", we ask that everyone please read it in it's entirety, it is in regard to a Matthew 18:15-17 matter which has now come before the entire church. Darwin and I have been witnesses to the below proceedings as carried out by

Royce Mitchell. We also have a few things to add in regard to this matter.

Darwin and I have known Norman and Marleen Edwards for several years now and even though we do not always agree on matters of doctrine, I feel we have bonded as friends as in brothers and fellow workers in Christ. We believe Norman is and always has been sincere in his efforts to always help the body of Christ. We do not believe that Norman would ever do anything intentionally to hurt anyone in the body of Christ. We also know that Norman is a devoted family man (See casual current Edwards family picture at:

<http://sva.cog7.org/Images/Harvest%20of%20Thanks%20Banquet/edwards.JPG>). He would do nothing to intentionally hurt his wife or his family and we find the allegations made by Homer Kizer to be unfounded and ridiculous. Even Homer Kizer's witness Phillip Frankford would not take Homer's side on these unfounded allegations in regard to Norman "showing another woman attention that rightfully belonged to his wife", nor did Homer Kizer present any evidence of truth in regard to what he said in regard to Norman "showing another woman attention that rightfully belonged to his wife". If one is not able to present such evidence when making such allegations against another and even when asked point blank for the proof, then are we or should we believe such allegations?

We do not personally know Homer Kizer, nor had we ever heard of him before this incident, however there are some things posted on his web site where a person can gain insight into his (Homer Kizer's) character by reading his web site. In the last few paragraphs of his web page,

<http://thephiladelphiachurch.org/support.html>, Homer Kizer states the following about contributions to his "Philadelphia Church": "Your financial contributions will make possible the quickened delivery of this message; for until this message is delivered to the world, the end will not come." Homer Kizer also made a very clear statement in his exchange with Royce Mitchell where he said "Therefore, if the referenced individual (Norman Edwards) is your brother, you (Royce Mitchell) are no brother of mine. You are to be accorded no hearing, nor any answer according to Matthew 18." God's people understand that all people will be given a chance to become God's people at some point in time and until then as God's people we should be treating all people who cross our paths as potential

people of God. When we make statements as Homer Kizer did which show we get to pick and choose who our brothers and sisters are, it is then very easy for us to disfellowship, quit speaking to and even cause major harm to those we have a problem with. The bible was written for all people, so therefore Matthew 18 should be applied to all problems among all people. We of course understand that not all people understand the concept of Matthew 18, however in this case it seems that Homer Kizer understands the concept of Matthew 18 just as the rest of the parties involved in this incident.

Phillip Frankford is a person we have had e-mail contact with since he joined our subscription list on 6-13-04. He has tried causing major problems with us and those on our list on 3 different occasions and possibly a 4th time. The first time we just ignored several statements he made at the time since we did not know him yet and we were unsure whether they were just innocent statements or meant to start something. In either case we felt it better just to ignore what he was stating. The 2nd incident had to do with a letter he sent to us which made false allegations against an article and Laura personally, which Laura wrote and was printed in one of our newsletters. Phillip's letter has not yet been answered as we mean to answer this letter in our newsletter at some point. These were minor incidents, but indications or clues as to what the future would hold. Phillip Frankford was on our Archeology Exchange list where he created a large mess that caused several people to leave the Archeology Exchange list. The first problem he caused on the list was accusing Ron Wyatt of perpetrating a hoax in regard to his archeological finds. We have found that many others have gone over Ron Wyatt's work and looked at the evidence first hand with their own eyes and came to the same or similar conclusions that Ron Wyatt spoke publicly in regard to. In our thoughts that doesn't make Ron Wyatt the perpetrator of a life long hoax as Phillip Frankford wanted us to believe. The 4th time Phillip created a problem it was also on our Archeology Exchange. The entire exchange was a matter of public record and will continue to be made available to the public. Phillip seems to like to have a large audience watching him while he wreaks havoc with individuals. His public scenes are of no value or help to the body of Christ and when people do not agree with Phillip's every word, he retaliates by making false accusations. For example, he emailed many people and told them we were a

cult. He also accused Darwin of not having his wife under control (that would be me Laura) and we were also accused of many other things in that email exchange. We still have the same thing to say about Phillip Frankford, and that is that we found him to be a liar and a con man who's con did not work here. We still believe Phillip Frankford to be a dangerous man within the church as we said earlier to our Archeology Exchange list and is now backed up with further proof as is evidenced in this new case with Norman Edwards.

We appeal to the "body of Christ" to refrain from judgments in this matter unless you first study the material. If you do not have time to read the actual details of an event, you probably should not speak or act as though you know what happened. Learning to judge is important. If we all know that the first fruits are to be kings and priests and judge the whole world, do you honestly believe God is going to let you do that job in the world tomorrow if you are unable to do it now?

Our hearts and our concern at this time go out to Norman and Marleen Edwards and their children and all those they are trying to work with in the Port Austin area as we feel they have been slandered/libeled wrongly and we know that some will believe the lies rather than the truth because the "Bible" tells us that is how this world works. It will be no surprise to those who understand how a situation of wrong accusations can become blown way out of proportion. If there are members within the body of Christ who can help Phillip and Homer to see that what and how they are doing this is wrong and repent of these things please do so. If you are able to send words of encouragement and support to Norman and Marleen Edwards, that would be great. When we go through trials it helps to know we have true friends who do not believe false accusations.

The Edwards may be reached at: PO Box 204, Port Austin, Michigan 48467 or nedwards@cbtm.info

We also want to give Royce Mitchell a great deal of credit for standing in the gap for a brother and his family. God does want to know if we will care for other people or not and this is certainly one way we show our support for those who are being persecuted within the body of Christ. We are all our brothers keepers and we are all ordained to help when we are able to do so.

With Much Love,
Darwin & Laura Lee (Letter by Laura)

Below is the text of the Open Letter I sent for publication this evening. Let us all pray our brothers will repent of their actions.

Royce

Open Letter to the Body of Christ

In Matthew 18, verses 15 to 17, we find a procedure left for us by our elder Brother, Jesus the Christ, where, if we have been offended by the sin of another in the Body of Christ, we can move for resolution of that offense. In that procedure, one is required, as the offended one, to go to the brother privately concerning the matter. We are instructed that, if the brother will not hear us, we are to go back with witnesses so that what is said between the offended and the offender can be witnessed for what could be the next, and final, step in the procedure.

Finally, the offended one is instructed to take the matter to the Church and if the offender will not even hear the Church then the offender should be as a heathen and a publican. It is a given that the Church must decide whether or not a sin has been committed at that point and then ask the sinner to repent. It is with a sad heart that I come to the Church with the matter that follows.

On November 4, 2004, I read a publicly posted letter written on October 29, 2004, by Homer Kizer, who claims to be a member of the Body of Christ. The letter is on his website: www.homerkizer.org It is called an "Open letter to Dixon Cartwright."

In that letter, Kizer defames a brother, stating that the brother is causing a hoax and fraud to be perpetrated on the Body of Christ and hints at some improper relationship with a woman not his wife. These accusations would comprise the sins of stealing from the Body and the wife as well as the sin of lying.

Although Kizer did not mention the one who he describes, by my having knowledge of the principles related to the operation at Port Austin, Michigan, it was clear to me that Kizer was describing a particular brother in Christ, Norm Edwards. I immediately contacted Kizer via email letting him know that the letter was defamatory.

The next morning, I was contacted by Phil Frankford, who also claims to be a brother in Christ. Frankford's contacting me was related to my contacting Kizer over the defamatory

letter.

Frankford came to me bringing with him the following people via a mutual email chain: Pam Dewey, Dixon Cartwright, Herbert Solinsky, Carolyn Smith-Kizer and M. Bosner. These people were apparently brought as witnesses by Frankford.

Frankford's initial contact with me was for the purpose of defending Kizer's defamatory remarks on his website. In his post to me, Frankford accused our brother of perpetrating a fraud and hoax, and indicated that the brethren needed to be warned about Edwards. Frankford's message echoed that of Kizer's except that he did not repeat the accusation of improper attention given a woman who was not his wife. Frankford, in fact, denied making those accusations.

At this point, I indicated to Frankford that I approached this matter because I was offended that such defamatory comments were posted publicly about a brother without his having been given the proper procedure as given us in Matthew 18. It was made clear by me that public defamatory comments by a brother about a brother harmed the Body and that the Body has suffered enough of those kinds of harms over the years.

Because of this offense, I had approached Kizer with the idea that it might be possible to get him to remove those public defamatory comments until some independent fact-finding entity could be convened to determine if in fact Edwards was conducting himself in a sinful manner.

The defamatory comments made against a brother, if not proven up, amount to a bearing of false witness against a brother. Therefore, a request was made to Kizer and to Frankford for the evidence that proved up the allegations.

Kizer indicated to me by post that the matter was in litigation at that point and because of that he could not, and would not, deliver to me any copies of any documents that would prove up the allegations. Upon reading this, I again asked Kizer to remove the defamatory letter from his website. As of the writing of this letter, his defamatory open letter to Dixon Cartwright continues to be posted on his web page at:

<http://www.homerkizer.org/cartwright.html>

Frankford posted to me on two occasions scanned copies of documents. The first post was the signature lines of a document, the

nature of which could not be discerned. My response to Frankford was that the documents did not deal with the issues at hand, theft and lying.

The next post related to the documents submitted as 'proof' was four separate scanned pages purporting to be real estate documents signed in one case by a number of purported trustees of PASCC and in the second case by only one trustee.

My response to this post was that the documents were merely land conveyance documents and did not on their face show any fraud, deceit or improper affection or attention as publicly stated by Kizer and Frankford. As such, I let it be known that the posting of accusations of fraud, hoax and theft of affections was premature pending resolution of the matter by an independent fact-finding entity, whether it is the one of Kizer's apparent choosing, the courts, or the proper one via a Matthew 18 procedure.

I also asked for evidence that Kizer and Frankford were authorized to sign as trustees for PASCC. No documents were sent to me to prove up that such signatures were authorized. The only possible conclusion that can be made from this refusal to support their public defamatory accusations is that no evidence exists and that these brothers have needlessly and harmfully publicly defamed a brother.

Once again, the offense to the Body of Christ, of which they and I claim to be members, was publicly made and, since the public accusations without evidence offended me, it seems only proper and right that the evidence that proves up those claims be posted for the witnesses assembled by Frankford, and for me.

In the alternative, it seems only right, if they are unable or unwilling to prove up the serious charges leveled against Edwards, that both Kizer and Frankford should discontinue all public defamatory comments directed at Edwards, including the removal of the publicly-posted internet letter by Kizer to Dixon Cartwright.

Five times I asked both of them to discontinue their public defamatory comments on November 11, 2004, I was informed by Frankford that "it is over." Frankford, and by extension Kizer, have refused to hear me. To date, they have not removed the public defamatory comments about a brother.

Because Kizer and Frankford have refused to hear me, and have refused to repent of their defamation, this matter

has been forced before the members of the Body of Christ for their decision, as is found in the final step of Matthew 18.

Copies exist of all communications evidencing my reason for going to my brother Kizer initially as well as evidencing the fact that I asked them to repent by refraining from defamatory comments and removing the public defamatory comments.

Anybody who likes can access copies of the email string at the links at the top of this page (<http://kizer-frankfort.4t.com>). If the veracity of my statements located on the web as to the content of the Matthew 18 procedure is doubted, I can send copies directly on request.

Since Frankford and Kizer have refused to repent of the publication of defamatory charges about a brother, I must now bring this matter to the Body of Christ, the Church.

Christ tells us that if a brother will not repent before the Body, then they should be to us as heathens and publicans. These two brothers as of this time appear to be unrepentant and continue to publish the unsubstantiated defamatory accusations against Edwards. I call on them again before this Holy Body of Christ to repent of their sin and to remove the defamatory accusations against Edwards and further to cease from further defamatory accusations until such time as those accusations are proven independently, if indeed they can be.

Should these brothers fail to repent, I call on the Body to put out these men, to make them as publicans and heathens, in the hope that they will repent and be restored to the Body.

Respectfully delivered to the Holy Body of Christ,
Royce Mitchell, Jr.

EDITORS NOTE:

The legal documents that were finally presented to the public by Phillip Frankford are currently being reviewed.

As of the time these open letters were dropped into this newsletter, there has so far been no fraud found on the part of Norman Edwards in regard to this matter.

The legal documents are still being reviewed and we will perhaps have more information in regard to the Port Austin situation in Issue #25. Laura Lee

**COMING IN ISSUE #25:
Persecution of Thomas Cranmer
--by Wily Elder**

&

**Present Day Persecution:
Port Austin, Michigan
Sabbatarian Community in Crisis**

**DON'T FORSAKE YOUR FIRST
LOVE!**

**by Larry Volk
Valley City, North Dakota**

In the Book of Revelation, the Apostle John, issues a stern warning to the church of Ephesus admonishing it not to "**leave thy first love**" (Revelation 2:4). Scripture is replete with examples of the continuous threat of apostasy undermining the truth "**once delivered unto the saints**," (Jude 3) by Christ himself.

Paul marveled that there were those in the Church of God, who had "**so soon removed** (themselves) **from him that called** (them) **into the grace of Christ unto another gospel**" (Galatians 1:6).

Paul warns Christians not to let their minds and hearts be darkened by "**vain imagination**" (Romans 1:21). Vanity of intellect leads to the creation of a "**reprobate mind** (Romans 1:28)," which is devoid of godly understanding.

One of Satan's greatest deceptions is rooted in the LIE that God did away with the Ten Commandments, through the sacrifice of his holy Son, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

King David, a man after God's own heart tells us that "**the fear (REVERENCE as the Moffatt translation renders it) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments, his praise endureth for ever**" (Psalms 111:10).

King David tells us that understanding begins with obedience to God, and wisdom through walking in the law of God. Yet, traditional Protestantism teaches a false gospel, devoid of obedience to God, while the Roman Catholic Church claims the authority to re-write the Ten Commandments, deleting the Seventh Day Sabbath command (4th Commandment) and the prohibition to worship before idols (2nd commandment), also known as icons to those who

reverence them.

Commandment breaking leads to lawlessness and confusion, and **“God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints”** (I Corinthians 14:33).

Jude, the biological half-brother of our Lord calls the Protestant ministers who perpetuate the false gospel of “grace without works” **“impious creatures who PERVERT THE GRACE of our God into IMMORALITY and DISOWN our sole liege and Lord, Jesus Christ”** (Jude 4, Moffatt translation)!

The Eternal is a God of “choice,” however, we are told that with choice comes responsibility and or consequences. The Eternal **“call(s) heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you LIFE and DEATH, BLESSING and CURSING: therefore choose life that both thou and thy seed may live”** (Deuteronomy 30:7).

God is a loving God who gives his children choices, however; we must choose wisely or suffer the consequences of our actions! The prophet Hosea told the people of Israel that they had been taken captive and **“destroyed for (their) lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge”** (Hosea 4:6). The people of ancient Israel made a **choice** not to **“retain God in their knowledge”** (Romans 1:28)! However, total **destruction** was the **consequence** of that choice. God goes on to tell ancient Israel that because they chose not to retain Him in their knowledge, the **consequence** of their action was that God would **“reject”** them (Hosea 4:6).

Question: How did the people of ancient Israel reject God? God answers; **“seeing thou hast forgotten the LAW OF THY GOD”** (Hosea 4:6). The consequences of ancient Israel’s actions affected future generations of Israelites, in that God said, **“I will also forget thy children”** (Hosea 4:6).

Because the Israelites had rejected God’s law, future generations would also reject the law of God by default, thus suffering the consequences of rejecting the Creator, God.

The Bible very clearly speaks of two separate and diametrically opposing laws. The first is the Law of God, which can be found in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21; while the second is described as the “law of sin and death,” (Romans 8:2) which is the way of this “world and its god,” (II Corinthians 4:4) Satan the Devil.

Satan is the law giver of what the apostle Paul refers to as the **“law of sin and death”** (Romans 8:2). Romans 6:23 tells us that the **“wages”** we earn for living a life governed by the **“law of sin and death”** is “death” (Romans 6:23). The apostle Paul refers to this death as the “second death” (Revelation 20:14, 21:8) which is for all eternity!

The true believer makes a conscious choice to walk contrary to the law of **“sin and death”** (Romans 8:2), embracing the **“law of God”** which leads to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord,” which is the “gift of God” (Romans 6:23), freely given to all those who made a choice to retain God in their knowledge by **“keeping the commandments of God”** and retaining **“the testimony of Jesus Christ”** (Revelation 12:17)

The apostle Paul tells us the fulfillment of the will of God is to love one another as we love God and this is accomplished by keeping God’s Law. **“By this we know we LOVE the children of God, when we LOVE God, and KEEP HIS COMANDMENTS”** (I John 5:2). **“For this is the LOVE OF GOD, that we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and his COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT GRIEVOUS”** (I John 5:3). (See also John 14:21, John 15:10, I John 2:3-4, I John 3:22-24, Revelation 12:17, 14:12, and 22:14).

The apostle Paul tells us there is a constant struggle going on in our members between the **“law of God”** and the **“law of sin and death.”** Paul sums it up in the following manner:

22. For I delight in the LAW OF GOD after the inward man (mind).
23. But I see another LAW in my members (flesh), warring against the LAW OF MY MIND, and bringing me into captivity to the LAW OF SIN which is in my members.
24. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?
25. I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the LAW OF GOD; but with the FLESH the LAW OF SIN. (Romans 7:22-25)

The question remains, how does one over come the Law OF SIN AND DEATH that dwells in our members? The answer is simple, we don’t! It is the spirit of Christ dwelling in us that over comes the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. Jesus said, “with men this is impossible, but with God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE” (Matthew 19:16).

If it is impossible to keep the LAW OF GOD, why did Jesus command us to do that very thing repeatedly? A man came up to Jesus and said, “Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life” (Matthew 19:16). This man thought he could earn his salvation through some good deed or religious ritual handed down through tradition by his religious tradition (Matthew 15:3-9). Jesus responded by asking him a question, followed by a clear answer to his question. **“Why callest thou me good (perfect)? There is none good (perfect) but one, that is, God: but IF thou wilt ENTER into LIFE (eternal life), keep the commandments”** (Matthew 19:17).

True Christians don’t keep the commandments i.e. obey God because they are trying to earn salvation. True Christians keep the commandments because in doing so, they are demonstrating their love for God as commanded by John in I John 5:2-3. Commandment keeping takes an act of faith on behalf of the believer. After a life time of obedience God gives the true believer a very special and PRICELESS **“gift,” “eternal life through Jesus Christ”** (Romans 6:23).

The clear and simple purpose of the law is not to save, but to **define sin** (Romans 3:20), so that by the LAW OF GOD, through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross we may obtain eternal life as God’s gift to all those who are obedient to the Law and retain the testimony of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, without whom, there is NO SALVATION.

The Protestant world tells us that the LAW OF GOD was NAILED TO THE CROSS with Christ, sighting Colossians 2:14. Yes, they rejoice in their **lawlessness**, **“turning the GRACE (unmerited pardon for past sins) of our God into LASCIVIOUSNESS (evil or license to sin), and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ”** (Jude 4). The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 5:13, that **“sin is not imputed when there is no law.”** If Christ nailed the law to the Cross, there is no sin, and where there is no sin, there is no need for repentance. The Protestant world truly has perverted the grace of Christ unto another gospel” (Galatians 1:6).

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7). The apostle Paul tells us, God **“WILL RENDER TO EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS”** (Romans 2:6).

Clearly the law was not nailed to the cross as Protestants teach. If not the law

of God, then what was nailed to the cross with Christ? To answer that question we need to examine the biblical text as it is written in Colossians 2:14. **“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to this cross.”**

To understand Colossians 2:14, we need to understand the following points:

1. What the handwriting of ordinances were that was against us
2. How they are contrary to us
3. What was taken out of the way, nailed to the cross

Now we'll examine Colossians 2:14 from the Moffatt translation of the Bible, copyright 1922, revised 1954. “He cancelled the regulations that stood against us—all these obligations he set aside when he nailed them to the cross” (Colossians 2:14).

The **handwriting of ordinances** or **regulations** that stood against us were **our past sins**. Paul tells us that God the Father, through the redemptive work of Christ **“set forth to be a propitiation (regain the fair) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God”** (Romans 3:25).

It was our past sins that were contrary to us, not the Law of God! What was taken away, nailed to the cross? It was our sins that were removed from us. Christ's sacrifice on the cross, through our **“faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission (removal) of sins that are past.”** How can it be made any clearer? What was blotted out at the cross was the record, or ordinances, the ledger that held our sins. This record is blotted out upon repentance of our sins, and the acceptance of Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Does Christ's sacrifice on the cross give us license to sin? Paul tells us **“let not SIN (transgression of the law I John 3:4) therefore, reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof”** (Romans 6:12).

Paul asks a very profound question, which few seem to understand. “What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law (the law of sin and death), but under grace? God forbid” (Romans 6:15).

Romans 6:16 sums it all up. **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey whether of sin unto death, or of**

obedience unto righteousness?”

The false gospel promulgated by the Protestant world that teaches licentious grace is of the “synagogue of Satan” (Rev. 2:9). Grace is not a license to sin; it is “unmerited pardon for past sins.” Christ made grace (pardon) possible through his sacrifice on the cross. Christians are not under the “LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.” But we are under the “LAW OF GOD,” which when we keep it is a visible manifestation of our faith.

True Christians must be on their guard daily not to leave their “first love” (Revelation 2:4). False preachers come in and speak evil of the truth, as delivered to the saints by Christ himself.

The New Testament Prophecies of a False Christ Being Preached and a False Gospel Going out to Deceive the World.

Revelation 12:9 “...the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.”

II Peter 2:1 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”

II Thessalonians 2:3-4 “That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.” “Let NO MAN DECEIVE you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a FALLING AWAY first and that man of SIN be revealed, the SON OF PERDITION.”

Matthew 24:4-5 “Take heed that NO MAN DECEIVE YOU.” “For MANY (not a few) shall COME IN MY NAME, saying I am CHRIST; and shall DECEIVE MANY.”

Matthew 7:20-22 “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” “Not everyone that saith unto me, LORD, LORD, shall ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; but he that DOETH the WILL OF MY FATHER which is in heaven.” “MANY WILL SAY TO ME IN THAT DAY (Day of the Lord), LORD, LORD, have we not PROPOSED IN THY NAME? and in thy name have we not CAST OUT DEVILS? And in thy name done MANY WONDERFUL WORKS?” “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, YE THAT WORK INIQUITY (LAWLESSNESS).”

Note: Iniquity is lawlessness, and lawlessness is sin! See I John 3:4.

Notice we will be “persecuted because of the word of God” (Matthew 13:21). Keep in mind those doing the

persecuting will be the leaders of the great apostasy.

John 14:30 “...for the prince of this world (Satan the Devil) cometh, and hath nothing in me.”

The Prince of this world is the creator of “...MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” A.K.A. the coming great Apostasy, that is, but has not taken control of world religious issue and geo-political events worldwide!

II Corinthians 11:13-15 “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.” “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” “Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness: whose end shall be according to their works.”

Galatians 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.” “Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.” “But though we, or an angel from heaven (Satan was originally from heaven), preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” “As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

What is the mark of a true servant of God? “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet PLEASED men, I should not be the SERVANT OF CHRIST” (Galatians 1:10). Other biblical texts that deal with religious falsehood: Rev. 6:2, Jer. 10:1, 23:25-26, Deut. 12:30-32, Amos 5:21-22, Ezek. 20:11-13, 21,39, II Tim 4:3-4, Isaiah 8:20, 30:8-10, Matt. 5:17-19, 6:33, 7:21-23, 10:37-38, 24:4-5, I John 3:4

The LAW OF SIN and DEATH

“The law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2) is summed up in what Paul calls the “Works of the flesh.”

“The works of the flesh are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations (jealousies) wrath (anger), strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and the such like....” Galatians 5:19-21

Dear brethren, I pray you, be not beguiled by the serpent of old, Satan the Devil, as Eve was, through his subtilty, “so that your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (II Corinthians 11:3). Be ever vigilant not to be beguiled of your “first love” (Rev. 2:4),

through the vain philosophy of men (Romans 1:22 and Colossians 2:8) and false doctrine that tickles the ears of the unlearned (II Timothy 4:3).



SOCIAL PHOBIA

**by Name Withheld
Australia**

I recall as a girl there came a time when social interaction was frightening and I quickly learned to avoid it.

So because of this, I always assumed that I was shy and I was envious of those who could just show up at meetings, parties and make friends straight away.

When my daughter started pre-school, all of a sudden she clammed up. After a lot of effort seeing pediatricians, etc, she finally got her diagnoses as a selective mute. (One pediatrician made the comment that she was just shy, but as a mother I knew it went deeper than that!)

A specialist came to my daughter's school to talk to the teachers so they would know what to look for, and what to do. I confided in the lady that I was shy. She commented that I didn't have to stay that way.

So finally I bit the bullet and made an appointment at an Anxiety Clinic. After a lot of questions and questionnaires I was diagnosed with having "Social Phobia". This was a bit scary but at last I realized that my shyness went far deeper (as I had suspected.)

So what exactly is 'social phobia'?

Basically it is a fear of social activities, events and the people associated with them. This can lead to high levels of anxiety and therefore motivates the socially anxious person to avoid them. The person recognizes that the fear is excessive or unreasonable. It is due to the fear of criticism, negative evaluation or rejection of others.

Social phobia can begin around adolescence or younger. Around 3-10% of the population (in Australia) have Social Phobia . It appears to affect slightly more women than men.

Some of the main fears of people with social phobia are:

- Speaking in public
- social situations (eg dating, parties)
- stating opinions (eg perhaps on religion) or making requests (eg returning something to the shops)
- worrying others will see you when eating, writing or drinking

Each individual's pattern and intensity of social phobia will be different.

After a few one-on-one sessions with my psychologist at the Anxiety Clinic, I attended group sessions. It was frightening at first. But the other people there were attending for the same reasons and it became a little easier.

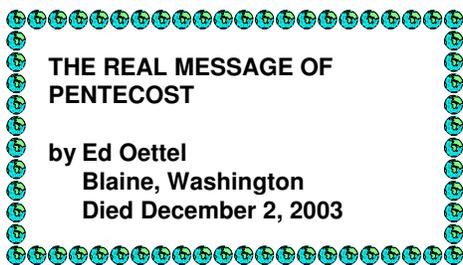
It is still hard but I am slowly starting to open up more. Fortunately my husband has been quite supportive.

Going back through my childhood helped me to understand a lot of why this possibly happened. My father used to be verbally abusive and insulting to us. My sister now suffers from Obsessive/Compulsive Disorder.

But what I had struggled to try and answer was, can someone with social phobia be converted? I asked this of a wonderful minister and his response was:

"The Scriptures teach us that God sent His Son to save sinners! Please note 1 Cor. 1:26-31. Aren't you included in that description? Do not the Scriptures teach that we must overcome? And what are we supposed to conquer? Is irrational fear a help or hindrance to growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ? Whatever weaknesses we have we must overcome. Therefore, do the things that help you defeat your stumbling blocks and use the resources that advise, help, encourage wisely and lovingly. Endure, overcome, and you'll win!"

And by the grace of God, I aim to do just that!



THE REAL MESSAGE OF PENTECOST

**by Ed Oettel
Blaine, Washington
Died December 2, 2003**

When God called me nearly 38 years ago, I was told and began to believe that I was part of the end time Philadelphia Church. We were directed to Rev 3:7-9 and told that this was proof of our calling.

Perhaps most people today claim that the church they belong to is the true church of God. If you asked that question to any member of the millions of church goers in this world, they would probably give you that same answer. Religion began with our parents Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. They were given the opportunity to have a direct one on one relationship with God by taking of the tree of life in the midst of the garden. They

would have received the Holy Spirit, and would have begun a special relationship with their creator from that time on.

However Satan came on the scene and deceived them into eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. At that time, they directly cut themselves off from the godly personal relationship they could have had with their creator, and they allowed Satan to influence their lives. Since that time, mankind has allowed a go-between to intercede between them and God.

After the flood, mankind accepted the rule of Nimrod over them, and he became the accepted head of religion in this world by establishing the Babylonian Mystery Religion, that was totally apart from God and has existed down to this present time.

God chose the nation of Israel to be His chosen people, and He brought them to Egypt where they became slaves of that country for 430 years. In 1443 BC God brought His nation out of that bondage, and offered them His rule over them with the law that would have made that relationship possible, this was the first Pentecost.

In Exod 19:10-11 The people were told to be ready to accept God's rule over them. In Exod 20:18-19 Israel, like Adam and Eve, rejected God's rule over them in favor of a human leader Moses. They did this out of fear of God, and they were afraid to have a one on one relationship with their creator.

God made them wander for 40 years till all that generation that had rejected His plan for them were dead in the wilderness. The second generation later rejected God's rule over them in favor of a human king.

Since that time, humans have elected or chosen men to be their spokesmen between them and God...

Today we have thousands of differing religions in this world. In virtually every case, they have human leaders that dictate to the members, supposedly what they say God wants them to hear. Organized religion is fear based. You're taught first that you need the church, and once your indoctrinated, you obey the rule they have over you. They may show you scriptural proof that we are to obey their rule over us, but the bottom line boils down to extracting your monetary support for them. Religion today has become one of the greatest legal scams ongoing, and it is done with the consent of the federal government.

Whether we can believe it or not, God desires a one on one relationship with each one of us. He wants us to yield ourselves to His will and not to some

human church leader, or any other human for that matter. When we yield ourselves to God, He then is able to direct our path, and will lead us to the truth that we seek.

Truth is something that stands the test of time, and can always be proven correct in every detail. Organized religion follows the dictates and traditions of men, that have been carried down for generations. God gives us His views on how He feels about all the traditions we have accepted and follow today. Isa. 1:11-18 God gives us a clear message about all the traditions we follow today that we accept as truth.

The bible states that we should seek a personal relationship with God while He still can be found. That means that we should allow nothing or NO ONE to come between us and the creator God.

I hope that this message is not too strong for people to read, but it does convey a message about Pentecost that most of us have never heard before.



TEMCAT'S LETTERS TO YOUNG WITCHES

**by Name Withheld
Canada**

These are letters that Temcat has written to answer the questions young readers of this site (<http://www.temcat.com>) have asked. In some cases the writer has said they were a witch, or studying to be one. I am not going to put the people's names on their letters, as I don't want to embarrass anyone. Temcat

A Question - "so you are saying that ALL witchcraft is evil and satanic? Then I will have no part of it!! Please reply to tell me this is what you are saying."

Answer: Yes, the Bible is very clear that all witchcraft and 'magic' is of the devil. God doesn't want us to have anything to do with it - not because He just wants to be bossy and spoil our fun, but because He knows it is all a trick of Satan to lure us into his control and torment and destroy us.

Satan likes to get us to think that there is something good in it, after all, he can't catch us in his traps if he doesn't use some good bait. Remember that rat poison is mostly good grain- but it doesn't help the rat who eats it.

The fact is that witchcraft offers people a lot of things they really want- life,

power, health, to be able to help others, and so on. BUT Satan is a liar and he doesn't even have the power to give us these things. Temcat

To a boy who wants to 'sell his soul' to be like Harry Potter, and thinks Jesus is stupid;

I am sorry to say you are being sadly fooled.

What you don't know or forget is, that Jesus is real - Harry Potter is just something that a woman made up, it isn't true at all. I believe that Satan helped her to make up these stories, as he wants to use them to catch and fool boys and girls who read them. But still, it is only a fairy tale.

I want to talk for a moment about this idea that people have, that they can 'sell their soul' to Satan and he will give them great power, and they will live forever as a special evil servant of Satan. What a sad bunch of lies!

For one thing, we don't HAVE a soul- we ARE a soul. Soul just means what you are as a living thinking being. Even animals are called 'souls' in the Bible.

The second important thing to know is, you can't sell your soul, because you don't own it! Every living thing belongs to God. Even Satan's life belongs to God. God created all living things, they belong to Him.

Also, Jesus died to redeem you from Satan, so He owns you double- first because He made you, second because He bought you. So Satan can't buy from you what you don't own.

But - and this is a big BUT, there is a third way that God wants to own you, and that is He wants you to choose to be His. He won't force anyone to belong to Him if they don't want to.

This is where Satan comes in with his tricks. He actually gets children even, to think they can sell their souls and do some ritual to do this. Then later when they find out how cruel Satan is, and learn about Jesus and would like to belong to Him, Satan tells them they can't, because they sold their soul to him and now Jesus won't accept them.

If you find anybody who has fallen for this trick, you just tell them that Satan is a liar! He can't buy a soul from you because you don't have one and God owns your life. He is just tricking you. Run to Jesus in prayer and tell Him you CHOOSE to be His and He will help you right out of Satan's claws. Temcat

What if you get some sort of power

from Satan by promising to serve him?

Well, remember, these powers are not real. Satan himself does not have the powers he often promises to people stupid enough to listen to him.

He promises them they can live forever. Satan can't make anything alive or keep anything alive! In the end he will find out he can't even keep himself alive. All life belongs to God.

So what are some other powers - telling the future; This is not a power that people really can have; Satan's angels have to tell people what they want to know and they can tell some things because they are all over the place and know a lot about what is happening and they can help make some things come true. But when the bad angels get tired of doing this for a person, he finds out it was just a trick.

Levitating or flying; this is only possible when Satan's angels carry something and it looks like it is flying. If they get tired of carrying it- no more flying! In Heaven (Editors Note: In the World Tomorrow Laura Lee) we will be able to fly for real!

Power to 'cast a spell' to hurt people; This is all done by Satan and his angels and not by people at all.

It is interesting that in the mission fields in years gone by when Christian missionaries were close to the Lord, even the devil-doctors would say that their spells could not hurt God's people. God's angels are stronger than the fallen angels.

Jesus defeated Satan; -- why get tricked into serving a LOOSER, when you can choose to belong to the WINNER?

Dear _____;

I was happy to get your letter and to write to you.

I am going to tell you a bit about Jesus, because He is your best friend even though you don't know very much about Him yet.

Jesus is the Son of God, and really, this world, and you and me too, all belong to Him. It was Jesus who made this world in the beginning of time.

Jesus loves all people, and especially boys and girls.

He will always hear you if you pray to Him and ask Him to help you. Even if you only pray in your head, He will still hear you.

Jesus wants the boys and girls to love Him and choose to belong to Him.

There is a bad angel in this world, called Satan, who decided to be the enemy of God and try to get people to belong to him instead of Jesus. The sad

thing is that he tricks them into thinking he is their friend but he really wants to hurt them and see them die.

The reason Jesus doesn't want us to be witches, is because Jesus doesn't want that bad angel and his helpers to be able to hurt us. Most witches don't realize they are doing Satan's work, but it is Satan that is the liar. Satan fools them. Jesus doesn't hate witches - but He knows if they keep working for Satan, they will be lost.

Jesus will always help any boy or girl who asks Him to, but when we go along with the bad angels, and chose to obey them instead of Jesus, it is very hard for Jesus to help us and keep us safe then.

But remember - any time we choose to belong to Jesus and tell Him so in our prayers - He will always help us.

Jesus is stronger than the bad angels and He can scare them away! Temcat

**A NATION THAT REJECTED
GOD**

**by Doyle Carter
Tulsa, Oklahoma**

In the Bible, we can read about a nation that had rejected God and His way of Life and observe the end results. This nation was ancient Israel. It would be to our benefit to review the events that caused its fall as a nation and learn from the lessons of the past. It is they who do not learn from the past that are due to repeat the past whether good or bad.

In 1 Kings 12, the book records the division of Israel into two nations. One became the kingdom of Judah which was lead by king Rehoboam and the other was the kingdom of Israel lead by king Jeroboam.

The reason for the division was a political one. King Rehoboam was advised to lighten the burden on the people of Israel (all 12 tribes) and he did the opposite to this advice causing 10 of the 12 tribes to go under the leadership of king Jeroboam.

But king Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now shall all the kingdom return to the House of David: if this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of the people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah." (1 Kings 12:25-27) We see that this king became concerned about his place as king. This lead to a bad choice as recorded in the next few verses.

In verses 28-30, it records that he took council and decided to build 2 golden calves and place one in Bethel and the other in Dan (verses 28-29). Then he told the people not to go to Jerusalem once a year, but told them to worship where the calves are because it was too much of a burden for them to go to Jerusalem. Plus, he made priests of the lowest people (verse 31).

If you will note that the people of Israel did not seem to reject the idea as a whole. They just followed along with this plan.

In verse 32, it states, "And Jeroboam ordained a feast [note not God's] in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the Feast that is in Judah [the Feast of Tabernacles]" So he decided to ordain a feast without God's authority.

By this action, this king started to remove the people from the True worship of God by replacing the method and the place of worship. The first few generations may have believed they were worshiping the true God, but over time idolatry became the main religion of the country.

This king started the actions that lead the kingdom of Israel to its down fall. Over a period of about 230 years, the northern kingdom of Israel went through hard times and there was an increase of moral decay over these years. This fact is recorded in the Bible and history books.

God had to send prophet after prophet to warn the leadership and people of this nation, but few ever listened to these men of God.

Even about 20 years before the destruction of this nation, Hosea spoke the word of the Lord to Northern Israel saying, "...for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood touch blood... my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you rejected knowledge [of God]..." (Hosea 4:2-6)

By 720 BC, the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by Assyrians and the people of this land were deported out of the area. This nation was completely removed from the area and the nation ceased to exist.

Like the actions of king Jeroboam, we as a nation are drifting from God by removing practices such as prayer from school, Ten Commandments from the court rooms and other various actions. We as a nation are going on a very dangerous path. If we do not want history

to repeat itself, we as a nation and individuals need to cease turning away from God and turn back to the true values and worship of God.

I encourage you to ponder on these facts and look toward God and pray that our country will stop rejecting God's Way before it is too late. Research the history of Israel and learn from the lesson of the past.

**WHEN SHOULD GOD'S
FESTIVALS BE OBSERVED?**

**by David Ben-Ariel
Toledo, Ohio**

Religious Jews have celebrated God's festivals for thousands of years. They were observing the Biblical holy days long before the Church was brought into being. The Scriptures clearly PROVE that God entrusted them with the preservation of God's Law and Sacred Calendar (Romans 9:4), and states this fact after the Church was founded (since some wrongly teach that it's now the Church's responsibility). Only the Jews out of all the tribes of Israel have faithfully kept God's Word (Hosea 11:12). The Bible says it, so we should believe it, case closed!?! Unfortunately not.

God used Herbert W. Armstrong to restore life to a dying Church (Rev. 3:1). It's interesting that Mr. Armstrong restored 18 essential truths to His people. Why? Because the Jewish numerical value of 18 equals LIFE. One of those truths restored concern the observance of God's Holy Days. Many have repented and forsaken their former pagan traditions to keep the Biblical commands. But did God authorize Mr. Armstrong to determine when the holy days are to be kept? Did Jesus Christ reject the Jews and decide God's Church would now be the custodian of His sacred calendar? After all, what's the purpose of the calendar except to determine when the festivals are to be observed? NO! Mr. Armstrong was to restore the knowledge of God's holy days, not change the days the Jews have always kept them on!

God's Church celebrates every holy day on the same dates as the Jews except for Passover and Pentecost. If we can have the chutzpah to tell the Jews that they're celebrating those days on the wrong days, then how can we rest assured that they're not wrong about which day is the true Sabbath? The Sabbath and holy days stand or fall together. Either we trust God gave it to the

Jews to accurately keep the CORRECT DAYS AND DATES, or we doubt God's ability to keep His Word. Which is it?

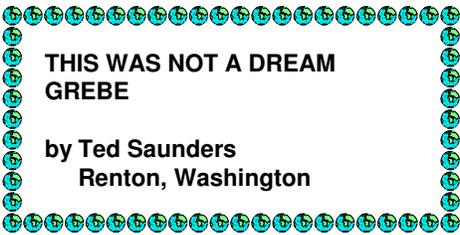
Mr. Armstrong would've done well to recognize that GOD'S GOVERNMENT has ordained the Jews to determine these matters. He should've just followed their example as to when to observe these Biblical days, rather than to try and figure it out for himself. It wasn't his responsibility! First he counted wrong for Pentecost and kept Monday for the holy day. Later he changed the day he counted 50 from and kept pagan Sunday, but he was still counting from the wrong day! He unnecessarily became confused about which Sabbath was to be counted from. The Jewish religious authorities (that have prevailed) agree that the Sabbath to count 50 from is the ANNUAL SABBATH, not the weekly Sabbath. The Pharisees - whom Christ said "sit in Moses' seat" (Matt. 23:2-3) - whom GOD entrusted with authority - counted from the annual Sabbath (Jn. 19:31; Mk. 16:1).

Paul was a strict Pharisee and said that his religious education had been according to "the PERFECT MANNER OF THE LAW" (Acts 23:3,6). He testified that he was "blameless in the law" (Phil. 3:5-6). He didn't say except for Passover and Pentecost! And does it make sense for GOD to be so meticulous in fulfilling prophecy that not one of Christ's bones could be broken (Jn. 19:36), and then sacrifice His Son at the wrong time? God - and the Jews - know what time on the 14th to perform the Passover sacrifice. Then the lamb is eaten after sundown on the 15th - the night to be much observed - the way the Jews have always done it!

The only Jews who disagreed with the Pharisees in Jesus' time, who didn't follow God's government (since Christ recognized the authority of the Pharisees), were the Sadducees. They became history when the Temple was destroyed. Jesus had condemned their religion and blasted their Biblical ignorance (Matt. 22:29). Who would want to follow them? Those who do stubbornly insist on keeping their traditions will also come to an end! Any who've stolen the prerogative of the true Jewish authorities will be exposed as liars (Rev. 3:9)! God has NOT ordained others to determine when to observe His holy days. I believe God allowed Mr. Armstrong to make this honest error to test His people to see whether we would change when confronted with the facts or not. We demand it of others, but why don't we practice what we preach? Have we become too comfortable in our religious ways and don't want the boat rocked

(Amos 6:1)? This is the test of true conversion: the willingness to continue to change as truth is revealed, not get stuck in our ways! We're to walk in the light of our God-given understanding (1 Jn. 1:7). And we should THANK GOD for bringing this to our attention rather than leaving us in the dark!

If the Pharisees didn't keep the correct holy day dates, or if Jesus and His disciples didn't, don't you think that they would've made an issue of it? Do you think Jesus would let them slide on something as IMPORTANT as this? Yet there isn't one word of disagreement between them on this holy day subject! Why should we be afraid to change when proven wrong? We should fear not! God will hold us accountable for what we know. We cannot continue to SIN by working on God's holy days to keep our own! Who will you obey? God or men? What will you follow: God's commands or human traditions? (Mk. 7:7).


**THIS WAS NOT A DREAM
GREBE**
**by Ted Saunders
Renton, Washington**

I had an experience the afternoon before the first day of the feast this last year I don't know what to make of it.

It was a cool cold blustery afternoon with medium size waves crashing on the northwest Pacific coast beach. I zipped my coat tight against my throat with an extra shirt underneath for warmth and hung my binoculars over it all.

The setting was lonely out there except for one or two other people in sight as I wandered along enjoying the sight of brown pelicans flying in lines of two, three or even a dozen looking for fish as they flew just a foot or less above the water and rising or falling with the waves as they climbed up and down.

There were worn drift logs cast ashore here and there on the sand or small sections of polished pebbles. What a great place to contemplate the greatness of God and the meaning of life.

After about an hour I spotted the spot with the features I had memorized so I would recognize where to turn up to the trail emerging from the tall wiry grasses for the return to my hotel.

Then I saw it. A large bird somewhat between a duck and a goose in size was sitting on the beach where the water was ebbing back and forth. I went closer to get

a better look at it and about 40 to 50 feet away looked over with my binoculars. I was surprised to see it showed no concern about my presence and made no move to flee.

The bird had red eyes with black feathers from there up over the top of its head and down the back of its long neck. The chin and front half of the neck were snowy white and the yellowish beak was relatively long and sharp. The rest of the strange looking bird was a mottled grayish color.

As I studied that bird it just sort of scooted over the sand but always further away from the rough water. Then it got up on its short legs and feet which were positioned far to the rear of its body so it was vertical and kind of did a running shuffle another 6 or 7 feet further inland.

I wondered if it was planning to rest for the night and return to the restless sea in a few hours or in the early morning.

I walked away up the beach to the trail and turned for a last look. It sat there making no move to go anywhere but then it suddenly started bobbing its head up and down and back and forth on its amazingly supple neck for a few minutes. Was this a weird land ritual I was witnessing? My answer came soon after that because it stretched its head and feet straight out on the sand and shook. Oh no what could this mean?

It became still and moved no more!! I went back down to see if it was still ok but alas it was dead! I have never witnessed a wild creature just lay down on its own and die before. I am still wondering why I was a witness to the dignified death and agony of this magnificent Western Grebe right at the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles.....


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*

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Need Articles in regard to Persecution

On request of a reader, we will be running a series of articles on the subject of: "Persecution".

If you have written articles in regard to this topic, please send them to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com We will accept articles written on any aspect of "Persecution" from a biblical perspective.

Please write in the subject line "Persecution" or clearly label it if it is sent via snail mail.

All articles sent in regard to the topic of "Persecution" will be given a top priority status as far as us going over them for consideration of print. These articles will also, if accepted for print, be published quickly (and of course this depends on how many we receive).

CD'S

_____ 1. The Miracle of Hope and Nadia---2 Rich Text Files & 1 Media Player File

LITERATURE [Snail Mail Only]

_____ 1. Why Were We Disfellowshipped By The United Church of God an International Association? by Darwin & Laura Lee 111 pages

_____ 2. Wiley & Suzanne Black (Another Case of Abuse) by Bernard Kelly (The Bible Expositor--Last Issue) 16 pages

_____ 3. The Garnet Hill Story (Another Case of Abuse) 28 pages

NEWSLETTER--BACK ISSUES

1. January/February 2001--Issue No. 1

- A. UCG Attendance Policy Raises More Questions (From Servant's News)
- B. John 21:15-17 & Acts 20:28 (About a Shepherd-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. Is Disfellowshipping a Christian Practice?--by Arlan Weight
- B. Just Judgment Important for Local Congregations--by Darwin Lee & Norman Edwards
- C. Letter of Appeal--by Ned Dancuo
- D. Go To Your Brother....--by Arlan Weight

3. May/June 2001--Issue No. 3

- A. Are You Busy?--by Turning Point Ranch Ministries
- B. Letters Section--What is Anger? What is a Heart? What is Division? What is Individual Responsibility?
- C. Passover--by Arlan Weight
- D. Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage--by Laura Lee

4. July/August 2001--Issue No. 4

- A. The Titanic--Then and Now--by Myra McQueen
- B. Woe...--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
- C. Testimony of Abuse Within the Church of God--by Tawanda Ray
- D. Bear Witness--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
- E. God's Government--by Arlan Weight
- F. Gifts of the Spirit--by Laura Lee

5. September/October 2001--Issue No. 5

- A. Where Are God's People?--by Laura Lee
- B. They Sang As It Were A New Song Before The Throne--by Author Unknown
- C. Fat Cats, Fat Cats--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
- D. First Love--by Arlan Weight
- E. Why Do You Observe Saturday?--by John Currier
- F. A Church Without Women--by Dianne D. McDonnell

6. November/December 2001--Issue No. 6

- A. "Unless You Change..."--by Royce Mitchell, Jr.
- B. Paul and Women Teachers:--by Dianne D. McDonnell
- C. Delight in the Sabbath--by James McBride
- D. Physical Illness and Demon Possession--by Don Esposito
- E. Demon Possession and How it Comes About--by Don Esposito
- F. Truth--by Arlan Weight
- G. 3 Letters & 1 Feast Report

DUE TO COMPUTER AND WEB SITE PROBLEMS WE GOT WAY BEHIND IN ANSWERING LETTERS AND SENDING OUT ORDERED ITEMS. WE WILL TRY TO CATCH UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU

NEWSLETTER--BACK ISSUES

7. January/February 2002--Issue No. 7

- A. Junia, A Woman Apostle--by Dianne D. McDonnell
- B. The Christian Sabbath Part #1--by Catholic Mirror 1893
- C. Be Strong and of Good Courage--by Tommy S. West
- D. "They Shall Not Hurt Nor Destroy..."--Arlan Weight
- E. Take Heed That No Man Deceive You--by Garry D. Pifer
- F. 4 Letters & 1 Feast Report

8. March/April 2002--Issue No. 8

- A. 3 Letters & 1 Feast Report
- B. "Things I've Learned From Treasure"--by Vanessa Lorentzen
- C. The Christian Sabbath Part #2--by Catholic Mirror 1893
- D. Leadership in the Church of God--by James McBride
- E. Fellowship? With Whom?--by Royce Mitchell, Jr.
- F. Can You Be Deceived?--by Wayne Schatzle
- G. Mary, Mother of Jesus--by Bill Bratt
- H. To Cover or Not to Cover--by Rhoda Foust

9. May/June 2002--Issue No. 9

- A. The Christian Sabbath Part #3--by Catholic Mirror 1893
- B. The Commandment Considered 'Optional'--by Wayne Schatzle
- C. "She Is Not Dead But Sleeps..."--by Arlan Weight
- D. Resurrections-How Many?--by Rhoda Foust
- E. 4 Letters

10. July/August 2002--Issue No. 10

- A. 4 Letters
- B. The Christian Sabbath Part #4--by Catholic Mirror 1893
- C. Counting To Pentecost--by Arlan Weight
- D. The Spirit of Reconciliation--by Wayne Schatzle
- E. "Ezekiel's Prophecy and Revelation 20--by Rhoda Foust
- F. The Cancer Answer--by Alex Nicholson
- G. Warning to Teachers--by Doyle J. Carter
- H. Intentional Deceptive Practices and Lying--by Laura Lee
- I. Afflictions--by Michael Porter

WORKS & PDF FILES

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WE CAN ALSO SEND SOME OF OUR OTHER LITERATURE THAT WAY--SO IF YOU HAVE ORDERED SOMETHING YOU HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED, PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP US OUT AND REQUEST IT VIA E-MAIL.