

The "National Animal Identification System": A New Threat to Rural Freedom

by **Mary Zanoni (Canton, New York)**

Small farmers and homesteaders have chosen their way of life because they love their freedom - the freedom from urban noise and congestion, the independence from government and corporate interference, the self-reliance of providing one's own shelter, water, food. Now the USDA's NAIS - National Animal Identification System - threatens the traditional freedoms of the rural way of life.

The genesis of the NAIS

The NAIS is the brainchild of the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA). Who is the NIAA? Primarily two groups;

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The Passover Memorial

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

Could God's holy days, which portray His plan of salvation, exclude Jesus' sacrifice? How could Jesus' ultimate sacrifice be less than holy? Didn't God have the Israelites smear lamb's blood on their doors to avert death? Didn't that clearly represent Christ's offering for mankind? Yes!

The Passover lamb was to be kept from Nisan 10 until the 14th (Ex. 12:1-6). It was then to be KILLED. The killing was to take place on the 14th. It was to be killed in the evening. How do we know for sure which evening is being discussed? Because God the Father set us a PERFECT EXAMPLE! When did God decree that Jesus could declare "it is finished" and die on the stake? Why the same time that THE JEWS were sacrificing their Passover lambs at the Temple! The Jews had always killed the Passover lambs during the final hours of the 14th! It was towards the end of the 14th, not at the beginning of the 14th, that the Passover lambs were killed! After

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Is God Among Us?

by **James E. Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)**

One Sabbath, while I was sitting in church, listening to a particularly boring sermon, it dawned on me, like a bolt out of the blue—GOD IS NOT HERE ANY MORE!

Oh, He may be observing, but He is not participating. These people are not really seeking a deep personal relationship with God. They have found a relationship with which they are comfortable. They may not be spiritually dead, but neither are they striving to grow closer to God. They are at best stagnant.

They know about God and because they know about His Commandments, it could be said that they even know Him a little. The problem is, they know Him as well as they want to. They are without any real faith, or power of God, and they know this. They have consciously chosen to settle for this emaciated form of Christianity, when they could easily return to the Church in the first few Chapters of Acts. How incredibly sad!

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The Church's Responsibility in Training Our Children

by **Jeffrey Caldwell (Redwood City, California)**

The one command touching the church's responsibility in training our children that I am aware of is from Deuteronomy 31. "So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel. Then Moses commanded them: "At the end of every seven years, in the year for canceling debts, during the Feast of Tabernacles, when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose, you shall read this law before them in their hearing. Assemble the people – men, women and children, and the aliens living in your towns – so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land

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The Truth about the Trials of Job

by **Nathaniel Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)**

What was Job's sin? Was he proud and self-righteous? I think it's time you heard the TRUTH about one of the greatest men who ever lived!

To begin with, God LOVED Job. Before and after this trial! God was so impressed with Job He used him as an example of what He would do for a righteous man.

Ezekiel 14:12-14 *The word of the LORD came again to me, saying, Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it: Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.*

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Discipleship and Stewardship A Cure for Doctrinal Chaos and Organizational Disunity -- Part #4

by **B. L. Cocherell (San Jose, California)**

THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL

The Bible is the instruction manual for those who have been called to salvation and it contains all of the knowledge and understanding necessary in order for you to grow spiritually and succeed in the performance of your functions and responsibilities within the Father's earthly family. Therefore, before providing some tips on how to develop a personal plan for spiritual success, there are some important issues and concepts that need to be clarified concerning the Bible and its study.

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LETTERS SECTION

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

Isaiah 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Ezekiel 33:8-9 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove (expose) them.

1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

("Where is Church Unity?" continued from Issue #38)

Where is Church Unity? (11-19-06) by George E. Padgett (England)

George Padgett writes (continued):

Most brethren are turned off to true religion because of a combination of things. Firstly, many are ignored and feel unwanted. Then we have those who embrace the world's ways of technology; the instant this, that, and the other; and there simply isn't the time to write to a brother who can't send an email. Add to this the suspicion that such a brother may not be converted, so I must not bother with him.

People such as myself get no replies to letters. Why is this? Sadly but truthfully, many who write and advertise in the Journal are doing nothing more than seeking followers. This happened in Christ's day and it is happening now.

As we say about the world in every aspect of it, 'who can we trust anymore?' Sadly, we say, we can't. Equally we have to apply it to the church. No minister is capable to stand up against division, evil, etc., in the church and denounce the present situation as being Satanic.

Yes, Satan was allowed to infiltrate the minds of the ministry many years ago.

Jesus Christ truly is working with people who believe, and welcome Him in their lives. These people are those who first and foremost do not bow down to a man, but to God.

I could go on and on, but if brethren cannot understand the Bible it is of no value.

If you care to reply to my letters I will give you a truthful insight into the behaviour of ministers, elders, and others, who I came into contact with during my years in the Newcastle Church.

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Many need a reality check. We welcome

your truthful witness.

George Padgett writes:

Sadly, the Journal is dying as a paper to uplift Christians. Brian Knowles stopped his excellent articles because nothing was changing to unite brethren. I hope Brian is one of those Jesus Christ is working with because he understands what the truth really is, and what it can bring about.

Many are called but few are chosen. Sincerely, George

Entire letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-038-17.htm>

THE END**

Plagiarism (6-20-06)

by Arlan Weight (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Dear Arlan,

We have decided not to print your article "Last Days" as it is now written.

The reason we are not going to print this article is because you have almost 2 pages included in this article which has been copied (plagiarized) from an article written by another person, who's article also carries a copyright on it.

We cannot print material which we know to be plagiarized (copied from someone else).

If you want to re-write this article to reflect your own writing skills and give credit to anyone you quote from, you may re-submit the article for print and we will again go over it for consideration to print.

LETTERS SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGES 12 - 19

The Church of God Messenger

A Newsletter for the People of God

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Closed Saturday Sabbaths & Holy Days

**“The “National Animal...”
continued from page 1)**

1. the biggest corporate players in U.S. meat production (for example, the National Pork Producers, Monsanto, Cargill Meat); and
2. the makers and marketers of high-tech animal ID equipment (for example, Digital Angel, Inc., EZ-ID/AVID ID Systems, Micro Beef Technologies, Ltd.).

Beginning in 2002, the NIAA used 9/11, and subsequently the BSE scares to lobby the USDA for a nationwide, all-livestock registration and tracking system. The result is the USDA's proposed NAIS, set forth in a Draft Strategic Plan (Plan), and Draft Program Standards (Standards), released on April 25, 2005. The Plan and Standards can be downloaded from www.usda.gov/nais.

Main requirements of the NAIS

The NAIS would require two types of mandatory registration. First, premises registration would require every person who owns even one horse, cow, pig, chicken, sheep, pigeon, or virtually any livestock animal, to register their home, including owner's name, address, and telephone number, and keyed to Global Positioning System coordinates (for satellite-assisted location of homes and farms), in a federal database under a 7-digit "premises ID number." (Standards, pp. 3-4, 10-12; Plan, p. 5.)

Second, individual animal identification will require owners to obtain a 15-digit ID number, also to be kept in the federal database, for any animal that ever leaves the premises of its birth. Thus, even if you are raising animals only for your own food, you will have to obtain an individual ID to send animals to a slaughterhouse, to sell or buy animals, to obtain stud service. (Large-scale producers will be allowed to identify, e.g., large groups of pigs or broilers raised and processed together by a single group ID number. However, owners raising single animals or a small number, under most circumstances, will have to identify each animal individually for purposes of slaughter, sale, or breeding.) If you own a non-food animal such as a horse, you would need individual ID if you ever left your property for shows or trail rides. The form of ID will most likely be a tag or microchip containing a Radio Frequency Identification Device, designed to be read from a distance. (Plan, p. 10; Standards, pp. 6, 12, 20, 27-28.) In addition to this "electronic identification," the USDA will allow "industry" to decide whether to require the use of "retinal scan" and "DNA" identification for all animals. (Plan, p. 13.)

Within this system, for animals subject to individual animal identification, the animal owner would be required to report: the birth date of an animal, the application of every animal's ID tag, every time an animal leaves or enters the property, every time an animal loses a tag, every time a tag is replaced, the slaughter or death of an animal, or if any animal is missing. Such events must be reported within 24 hours. (Standards, pp. 12-13, 17-21.) The USDA plans "enforcement" to ensure compliance with the NAIS. (Standards, p. 7; Plan, p. 17.) The USDA has not yet specified the nature of this "enforcement," but presumably it would include fines and/or seizure of animals.

A more recent development is a movement, spearheaded by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), to "privatize" the database, which will contain all the premises and animal identification information, and tracking information. As reported in *Lancaster Farming*, Aug. 6, 2005, p. E 22, the NCBA has lobbied the House Agriculture Committee to urge the USDA to put the NAIS database administration into the control of the NCBA itself. As explained below, such "privatization" will only worsen the prospects for invasion of privacy, and economic pressures on small farmers and homesteaders.

Any "benefits" of the NAIS Are illusory

The NIAA and USDA claim two principal benefits of the NAIS: first, enhancing export markets for U.S. livestock products; and second, allowing traceback to farms of animals' origin when animal diseases (such as BSE) are found. These "benefits" are of no use to most small farmers and homesteaders. Small farmers and homesteaders sell to their neighbors, or consume their animal products themselves - they don't profit from "export markets." Small farmers and homesteaders raise their animals in natural and healthy conditions - usually on pasture, with minimal home-raised or organic grain, with plenty of space for exercise and dispersal of waste - to assure that problems like BSE and bacterial contamination won't occur in the home-raised animals destined for their own tables.

Indeed, the NAIS "traceback" system would be much less effective against BSE than a system of testing every slaughtered cow. Europe and Japan perform testing of every cow. The USDA has refused such testing; but surely the testing would be less expensive than a huge tracking system covering every cow, horse, donkey, llama, alpaca, pig, sheep, goat, pigeon, chicken, duck, farmed fish, etc., etc.

Moreover, the NAIS system would be of no use at all in dealing with the most common types of meat contamination in the

U.S., the occurrence of pathogens such as listeria or E. coli in processed meat. One example of such contamination can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis_recalls, 2005 recalls nos. 033-2005 and 040-2005. Those incidents involved over one million pounds (enough to serve at least four million people) of ground beef contaminated with coliform bacteria, distributed nationwide by a single processor. Such instances of contamination are not discovered until the meat has been distributed into the supply chain.

Assuming that a cow yields 500 pounds of ground meat, the one million pounds in the foregoing recalls represent meat from over 2,000 cows. There is no way to identify individual cows from one million pounds of hamburger; no way to tell if any contamination came from a cow, multiple cows, or from the processing itself; and no benefit to consumer safety in such a situation from the NAIS system. In sum, when meat becomes contaminated at a large packing plant, millions of consumers in all 50 states can be exposed to the dangerous product. In contrast, an incident of impaired food at a small-scale farm or local processor might affect only a few dozen consumers in a single county. Thus, by encouraging increased consolidation of the meat industry, the NAIS would actually make America's food supply more unstable and less safe.

It is therefore clear that the benefits of the NAIS are illusory. Unfortunately, the harms of the NAIS are very real, and fall primarily upon the smallest farmers, homesteaders, and consumers.

The harms of the NAIS are very real

The NAIS will drive small producers out of the market, will prevent people from raising animals for their own food, will invade Americans' personal privacy, and will violate the religious freedom of Americans whose beliefs make it impossible for them to comply.

The NAIS will create an unfair economic burden on small farmers and homesteaders, because animal owners will bear the costs of property and animal registration. As the USDA frankly admits,

"there will be costs to producers" (Plan, p. 11); "private funding will be required... Producers will identify their animals and provide necessary records to the databases... All groups will need to provide labor." (Plan, p. 14.)

In sum, there is no realistic chance of government funding to cover the costs of the program once it is established, and animal owners will have to pay the tab for premises registration fees, individual animal ID fees,

reporting fees for events such as animals leaving a given premises or being slaughtered, and for equipment such as RFID tags, tag readers, or software needed to report to the database. The proposed privatization of the NAIS would only worsen the economic burden, since a private database holder would certainly want to make some profit from the system.

The NAIS would also, in fact, lessen - rather than improve - the security of America's animal foods. The NAIS is touted by the USDA and agricorporations as a way to make our food supply "secure" against diseases or terrorism. However, most people instinctively understand that real food security comes from raising food yourself, or buying from a local farmer you actually know. The USDA plan will only stifle local sources of production through over-regulation and additional costs. Ultimately, if the NAIS goes into effect, more consumers will have to buy food produced by the large-scale industrial methods which multiply the effects of any food safety and disease problems. Moreover, the NAIS system will create opportunities for havoc, such as the deliberate introduction of diseased animals into premises containing large numbers of a given species.

Perhaps the most troubling aspect of the NAIS is its proponents' lack of concern for individual privacy and religious freedom. Consider that the NAIS plan is a compulsory registration with the government of all people who want to raise their own animal foods. Concededly, the Bill of Rights does not contain a Constitutional amendment specifically to protect one's right to produce one's own food. But that is only because the generation of the Founders could never have imagined that American government could evolve into a system that would compel citizens to, in effect, ask for government permission to produce their own food.

Further, consider that livestock animals are legally a form of personal property. It is unprecedented for the United States government to conduct large-scale, computer-aided, surveillance of its citizens simply because they own a common type of property. (The only exceptions are registration of motor vehicles and guns, due to their clear inherent dangers - but they are registered at the state level, not by the federal government. Moreover, those registration systems predate the widespread use of personal computers and the development of the Internet, so even the car and gun registration systems were never intended as the widespread threat to privacy and freedom that they have become today.) Surveillance of small-scale livestock owners is like the government subjecting people to surveillance for owning a couch, a tv, a lawnmower, or any item of personal property.

Moreover, privatization of the NAIS will surely result in the same gross abuses already evident in private databases of financial information - the sale of citizens' most personal data, without their knowledge, to the highest bidder; and the vulnerability of citizens' information to hackers and thieves, because the President and Congress, have utterly failed to subject the powerful private data industry to long-needed protections for citizens' privacy.

The NAIS also violates America's tradition of respect for the religious freedom of members of minority faith communities. Many adherents of plain, (and other) faiths, raise their own food animals, and use animals in farming and transportation, because their beliefs require them to live this way. Such people obviously cannot comply with the USDA's computerized, technology-dependent system; and many of them also believe that scriptural teachings or other religious tenets prohibit the marking of animals or homes with high-tech numbering systems. The NAIS will force these people to violate their religious beliefs, by compelling them to make an impossible choice between abandoning the livestock ownership necessary to their religious way of life, or accepting the government's imposition of practices abhorrent to their faith.

The USDA's planned NAIS timetable

The following is the USDA's timetable, as set forth in the Draft Strategic Plan, and Draft Program Standards, on April 25, 2005, for implementing the mandatory NAIS. Essentially, the USDA timetable would make premises identification and individual animal identification mandatory as of January 1, 2008. Please note that there can be no assurance that the USDA will not advance (or delay) the previously announced timetable. In addition, the USDA timetable may differ from that of individual states, which have had the incentive of grant money from the USDA to establish pilot projects of premises and animal identification. (For example, Wisconsin is attempting to compel premises and animal identification by late 2005, or during 2006.)

- April 2005 - the USDA issued its Draft Strategic Plan and Draft Program Standards for public comment. The public comment period for those documents ended in early July 2005.
- July 2006 - the Draft Strategic Plan (p. 10) gives July 2006 as the target date for the USDA to issue a proposed rule setting forth the requirements for NAIS premises registration, animal identification, and animal tracking. This will be a crucial juncture for action by those

who will be harmed by the NAIS, because there will be a limited public comment period after the publication of the rule, and objections expressed in the public comments may persuade the USDA to modify, or abandon some requirements of the rule.

- Fall 2007 - the USDA plans to publish a "final rule" to establish the requirements of the mandatory NAIS. (Plan, p. 10.)
- January 2008 - this is the most crucial date in the USDA's present timetable, the date when premises identification and animal identification would become mandatory. (Plan, pp. 2, 10.)
- January 2009 - "animal tracking" would become mandatory, including "enforcement" of the reporting of animal movements. (Plan, p. 17.)

How to oppose the NAIS

There is still time to oppose mandatory premises and animal identification. Small-scale keepers of livestock can take action to create an effective movement in opposition to the USDA/agricorporate plan. First, small-scale livestock owners should not participate in any so-called "voluntary" state or federal program to register farms or animals. The USDA is using farmers' supposed willingness to enter a "voluntary" program as a justification for making the program mandatory. (See Plan, "Executive Summary" and pp. 7-8.) If a state or extension official urges registration of your premises or livestock, question them about whether the registration is mandatory or voluntary, and about any deadline for registration; and ask them for a copy of the legislation or rule establishing any claimed authority to require such registration.

Small farmers and livestock owners can also help inform and organize others. The USDA presently does not plan to finalize its rules to establish mandatory ID until the summer of 2006. (As stated above, individual states, such as Wisconsin, may be planning earlier implementation, but even in such states, widespread objection by animal owners can still affect whether plans become permanent and whether reasonable exceptions may be established.) Animal owners should contact breed associations, organic and sustainable farming organizations, or general farming interest groups and ask them to oppose the NAIS. Also ask such organizations to start or support campaigns of letter-writing to officials and of commenting on the USDA rules scheduled to be issued in summer 2006 (and any similar state rules).

NAIS opponents can also individually

write their federal and state legislators. You can find contact information for both federal and state officials through www.vote-smart.org or through the federal government's site, www.firstgov.gov. Remember, the conventional wisdom is that individual letters sent by postal mail carry more weight than e-mails, or signing on to form letters. But any input is more useful than no input, so if you don't have time for an individual letter, use e-mail, telephone, group petitions, or any means you can. Also remember that both individual initiative and group initiatives count, so even after you have sent a letter, continue, if you can, to respond to calls for action asking you to send additional messages to government officials.

In particular, the USDA's planned issuance of a NAIS rule for public comment in July 2006, will be a crucial juncture. Be aware of press coverage or action alerts at that time, and when you hear that the public comment period on a NAIS rule is open, please take the time to submit an individual comment.

Finally, if the time comes when the NAIS, or a state equivalent, is about to go into effect as presently planned, and you feel your rights are being violated, you can contact groups that may provide legal representation without cost. Some sources of information to try are:

Farmers' Legal Action Group,
www.flaginc.org, 651-223-5400;

the American Civil Liberties Union,
www.aclu.org; for the ACLU in your state, see the pull-down menu on the bottom of that page, under "your local ACLU"; and

the American Bar Association's guide to legal services,
www.abanet.org/legalservices/findlegahelp/home.cfm.

Also subscribe to: [The Farm for Life Newsletter](#)

Article found on line at:
<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-039-01.htm>

*****THE END*******

("The Passover..." continued from page 1)

they were killed they were prepared (which took some time) to be eaten, naturally, that evening - which began the 15th and the FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD. Nothing of the Passover lamb was to be left over until the morning (Ex. 12:8-10).

God decreed that only unleavened bread should be eaten with the Passover lamb, and that only unleavened bread should be found throughout our property for seven days: "neither shall there anything of the flesh, that you sacrificed the FIRST DAY AT EVEN, remain all night until the morning... you shall sacrifice the passover at even, at the going down of the sun..." (Deut. 16:1-7; Matt. 27:45-46).

Here God clearly shows that He considered the Passover sacrifice, done at "the going down of the sun." as the FIRST DAY of the SEVEN DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD! (Mk. 14:12). If we're to blindly follow Church tradition that kills the Passover lamb at the beginning of the 14th, rather than at the end of the 14th, then we end up with EIGHT days of unleavened bread! Does it make sense that the lamb MUST be eaten with unleavened bread and then somehow afterwards for a whole day you can eat leaven again?! How preposterous! At least a child could figure this out! And that's what we all need to become again, like humble little children, hungry for God's truth, eager to please our Father and let His WILL be done, and commandments kept, rather than attempting to defend vain traditions! (Mk. 7:7). God's Word shows that from the end of the 14th (the beginning of the 15th) until the 21st day of the first sacred month is SEVEN DAYS (Ex. 12:18).

The Passover lamb is killed at the end of the 14th and eaten at the beginning of the 15th with unleavened bread: "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast... with unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (I Cor. 7-8). Christ is our PASSOVER - not our "Lord's Supper!" Jesus' last supper with His disciples offered Him the perfect opportunity to replace the traditional lamb with a bread and wine ceremony symbolic of His offered body and blood. (Even the rabbis decreed after the Temple's destruction that it was permissible to not eat a Passover lamb).

As we partake of these holy emblems, what are we remembering? Are we commemorating the night of Jesus' betrayal or are we commemorating Jesus' DEATH? We're to eat the BREAD in remembrance of Jesus' body that was sacrificed at the end of the 14th and we're to drink the WINE in remembrance of Jesus' shed blood on our behalf at the end of the 14th (I Cor. 11:23-26). [And Jesus clearly associated His hour of trial and crucifixion with wine, not grape juice! See Jn. 2:3-4]. We're to remember Jesus' sacrifice as our very personal Passover Lamb - the Lamb of God! Passover - with the bread and the wine substituted for the lamb - is the annual holy day, observed at meal time on the evening of the 15th, that commemorates Jesus' sacrifice.

The Passover is both a memorial and a feast (Ex. 12:14). The PASSOVER MEMORIAL is the FIRST of the seven days of unleavened bread (not eight!), and the FIRST of God's seven holy days!

(How would God's Church know when to celebrate God's holy days or even what they are if it weren't for the JEWS? God has made the Jews His custodian and has committed His truths into their care, specifically the Pharisees (Matt. 23:2; Rom. 3:2-3; 9:4). God's holy days are faithfully proclaimed each year "in their seasons" (Lev. 23:4) by His Jewish stewards who keep God's SACRED CALENDAR! How would we know which "season" is which, or which month is the "beginning of months," if God hadn't ordained the JEWS to preserve that knowledge for us? (Gen. 1:14; Ex. 12:2; Rom. 3:2-3).

Thankfully, God's quite capable of ensuring that the Jews - despite themselves - will continue to fulfill this special calling (Num. 23:19; Rom. 11:29). So everyone can put away their "calculators" (that only add up to confusion, everybody determining for themselves what's right and what's wrong). God's "business" has a full-time JEWISH ACCOUNTANT who's solely RESPONSIBLE for the calendar. Let's not attempt to interfere with God's business as He's chosen to run it! God - through His Jewish agent - has preserved the knowledge of His holy days and the correct dates to observe them for all who truly want to know and share in celebrating God's truth!

Article found on line at:
<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-039-02.htm>

*****THE END*******

("Is God Among..." continued from page 1)

But the true faith of Christ requires action. If you have faith, but refuse to act on that faith, it weakens and dies. It becomes a dead faith.

These poor people no longer want what I want. They are content in their belief that they are God's people—but then, what church is not filled with people who believe they are God's people?

What church believes they are lukewarm, or indifferent toward God?

What church will tell you that they have turned a deaf ear to the Spirit of Jesus Christ?

No, these people have willingly deluded themselves, because true faith requires independent thought and independent action and constant attention and work and they are spiritually lazy and proud of their church. If you dare to pierce this cocoon of deception,

in which they have so carefully wrapped themselves—if you expose their nakedness for what it is—do they thank you?

Or do they hate you?

It is difficult to step out of this world and even begin this Christian way of life, but it is even more difficult to maintain it over a span of decades. The pull to return to the values of the world around you never lets up. It requires a great deal of faith to stand alone and be different from the world—to be weird, odd, strange—and to happily remain that way for the rest of your life.

Ultimately, each and every church which Christ has raised up, has succumbed to this pull, and has been reabsorbed by the world. This is an undeniable fact of history—and not really open to debate! So once again, the Church of God is falling prey to this redefined, unbiblical faith of the Protestant world around them. They still retain a form of Godliness, but are denying the power thereof (**2 Timothy 3:5**).

The TRUE Faith of Christ is a burden they are no longer willing to carry. It is so much easier to maintain a relationship with a church and trust a church, than it is to trust God. It is so much easier to develop a relationship with a man, who cannot see into your heart—such as your minister or your doctor, than it is to develop, and maintain, a deep, personal, honest and sincere relationship with your Creator, who knows your every thought!

But without true faith, it is impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**).

We read in **1 John 3:21-22**, "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

They have compromised many points of the pure truth that the Holy Spirit has told them and in their hearts, they know this. That's the problem! THEIR OWN HEARTS ARE CONDEMNING THEM!

Now, when they pray, their prayers are no longer answered. When they are anointed, they are no longer healed. Their faith is failing them. They no longer believe that what God promises in His Word, He has bound Himself to perform! When this happens to a person, or a church, they are in grave danger! At this point, Satan has almost won! Unless they acknowledge their sins and their lack of faith, their reward is lost to them!

But such people can almost never admit their own lack of righteousness and faith—even to themselves, much less out loud—so through the defensive mechanism of their own vanity, they are forced to conclude that God can not be trusted! This is a pitiful sight!

With faint hope, they cling to a dying church, because it is all they have left. The

pitiful remains of a once vibrant, radiant, and enthusiastic people; filled with hope, excitement, and the faith of Jesus Christ, now sit lifeless, bored, spiritless—clinging to a dead hope—a dead church! It remains as the only reminder of the faith they once had.

They cannot bear the truth. They hate you for telling it to them. They redefined what they used to believe, until they had molded it into a "New Truth" with which they could be comfortable! Now, they are no longer troubled by the "little things" like smoking or like pork gelatin in their foods, or poisoning their children with the bleached white foods and bringing misery and suffering upon them, for the rest of their lives and the lives of their children!

They are no longer troubled by the symbols of the enemies of their Savior decorating their homes and their clothes. They are no longer troubled by showing their homes on the Sabbath or by contractors working for them on the Sabbath or by owning 49% of corporations who sell pork and cigarettes on the Sabbath! Hundreds of other perversions of God's truth abound within the Churches of God today.

Soon they will begin to persecute those who dare to remind them of this or of their former glory. But the truth does not change!

When you accept these false definitions of faith, you have set up an impenetrable barrier which utterly prevents the development of true faith.

As long as you are able to convince yourself that your faith is fine as it is, you will have no need to correct it. If, because of some man's opinion, you accept this false definition of faith, that man has "taken your crown!"

But then brethren, if you do not value God's TRUTH enough to hold on to it, you are not fit to have it, and you will not be in the first resurrection!

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-039-03.htm>

*****THE END*******

("The Truth about..." continued from page 1)

God LIKED Job! Never forget that! His opinion is what counts – not YOURS, not your grandmother's, not even (or especially?) your minister's!

Job simply KNEW he wasn't evil. Men have often interpreted this as PRIDE, or Self-Righteousness, but that is not so! It isn't pride to say "I haven't sinned".... when you haven't! It is TRUTH!

Job 10:7 *Thou knowest that I am not wicked; and there is none that can deliver out of thine hand.*

God agreed! Job was saying what was absolutely true when he said this! God didn't say he was proud, self-righteous, or arrogant! This is what GOD, Himself said about Job!

Job 1:8 *And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?*

God said Job was perfect! Again, **He** didn't use the term proud or self-righteous, BUT MEN HAVE! And guess where they got the idea? Who was the first to say that Job wasn't TRULY righteous?

Job 1:9-12 *Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.*

Satan didn't BELIEVE Job was righteous! He doesn't believe man CAN be righteous! And so God allowed Satan to kill Job's sons, steal his cattle, and burn his crops. And Job's answer was: **Job 1:21-2:3** *And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly. Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said unto Satan,*

"What'r'ya up to?" ... That's paraphrased a bit but I think it catches the meaning fairly well.

From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him WITHOUT CAUSE.

God had no reason to destroy Job's life! God knew it, Satan knew it, and Job knew it! And at first, Job was able to handle this. He knew that he had no right to the blessings of God, that they were a gift, and so he said: **Job 2:9-10** *Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest*

as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

And so Job took the trial, and passed it! And he was SURE of his righteousness, SURE he hadn't offended God, and so he didn't fear. HOWEVER... as more time passed...

Job knew he had done nothing wrong. And yet the trial continued, longer than he felt it needed to. And so he began wondering if maybe there WAS something he was doing that God was condemning him for. Something he had overlooked.

His friends of course, insisted that there must be something. Eliphaz the Temanite said: **Job 4:7-9** *Remember, I pray thee, who ever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off? Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same. By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed.*

Job's friends were insisting that Job must have sinned – stolen something, cheated someone, DONE SOMETHING wrong. JOB AGREED! But he couldn't find anything!

Job 6:24-25 *Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred. How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove?*

Job was frustrated with his friends because they explained things to him that any child knew – but he KNEW that he wasn't doing any of those things! And he wanted a REASON! His friends PROVED that good people don't go through this, but WHAT WAS JOB'S SIN?!

Job 10:15 *If I be wicked, woe unto me; and if I be righteous, yet will I not lift up my head. I am full of confusion; therefore see thou mine affliction;*

Job was just confused! He KNEW that he was righteous. He KNEW righteous people shouldn't be suffering, and yet he was PAINFULLY AWARE that he was suffering! He just wanted answers!

And his friends were more than happy to give him answers... but their answers were not guided by God!

Job 4:12-19 *Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof. In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men, Fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; **the hair of my flesh stood up:** It stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image was before mine eyes, there was silence, and I heard a voice, saying, **Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker? Behold, he put no trust in his***

servants; HIS ANGELS HE CHARGED WITH FOLLY: How much LESS in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth?

This was not a righteous angel! This was a messenger sent by Satan! Remember, God was staying out of this. He told Satan to do whatever he wanted, as long as he didn't kill Job. And when you think of a spirit causing the hair on your flesh to stand up, you think of witchcraft and horror movies – NOT a righteous messenger from God!

Furthermore, who, of all the beings in heaven or earth, would say "God didn't even trust His angels – He accused ME of folly – and you think YOU are going to do better??"

God has only accused ONE ANGEL (and his followers) of folly! Only ONE chose to do evil, and was punished for it! Satan FAILED TO BE RIGHTEOUS! And he knows that he is made out of light, while you and I are made out of MUD. And his reasoning is, if HE failed, do you honestly think YOU can be perfect??

The mistake made by Eliphaz the Temanite and his friends was that HE DIDN'T TRY THE SPIRITS! Just because you have a dream, doesn't mean God sent it!

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

You need to TEST these spirits! To find out if God sent them or not! Eliphaz didn't do this!

Isaiah 8:19 *And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?*

That makes sense doesn't it? Shouldn't people seek their God? Of course!

Verse 20 *To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*

But even though it sounds good, even if this vision SOUNDED RIGHT, they needed to check it against the law and the testimony! If they HAD, they would have found that man WAS supposed to be GOD! That he WAS supposed to be perfectly, incorruptibly righteous, JUST LIKE HIS MAKER! Then they would have rejected this vision as the LIE THAT IT WAS!

Instead, you will find that every argument used by Job's friends uses this vision as a premise!

To summarize what we have so far, Job was righteous, without fault. Satan didn't believe this, although he couldn't prove it. He sent a vision to Job's friends to show that man CAN'T BE RIGHTEOUS, and so they based their arguments on that premise... and Job just wanted an answer! He just wanted to

know WHY this was happening to him, so he could fix it!

And since Job knew that God was just, and fair, he knew that somewhere he must be doing something wrong. So he began going farther and farther back in his life, and wondering if perhaps God hadn't yet forgiven him for something he'd done before.

Job 7:21 *And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.*

And all the while, Job's friends continued to tell him that which was blatantly obvious.

Job 11:13-16 *If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him; if iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles. For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be steadfast, and shalt not fear: Because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away:*

Job 12:1-3 *And Job answered and said, No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you. But I have understanding as well as you; I am not inferior to you: yea, who KNOWETH NOT such things as these?*

And Job's response was... DUH... EVERYONE KNOWS THIS! But I HAVEN'T DONE THOSE THINGS! And this theme continued for another 25 chapters or so.

Job 13:23 *How many are mine iniquities and sins? make me to know my transgression and my sin. Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and holdest me for thine enemy? Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro? and wilt thou pursue the dry stubble? For thou writest bitter things against me, and **makest me to possess the iniquities of my youth.***

Job was in a quandary. He knew of no sins, and yet the trial continued. Backed into a corner, his only apparent option was to start to question the things he had done as a youth – were they forgiven? Or was God going to remember them? Was *that* what this was about?

And when he had come up with that idea, he wanted to talk to God. He was sure he could sort it out if only he could argue with God face-to-face. There is a record of someone else who was backed into this same corner.

Matthew 27:46 *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

Christ was without sin – and yet, hanging on the stake, God pulled back from him for a minute. Imagine what was going through Christ's head. "I've never done anything

wrong. Now I am being tortured, and to top it all off, God has left me."

Analogous to Job, is it not? The difference is, when Christ was in this trial He looked back and could find nothing, EVER, that God might, even possibly be able to hold against him. And SO HE KNEW that the trial WASN'T BECAUSE OF GOD NOT FORGIVING HIS SIN, and was able to TRUST GOD.

1 Peter 2:23 *Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously;*

JOB DIDN'T DO THIS! And THAT was Job's MISTAKE! God pulled back from Christ to see if Christ would still do the right thing if He wasn't there holding his hand! Similarly, Job was perfectly righteous. And God needed to know if Job would do the right thing, and TRUST HIM, in the face of adversity!

Job 35:14-16 *Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him, yet judgment is before him; therefore TRUST THOU IN HIM. But now, BECAUSE IT IS NOT SO, he hath visited in his anger; yet he knoweth it not in great extremity: Therefore doth Job open his mouth in vain; he multiplieth words without knowledge.*

This is the reason for Job's trial, the reason for Job's answers, and the reason for God's answers in Job 38-41! Job DIDN'T TRUST GOD WHEN IT CAME RIGHT DOWN TO THE WIRE!

Most of the middle portion of the book of Job is arguing between Job and his friends, Job maintaining that he hadn't sinned, and asking God why he is being unfair, and Job's friends saying man cannot be righteous and Job MUST be sinning somehow. Finally, Job's friends gave up trying to argue with him. Elihu had said nothing up to this point, but finally, he was fed up and started talking. And THEN Job began to get answers.

Job 32:1-3 *So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the kindred of Ram: against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God. Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.*

Elihu was mad at both parties! Job's friends had wasted 30 chapters proving that God doesn't punish the righteous, and yet had made no effort to show Job WHAT he was doing wrong! They WASTED THEIR TIME AND HIS!

Job on the other hand, had begun to justify Himself rather than God. He had begun not to trust God. He had started out

fine, but once he had EXAMINED himself, and PROVEN that he was not wicked, he should have left it in God's hands.

Instead, he started to think that God hadn't forgiven his past sins. Instead of knowing that, since he WAS righteous, God was still his friend and had a plan... He said things like: **Job 33:9-12** *I am clean without transgression, I am innocent; neither is there iniquity in me. Behold, he findeth occasions against me, he counteth me for his enemy, He putteth my feet in the stocks, he marketh all my paths. [Elihu talking now] Behold, in this thou art not just: I will answer thee, that God is greater than man.*

We know from the words of God himself that Job saying he was innocent, without transgression wasn't wrong! That WASN'T A SIN! But we do know that saying that God was treating him as an enemy was wrong! God had not put his feet in the stocks, nor counted him as an enemy!

This was all orchestrated and planned by God to show Job something. It was to show him one last lesson. It wasn't that he had a sin which needed correcting – Job WAS perfect – it was to teach him to trust God, and to be righteous NO MATTER WHAT.

Job 42:5-6 *I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*

Bottom line, Job had reached a point in his righteousness where he needed to be tempered. Just like Christ was on the stake. You can create and shape a sword in a forge, and you can sharpen it – but it will dull as soon as you use it! Until you TEMPER it, it is useless!

Job's righteousness was PERFECT – but it was not TEMPERED! Once Job had been perfectly righteous, then he was able to look back, after the trial, and see it slipping away... once he had seen himself, in the absence of the blessings of God, almost immediately he began not trusting God...

He abhorred himself, and repented! And because of this memory, God and Job both knew that in a situation like this, no matter WHAT trial he went through, Job would TRUST God now! And that was the purpose, the REASON, for the trails of Job!

But what was Job's mistake, and what can YOU learn from this? This was the question that once plagued me. What WAS Job's mistake? Simply stated, not clouded in the opinions and flowery words that I've seen so often. What SHOULD he have done, that he didn't? And here is the answer for which I sought...

Job 34:31-32 *Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement, I will not offend any more: That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.*

That is what Job SHOULD HAVE SAID! And there is YOUR ANSWER... should you ever face this situation. But quite frankly, right now this is almost certainly NOT the right answer for you!

If you haven't examined yourself THOROUGHLY, this is the WRONG ANSWER! If you aren't SURE of your righteousness, if your heart condemns you about ANYTHING, AT ALL... this will only heap God's disgust upon you even higher!

This answer is ONLY to be used after you are CERTAIN that you have stopped everything you are doing that might, even POSSIBLY be wrong. Remember, Job had already done this!

Job 31:1-13 *I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?... If I have walked with vanity, or if my foot hath hasted to deceit; Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity. If my step hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes, and if any blot hath cleaved to mine hands; Then let me sow, and let another eat; yea, let my offspring be rooted out. If mine heart have been deceived by a woman, or if I have laid wait at my neighbour's door; Then let my wife grind unto another, and let others bow down upon her. For this is an heinous crime; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges. For it is a fire that consumeth to destruction, and would root out all mine increase. If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me...*

And Job continues throughout the chapter, and indeed, the entire book of Job, most of his words are saying something like this. Because Job knew that he had to examine himself to be righteous! He had to PROVE HIMSELF! He had to KNOW that he hadn't offended God! And when he was punished for no apparent reason, he went to the SOURCE of the problem – himself!

If you haven't done that, then saying "I have borne chastisement, I will offend no more" is a flat-out LIE! And God will see it as such, and punish you even more! So you should be VERY CAREFUL using those words unless you are SURE, beyond ANY DOUBT, that you are not offending God!

But if you are, then that is the right answer for you.

Job 42:7-8 *And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray*

for you: **for HIM WILL I ACCEPT: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.**

Which thing God said to prove once and for all that man CAN be as righteous as God, and that all of their arguments to the contrary were lies!

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-039-04.htm>

1st OF 3 ARTICLES**

("The Church's..." continued from page 1)

you are crossing the Jordan to possess." Deuteronomy 31:9-13.

Regarding training our children is the most important thing -- proper respect for the living Word of God -- this is the most important command to the church as a whole! We have not obeyed it -- a major reason for the shameful failures of our religious tradition. We have followed men following mere natural instincts, and not the Spirit of God, in neglecting this supremely important command and practice.

It is needful for the church to support parents in their spiritual ministry of parenthood and children themselves in their own spiritual struggles. Our responsibility is to help Christ -- by our service to Him in serving each other -- "to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:13b-14). For this very reason He gave himself for us!

Children need to be prepared for the day when they will "leave ... father and mother" (Genesis 2:24) to establish their own families. For this preparation process, God wants strong, committed marriages dedicated to producing "godly offspring". Speaking of marriage, the Scripture says: "Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel..." (Malachi 2:15-16a).

God is "seeking godly offspring"! We have neglected to give nearly enough attention to this desire of His!

Anything we do to support godliness in marriage is good for children.

With regard to the "sowing and reaping" of our lives, we are enjoined: "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Galatians 6:10). It is the Church's responsibility "to do good" with

regard to training our children:

Whatever we can do to support parents to fulfill the command to raise children "in the training and instruction of the LORD." (Ephesians 6:4). That also includes encouraging children to respect and obey their parents, to cooperate in God's purpose for them.

Whatever prayer, encouragement, or teaching we can give to help fathers, especially, attain the ideal of "with true dignity keeping his children in submission" (1 Timothy 3:4, Hendriksen) is part of that good.

Ideas:

Special events that are wholesome for children (Good Science Seminar, Monterey Bay Aquarium trip, special parties, etc.)

Subsidize camp and other special wholesome experiences for children.

We need more of an emphasis on materials for children and to support parents in our Church library. Our children are faced with a world overflowing with bad influences. We need to give more attention to specifically addressing and combating them.

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2007-039-05.htm>

THE END**

("Discipleship and..." continued from page 1)

Bible Contradictions

The first thing to firmly fix in your mind prior to studying the Bible is that God's written word is truth and there are no contradictions in what he has caused to be written.

Jesus said of God's word, "*Your word is truth*" (Jn. 17:17) and "*The scripture cannot be broken*" (Jn. 10:35). God inspired the Bible to be written and it is impossible for God to lie (Heb. 6:18; Tit. 1:2); therefore, God's word will always be true (Rom. 3:4).

The problem with seemingly contradictory scriptures is never with what God has inspired to be written; it is always with people's perspective or understanding of what has been written or with how it has been translated or interpreted from the original writing.

Consider this for a moment: If God is a God of truth who cannot lie and he has said that he inspired and instructed his prophets, servants, and apostles to record all that is his sacred word, there cannot be any errors, lies, or contradictions in his originally inspired written word.

Solving Contradictions

Seemingly unsolvable scriptural contradictions are normally the product of

one or more of the following:

- An error in translation from the original language.
- An error in the interpretation of the original language.
- Insufficient research on the subject.
- Translated from an erroneous or incomplete copy of the original text.

Because the above conditions may exist, doctrine should never be established by using vague or difficult to understand scriptures. All major teachings of the Bible, such as those concerning God and his plan of salvation, should be expounded with clear concise statements that prove their validity to anyone whom God is calling to salvation.

Textual Errors

A major error that should be avoided when studying the Bible and related documents is the belief that the more ancient a manuscript or a document is, the more accurate it is. This is a very dangerous assumption to make. Just because a document is ancient, does not make it accurate. The test of accuracy is the test of truth and the continuity of truth. If an ancient writing does not conform to proven Biblical truth and departs from the overall theme and continuity of the Bible, it should not be used to establish doctrine.

Because no original writings of the scriptures are available and centuries have passed since their writing, all modern translations and interpretations of the original text contain some error due to one or more of the following:

- Additions or omissions due to private interpretation
- Justification by translators for false teaching
- Lack of attention to detail
- Lack of the correct linguistic information
- Poor scholarship

Truth Will Endure

God has promised that his truth will never be lost. Although there may be copy errors or translation errors of the original writings, the truth and the will of God can still be found and understood by those to whom he chooses to reveal it. See Jer. 33:3; Lk. 11:9-13; Jn. 14:26; 16:12-13; 1 Cor. 2:9-16.

The Bible Interprets Itself

Trying to justify preconceived ideas and beliefs are a major obstacle to gaining a correct understanding of any biblical subject. The proper approach to understanding the Bible should be an open-minded, unbiased attempt to understand what is truly written and not what a person thinks is written. However, this is very difficult to do because

of the vast amount of false teaching about God and the Bible today.

Because of the way the Bible has been written, it will literally interpret itself if you are willing to collect all of the relevant facts and references and let the holy spirit guide your mind into truth.

Precept upon Precept

Those who think that the Bible sometimes contradicts itself have failed to understand that the Bible is a complex book, which must be studied as a whole if its mysteries are to be understood.

One of the most fascinating and inspiring aspects of the Bible's construction is the way various subjects are interwoven throughout its pages. Because of this, it is sometimes necessary to collect all of the references to a subject before you can begin to understand what is being taught: *"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little"* (Isa. 28:10 KJV). See also Isa. 28:9-13.

Continuity of Truth

There is a continuity of truth throughout the entire Bible which is very helpful in separating truth from error. Each specific teaching or doctrine of the Bible will conform to the overall theme and purpose of the entire Bible. If any teaching or doctrine is found to be in conflict with another, one or both of the teachings may be based upon false assumptions or incorrectly understood scriptures.

Acquiring Knowledge and Understanding

Many feel that a person must be highly educated or very intelligent to understand the Bible, but this is not true. All those whom the Father calls to salvation can understand what he has caused to be written for their inspiration, correction, and edification. Because the Father wants his children to succeed in their calling and to perform his will in their lives, he has provided a way for them to learn and understand his truth.

Among the many promises Jesus makes to those who believe in him, is that he will send the holy spirit as a teacher to guide them into truth. See Jn. 14:26; 16:12-13.

One way that the holy spirit carries out teaching and guiding is through the written word of God. The acquisition of truth, spiritual knowledge, and understanding with the help of the holy spirit requires effort on the part of the one being called to study the Bible and related information.

Whom Shall God Teach?

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and

drawn from the breasts" (Isa. 28:9).

Just as there is a physical growth process from infancy to adulthood, there is a spiritual growth process in the acquisition of spiritual knowledge and understanding. The more you learn and the more you practice what you have learned, the more spiritually mature you become and the more spiritual knowledge and understanding God can reveal to you. See Isa. 66:1-2.

STUDY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

If you only study the Bible for information, very little understanding that is profitable for spiritual growth will be gained. However, your studies will become spiritually profitable if you study the Bible in order to do the following things:

- To understand the Father's plan for humanity
- To know the Father's will in your life
- To learn what the Father expects of you
- To grow toward spiritual maturity
- To serve the Father and his children
- To understand how to fulfill your particular calling

If you study the Bible for these reasons, the Father will honor your request for him to reveal the mysteries of the Bible that will benefit you and others with whom you come into contact.

Prerequisites and Requirements

The Bible itself reveals the prerequisites and requirements that are necessary to be successful in its study. The following are some of the major things that you must do in order to acquire more knowledge and a deeper understanding of God the Father, Jesus Christ, and their awesome plan for humanity:

- Ask the Father for spiritual knowledge and understanding.
- Have a serious desire to understand the things of God and study with an open mind.
- Make what is learned a part of your life.
- Meditate on God's law in order to improve spiritual understanding.
- Remember and practice the things which are already understood to be the truth of God.
- Remove obstacles to learning by putting away improper attitudes and behavior.
- Study to grow spiritually, to serve others, and to fulfill your calling.

Remove Obstacles to Learning

The Apostle Peter lists some of the things that hamper spiritual growth which should be replaced with a desire to

understand God's truth and way of truth: *"Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby"* (1 Pet. 2:1-2 Para.).

In order to gain understanding into the more difficult things of God, you must be practicing the basic truths of God in your life: *"But whoever keeps his [God's] word, in him truly is the love of God perfected..."* (1 Jn. 2:5 KJV).

Meditate on God's Word

"Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law does he meditate day and night" (Psa. 1:1-2 KJV). See also Psa. 119:115-148; 1 Tim. 4:12-16.

There are tremendous blessings for those who perform the will of God in their life. The person who is being blessed loves God and his law (i.e., God's way of life) and is constantly thinking about both.

Prove all Things

"Test all things; and hold fast that which is good" (1 Thes. 5:21 Para.). See also Rom. 12:2.

This statement is in the context of a person doing the Father's will in their life. Paul refers to the testing or examining of what you are doing in your life and comparing it against the righteous standards of behavior that the Father has established. Notice that Paul says to *"Hold fast that which is good"*. You can only know what is good if you understand the word of God. Therefore, you must study the Bible in order to fulfill Paul's instruction.

The kind of true enduring belief that the Father desires for his children to have is based in the knowledge and understanding of him and his ways. The only place this kind of knowledge and understanding is available is in the Bible.

The Bible was written to be understood; it is not a book of theory, philosophy, or meaningless stories; it is a logical factual presentation of the things that God wants his children to know, understand, and practice.

PLAN FOR SUCCESS

An action plan containing goals for spiritual success is a valuable tool that can help you maintain focus on your goals to grow in the Father's truth and to perform your stewardship within his family. The following are some tips on how to develop a personal plan for spiritual success, some important subjects to make a part of your study plan, and some important attitudes and behaviors to cultivate as you learn and practice the

Father's truth and way of truth:

1. Write your plan in a binder or hard bound book in order to more easily store, access, review, and edit it.
2. Make a list of topics categories, and sub-topics to study and things to accomplish, such as attitudes and behaviors that need to be cultivated and become a part of your character and unrighteous attitudes and behaviors that need to be discarded. The items in this list should be clearly defined and simply stated.
3. Leave enough space under each item in your list or place each item on a separate piece of paper in order for you to keep your notes and comments close to each item.
4. Prioritize your list and check off items as you complete them.
5. Make your action plan a flexible tool that you can modify periodically to fit your needs.
6. Review your plan often in order to check your progress and add or edit items to maintain focus on your goals.

THE STUDY PLAN

Regardless of how you structure your action plan for learning and understanding the Father's truth and will for your life, a high priority should be given to reading the entire Bible from cover to cover at least once.

There are many translations of the Bible and each has its own particular strengths and weaknesses. Some help clarify difficult scriptures and concepts, while others do the opposite--they introduce heretical teachings. Because there is no totally accurate translation of the original text, the admonition of Paul to Timothy becomes very important to those who are serious about building a strong spiritual foundation based upon the word of God: "*Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (2 Tim. 2:15).

No Original Text Available

When reading the Bible, it is important to remember that there are no original copies of the various writings which comprise the Bible available for use by Bible scholars or the general public. Therefore, it is impossible to confirm or deny what was originally written with physical evidence. What we have today are copies of the originals and translations of these copies.

The King James Version

The King James Authorized Version of the Old and the New Testaments, written in early modern English in 1611, was translated from the Masoretic text and the Received

text. From the historical evidence and the continuity of truth that is revealed through both the Masoretic text and the Received text, it appears that both of these are reference works through which God is conveying his truth and his will today.

Because of the King James Versions' archaic language, it is helpful to have some modern translations along with Greek and Hebrew dictionaries in order to help clarify difficult passages. The New International Version and the Living Bible can sometimes be helpful in translating concepts that are difficult to understand because of the language of the King James version. You may also find it helpful to purchase a narrated version of the Bible to listen to while reading, while traveling, or while being unoccupied with other endeavors.

Topical Studies

Many people take one scripture (sometimes out of context) and build an entire teaching around it. However, the Prophet Isaiah tells us that God's truth is scattered throughout his written word (Isa. 28:9-13) and that these truths, concepts, and principles are built one on the other. Therefore, it seems logical that you must perform a search of the entire Bible in order to gain a thorough understanding of a subject. Personally, I have found that topical studies are the best way to understand the teachings contained in the Bible.

GOD'S LAW

A short review of the first five books of the Bible clearly reveal that God is a God of law. The agreement with the twelve tribes of national Israel contains 613 to 759 plus statutes, judgments, and commandments, depending on who is doing the counting. The special agreement that the Sovereign Father has with his earthly family of king-priests also contains laws and instructions that govern their relationship with him, their relationship with brothers and sisters in his holy family, and with other people.

A study of the law with the goal of understanding both the letter and the spirit of the law will give insight into the minds of the Sovereign Father and our Savior, their character, attitude, and behavior. Moreover, these laws reveal how one who is attempting to live a holy lifestyle should think and behave.

Love Toward God

The first laws given to national Israel were the Ten Commandments. Matthew and Mark both record that Christ said the whole law was held together by just two commandments-- love for God and love for neighbor: "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and*

with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is similar to it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matt 22:37- 40 KJV). See also Mk. 12:28-34.

If you truly have love and respect for your heavenly Father, you will want to please him with your life by following Jesus' example of a righteous life. The Father said of Christ at his baptism, "*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*" (Matt. 3:17).

The scriptures show us that love and respect for the Father are expressed through one's attitude and behavior toward him and obedience and respect for the law he has set in place to govern the lives of his children. Regarding his behavior toward the Father, Jesus said, "*For I do always those things that please him*" (Jn. 8:29).

Concerning the expression of godly love, the apostle John said, "*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous*" (1 Jn. 5:2-3).

All of God's law for mankind hinge on the two basic themes of love for God and love for neighbor, but there are many overlapping concepts and principles contained within this body of law which explain and expound upon these two basic themes.

ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS

The scriptures instruct the Father's children to subdue and keep in check their old nature which is in opposition to the holy nature imparted through the indwelling of the holy spirit. See Rom. 6:6-12; Eph. 4:21-24; Col. 3:9-10.

The apostles Peter and Paul list a number of righteous attitudes and behaviors that need to be cultivated and become a part of your character and a number of unrighteous attitudes and behaviors that need to be discarded. Many of these attitudes and behaviors are noted in the following scriptures and are worthy of careful study: 1 Pet. 2:1; Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:21-32; Col. 3:3-15.

Cultivate charity, forgiveness, honesty, humility, kindness, longsuffering, meekness, mercy, peace, tenderheartedness, and truthfulness.

Discard anger, bitterness, blasphemy, drunkenness, envy, evil desires, extortion, filthy speech, fornication, guile, hypocrisy, idolatry, inordinate affection, lying, malice, rioting, theft, uncleanness, and wrath.

Added to the list of attitudes and behaviors to be discarded are things that are clearly in opposition to a righteous lifestyle, such as some personal associations, habits, hobbies, as well as religious holidays,

festivals, and celebrations that belong to this world's religions. See 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Deut. 12:30-32; Jer. 10:1-15.

Rules of Conduct

Although, it is important to become conversant with all aspects of the Father's truth, there are some basic rules of conduct that apply within his family which need to be clearly understood and practiced if you are to grow spiritually and become a viable and beneficial member of his family. These rules of conduct and the philosophy behind them are set forth in the Bible as the standards of acceptable and unacceptable attitudes and behaviors for all members of the Father's family.

Each of these rules are clearly spelled out in many scriptures and should be among the first things you learn and make a part of your lifestyle as a member of the Father's earthly family. Without knowing and understanding these rules of conduct, it is virtually impossible to be a good steward of the functions and responsibilities that you have been called to perform. Moreover, these rules also reveal how to express love (i.e., an outgoing concern) for family members and produce peace and harmony within the family. The apostle John said the following about walking in truth (i.e., following the Father's rules for your life) and the rule to love one another within the family: *"I rejoiced greatly that I found of your children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. And now I beseech you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it... Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another"* (2 Jn. 4-6 KJV). See also Gal. 5:13-14; 1 Pet. 1:22, 2:17; Jms. 2:8; 1 Jn. 3:13-16, 4:20-21.

Although some of the rules of conduct are clearly intended to be applied to individuals occupying positions of service within the family or are gender specific, most apply in principle to all family members regardless of position of service or gender. The following are some of these rules of conduct with which each member should be conversant and practice as a part of their stewardship within the family:

General Rules:

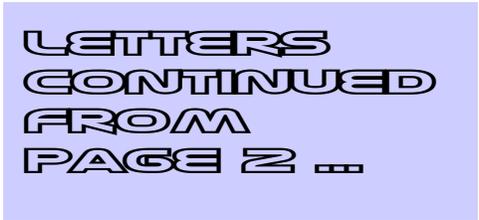
- Attitude and behavior toward doctrinally deceptive individuals (2 Jn. 2:4-11)
- Commandment keeping (1 Jn. 5:1-3)
- Compassion (1 Pet. 3:8; 1 Jn. 3:17-18)

- Forbearance and forgiveness (Matt. 5:23-24; Lk. 17:3-4; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13)
- Honor/Respect/Value other people: (Eph. 6:2; 1 Tim. 5:3; 1 Pet. 2:17, 3:7)
- Love for each family member (Rom. 12:9-10; 1 Pet. 4:7-8; 1 Jn. 4:21)
- Patience (Eph. 4:2)
- Reconciliation (Matt. 5:21-24)

Read the entire article at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/a2006-036-01.htm>

****to be continued in Issue #40****



July 17, 2006

Arlan writes:

Hi Darwin & Laura,

Sorry I haven't gotten back to you on the article "Last Days". When you sent the email to me I could receive emails but I couldn't send. I've since got my computer working again.

In your email to me you said you couldn't print my article "Last Days" as you believe 2 pages are plagiarized material. I believe you're referring to page 7 & 8 where I quote the statements of various churches about the Sabbath Day.

I have no problem with giving credit to the person whose article these quotes are taken from. If, on the other hand, I've gone ahead and verified the authenticity of these locations, then I don't believe it would be plagiarism... no more than when I quote Scripture.

But again I'm certainly willing to give credit to the original author of the article in which all these quote's are listed. The quotes in my article could simply be preceded by something like:

"In an article titled '_____' by John Smith the following quotes were taken" . . .

If you do this I see no problem with printing it, but it's up to you. If you don't want to print it that's ok too. That's your privilege and I would not be offended. Take care, Sincerely, Arlan

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Dear Arlan,

How did you go about verifying the authenticity of these quotes?

Arlan writes:

Dear Darwin & Laura

I haven't verified all of them, but I plan to look up as many as I can find.

Arlan

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Dear Arlan,

How many have you verified to date (7-18-06)?

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

Dear Arlan,

We sincerely hope that you read this entire email. We are very much concerned for you due to the path in life that you are choosing at this time.

Arlan writes:

Hi Darwin & Laura,

Sorry I haven't gotten back to you on the article "Last Days". When you sent the email to me I could receive emails but I couldn't send. I've since got my computer working again.

In your email to me you said you couldn't print my article "Last Days" as you believe 2 pages are plagiarized material. I believe your referring to page 7 & 8 where I quote the statements of various churches about the Sabbath Day.

Darwin & Laura write:

By your last statement, you clearly know exactly which part of the article was referred to as being plagiarized.

Arlan writes:

I have no problem with giving credit to the person whose article these quotes are taken from.

Darwin & Laura write:

Clearly you are stating that you did copy pages 7 and 8 from another article. At this time since we sent you an email clearly telling you that we know you plagiarized two pages of material from another article, having been caught at this, you are now willing to give credit to the one you quoted from. Clearly you knew you were copying from someone else, and yet you tried to pass this off as work you had done on your own. Instead of originally trying to pass this off as your own work, you should have given credit to the person who's work you copied. This shows intent on your part. Intent that you fully planned to let anyone reading the article believe that you had actually done the work yourself, when in fact you had not. This is also deception in that you intended to have those who read your article believe that you had done the research yourself, when in fact you had not.

Arlan writes:

If, on the other hand, I've gone ahead and verified the authenticity of these locations, then I don't believe it would be plagiarism... no more than when I quote Scripture.

Darwin & Laura write:

The pivotal word "if" as used here is what tipped us off that you had not verified any of these quotes. This is another deception on your part. It is an attempt on your part to con those reading your above statement into believing that you had looked up the quotes and so therefore now it should not be considered to be plagiarism. You justify your position by saying it is now plagiarism also to quote Scripture, which is about as absurd as you can get. Those who copy Scripture are not deceiving people into believing that they wrote the Scriptures and that is the difference. Most people understand that God inspired all scriptures to be written by chosen writers.

You on the other hand copied (plagiarized), word for word exactly, 2 pages from another man's article, with out giving the man who researched and wrote it any credit. Your intent until being caught was not to give this man any credit and just pass it off as your own work. This is deception.

On July 18, 2006 we asked you the following question: "How did you go about verifying the authenticity of these quotes?" Your (Arlan's) reply was: "I haven't verified all of them, but I plan to look up as many as I can find." Then we asked you the following question: "How many have you verified to date (7-18-06)?" This was an easy question for which you had no answer and did not respond. Again, this is deception on your part. You could not answer a direct question but just prior to that you again tried to con us into believing that you had at least looked some of these quotes up to verify authenticity, thus in your mind justifying it as not being plagiarism to exactly copy two pages from another man's copyrighted article and not give him the credit but give yourself the credit instead when in fact and in reality you actually did none of the work. There would be no purpose for you to verify these quotes after you have already passed them off as your own work and certainly since you have not verified them to date, shows your intent was not to do so.

From the Dictionary: Plagiarize=#1. to take and pass off as one's own (the ideas, writings, etc. of another). #2. to take ideas, writings, etc. from and pass them off as one's own. (Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, College Edition)

No matter which way you slice this your original intent was to copy from another man's article a series of statements he

researched and put together in an orderly fashion and then make it look like it was you who had done this. This is called plagiarism. You stole another man's work (idea) and tried to pass it off as your own. This is not only stealing, but it is also deception of the highest form and shows that you fully intended to con people reading your article into believing something which was not true.

Arlan writes:

But again I'm certainly willing to give credit to the original author of the article in which all these quote's are listed. The quotes in my article could simply be preceded by something like:

"In an article titled '_____' by John Smith the following quotes were taken" . . .

Darwin & Laura write:

We believe that you should have been honest to start with and given the man credit for his work from the start, then none of us would have to be having this conversation over email or anywhere else.

Arlan writes:

If you do this I see no problem with printing it, but it's up to you. If you don't want to print it that's ok too. That's your privilege and I would not be offended.

Take care,
Sincerely,
Arlan

Darwin & Laura write:

We strive very hard to be fair to all people and we don't like being deceived by you or anyone else in anyway, shape or form. We believe that having been associated with God's family for over 30 years, that you should know better than to think you can get away with stunts like this one or others that you have tried to pull on us in the past. Do you understand that Satan is the Father of Deception and that when you do stuff like this that, that is clearly who you are following? Do you also understand why we are concerned for you? You may not like the confrontation, but confrontation generally does not happen when you are doing the right thing. Confrontation generally happens when you are caught doing the wrong thing.

We also strive to be merciful and we do not have any problem printing articles when proper credit is given to those you quote from. We will not do the re-write on your article. We believe that you should be the one to do the re-write on your article. When you are finished doing your re-write, then send your article in the body of an email to: the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net and we will again consider it for print.

We do care about you Arlan and we don't like to see you doing what you are continuing to do to us and others.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-01.htm>

*****THE END*******

Satan's Agent? (12-20-06)

by David Ben-Ariel (Toledo, Ohio)

David Ben-Ariel writes:

Dianne D. McDonnell appears to be another one of Satan's agents who appear as an angel of light. **Jezebel** always takes things out of context and goes against common sense and the Word of God and history. Even the Protestants know, for the most part, women are not to be preachers/teachers in any OFFICIAL capacity. What article will she write next? Men are not to be the head of the household? She is in denial or deceived, undermining the family and kingdom of God as ordained by God the FATHER (not mother). Sincerely, David

Laura Lee writes:

Do you have the scriptural backup to prove what you say? If so, please send it.

David Ben-Ariel writes:

There are many who know the plain truth of the Scriptures that women are NEVER to preach in an OFFICIAL capacity, usurping authority over a man. I have written on it in the past and if I can find it I'll send it (I should have saved it). Meanwhile, this appears to be most Scriptural and irrefutable by some other group:

<http://jesus-messiah.com/w-preach/wp-nt-13.html>

Laura Lee writes:

Which of Dianne McDonnell's articles did you go over that you found scriptural fault with?

David Ben-Ariel writes:

IF I remember correctly, it was the one that spreads the serpentine lie that women can be apostles. I wasn't even going to read it, knowing and having proved to myself years ago that **women are never to preach in official capacity**, but was hoping it wasn't going to be the rebellious slop it turned out to be, the twisting of Scriptures and leaps in logic leading to faulty conclusions, etc. Between that and the article I read supporting the pagan trinity, I thought this is what happened to the early Church of God when false brethren came among us and eventually outnumbered us.

Laura Lee writes:

First of all, the pagan trinity article you read was an article sent out on our "World and Local News" forum email list. We have secular feeds hooked up to that email forum list for the purpose of receiving news as it relates to Bible prophesy. Sometimes the gentleman who sends out the news also sends out articles. We do not teach a pagan trinity and you should look to see what source is marked as having sent the article before you start getting so mad that you believe false christians are infiltrating your church.

To address the idea of false christians infiltrating the Church of God, please be assured that is definitely going on and continues. You can tell these false christians or false teachers by the false doctrines they teach, and the way they treat other brethren. Quite frankly I am not at all happy with the way that you have treated Dianne D. McDonnell or women in general in your above comments. There are better ways to word your comments than to get angry and start name calling and accusing. For instance I clearly asked you to prove from scripture why you believed her article titled "**Junia, a Woman Apostle**" was scripturally wrong and instead of you answering the question because you had studied it, you gave me a web site address saying that this is scriptural and irrefutable by some other group. This was my first clue that you don't know the material spoken of in Dianne D. McDonnell's article at all.

I am sure that everyone reads articles that they don't agree with, and I am also sure that no one has every thing right. I am also sure that there are some people, perhaps even many people who know they are teaching false doctrines. I am also sure that many people who teach false doctrines actually believe the false doctrine they are teaching. It is called deception. We all have been deceived in some area of our scriptural understanding or we wouldn't be told in scripture to be continually growing into the grace and knowledge of God. (2 Peter 3:18)

Learning what God wants from us is a process. Everyone will make mistakes along the way. Not all articles that you in particular read and consider to be teaching a false doctrine are actually false. It all depends on how deeply you have studied that particular subject and how influenced you are by another person who may have taught you a false concept in regard to that subject. Again I can see that you have not studied this subject very well because you could not teach it via scripture when I asked you. Instead you sent me to this web site: <http://jesus-messiah.com/w-preach/wp-nt-13.html> I went to this web site and I found their take on women in general to be more

than disgusting. Following are some quotes from this web site:

"Eve is directly responsible for funerals and graveyards. She is responsible for the death of little children."

"She is responsible for old age and infirmity. She is responsible for all the tears of sorrow. She caused the need for hospitals and medicine."

"Since Eve did not consult with Adam before she believed the teachings of the serpent, all women have fallen under the Law of God, of having all their actions affecting their Spiritual life, being guarded by the authority of a holy and righteous man. The Eve instinct in many women rejects this decree of God."

"No woman was to have total Spiritual authority over herself ever again. The woman was to know that she could not please God except through oneness with her husband. In lieu of a husband, the Priesthood of God would substitute as her protective covering from being led astray by sin again. The woman was placed after man at the bottom of the Spiritual chain of command."

"Today, women are trying to cast off the Eden decrees of God. They covet the office of Priesthood. They want to bear authority. They want to control their husbands. And, they want to rule the Church. Many women are repeating the sins of Eve. They are believing lies coming at them from all directions, and will be ruined, unless they seek counsel from a true Apostolic Pastor."

This web site is riddled with this stuff which shows and teaches a general hatred of women. You David Ben-Ariel are truly welcome to believe and teach such things if that is what you want to do and if that is how you feel about women, but the Bible does not support the hatred of women. The Bible clearly shows that Eve was deceived during the original sin, but it shows that Adam was not deceived during the original sin. Adam knew better than to eat the fruit, but he did it anyway. (I Timothy 2:14) A person who willfully sins is held more responsible by God than a person who sins due to deception. Adam willfully sinned. Does this now make all men better leaders or teachers than all women? Look at the ministry of men who led the Worldwide Church of God into apostasy against God. Look at our secular leaders who are men who over national television say such things as: "I did not have sex with Monica Lewinsky". Not all men are fit to be leaders, or teachers of women, children or

anyone. The same applies also to women, in that not all women should be leaders or teachers.

What makes a man or a woman a leader or teacher of God's word is that they have the spirit of God in them. If a person man or woman starts leading people away from God, consider them to be false teachers. If however you just don't agree with something they have written or said, it is your responsibility then to try to teach them according to scripture, but make sure you do your own study on the subject first to make sure that what you disagree with is truly false or if your own belief system is the true problem.

Men and women are both given all the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible and these gifts are given to both men and women by God so they will use them. Not all men can be public speakers or ministers. Not all women can be public speakers or ministers either, but those who have been given that gift by God, should not be forbidden by men who misunderstand scripture.

Darwin and I have both gone over every one of Dianne D. McDonnell's articles that we have printed and found her scriptural references to be valid and clearly biblical. Dianne also uses historical evidence to support what she says in her articles. We have also listened to one or two of her sermons and she is very easy to understand and teaches just as well or better than most men I have heard. I have also done my own study in regard to women in the Bible and the roles they were in and all I can say is that Dianne D. McDonnell is correct that Junia was a woman apostle, Deborah was over all of Israel as a judge of all men, women and children, and Phoebe was a woman minister. If anyone wants to dispute these things with us, then please be sure that you study the material a lot better than David Ben-Ariel did before you come to us with your teaching because we have studied this material.

David I advise you to study this material in respect of what scripture actually says and then come back when you are able to teach it yourself instead of using someone else's hate filled web site to cover a subject that you are at this time unable to teach.

Dianne D. McDonnell writes:

As far as a woman being an apostle, "**Junia, a Woman Apostle**" does deal with specific proof that such a woman did exist. Church historians mentioned her, etc. etc. Why would a pope go to the trouble of changing her name from Junia to Junias if he didn't KNOW that she was indeed a woman apostle?

Jesus, our Master and true Leader, did not give two sets of rules-- one for women and another for men. Satan is the one that

has deceived the world into thinking that God doesn't allow His precious women to do anything REAL in the church. But that is Satan's deception, it isn't the truth of God. Gentlemen, first of all, act like gentlemen, not raving maniacs. Next get yourself some good P. C. Study Bible software, go back to the Greek and discover that the translators have bent some scriptures that clearly show women were doing all kinds of roles in the New Testament-- including apostle and minister. Check out the scriptures I mention. Research them for about four years and then come back and we'll talk.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-02.htm>

THE END**

Notification (12-18-05)

by Robert Goldman (Ione, California)

Robert Goldman writes:

Dear Darwin & Laura Lee,

Hello! I'm writing to touch bases with you on the questionnaire (subscription form) you sent that I filled out and sent back to you on 11/15/05. Along with some other things, articles, etc.... It's been almost 30 days and I have not gotten a response or a note saying you received anything! I've been looking forward to your current newsletter, but that hasn't even come. So could you please let me know what, if any, the problem is? Plus in a letter prior to my second one I had some **questions** -- No answers on them either! So what further things do I have to do?

Thank you for your help and time on this matter! I hope to hear from y'all soon. Sincerely, Robert Goldman

Laura Lee writes:

We don't notify anyone through the US mail that we have received anything they have sent to us unless we are answering their letter. We also wish we were able to answer all letters within 30 days of receiving them. Depending on how far behind we are it might take a lot longer than that. There is a lot of work to do and few workers. Newsletters only come out every 2 months and sometimes they may be late. Your questions were answered in the **letters** section of **Issue #31**.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-03.htm>

THE END**

Update on "Framed" (3-17-06)

by P. F. Lazor (Delano, California)

P. F. Lazor writes:

Dear Darwin & Laura,

Thank you for your **M/A 06 newsletter**, and for publishing the first part of the **FRAMED document** about my case. I really appreciate that, both for my sake, and the sake of everyone who it can reach as an alarm.

My dearest friend, Gayle Travis, should be contacting you soon. You have full permission to discuss anything about me/my case, etc with her; she is like my other half (not romantically, but help-wise and friend to the end and such).

The version of the **FRAMED document** that you have and published was edited just a bit, since you got that. There were just a few minor corrections needed, and Gayle's address and telephone number have changed since then, so these are the things she will update you on. I've asked her to call you and send you the latest re-edited FRAMED version, hopefully in time for your next publishing deadline. Just in case you have need, notwithstanding our plan for her to reach you soon, here is Gayle's hookup:

Gayle Travis
Tele: (510) 538-8003
Add: 1200 Russell Way #309
Hayward, CA 9451

I hope you two will connect soon. I don't want to put the burden on you to phone her, but if for any reason you want to (deadline on publishing, or any other reason), please feel free.

Thank you again, and for all your good will and generous service to our Father and Savior,

Laura Lee writes:

Sorry, this contact with Gayle Travis did not happen. Since we already had it set up to print that version of your **"Framed" document**, it would have been hard to change it once the first part was already printed, but if you have changes that need to be made you are welcome to inform us as to what the changes were, when you are able.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-04.htm>

THE END**

Abusive Speech (1-1-07)

by Myra McQueen (Odessa, Texas)

This is in regard to a letter which was printed in **Issue #37** titled **"More False Accusations"**.

Myra McQueen writes:

Hmmm. Well I guess that puts a slant on things right? More "false" accusations? How strange that you just do not get it.

Why advertise your ignorance in making premature judgments without even acknowledging that you are putting them on your newsletter?

Put this on there- Herbert and his minions, always accused their people because their own paranoia would not allow them to admit the truth. You experienced this in the UCG.

The truth is that you in the COG's cannot handle one on one relationships without throwing up some walls. Indirect communications are just walls. You are insecure about those who dare to stand up for themselves, or to question your closet paranoia.

I do not mind the walls, but why advertise them unless you intend to use them to intimidate others, as you do by sending out the conversation between you and I, that I thought was private. I don't mind being used, but let's be honest about it shall we? Let's just say that you are the one who is able to print your slanted materials at my expense, and I have no choice in the matter.

Laura Lee writes:

The series of emails you sent to me which were printed in **Issue #37** were printed word for word as you wrote them to me, so if they made you look bad in some way, it may very well be because of what you said in those emails. I try real hard to work with all people in cooperation, but you obviously have a problem with coming in peace and working in cooperation as in working toward a common goal. You sent me some things to put on our web site and we went over them and we did put what you sent to us in our **"literature" section** on our web site, however you chose to send me one email after the other telling me that I was not receiving your emails when that was not true at all. I have no need to wake up on any morning and read one email after the other from you or any one else which falsely accuses me or someone else of things which have not been done.

In many cases I probably would not have printed these emails except that you kept right on going with these and more false accusations and did not seem to have any desire to correct the situation even though I tried to steer you in that direction. You were neither interested in peace or in working together in cooperation.

There are many people who claim to be God's people who go around and say the most awful things to people in private because they feel that it will remain private. Do not send such email here, because you

may wake up one morning and find your nasty accusations in print form. It is about time that those who are claiming to be God's people start to clean up the words they use on other brethren. If you want to come over here and lie to me and accuse me or others falsely then I suggest that you figure it will be printed. So do you have a choice in the matter? You sure do have a choice in the matter. No body has a problem with a letter that is uplifting when it is printed or no body has a problem with a letter meant to relay information when it is printed, but every one seems to feel they are wronged in some way when the words they say to others in an abusive way are printed. There should be no abusive words used among brethren. You can find ways to disagree with people in respectful ways.

Myra McQueen writes:

How sad that there are still so many oppressors in the COG's that they cannot bear to be up front in their ministries. Like the Golden Calves of the past, they have to gloss over their cover ups in order to look right with God.

Laura Lee writes:

Due to the many nasty accusatory emails we have been receiving from Myra McQueen over the last couple of months we have had to put her on our email "block" list. This is not a decision we made or take lightly, however we are not going to put up with these kind of emails as a regular diet. We have more important things to do than to try to communicate with a person who does not want to get along with us and who has no intentions of approaching us in a respectful manner.

If Myra at any point has a change of heart and wants to treat us in a respectful manner and work together with us in peace and cooperation she can still contact us via postal mail if and when she wants to reconcile with us.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-05.htm>

THE END**

Visit My Web Site (1-29-06)

by Rod McQueen (Australia)

Rod McQueen writes:

Hi, Laura and Darwin,

I hope all is going well for you. I enjoy the newsletter. Keep up the good work.

I just thought I'd let you know about my new site. If you have a chance, you can find it at: www.dawntoduskpublications.com

All the best, Rod

Laura Lee writes:

Anyone who wants to have their web site address considered for inclusion on our web site "Links" page, should go fill out our form at: <http://darwinlauralee.com/data/04-22-06.htm>

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-06.htm>

THE END**

Need a Bible Course (1-30-06)

by Janine M. Ziomek-Witek (Buffalo, New York)

Dear Laura,

I'm writing this letter to ask your or your readers help. I need your/their help in finding a postal Bible Course on the Sabbath and about the Truth. Maybe one that I can be graded on and to help with my bible education on a collage level, but it must be a free one. I am on SSI and just make ends meet now.

Also I am still looking for writing pen-pals with those in the Truth. I am blessed by those who write me now, but like to make new ones too.

If anyone can help me with either of these you/they can write me at: Janine M. Ziomek-Witek, 165 Stanislaus Street, Apt. 1, Buffalo, NY 14212.

Please know your newsletters are a blessing to me. Thank you for printing this letter for me. Yours in YHWH, Janine Ziomek-Witek

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-07.htm>

THE END**

111 Page Document (6-3-06)

by Susan Owen (Switzerland)

Dear Darwin and Laura,

I just completed skimming through your **111 page document** concerning (and well documenting) how you've been treated by "United", so I wanted to let you know that your experience is, unfortunately, not all that uncommon and I'm very happy that you are continuing in the Faith and going onwards.

I hope to be in contact with you.

Kindest Regards, Susan

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-08.htm>

THE END**

Publication Policy and Distribution? (12-26-06)

by Buddy Ray (Dolomite, Alabama)

This letter is in response to a letter "Paranoia", which was published in **Issue #36**.

Buddy Ray writes:

Darwin and Laura,

We read your Mitchell Family matter in the **November/December 2006** issue.

Do you think the Mitchell's live in Palmerdale? Or some nearby city?

Laura Lee writes:

The Mitchell's give Palmerdale as part of their address and the mail we send to that address does go through. It really doesn't matter to us whether they live in Palmerdale or some other town. All we require in order to send a subscription is a working name and address.

Buddy Ray writes:

In getting acquainted with your subscribers (behind their back) you run the risk of violating the law - Privacy Act of 1974, as amended.

Laura Lee writes:

Exactly what kind of a statement is that. We are doing nothing behind anyone's back and unless you can prove we are, perhaps you should keep such innuendos to yourself.

Buddy Ray writes:

Asking people to spy on others and disclose data about them could jeopardize the jobs of the snoopers.

Laura Lee writes:

Are you now accusing us of spying on people? If you are, such an accusation of us is totally false. I assure you we have no time or no need to spy on people.

Buddy Ray writes:

Journalists, writers and government staffers use pseudonyms to keep people from nosing around and compromising their privacy. Does that shoe fit?

Laura Lee writes:

No the shoe doesn't fit over here. If you and the Mitchell's are truly brethren as you seem to indicate that you are, then you should not have a problem telling other brethren what your name and address is if you want them to send you a newsletter which you have thus far received free of charge.

The Church of God Messenger

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

May/June 2007---Issue No. 39

Buddy Ray writes:

People subscribe to magazines using such names as "occupant", "Subscriber", "Boxholder", "Problems and Solutions", "Beans and Carrots", "Sample Copy", "Waiting Room", "New Neighbor", etc., etc., etc. All is needed is a firm and correct address to mail to.

Laura Lee writes:

The mail we receive with those salutations on it is usually always junk mail or advertisements trying to get you to buy a new this or that. Perhaps people in your part of the country do it differently because you don't know anyone or you perhaps forgot their name.

Again, we require a name (first and last) and an address before we will send a newsletter. I truly hope you are at some point able to grasp that concept. If not, have someone explain it to you.

Buddy Ray writes:

If you get more than one name from an address, maybe someone else wants to check out your Messenger, in addition. (Application form passed on) passed on to another.

Laura Lee writes:

Do you have any concept of the cost we have tied up in equipment, paper, ink and postage in order to send out a newsletter free to you and others? If you did, instead of trying to be a hog and have three free newsletters sent to the same address, but different names, you would get the people at the same address to share one free newsletter in order to do the brotherly thing and help us out.

Starting on June 1, 2007 you can now have as many newsletters sent to the same address as you want to, **providing that you pay the subscription price and give us a valid name and address** to send them to. Postage rates went up on Monday, May 14, 2007 and it will now cost us \$1.14 to send one newsletter to someone in the United States instead of the 87 cents we were paying. Over seas and Canadian postage has also gone up. Details of subscription prices will start to be included with the June 2007 renewals. We will continue to send free newsletters to everyone on our list until their snail mail subscription comes up for renewal (which would be different dates for different people). All newsletters can be downloaded from our web site for free.

Buddy Ray writes:

You may not be affiliated with the corporate administration of the United Church of God, but aren't their members your

brothers and sisters in Christ. Aren't we going to live together in the Kingdom of God in the afterlife?

Laura Lee writes:

All people who are God's are our brethren.

Buddy Ray writes:

Their procedures and policy on magazine publishing and distribution are consistent with national standards.

Laura Lee writes:

Are you then saying that our policy of getting a valid name and address to mail a newsletter to and our form of mailing newsletters via the United States Postal service does not meet national standards?

If you are not satisfied with our policy and standards for publishing and distribution and you believe United or someone else is doing a better job, then please by all means go to them for publications instead of writing us letters like these that are almost pure nonsense and that waste our time with things and matters that are totally ridiculous.

Buddy Ray writes:

The Post Office is concerned; when less than first class rates are utilized; to reduce excess mail clog due to unwanted or unused magazines.

Laura Lee writes:

You should be addressing your concern in regard to bulk mailing rates to United Church of God whom uses bulk mail rates, instead of us, as we send everything in regard to our newsletters "First Class" mail.

Buddy Ray writes:

We all need to be busy throwing the right things away into the trash basket (you call garbage). We all need to be careful not to throw away work, that needs doing - that we can do, into the trash just to relieve ourselves of duty from an opportunity.

Laura Lee writes:

So again, when you fill out our renewal forms, they need to include your name (first and last) and a valid address or we will throw the form in the garbage and not process it. Of course it is logical that if one now has to pay for a publication, it would be a no brainer to want to give the correct information on a renewal form so that a person gets the publication they are paying for.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-09.htm>

THE END**

Little Use for Incoming Information? (05-17-07)

by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

Ray Daly writes:

Thanks for sending your newsletter in the past. I really have little use anymore for incoming information that I do not have any outgoing outlet for.

Laura Lee writes:

Much of what you say and teach is nonsense and cannot be backed up through scripture, so I would assume this is why you don't get a lot of feedback (both give and take). We have received two letters from you prior to this and fully plan to answer them or get an answer for them at some point. The reason we don't always answer back right away is because you are not the only person who writes to us. We receive many letters from all over the place and it is really hard for two people to keep up with that as well as to work and do whatever else has to be tended to on a daily basis. We do the best we can with the time we have and we are sorry to you and others that we aren't faster at answering snail mail and/or email.

Ray Daly writes:

Hope things are going well with you guys.

Laura Lee writes:

Things are going well and we hope all is well with you and your family also.

Ray Daly writes:

To be honest, I do not find ANY organization doing ANYTHING! True Sardis all the way! Philadelphia is coming though --- I only hope and pray!

Laura Lee writes:

We are sorry you feel that way. I believe there are several people who are doing something, us included. As far as waiting for a certain era to kick in, I wouldn't hold my breath since church eras are not found in the Bible.

Ray Daly writes:

Have an article I'll send as soon as it's typed! (half done), Take Care! Your friend, Ray

P. S. -- Have you yet changed your church tradition?

Laura Lee writes:

If you are asking if we still sing 3 or 4 songs and have an opening and closing prayer during the course of Sabbath Services each week, the answer is **yes**.



For anyone reading this, I will explain this point. Ray Daly believes that singing and praying during Sabbath Services is a sin and so therefore he will not attend Sabbath Services with us because we sing and pray.

We find it amazing how many different excuses people find and promote so they will not have to assemble with other brethren for weekly Sabbaths or Holy Days. Read Leviticus 23 where it says the weekly Sabbath and the Holy Days are to be Holy Convocations. A Convocation is a formal commanded (by God) assembly or meeting.

Ray Daly writes:

As more and more wake up, I do no longer use e-mail! Thank God!

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-10.htm>

THE END**

Sorry to Learn (01-23-07)

by Isaya Ouma Owak (Kenya)

This letter is in regard to a letter "Disfellowshipped in 1985" which was printed in Issue #37.

Isaya Ouma Owak writes:

Hello Darwin and Laura,

Thanks for your mail to me and am happy to keep getting the newsletter from you I will be sending one to be published.

I was sorry to learn how brother George E. Padgett in England how the ministers mistreated him long long ago. I don't know how I can get his contact [email address] so that I may write to him.

I almost cried when I read his mail to the newsletter, but all in all God will see His people through. Can you give him my contact so that he can write to us?

(The rest of the letter was more of a private matter.)

Laura Lee writes:

Your contact information has been sent to George E. Padgett.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-11.htm>

THE END**

Audio and Video (02-10-07)

by Chris Oliver (Great Britain)

This letter is in regard to a letter "World Tomorrow Radio Programs" which was printed in Issue #37.

Dear Laura Lee:

Greetings In Our Lord Jesus' name. I must congratulate you on your excellent newsletter "The Church Of God Messenger" it is a very rich resource and excellent vessel for the Churches Of God.

Regarding Gerald Kloss's query in **January/February 2007 - issue 37** newsletter, for CD's or cassette recordings of The "Tomorrows World" program. **The Church Of God at Northeast Ohio**, provide free CD's of Herbert W. Armstrong, There are many good recordings on these, including both audio and video. Again these CD's are free of charge. Here is the link to their website, <http://www.cogneo.org>

Hope this helps. God Bless, Chris Oliver, Church Of God Home Bible Assemblies (England/U.K)

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-12.htm>

THE END**

Lots of Information (01-30-07)

by Dale & Beverly Smith (Olney, Illinois)

Dale & Beverly write:

Dear Darwin & Laura Lee, our brother and sister in Yahshua Messiah:

Thank you very much for the **newsletter** that has so many interesting articles that aren't available any place else. We also appreciate the articles by **Steven Collins**. I have read all of his books and also the ones by **Yair Davidy** from Jerusalem. Both of them are excellent historians and Steven also has articles that aren't in his books.

In the latest issue of the newsletter **Gerald Kloss** asked for information about Herbert and **Ted Armstrong** for tapes. I will start with Ted. He is on cable channel "i" at 5:30 AM every Thursday morning and they give a phone number that he can call or write or also on the internet. The phone number is 1-903-561-7070. All the programs were made before Ted died but the office is still open. There is also the following available through the mail.

GTA Tape Library, PO Box 345, North Sydney, NSW 2060, Australia. They have videos, and audio cassettes available. Just ask for the catalog.

Giving & Sharing, PO Box 100, Neck City, MO 64849. They have a four page catalog of books, videos and audio cassette tapes. Very good place to get tapes and other things from.

The final place is for a catalog of many different tapes and articles. **GUARD THE TRUTH**, 1312 N. 358 Avenue, Tonopah, AZ

85354

I'm sure there are other places, but I don't know of any.

The enclosed article is one that one of the brethren gave me at Norman Edwards feast site in Michigan that was the last one that I and my wife were able to attend. Anyone that knows Norman and his family would never badmouth them like I have read in the **newsletter**. The years that we were able to go to the Feast at Norman Edwards was the best that we had ever attended. We didn't have any money and I talked to Norman on the phone and he said that if we could get gas money for the trip, to come up and it wouldn't cost us anything for a room or meals or anything. We did go and it was like no other feast of Tabernacles. He has gotten a very rotten deal from the ones at Port Austin and there will come a time when they will answer for the way they have treated him and his family. They are really terrific people.

Laura Lee writes:

We agree that what Phil Frankford, Homer Kizer, Terry Williams and Paul Drieman did to Norman Edwards and his family was totally wrong and should never have happened. To help with understanding the situation we now have posted on our web site the following letters and articles: **Taking it to the Church, Conclusions of Evidence, Are You One of the Slandered?, By Their Fruits, Summary of Events in Port Austin, and Summary of Events in Port Austin (Update)** as printed in past **newsletters**. We sincerely hope that people do not forget the monetary needs of Norman Edwards and his family.

Dale & Beverly write:

I had planned to write sooner, but my right eye went completely blind and I just recently had an intraocular replacement to let me see. The left eye will be later since it also has a cataract in it. There is still some work to be done with a laser on the right one, but at least I can see.

I hope that you enjoy the article and share it with others. I have no idea who wrote it, but I do enjoy reading it. Your brother and sister in Yahshua.

Laura Lee writes:

We hope your eyesight is improving and that the brethren reading this will pray for you. The article by the unknown author is printed below.

Article by Unknown Author:

Dear Friend,

How are you? I just had to send a note to tell you how much I love and care about you.

I saw you yesterday as you were talking

with your friends. I waited all day, hoping you would want to talk with me also. As evening drew near I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to rest you... And I waited. You never came. Oh yes, it hurt me, but I still love you because I'm still your friend.

I saw you fall asleep last night and longed to touch your brow... So I spilled moonlight on your pillow and face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk. I have so many gifts for you. But then you awakened late and rushed off to work. My tears were in the rain.

Oh, if you only knew how much I love you. I try to tell you in the blue sky and quiet green grass. I whisper it in the leaves on the trees and breathe it in the colors of the flowers. I shout it to you from the mountain streams and give the birds love songs to sing for you. My love for you is deeper than the deepest ocean and bigger than the biggest want or need in your mind. Oh, if you only could spend an eternity with me on earth.

I know how hard it is on this earth. I really know... and I want to tell you. I want you to meet my Father. He wants to help you too. My Father is that way, you know.

Just call me...ask...talk to me. Oh, please, please don't forget me. I have so much to share with you. All right, I won't bother you any further. You are free to choose me...it is your decision. I have chosen you and because of this I will wait...because I love you! Your Friend, Yahshua

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-13.htm>

*****THE END*******

Web Site Information (02-13-07)

by Robin Wansley (Laurel, Mississippi)

Robin Wansley writes:

Hi Darwin and Laura Lee,

I like your web site and have been wanting to ask you how to go about setting one up like yours. I have several long-ish papers that I am thinking about breaking down into several short papers and putting on a site. I would be glad to submit them for your review but I think that given their nature and material, they may not be a good fit for your site.

Do you have a webmaster?

Thank you!

Laura Lee writes:

Dear Robin,

Hi, we are really glad you like the web site. I Laura am the web master. I still have a

lot of stuff to get on our web site and a few things to take off yet. Let's just say it is a work in progress.

Okay, how long are your articles and what are they about? If an article is over 30 pages long we probably wouldn't consider it for print because we would have to print it in several parts. We do go over many articles on various subjects for consideration to print, and some we print and some we turn down.

Okay, the web site--Will this be your first web site? If so, I won't tell you it is an easy thing. When I first did a web site several years ago, I didn't know anything about it or how it worked. I have learned a lot over the years. My first Web Site was done with "Isla Web Easy Millennium", some things did not work correctly in their software but it was easy to understand and I was sorry when they went out of business. Then I discovered that "Isla Web Easy Millennium" was bought by Vcom and later sold as "Web Easy 5 Professional". This program was great and they corrected the glitches in the Isla version of the software. Then last year they released a newer version called "Web Easy 6 Professional" which I updated to I believe last July. I am really happy with the software. It is easy to use, and when I say that I am speaking that way because I have worked with it for several years now and it is easy for me because I have learned. When I started out it was not so easy and I could see why some might abandon building a web site all together.

Our web site is what they call a DHTML web site. D standing for dynamic. What do you like? Heavily animated as this page: <http://darwinlauralee.com/aa2006-033-02.htm> or pages with music or pages that are quiet?

The entire web site is all my design. The web easy software allows you to do almost anything one wants as far as design. Some of the stuff included in the software I have never used because I either don't know how or just haven't had time to even look at it. So I by no means know how to work everything included in this software. If you look at some of our pages like [contact info](http://darwinlauralee.com/jewelrybylaura.htm), [guest book](http://darwinlauralee.com/jewelrybylaura.htm), etc. these are probably pages I created with Isla and then most other pages were created with Pro 5, and in the Study Your Bible section that was mostly all created with Pro 6. I got the Pro version because we also sell things:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/jewelrybylaura.htm> (Note: Since this letter was answered we have moved our online store to: <http://darwinlauralee.com/jewelrybylaura/> and use Zen Cart software for that. Coming soon we will also be putting up a Web Site called "Classified Ad Depot" which we hope to have done by the end of

June if all goes well.)

http://www.v-com.com/product/Web_Easy_Pro_Home.html it's \$49.99 on line. I got mine from who knows, Staples, Office Depot, Walmart or Best Buy. I don't know if this is a good site, but they are offering a trial version and then a discount. (Note: The discount link no longer worked so we took it off.)

If you buy the software and need help getting started, let me know, I would be glad to help you if I can. If you get a web site provider you need to get one with FTP upload, some of your free sites do not have ftp upload. I recommend "Blue Host" out of Utah, great guys have worked with them for years. Get a domain name right away so you don't have a mess later. Remember if you need help, just send me a list of questions. I'll try to help. Have a really great day.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/l2007-039-14.htm>

*****THE END*******

Pro-choice (09-11-02)

by Jeffrey Caldwell (Redwood City, California)

Dear friends,

It is commonly believed by more and more people -- possibly yourself -- that the Scriptures [the so-called "Holy Bible"] are nothing more than stories written hundreds of years ago by many men who were, obviously, very out of touch with the enlightenment of our advanced and modern age. Obviously they were not inspired by the Creator and rightful Judge of all, because, after all, the Holy One portrayed in the Scriptures is merely one of their "stories" -- true for "them" but not true for "us" -- "their" truth -- those dead people who were so ignorant and intolerant that in today's advanced world, and quite rightly, they would be marginal, almost irrelevant. Or so, at least, is the increasingly "politically correct" view. Or has "the devil, Satan, who leads the whole world astray" "put darkness for light" as the Scriptures say? Has "the Light Bringer" [Satan's other name] come and "illuminated" the world with his deceptive "wisdom" which is really folly?

One of those "stories" comes down to us from "Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ" -- written by a former fisherman over 1900 years ago [or by some other liar, many centuries ago for sure, at least!]. Strangely enough, in his second letter he says: "in the last days scoffers will come ... they deliberately forget that long ago by

Letters continued on page 24

QUESTIONS SECTION ==

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

KIDS KORNER ==

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

Live, Love and Laugh!

by Jeana Anderson (Casa, Arkansas)

I feel compelled to share with all of you a message that has been "gifted" to me this week, from our highest source of knowledge, our Father of the Heavens and Earth.

Brian and I have been trying to combat a problem in our children for about a year now— negativity and temper, especially toward studies (a serious issue because it can lead to an unfulfilling, unhealthy life literally/physically/mentally). We have tried many techniques, such as punishing, taking things and blessings away, using scripture with our punishments, making the kids go outside or to a window to throw the bad out, talking/questioning it all out, and many other antics to get the "bad" out of our children. We began to pray, talk, and meditate over the issue just recently, digging deep into our resources to find an answer (and we seemed to be becoming more frustrated with the idea).

Then, while at Sabbath services this past week, it came in the most unexpected way. The answer was in the sermon! It was just the way our Father is—SIMPLE! Parents, we make things too hard for ourselves, and then we cannot see the answers that he gives us. We ask and He gives! If our minds are open, and letting his life live in us, everything would look very simple to us and our answers would come to us as easy as an interrogative conversation with someone! OK, here is the simple answer: correction in Love. Rewards in Love (Honey character, not Vinegar, they look the same yet smell different) All of Yahweh's commands and ways of living are very simple. You all can look into the Bible and read the examples of the servants, disciples, Solomon, apostles, and so on, to see how they asked for answers and the answer was simple, or the knowledge was immediate when minds were open to it (many examples show how some 'thought too much' and the answer was right in front of them).

Here are some "new" things we are going back to doing (as we did when the kids were younger, that worked better) and I hope that they help you in your 'training up your children in the way they should go'. We correct ourselves, **in respect**, and God corrects us constantly, **in respect**, so we should do the same to our children. Gal. 5, Prov. 27:19, I Cor. 14:26, 40:--, Matt 18, Act 2, Prov 15, Rom 13-14 AWESOME! We are going back to a way that our Father rewards us: with rewards and incentives (not bribes or manipulations, there is a difference). We have decided that "grading" may not be so bad after all—if there are rewards for good grades and the bad grades come with correction (not punishment). We will also have rewards for Misc. skills and chores. The important thing is to greatly reward, just as Yahweh does for us; and to correct/train the bad consistently. To make things simple, think of the way Scouts, bible school, 4-H, coaches, and special education/therapists reward...simple incentives, praise, real encouragement, expectations—all on the child's mental level! Challenge without the "push and shove".

Here are some books on the subject also: Mommy Magic, ways to nurture your child by Manary, The five love languages of children by Chapman, Just around the corner, encouragement and challenge for Dads and Moms, and Homeschooling with a meek and quiet spirit by Maxwell (Titus2.com), What every Child should know along the way, by Martin, Laughing Lessons, make teaching and learning fun by Burgess. We have these and will lend them if you ask. Simple! Live, Love, and Laugh!

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/k2007-039-01.htm>

THE END**

PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATES

PrayerRequestsAndUpdates@darwinlauralee.com

February 27, 2007--Joyce E. Savannah

To all my brothers and sisters in Yahshua. Thank you so much for all prayers and love gifts that, you have provided, for me in my desperate need. I am still recovering financially, and I have been blessed with a brand new complex for senior citizens, that has so many, safe, affordable, and healthful features for me. I will be moving in April if it is our Eternals will. Please keep me in prayer for this move, and all involved for a safe and smooth move. Thank you, and may our Eternal bless you all with all that you need and desire. (Sent by Joyce E. Savannah)

March 14, 2007--Ron Story's Dad

GODS LOVE TO YOU ALL ALWAYS DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST JESUS MY DAD IS IN THE HOSPITAL NOW FOR 15 WKS .. DAD HAD A BAD SETBACK HE NOW HAS BRAIN: HEMORRHAGE AND A LARGE INFECTION IN STOMACH AREA WHERE HE HAD SURGERY MY MOM AND I ARE ON TOTAL DISABILITY ..PLEASE COULD YOU FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO PERHAPS SEND US A DONATION OF ANY SIZE. JUST A FEW DOLLARS FOR GAS MONEY TO TRAVEL THE 80 MILES EVERYDAY ROUND TRIP TO BE WITH MY DAD TO CHECK ON HIM ..HE WILL EVEN BE IN REHAB FOR QUITE SOMETIME PERHAPS JULY AT EARLIEST DATE TO COME HOME ..HE HAD A VERY BAD ABDOMINAL ANEURYSM AND HE NEARLY DIED ON US ..HE HAD TO HAVE 12 UNITS OF BLOOD.. GOD WAS WITH HIM ..I LAID MY HANDS ON HIM AND PRAYED BEFORE SURGERY AND HE SURVIVED THE SURGERY TO THE DRS AMAZEMENT TOTALLY AWESOME THEY SAID HE LOST NEARLY ALL HIS BLOOD AND NO BLOOD PRESSURE WHEN HE WENT INTO SURGERY ...GOD BLESS YOU FOR WHATEVER AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU CAN DONATE. OUR CHURCH IS VERY SMALL AND THEY ARE ADDING ONTO THE BLDG ITS A VERY OLD BLDG .. WE HAVE ASKED THEM AND RELATIVES ENOUGH ..ITS PRETTY EMBARRASSING TO ASK FOR HELP AT THIS KIND OF TIME IN ONES LIFE YOUR BROTHER LOVE IN CHRIST RON

A LADY GAVE ME AND MOM HER 50 DOLLAR CHECK SHE PUTS IN CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY AND WE BOTH BROKE DOWN AND CRIED GOD IS SO GOOD ALL THE TIME YES HE IS TRULY, ABBA FATHER. **RON STORY, PO BOX 311, CHARLOTTE TN 37036 USA** --- THE BIBLE SAYS GIVE AND YEA SHALL RECEIVE... (Sent by Ron Story)

April 9, 2007--Scott Moers

Please pray for my son, Scott Moers. Scott suffers from mental problems which affect not only his life in a very negative way but also the lives of those in our family. Please pray for God's intervention in granting mercy, peace and direction in Scott's life and also healing so that he and our family can experience some relief from this nightmare. Thank you in advance, (Sent by Linda Moers)

April 17, 2007--Chris Suchar

A young man who is a friend of our family was recently convicted of a crime involving drunk driving. It was a serious crime which would involve a long story. To make a long story shorter, this young man's name is Chris Suchar and he is 29 years old. Chris made a terrible mistake which evolved from a problem with alcohol. Chris is a kind and caring young man and doesn't deserve all that has been done to him by our "justice system."

The prayers are for him and his family and asking for God's protection for him while he is in prison. He has been sentenced to 72 months but could be out in 36 months. His Mother is quite distraught as any of us can understand. Chris has been incarcerated at one of the worst prisons in Washington state and is housed with murders and rapists and has already been approached by gangs who are demanding money from him.

Please pray for Chris and for his safety, thanks. (Sent by Linda Moers)

Prayer Request Archives

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/p2007-039-01.htm>

THE END**

THE MESSAGE BOARD (ADS & INFO) --

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

- April 20, 2007----Bible Study
April 21, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #170 & Lesson #171
April 28, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
May 5, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #172 & Lesson #173
May 12, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
May 19, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #174 & Lesson #175
May 23, 2007----Pentecost (See Ad)
May 26, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
June 1, 2007----Bible Study
June 2, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #176 & Lesson #177
June 9, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
June 16, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #178 & Lesson #179
June 23, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
June 30, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #180 & Lesson #181
July 7, 2007----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
July 13, 2007----Bible Study
July 14, 2007----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #182 & Lesson #183

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: June 15, 2007. 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.

SABBATH SERVICES

Every Saturday at 2:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 1:00 PM for Fellowship

BIBLE STUDY

Every 6 weeks on Friday at 8:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 6:30 PM for Fellowship and Pot Luck Meal (Bring Food)

PENTECOST

We will observe Pentecost here at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota on Wednesday May 23, 2007 (Sivan 6), with services at 2:00 PM (front door open for fellowship at 1:00 PM). At 5:00 PM for anyone who would like to join us, we will meet for a meal and fellowship at the "Bonanza Family Restaurant" in Mandan. Darwin & Laura Lee

New Web Site

by Alex Nicholson
(Canada)

Church of God Halifax has a new web site at: www.churchofgodhalifax.org They also have a few extra copies of an old booklet called "The Origin and History of the Church of God International" which you can obtain by emailing them at: churchofgodhalifax@hotmail.com

Editor's Note:

Anyone who wants to have their web site address considered for inclusion on our web site "Links" page, should go fill out our form at: http://darwinlauralee.com/data/04-22-

06.htm Laura Lee

Item found on line at:
http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-039-01.htm

THE END**

Two Witnesses

by David Ben-Ariel
(Toledo, Ohio)

The Two Witnesses are the next major step forward in God's Plan of Salvation. They will appear BEFORE the Great Tribulation (Malachi 4:5) in the spirit of Elijah (especially the chief spokesman between the two of the House of David - Zech. 12:8). They will

deliver the GOOD NEWS to Judah that Messiah will save us from our sins and from our enemies (Isa. 40:9).

Sometime, perhaps 3 and one half years after getting the Word out from Jerusalem (Joel 2:1), since they must FIRST sound the alarm about WWIII, God will EMPOWER them with miracles like the Earth has NEVER SEEN BEFORE! (Ex. 34:10, Rev. 11:3). At that point they will turn from warning about imminent national defeat, destruction, occupation and deportation to COMFORTING OUR CAPTIVE PEOPLE with the GOOD NEWS that our NATIONAL DELIVERER will come and save us and reverse the roles and turn the tables on our enemies!

Pasadena was the headquarters for the Philadelphia era of God's Church; Edmond

serves as the headquarters of this present Laodicean era and SOON now JERUSALEM will serve as the final headquarters of God's Work on Earth preparatory for the coming of Israel's King!

So we see that the Two Witnesses must first be in Jerusalem warning the whole world of what's about to happen, and then EMPOWERED FROM ON HIGH they'll continue part two of their ministry to COMFORT ISRAEL AND PREPARE THEM TO MEET THEIR GOD!

Editor's Note:

Church eras are not found in the Bible. Laura Lee

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-039-02.htm>

THE END**

Life Events

Sent by Alan Ruth
(Farmington Hills, Michigan)

Journal accepting announcements for new "Life Events" section

www.thejournal.org/issues/issue116/new-announcement-section-added-journal-newspaper.html

The Journal will soon begin a new department in each issue to feature what could be called "life events" of its readers. The new addition to the newspaper will list information and announcements from its readers such as:

- * Births
- * Deaths
- * Feast plans
- * Graduation announcements (e.g. high school, college, Church of God-related schools, etc.)
- * News of new fellowships and congregations
- * Relocations of pastors and church leaders
- * Retirements
- * Weddings and Wedding anniversaries

Items submitted to the newspaper can include photos as well as text.

Listings from the Life Events section will also be displayed on *The Journal's* Web site at www.thejournal.org

To help kick off this new feature you can mail your "Life Events" announcements, which can include photos, to:

Life Events

The Journal

P.O. Box 1020

Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A.

You can also E-mail this information to info@thejournal.org

Be sure to include a phone number in case of the need for follow-up information. There is no charge for this service.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-039-03.htm>

THE END**

Web Site Update

Sent by Dixon Cartwright
(Big Sandy, Texas)

The Journal: News of the Churches of God

Web site updates - April 2007

View our first Life Events page!

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue117/life-events.html>

Life Events is *The Journal's* NEW section featuring announcements of births, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, deaths and other news of fellowships and congregations! Submissions for this section of the newspaper can be sent to info@thejournal.org

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TheJournal.org's Year-to-date Statistics

Number of Actual Visitors: **128,800**

Number of articles (pages) requested: **337,841**

Visitor increase compared to same period in 2006: **UP 42%**

For info on affordable Web site advertising visit The Journal's ad page at

<http://www.thejournal.org/ads/adrates.htm>

You can also Email Alan, the site's Webmaster and ad manager, at JournalWebSite@aol.com

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Lead Articles

Headquarters move to Texas planned for United Church of God

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue116/ucg-announces-plans-to-move-headquarters-to-texas.html>

United Church of God Congregation in Central America Splits in Half

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue116/united-church-of-god-loses-half-of-congregation-in-central-america.html>

Conference of Church Leaders convenes to talk about the diversity and defense of congregations

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue117/church-leader-conference-discusses-diversity-and-defending-congregations.html>

Church of God Big Sandy sends board member to help UCG split in El Salvador

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue117/big-sandy-church-sends-member-to-el-salvador-ucg-split.html>

Everybody wins at Winter Family Tournament

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue117/everybody-wins-at-winter-family-tournament.html>

150 DELICIOUS Unleavened recipes for Spring Holy Day season!

<http://www.thejournal.org/recipes/unleaven.html>

General News Items

Church of God International and Church of God Big Sandy to co-sponsor Feast site

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue117/church-of-god-international-and-cog-big-sandy-sponsor-feast-site.html>

United Christian Ministries moving to Indiana

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue116/united-christian-ministries-moving-to-indiana.html>

Feature Articles

Triumph founder Bill Dankenbring speaks his mind on churches' doctrines

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue116/triumph-founder-bill-dankenbring-speaks-on-church-of-god-doctrines.html>

Churches of God in New England mark 40th anniversary

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue116/churches-of-god-in-new-england-mark-40th-anniversary.html>

New Bible Study Resources

Bible Studies on the Holy Days by Richard Nickels

<http://www.thejournal.org/church-of-god-research/holy-days/description-of->

[articles.html](#)

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Commentaries and Columns

Did a perfect Jesus Christ avoid offense? by Dave Havir

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue116/did-a-perfect-jesus-avoid-offense.html>

Do you preach politics from the pulpit? by Wesley White

<http://www.thejournal.org/issues/issue116/do-you-preach-politics-from-the-pulpit.html>

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Letters, Notes and Prayer Requests

View Issue 117: [Letters to Editor](#), [Notes & Quotes](#) and [Prayer Requests](#)

View Issue 116: [Letters to Editor](#), [Notes & Quotes](#) and [Prayer Requests/Obituaries](#)

See Front Page of Journal **Issue 117** and **Issue 116**

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-039-04.htm>

THE END**

Place of Safety Camp

by Alan Croyle
(Emporia, Virginia)

Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, 1 John 4:1-3. Anyone interested in helping build the Place of Safety Camp near Armstrong, Ontario, Canada, may contact Alan Croyle, PO Box 7, Emporia, VA 23847

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-039-05.htm>

THE END**

Online Store

by Laura Lee
(Bismarck, North Dakota)

We now have an Online Store called "Jewelry by Laura" and we would like to post ads for merchandise and services in our store for free for those who are interested. We will post ads for new or used merchandise. We will post ads for merchandise or services. We will post ads that are church related or ads that are not church related. "Jewelry by Laura" is a trade name which is registered with the State of

North Dakota. It is a business name I have used since the early 90's.

When I registered it with the State of North Dakota a couple of years ago, I did not know that approximately two years later I would have the software available to have an Online Store or I might have chosen a different trade name for this purpose.

Not too long ago some people got together and created a software program called "Zen Cart" and offered it to everyone for free. Then in February of 2007 a book on how to set up "Zen Cart" was published. Believe me, you do need the book to set this program up. It can get a little complicated in some areas. As I looked at this program I could see many possibilities in it and some of my ideas on how to use the program actually worked.

So our thought is to open it up to anyone who wants to place an ad and put your ad in as what we call linked merchandise. We can put your ad into the store just like any other merchandise and link it to your web page, your email address, form mail or postal mail, so they go from our Online Store directly to you the person who has posted the ad.

We know that many of you have books to sell, music cd's to sell, cards to sell and various other items to sell new or used and we just want to help you out a little bit. Our Online Store will also be closed on the weekly Sabbaths and on the High Sabbaths. If you have questions please email us at: jewelry-by-laura@earthlink.net If you want to go look at our Online Store, go to: <http://darwinlauralee.com/jewelrybylaura/> If you want to place a free ad in our Online Store go to: http://darwinlauralee.com/data/place_an_ad.htm or send it too, Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502.

All ads must include a picture of the item or a logo picture if it's a service and we do reserve the right not to post certain ads.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-039-06.htm>

THE END**

Letters continued from page 19

God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed ...[and that] the world of that time was deluged and destroyed... [and that] the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:3, 5-7 NIV). "In the last days scoffers deliberately forget" -- he says, writing centuries ago -- the historical record of the Scriptures, how man was created and the great flood that destroyed the world that then was -- considering those records merely

myths, stories of ignorant men. Even more so, he says, "in the last days scoffers deliberately forget" the warnings that the Creator is also Judge and intends to destroy all that is evil and create a new heaven and earth much better than this one, sullied as it is by deep dishonesty and sin. Modern scoffers prefer the opposing story of "Molecules to Man" fabricated "by science falsely so-called" (1 Timothy 6:20 KJV) according to "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope" -- or perhaps it was some other delusional maniac. For sure, he wrote many hundreds of years ago.

The big fisherman also says: "We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty." (2 Peter 1:16 NIV). So, it would seem, either a) Peter is a bold and hypocritical liar [intensely so, in the light of the rest of what he has to say!] or b) the victim of very serious delusion [gripping not only him but also many who were with him -- he only wrote a few pages of the Book!] or c) he is telling the real truth and knows what he is talking about!

Now, if Peter is a liar or a maniac -- as increasing numbers of moderns, most who have never read the "stories" they disparage, seem to believe, we have little to concern ourselves with besides living out our inherently meaningless lives as we see fit. But, if as an actual eyewitness to the power and majesty of our Creator, Redeemer and rightful Judge -- Peter is telling the real truth and knows whereof he speaks, because both he and the rest of those who wrote the "stories" of Scripture really did speak "from God as were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21) -- then "what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God" -- the day of judgment and "a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness" -- "and speed its coming." (2 Peter 3:11, 13 NIV).

If you haven't read those "stories" -- perhaps you should! Judge for yourself and may that choice be an informed choice -- one that truly will serve you well! Best regards, Jeffrey A. Caldwell

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/i2007-039-15.htm>

THE END**