

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
July 16, 2022 --- Issue No. 76
Special Edition

Unprofitable / Profitable Servant

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(Bismarck, North Dakota)

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Articles
(Over 4 Pages Long)

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Recently, I heard a sermon given, the title of which was, "What's wrong with the Church?" The sermon was directed at the 'Churches of God'.

In this sermon the speaker went on to describe the church of today as being like the Pharisees of Jesus' day. But **woe unto us** if that be true! Notice what Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 5:20.

20. "For I say unto you, that **except your righteousness shall exceed** the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."

That statement must have shocked the disciples at that time. The Pharisees were viewed as the leaders of Jesus' day. Maybe they were not always highly loved or esteemed but they most certainly were regarded as leaders. Notice what is said about them in 'Eerdmans's Bible Dictionary'.

"PHARISEES - One of the parties or movements within Judaism of the late Second Temple period (ca. 150 B.C. - A.D. 70). The Pharisees were noted most for their **exact observance** of the Jewish religion, **their accurate** exposition of the law, their handing down of extra biblical **customs and traditions**, their moderate position with regard to the interplay of fate and free will, and their **belief in the coming resurrection** and in angels (Josephus *BJi.5.2* [110]; *ii. 8.14* [162-63] *Ant. Xiii.10.6* [297]; *xviii.1.3* [13-14]; Mark 7:3; Acts 23:6-9; Phil. 3:5; cf. Gal. 1:14). The ancient sources variously describe the Pharisees as a political party, a philosophical school and scholarly class, or a sect or voluntary association devoted to **ritual purity**." (Emphasis mine)

Consider the description of these people; **"their exact** observance, **their exact** exposition of the law, **their handing down** of extra biblical customs and traditions, **their ritual purity**. . ." These folks were very scrupulous to detail. Paul even prided himself in being a member of this group. Take a look at what he said in Acts 26:4-5.

4. "My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among my own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; 5. which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the **most straitest sect** of our religion **I lived a Pharisee**."

Young's Concordance describes the word 'straitest' as **"most accurate, scrupulous and strict"**. Take a look at another place where Paul seems to pride himself as having knowledge concerning the scriptures.

5. "Circumcised the eighth day of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; **as touching the law a Pharisee** . . ." (Philippians 3:5)

So again, when Jesus said their righteousness must exceed the 'Pharisees righteousness', they really must have been dumbfounded. Just as Paul prided himself and as commentators like Eerdmans and others indicate, the Pharisees were meticulous to detail in observing God's law. So, was this meticulousness wrong? No! Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 23:2-3.

2. "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: **All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do;**"

So, what then was missing? Notice what Jesus also said in Matthew 23:23

23. "Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and **have omitted the weightier matters** of the law, **judgment, mercy and faith**; these ought you to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

Clearly Jesus is saying here that the Pharisees' problem was **not** their attention to detail in keeping God's law and statutes. This was important as well, but it was the spiritual intent they failed to emphasize ... **"judgment, mercy and faith"**. When it came to the law and when they read from it Jesus supported them. Again, reflect back on Matthew 23:2-3.

So now back to the sermon where the minister claimed the present-day church of God was like the Pharisees of Jesus' day. Could it really be so? How can we tell? Jesus gives us the key in Matthew 7:15-20

15. "Beware of false prophets which come to you in **sheep's clothing**, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16. You shall know them **by their fruits**. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles? 17. Even so **every good tree** brings forth good fruit; but a **corrupt tree** brings forth evil fruit. 18. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19. Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down and

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cast into the fire. 20. Wherefore **by their fruits you shall know them.**"

It's quite plain here to see that a tree is likened to a person. So, we can see that Jesus is talking about people. Everywhere we see the word tree we may substitute the word 'person'. For example, we could say, "a corrupt person brings forth evil fruit and a good person brings forth good fruit."

But what is this fruit talked about here? Once more in John 15:16 Jesus told his disciples, "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and **bring forth fruit** and that your **fruit should remain:**"

We are physical and our minds operate most often on a physical plane. When we hear the word fruit, we immediately think of something juicy and sweet, something we relate to our taste buds.

But Jesus is talking about something on a spiritual plane. He is referring to character traits... Godly character traits. These Godly character traits are listed in Galatians 5:22-23. There are nine of them and they are the **fruits** Jesus wants us to produce. Yet these fruits cannot grow of and by physical nature only. These can only be produced by the interaction of God's spirit within us.

However, we can receive these spiritual attributes if we begin to turn to the one who can give them. As we turn and as we begin to obey him, he gives us more. (Acts 5:32) And He is more willing, than we know, to give us these attributes. Notice Luke 11:11-13

11. "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12. Or if he shall ask an egg, Will he offer him a scorpion? 13. If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the **Holy Spirit** to them that ask him?"

So, from these words we can see the greatest being in the universe is willing to give us these good things. But do we see the need. Do we really comprehend to see a need for change? Do we really see a need for those fruits growing in our lives? This, I believe is where the Pharisees were blind. They did not see themselves as others did and especially how Jesus did.

Fruits of God's Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

1. **Love** - This word has got to be one of the most maligned words. Love has taken on an appearance of something we can get, something we can cherish and satiate our physical longings and desires.

True love, however, is not an incoming thing. Rather it's an **outgoing** expression of service to others. It's wanting to see the success and wellbeing of another person as strongly as that of ourselves. The whole chapter of 1 Corinthians 13 is devoted to showing the qualities of this most wonderful fruit.

- Love suffers-long
- Love is kind
- Love doesn't envy
- Love doesn't boast
- Love doesn't act improperly, dishonorably, indecently, or rudely
- Love doesn't seek its own
- Love **doesn't get offended easily**
- Love thinks no evil
- Love rejoices not in iniquity
- Love is truthful and rejoices in truth
- Love **bears** all things
- Love believes all things
- Love hopes all things
- Love **endures** all things

2. **Joy** - This attribute is something that there seems to be very little of in the world today. Joy is something different than happiness. Happiness seems to be some emotional response to something that **happens** to us. Maybe it's the anticipation of a new family member, or maybe it's a raise at work, or winning the lottery.

Joy is different. Joy is something that radiates from within us. It's something we can have when life is difficult as well as when everything is going well. It's an attribute that looks beyond the present to a brighter day, such as looking forward to living in a peaceful abundant world, a world with no more wars, no more sicknesses etc.

Jesus had this attribute and wants to give it to his followers. Notice John 15:11, John 16:21-22, 24 and John 17:13.

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Jesus had this kind of joy even when life looked the bleakest for him. (Hebrews 12:2)

3. **Peace** - Peace is like joy. It's something we can have within us even when there is no peace around us. It's a calmness, a settled-ness, knowing that all things are going to turn out for good for us, if we have our eyes fixed on that goal of God's kingdom and the wonderful world tomorrow. Again, Jesus had this attribute and wants to give it to his followers. See John 14:27 and John 16:33

4. **Longsuffering** - This attribute was mentioned before as being a specific quality of love. It is one of the most admirable qualities a person can be identified with. Longsuffering comes from the Greek word '*makrothymia*' Meaning patience, forbearance, internal and external control in difficult circumstances, which could exhibit itself by delaying an action. (Notice God's longsuffering with mankind in the days of Noah 1 Peter 3:20)

Webster's dictionary gives the description this way. "**Bearing injuries, insults, trouble**, etc. patiently for a long time - n. long and patient endurance of trials.

5. **Gentleness** - Gentleness is something we all want to be treated with. It's a quality of being aware that many folks are easily offended, maybe our selves included. Knowing this, are we gentle when it comes to choosing our words to correct someone who seems to have a problem to overcome?

Webster's dictionary says gentleness is **not violent or harsh**.

6. **Goodness** - Webster's dictionary explains goodness this way. (1) Goodness is the state of being good; specifically (a) virtue; excellence (b) kindness; **generosity** (2) The best part

7. **Faith** - Faith is believing something and acting upon that belief before the result of that belief has been realized or materialized. Notice what Hebrews 11:6 says about faith.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

All of the renown people of God listed in Hebrews 11 exhibited that kind of faith where they had hope in God's promises. They all died in that faith and could rest assured that they will one day receive those promises.

8. **Meekness** - Meekness comes from the Greek word '*praotes*'. Its meaning is 'gentleness, humility, **courtesy, considerateness**'. Meekness is not weakness. Moses was considered by God to be the meekest man on earth at that time. (Num. 12:3) The Hebrew counterpart is '*anayw*', and means, 'humble, afflicted, poor, oppressed, lowly.'

In Matthew 5:5 Jesus said, "blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." The word for meek here is '*praus*'. Strong's Concordance gives it's meaning as, "gentle, meek, the positive moral quality of dealing with people in a **kind manner, with humility and consideration.**"

In Matthew 11:29-30 Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. For **my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**"

9. **Temperance** - The Greek word for temperance here is '*enkrateia*' and simply means "self-control".

Webster's Dictionary gives the meaning as (1) being temperate or moderate; self-restraint (2) moderation in drinking alcoholic liquor, or esp., the avoiding of alcoholic liquor completely.

The word 'temperate' means (1) moderate in indulging the appetites. (2) moderate in one's actions, speech, etc. (3) characterized by restraint (a temperate reply)

So, there you have it. Here are the real values as opposed to the false. Here is what the Pharisees lacked. These are character traits that cannot be faked. To fake it is obvious to someone who is for real. Jesus was for real. Jesus had God's spirit without measure (John 3:34-35) and he could spot imitation a mile away. It was obvious to him that the Pharisees were hypocritical.

So back to the original assessment of this minister who claimed that the church today is very much like the Pharisees of Jesus day. Depending on how much we ourselves are led by God's Spirit may determine how well we can discern who is and who isn't one of God's true disciples.

Offended by a Brother

But should this be our focus? Shouldn't our focus be to examine ourselves first? Check our own character first. Let's take a look at an example Jesus gave to reflect God's Spirit in action. Notice Luke 17:3-10. Jesus said,

3. "Take heed to yourselves:" (first examine your own condition) "**If your brother** trespass against you, rebuke him; and if he repents you shall forgive him. 4. And if he trespasses against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to you saying, I repent; you shall forgive him. 5. And the apostles said unto the Lord, 'Increase our faith'".

The apostles must have been a little bit stunned when Jesus told them they should forgive a brother every time he admits his failing and says he's sorry for offending you, even if it happens seven times in a single day! Does this really

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happen? Has it ever happened to you where someone has wronged you in his dealing with you seven times in a single day? This seems to be a bit unlikely and yet Jesus is saying, if it happens to this extreme, you must forgive him/her.

The statement, "Increase our faith", that the apostles answered Jesus, seems at first glance to be a bit disconnected with the forgiveness issue, but it is not, as we shall see it is very much connected. Jesus answered it this way:

6. "And the Lord said, If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you might say unto this Sycamine tree, 'be you plucked up by the root, and be you planted in the sea; and it should obey you.'"

As stated above, the disciples were astonished that Jesus would tell them they should forgive a brother every time he says he's sorry, every time he says it, no matter how many times it happens! This must have flabbergasted the disciples as Jesus didn't even say anything about the brother stopping the offense. He simply stated that you must forgive him, **every time**. So as the disciples are standing there with their mouths open in amazement, Jesus goes on to explain.

7. "But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, 'Go and sit down to meat (dinner)'. 8. And will not rather say unto him, 'make ready where, with I may sup (eat and drink), and gird yourself (wash up and dress yourself) and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward you shall eat and drink? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded of him? I trow (think) not. So likewise, you, when you have done all those things, **which are commanded you, say we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.**"

Jesus explains to his disciples that if you forgive your brother every time, he says he's sorry, **you still haven't done anything commendable**. This is simply doing what is expected of you. To be a profitable servant you must do more.

In addition to forgiving our brother gladly, without any malice or hard feelings, we must **put the offense in God's hands**. For a person to offend over and over, without any change going on in his/her character, requires something additional. This takes faith. Faith to realize the brother may not be aware of the offense he is committing at the time and to just let it go. **Faith to leave it in God's hands**.

True brothers and sisters in the faith are not offended easily, nor do they offend someone carelessly. True brothers with a great deal of the fruit of God's spirit dwelling in them would rarely experience offenses. (1 Corinthians 13:5) But, if it happens, we must remember we are not there yet. All of us are yet physical and are yet growing. Some of us have grown more, some have grown less in these fruits. Whichever is the case we must handle these situations very carefully and **not cause a brother to stumble**.

When members of the same family, whether it be biological or spiritual, offend one another it can be very difficult to resolve. Notice Proverbs 18:19.

19. "A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their **contentions** are like the bars of a castle."

Notice the difficulty to reconcile. It's like trying to gain access through "bars of a castle", very hard. Why is this? And why do brothers get offended anyway? Take a look at the verse again. It says their **contentions** are like the bars of a castle. So, what are these **contentions**? Proverbs 13:10 gives the answer.

10. "Only by **pride comes contention**: but with the well advised is **wisdom**."

"**Pride**" is the problem. The person causing the offense may have pride, but it would appear that the person being offended has a pride issue. So, whether it's the offender or the one who is offended, pride is the reason.

If one or both persons had enough of God's spirit of "meekness" or godly "love" in them these offenses would not happen. But we know that they happen so when it does, we need to go again to the source of these fruits and ask for more (Luke 11:11-13). Also notice the last part of Proverbs 13:10. It says we would be well advised to use wisdom in dealing with this issue of pride. Notice James 1:5

5. "If any lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it shall be given to him."

So, when offenses between brothers and sisters occur it can be a difficult situation. If we are going to deal with them sensibly it takes wisdom, godly wisdom to handle it. Who in scripture is known to have more wisdom than any man? We know the answer that it was Solomon. He wrote these bits of wisdom down and we can access these things for our guidance. Take a look at Proverbs 17:14

14. "The beginning of strife is as when one lets out water: therefore, **leave off contention, before it be meddled with.**" (Prov. 20:3)

When offenses occur usually an argument can erupt and when it does **anger** can build. If the argument is allowed to go on it can develop into a shouting match, or worse. If we sense the issue will not be resolved, we need to stop it immediately. Pressing the point or wanting to get the last word only makes matters worse. Notice Proverbs 30:33

33. "Surely the churning of milk brings forth butter, and wringing of the nose brings forth blood: **so, the forcing of wrath brings forth strife.**

Consider Solomon's words. He indicates unless you stop forcing your anger or stirring up the anger of the other

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person, strife is the natural result. Now damage can be happening. Now, the relationship is not what it once was. The hurt can be deep and unless someone says, "I'm sorry", it can develop into hate. Then like the proverb says reconciliation is like penetrating the "bars of a castle."

Back to Luke 17:3-4 it says that if a brother repents of wrongdoing and says to you, "I apologize, I'm sorry I offended you", you are to forgive. But what happens if the brother doing the offending, knowingly or unknowingly, doesn't say these words. What should you do if you are the one offended?

Here you have a fork in the road, a decision to make. You've already, told him why you are upset, but he doesn't seem to change or apologize, so what should you do? You can either hang on to the offense, let it work over your mind and begin to assume all sorts of things of why the person did what he did, or as stated above **forgive the offender anyway**. Forgiving the person even when he doesn't say, "I'm sorry" is the way God would have us do it. This is being a profitable servant.

David's Example

David is said to be "a man after God's own heart". Notice how he conducted himself. When Saul set out to hunt him down and execute his wrath on him, David didn't stand and fight. Instead, he fled the scene. Maybe David recognized he was outnumbered but knowing how he confronted Goliath it's unlikely this was the case.

David knew Saul was God's anointed to be the king and he was not going to go against that decree. But this wasn't all of it. At least two times he had the opportunity to kill Saul and end the matter once and for all, but he restrained himself and didn't. He sought peace instead. Even though David did nothing wrong and had no reason to seek Saul's favor, but he did it anyway. This took faith and courage, and it showed his willingness to go above what was expected. At this point David is what you would call a **Profitable Servant!**

Jesus' Example

When Jesus was dying on the cross, being cruelly tortured and despicably mistreated, he said, "Father forgive them **for they know not what they do**". This has got to be the most extreme example we must follow. The religious leaders were so incensed about their own position and hated Jesus so much they put him to death. They thought they were doing God's will. They were not about to ask Jesus for forgiveness, but Jesus **forgave them anyway**, knowing some other force was guiding their emotions and minds.

So, if Jesus forgave people **even when they didn't apologize or ask for forgiveness**, even in the most extreme circumstances, how about us, shouldn't we follow that example? On a daily basis, can't we realize sometimes people say things or do things to us that are offensive? Can't we then realize also to put these things into the category of **"they know not what they do"**, or do we always have to point out their faults and **demand an apology?** Notice another characteristic of Jesus in 1 Peter 2:22-23.

21. "Who did no sin, neither was **guile** found in his mouth: 22. who, when he was reviled, **reviled not again**; when he suffered, he **threatened not**; but committed himself to him that judges righteously;"

Jesus' habit was to put it in the Father's hands. This is exercising the spirit of faith. This is going above what is required. This is being a **profitable servant**.

Profitable Servant - A Way of Life

To be truly successful we need to learn and practice a certain principle to guarantee it. Herbert Armstrong, leader of the Worldwide Church of God (deceased since 1986) often spoke of two broad ways of life in which all people to some degree or another are traveling. Simply stated they are the way of **"give"** versus the way of **"get"**.

People and businesses practicing the way of **"get"** extract as much money, or services as they can. They are always seeking ways to maximize their own profit margins, even if it happens to be to the detriment of the customer. They may look around at other businesses and see what they charge and see what the market can bear and decide to charge the limit. Or they may find ways of advertising to somehow attract a larger segment of population, possibly through deceptive means. For example, the methods used may be perfectly within the law, but ethically are not.

An example of this is advertising gas selling for 2 dollars and 89 cents per gallon. At first glance this looks like \$2.89, but in actual fact it's \$2.90. People driving by the pump are not always quick to do the math and only read the first two digits. Reading the way their eyes see it they think they are getting it for a penny less than they actually are. Under this premise the gas company can figure additional customers, and therefore, additional profits.

The opposite way of life is the way of **"give"**. This way is always thinking of how to better serve the customer equal to that of his own needs. Using the same example stated above, the gas company would not try to deceive the public but would simply post the price per gallon as \$2.90.

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The above example of the "get" or "give" ways of life may be simplistic but there are hundreds of others wherein the focus of today's society is on the "get" principle and not on the way of "give". The principle of "give" requires faith whereas getting requires none.

Faith is a spiritual principle; therefore one may conclude, choosing the way of giving, of helping, of service to others first, is not only the way of the profitable servant, it's the **way of God's spirit**. Therefore, to choose the way of giving over getting is no different than the choice our first parents had. They had the opportunity to choose the way, which appealed to their physical senses, or they could choose the way revealed to them, which was to trust God's instruction.

The main difference between our first parents, Adam, and Eve, is they had no previous examples to look to, to see which way worked best. We do. We have 6000 years of practicing that way that seems right, the same as Adam and Eve. This is the record left by man and all its failings and frustrations, which have resulted in an overall state of unhappiness, and failures.

But we can do differently. We can see those failures and the way that produced them. We can see they followed the way of getting and self-serving instead of the way of giving and outgoing concern for his neighbor.

The World Tomorrow

As stated above Jesus had to live that perfect life to set a perfect example for us to follow. The reason should be obvious, but it isn't. The world in general does not know why and it does not understand it.

Jesus said he was going to build his church. (Matthew 16:18) This is not a church building or a local group. It is a group of people **specialy called and trained for a special purpose**. It says in Matthew 22:14 that many are called but few are chosen. Why? Is God unfair? Why not choose them all? The answer to that question is that some, who are called, are not interested. The parable of the sower gives the meaning to this.

But what about those who are chosen? Those in that special group are those who heard the call, gladly received the message, and answered it, are those who go on to begin growing and developing those fruits of God's Spirit.

The fruits that are being developed are developed because they are attached to the vine. (John 15:1-5) The vine is Christ who is able to give nourishment and power to grow and be productive. Unless we are attached to that vine, **we cannot do anything** and **we can't develop any good fruit**. The fruits we are to grow are those nine mentioned above. (Galatians 5:22-23)

But why grow these fruits? Why love? Why long suffering? Why gentleness? Why kindness? Why temperance? The answer to these questions is astounding and at the same time, a total mystery to the world in general? Why? Because it has not heard or has not understood the **true gospel message**.

The message Jesus was sent to deliver to this planet was that God was offering life to humankind, life unending in his kingdom. It was the most wonderful message mankind could have heard and yet it was rejected. None-the-less God is going to achieve that which he purposes, whether or not humanity at this time receives it. But it is a plan most humans do not remotely comprehend.

Suffice it to say here, though, is that those who have accepted that call and are producing those fruits in their lives are **preparing to rule** in that kingdom. When Christ returns, those who have died that have grown in faith and the other fruits of God's spirit, as well as those living, will be resurrected or changed and gathered together to meet him. Then all the training will be of use in transforming this world. It won't happen suddenly, but it will happen.

Why will it succeed, because it will be God's government, not mans. How will it succeed? Because it will be, achieved with those **profitable servants** who went above and beyond that which was expected. They are the ones who grew in the fruits of God's spirit. Notice how it will be achieved.

The World Tomorrow with the abundance of peace and prosperity spoken of by Isaiah and all the prophets of old will be achieved when the leadership under Christ exercises all the fruits of God's Spirit in governing.

These leaders had to be prepared. They could not properly lead and govern unless they first have all the godly qualities of God's Spirit developed within them. If this **fruit** is developed and **remains** within them (John 15:16) when they die, or are instantly changed, they will be the leaders in this awesome world that will be, The Wonderful World Tomorrow.

Notice Revelation 22:12.

12. "behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man **according as his work shall be**"

Notice the words "according as his work **shall be**." The work you or I will be given will be in measure to the amount of **good fruit** you or I have produced.

This is how it will happen:

6. "Not by might, nor by power, but **by my spirit**, says the Lord of hosts." (Zechariah 4:6)

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Letters

Letter from Steven Blackledge (June 25, 2022)

Continued prayers for you as I read your commentary this morning... The troubles we endure in this physical life will help us to grow spiritually... Something that will benefit us for an eternity... Just a matter of enduring to the end God has planned for us while we continue to in His Son, and through Him... We added 6 more to the sea of felines we have at the ranch... Only this time these kittens were born inside a closet... So they are going to be easy to catch, and domesticate to give away. Hope you are having a restful, and edifying sabbath... Interesting what is transpiring in the world this last week.

May we use the time God is granting us to continue to prepare for Satan's final assault on true believers in the years that lie ahead during the tribulation, and then the 1335-day Great Tribulation period that Daniel is shown in Daniel chapter 12... That will be end, and what a climatic one it will be... 1260 days of the beast ruling as king of the world followed by God's dismantling of this Satanic kingdom for a 75-day period through our Creator's bowls of wrath (Revelation chapter 16), and finally our Savior, and His saint's triumphant victory in the Valley of Megiddo over the beast, false prophet, and Satan.

Take care, hope you have a great next week, and God bless you...

Letter from Steven Blackledge (June 25, 2022)

Thanks so much for preparing and sending this sabbath newsletter on a weekly basis Laura Lee... God bless and have a great week.

Letter from Ray Daly (July 2, 2022)

Greetings. I'm glad you are doing better, and I can commiserate with Darwin. Especially in the warm/hot weather. Still, it is good that he does have a full schedule. As prices are going up on almost everything.

Our second batch of baby robins was last Monday. And the parents were really searching for food. Then by Wednesday I decided to help them out. I bought a couple dozen "large fishing worms" and have been feeding those to them. They are so friendly with me now, that when I sit out under the tree with some of the worms, they come to me and collect them. I cut them in half. I have had them get as near as 3' to pick up their treat. I think I mentioned that this is the third year in a row that they have used the same nest on a ladder we have hanging from our storage shed.

Anyway, it is good to hear you are doing better, and hope it continues.

Letter from Steven Blackledge (July 3, 2022)

Thank you again for your newsletter... So glad your week was better, but so sorry Darwin's did not go so well... Even during those difficult times, we can grow in the fruit of God's Spirit, and as is the case many times grow even more so in grace because of what is revealed about ourselves... God will provide food for the robins as HE promises via His Word... Blessings to you, and your's Laura Lee... Have a great week.

Letter from Ray Daly (July 4, 2022)

Good morning. Inch of rain night before last, and nearly two inches last night. Supposed to have rain thru most of the week, but nothing above about 40%. Very good for pastures, and second growth cattle feed.

Aren't the robins nice. Yes, I knew they used the same nest over again. As I mentioned to you, this is the third year on our ladder. I don't know a robins age, but I imagine when the moms and dads die off, the young come back to their birth home. And is it fun to watch them. I mentioned their coming within a few feet of me to get their "worms" from me. But is so funny. If either the male or female gets the first worm, the other will chase after her or him, and try to take it away. It's

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like their trying to get the most attention from their young.

Iron Sharpening Iron
(Agree or Disagree with Something Printed)
New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: America Has Been Put On Notice

Article by Richard Markland
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

How to tell the difference between a Manassite and an Ephraimite:

Jdg 12:1 And the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and went northward, and said unto Jephthah, Wherefore passedst thou over to fight against the children of Ammon, and didst not call us to go with thee? we will burn thine house upon thee with fire.

Jdg 12:2 And Jephthah said unto them, I and my people were at great strife with the children of Ammon; and when I called you, ye delivered me not out of their hands.

Jdg 12:3 And when I saw that ye delivered *me* not, I put my life in my hands, and passed over against the children of Ammon, and the LORD delivered them into my hand: wherefore then are ye come up unto me this day, to fight against me?

Jdg 12:4 Then Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead, and fought with Ephraim: and the men of Gilead smote Ephraim, because they said, Ye Gileadites *are* fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites, *and* among the Manassites.

Jdg 12:5 And the Gileadites took the passages of Jordan before the Ephraimites: and it was *so*, that when those Ephraimites which were escaped said, Let me go over; that the men of Gilead said unto him, *Art* thou an Ephraimite? If he said, Nay;

Jdg 12:6 Then said they unto him, **Say now Shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth:** for he could not frame to pronounce *it* right. Then they took him and slew him at the passages of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand.

In regard to: Preparing for the Kingdom

Article by William P. Goff
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Mar 16:9-20 (The earliest manuscripts and some other ancient witnesses do not have verses 9–20 of Mark, meaning that someone may have added them later. This is still a debate by scholars. See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_16)

Holy Days 2022

Passover – April 16, 2022 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)
Unleavened Bread – April 16-22, 2022
Pentecost – June 5, 2022

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Trumpets - September 26, 2022
Atonement - October 5, 2022
Tabernacles - October 10-16, 2022
Last Great Day - October 17, 2022

Church News

Warning: We do not do research on any of the below items.

Ads and Announcements

MESSAGES FOR THIS TIME

Manifesting Jesus' life as we die to our self-life - Zac Poonen (31 minutes)
<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/manifesting-jesus-life-as-we-die-to-our-selflife>

CFC Bangalore
<https://cfcindia.com>

Christian Fellowship Church
Paradise Enclave, Bellahalli, Bangalore – 560064, India.
Website: www.cfcindia.com

Posted 7-15-22

I would like to place an ad in your newsletter for a Dutch proofreader if possible.

A lady in the Netherlands (who I have known for years) has volunteered to translate my book Who is God and What is the Bible and its Message into the Dutch Language. So, I am searching for one or more proof readers to assist in this effort.

Anyone interested in helping can contact me at buddc38@gmail.com

Posted 7-8-22

"Changing The Narrative" Podcast (David Rives)

The 'ape men representations of Darwinian evolution are racist, inaccurate, and in some cases, complete frauds. Proponents of Darwinian evolution have come to bad conclusions – even worse, some have perpetuated bold frauds and forgeries in the attempt to push evolution. Learn more on this episode of Changing The Narrative Podcast titled "Evolution's Blunders, Frauds, and Forgeries".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Lv4Fvi7bG0>

Posted 7-7-22

CMI's in-depth, comprehensive look at everything concerning the overturning of Roe vs. Wade. The information will help all Christians deal with the pro-abortionist's arguments.

<https://creation.com/roe-v-wade-gone>

Posted 7-6-22

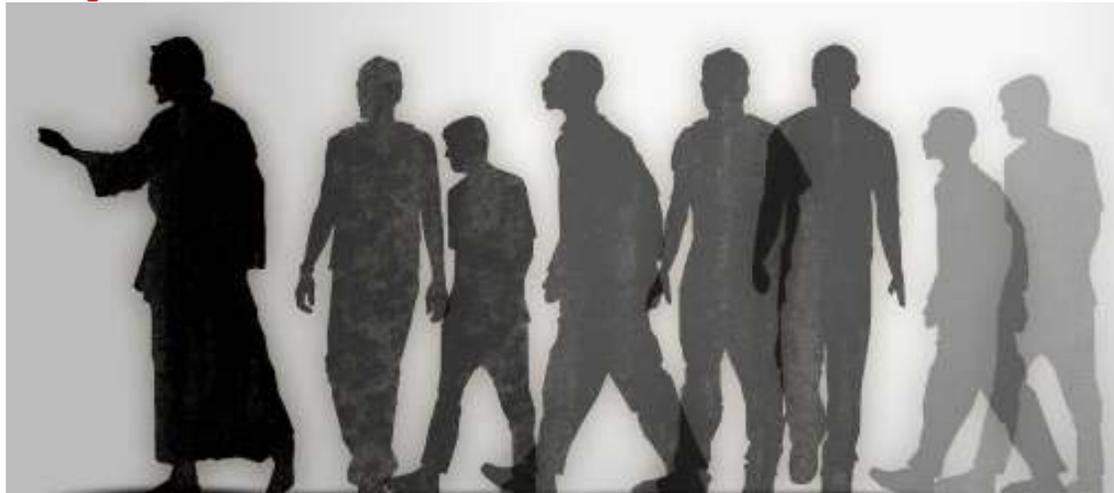
RLCF Discipleship Conference 2022

Dear friends,

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We invite you to join us for the 2022 RLCF Discipleship Conference with **Zac Poonen**. This is an in-person conference and is free and open to all.

The Higher Christian Life



Date: Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th July, 2022

For the full schedule and additional details including area hotel discounts, please refer to the conference page below. If you are able to join us in person, please register via the link below. If not, you are welcome to join us online via the Live Broadcast.

[Conference Schedule, Registration and Q&A Form](#)
[Watch via Live Broadcast](#)

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Christian Fellowship Church
Paradise Enclave, Bellahalli,
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Bangalore – 560064, India.
Website: www.cfcindia.com

Posted 7-6-22

MESSAGES FOR THIS TIME

Take the Breaking of Bread More Seriously – (54 minutes) – Zac Poonen
<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/take-the-breaking-of-bread-more-seriously>

CFC Bangalore
<https://cfcindia.com>

Christian Fellowship Church
Paradise Enclave, Bellahalli, Bangalore – 560064, India.
Website: www.cfcindia.com

Posted 7-5-22

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Podcasts

"Fresh Bread" every Monday through Friday

LIVING IN GOD'S PEACE IN A WORLD GONE MAD is Eddie's theme this week on his 10-12-minute podcasts. These can be downloaded and listened to "on demand" on any device. Access by clicking this link: <https://dreddiehyatt.podbean.com/>

Posted 6-30-22

Warning Diesel Fuel Shortage Coming in 4 to 8 Weeks. Look for more information in Issue #75 under the Title: Red Alert.

Posted 6-30-2022

Listen to these important messages:

Knowing God the Father and His values - Zac Poonen (41 minutes)
<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/knowing-god-the-father-and-his-values>

God Must Always Be in the Beginning - Zac Poonen (50 minutes)
<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/god-must-always-be-in-the-beginning>

CFC Bangalore
<https://cfcindia.com>

Christian Fellowship Church
Paradise Enclave, Bellahalli, Bangalore – 560064, India.
Website: www.cfcindia.com

Posted 6-28-22

Need Baptism and Fellowship in Toronto Canada

If you know of anyone in the Toronto, Canada area who can Baptize a person, please email us with the information so we can pass it on. Also is there anyone to meet with in that area? (6-11-22)

Prayer Requests

Larry Graff – In a nursing home for many health problems and wants to go home. (6-30-22)

Barbara Hoover – Long Term Care – Not Doing Well (6-9-22)

Andrea S. – Heart Problems (3-19-22)

Duane M. Back Problems (3-12-22)

JoAnn H. Heart Problems and Lung Cancer (3-12-22)

Evelyn R. Dementia (3-12-22)

Sengera House Church Orphanage (Kenya) (3-12-22)

Haron (Sengera House Administrator) Leukemia (3-12-22)

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Karen D. Hip Pain (3-12-22)

Victor O.'s Mother (She has cancer) (3-12-22)

We are facing food crisis due to corona. Please send something to buy food provisions and medicines. Please pray for us as we pray for you. Yours in Him Elder M. Srikanth INDIA. (3-12-22)

Randy S. – Prostate Cancer (3-12-22)

Darwin Lee – Pinched Nerve (3-12-22)

Feast Sites & Reports

Feast Site – Lake Tahoe – Guardian Ministries

Dear Brethren,

Here is an update on the Feast and the rooms at the Beach Retreat and Lodge at South Lake Tahoe.

Urgent Request for anyone potentially interested in booking either a "Lake View" room, "Beach Front" room, or one of the "Suite" rooms for our upcoming Feast of Tabernacles at South Lake Tahoe?

Currently, the upgrade rooms from our original block have booked out, HOWEVER, we may be able to Add More of the Upgraded rooms to our block "IF" needed?

If you are considering attending with us, but still are not certain, that is perfectly fine, as you can book and still cancel up to 48 hours prior to check-in without charge or penalty. However, it is advisable to book your room now to ensure availability. If you have not yet done so but think you might want to come, go ahead and book now because there is no obligation if you cancel.

Please let me know as soon as possible, as we will be asking our booking agent to make any needed adjustments by this Thursday afternoon, so the upgraded rooms can be made available for booking this weekend. There are still regular Garden View rooms currently available.

As a reminder, our Discounted rates, when using our Group Code FEAST (all CAPS)...

\$129 Garden

\$149 Lake-view

\$169 Beach-front

There are 3 options for Suites...

King Parlor Suite - similar to our One King guest room however it has a smaller living room area with a balcony attached right off of the bedroom. Group rate \$229

Two-Bedroom Suite - it has One King bedroom and another bedroom with Two Queens however there is still just one bathroom. Group rate \$309

Honeymoon Suite - One King bedroom with sitting area and larger bathroom. Group rate \$329

There is no guarantee that the upgrade rooms will still be available, but we need to know if there is interest so we can make the request.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need the booking information.

Looking forward to our wonderful fellowship during the Feast!

With God's Kind of Love,

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David L. Antion

Posted 7-5-22

Feast Site – Lake Tahoe – Guardian Ministries

Dear Brethren:

We are thrilled to announce that the Guardian Ministries' 2022 site for the FEAST OF TABERNACLES will be in South Lake Tahoe, CA. After much deliberation and not being able to get the Prescott Resort to return our calls, we had to decide. South Lake Tahoe on the southern shore of Lake Tahoe is a few hundred feet lower in elevation than is Squaw Valley or the north shore of the lake.

We plan to hold services at the BEACH RETREAT & LODGE, 3411 Lake Tahoe Blvd, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150. This lodge is located right on the shores of Lake Tahoe. We like to do an onsite inspection and this year it was conducted by Dr. & Mrs. Don and Jan Carruthers. They live in Reno and gave their valuable time to inspect the facility. They liked it very much and also the meeting room for services.

By the way, the water of Lake Tahoe is some of the purest water. You can drink right out of the tap and you will be better off health-wise and money-wise than drinking bottled water.

While the Beach Retreat is on the California side, we will be only 2 miles from the Nevada state line. This resort is right on US 50 where you will find plenty of eating places from fast food too much finer restaurants.

Each room at the Beach Retreat has a refrigerator and coffee maker. We have a concession from the Beach Retreat on discounted rooms. For instance, a room for 2 people whether 1 king bed or 2 queens is \$129.00 per night for the Garden View Rooms. Lake View Rooms are \$149 per night for the same type of room. We got them to drop their "resort fee" of \$30 per night and their parking charge of \$4 per night.

Today the hotel is running a special for the general public with room rates at \$158.00 per night. Normally they are \$179 per night. Just to let you know: Guardian Ministries has never asked any hotel for kickbacks -- i.e. charging you more and giving GM kickbacks on the overage. We bargain for the best price we can get for you who attend the Feast with us.

We will be giving you a reservation number soon. To be sure you get this special room price you need to make your reservations BEFORE August 29. After that day we will release the reserved room back to the hotel to offer them to whomever at their normal price.

I plan to arrive on Sunday, October 9 as the first service is on Monday, October 10 at 10:30 a.m. Pacific time -- all services begin at 10:30 a.m. The 8th Day of the Feast is on Monday, October 17, 2022. Many of you in California can drive to South Lake Tahoe. For those coming from great distances, it is easy to fly into the Reno-Tahoe airport and drive about 20 minutes to South Lake Tahoe, CA.

There is much to do in the area and casinos usually have fine restaurants and also buffets that are very reasonably priced. Scenic drives around the lake are a real joy and a picnic area can be found for get-togethers.

We invite you to join us for another Guardian Ministries' sponsored Feast of Tabernacles. If you talked to people who attended the Feast with us, you will hear that the Feast is very worshipful; and the love of the Brethren is manifest. The Feast is also educational and filled with inspiring Biblical teachings. And the Feast is filled with great fun fellowship making it very enjoyable!

Please fill out the [Registration](#) form. Thank you. From that information, we can do other planning for events at the Feast.

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[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Posted 6-22-2022

Kenya Updates

Greetings Brethren,

We have posted the July 16, 2022, Kenya Update at: <http://khofh.org/>

I'm happy to inform you that all the children are back in school. Thank you very much for your continued prayers and support of our impoverished Widows and Orphans. They thank you from the bottom of their heart for assisting them during these troublesome times.

Your brother in Christ.
Bill Goff

Posted 7-15-22

Kenya Update
July 7, 2022



Francis Rebecca Anita Manley Jemima Maureen James.
The above have been attending Boarding High School.



Catherine Margaret Faith Mildred Isaac Naomi Lucy.
And that little boy in red is Haron's son Stivebrown (5 yrs)
The above have been attending local Grammar School.

All returned home after end of 1st term. They have been busy working in the garden, painting, and as you see in the picture below, cleaning the compound. For brooms they just break off a couple of branches from a nearby bush.

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Sweeping the Compound



Sabbath Morning Bible Study July 2, 2022
Given by Manley.

Schools just abruptly informed us they will be opening for second term on the 11th of July for High School and 13th July for Grammar School.

School fee structure is as follows: (The prices are in Kenya Schillings.)

Rebbeca Nyabisase high school fee 58,700
Francis kerongorori high school fee 52,780
Manley Iterio high school fee. 61,470
James Gesusu high school fee. 61,900
Moreen Tombe high school fee. 57,400
Jemima Tombe high school fee. 61,200
Anita Nyamawa high school fee, 58,400

Local school "Rionchogu" Elementary
5 high upper 27,620 total 138,100
2 lower primary 21,760 total 43,520

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Grand total ksh 593,470/= (Approximately \$5,100.)

Currently we do not have the funds for school fees. If you can help, it will be much appreciated. We have not been able to budget for school fees, due to much assistance we have been giving to widows and remote orphans. Food prices have also risen dramatically in Kenya due to the war in Ukraine.

Many in our area in Kenya continue to suffering from starvation. I had mentioned in a previous report that 15- and 16-year-old boys were committing suicide because they couldn't cope with the suffering. Most have been hanging themselves, but one boy drank insecticide used in the garden for killing insects, thinking it would be a quick and easy death. But he suffered severely in the hospital for a few days before dying.

This past week Nehemiah heard that a friend that he graduated High School with was in jail. He went to visit him and found out that the boy and his family had gone three days without eating. The boy was so hungry that he went into a neighbor's house, found food, and ate some. He was soon arrested. The police were demanding 17,000 Kenya Schillings to release him. (\$170.) Nehemiah pleaded with the police to free him that he stole because he was on the verge of death. They did show some mercy, and we paid them \$50 for the boy's release. After being freed he had to be taken to the hospital because he was close to death. We paid the hospital bill of \$30, and we also gave the family some little funds to buy some food. It seems that these impoverished Kenyans can go one or two days without food, but if they go three days it becomes unbearable.

We all have many important things that we need to be praying about, but the top of the list needs to be “Thy Kingdom Come” because many around this world are suffering horrendously, and that suffering will not end until our Lord's return.

Your brother in Christ.
Bill Goff

Web site: <http://khofh.org/>
E-mail: goffb50@aol.com
Phone: 843-447-0140

Posted 7-8-22

Greetings Brethren,

June 30, 2022, Kenya Update is now posted at:

<http://khofh.org/>

Thank You.
Bill Goff

Posted 7-5-22

Kenya Update Letter
June 19, 2022

Greetings Brethren,

Hope all of you are well, both physically and more importantly Spiritually, as we patiently and “excitingly” await our Lord's return. These are exciting times in which we are living, as we see end time prophecies unfolding right before our eyes. Yes, trouble is ahead for this entire world, but that trouble will finally usher in the desperately

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needed Kingdom of God. So many around this world are suffering now, and so many suffering “Horrendously”. We need our Lord to return, and finally end all this suffering and trouble.

Nehemiah writes: “I have received the following from the teacher at my former High School. They continue to be so excited over the Scriptural teachings they are learning from our Bible studies. The teacher writes this: “Thanks very much for the wonderful studies that we have received from you. The words that I have read from the study and the Bible are the same, it’s really good to see young people like you Nehemiah know more about the word of God and helping us to learn from the Scriptures.

After presenting this current study to the kids (and the staff teachers) I will inform you what they will say.” Thank you for the additional Bible too. I think now all our teachers have own Bible.”

Nehemiah continues to bring the school Bible teachings each week, and the whole school and staff are hearing and liking them.



Nehemiah brought another Bible Study to Thomas and Siblings.

Thomas, Kevin and their siblings are doing okay. Nehemiah visited them last week, and also brought another teaching. We have also been assisting them with food, but they are close to harvesting some crops. Yes thanks to your assistance, they were able to plant a nice garden with Corn, Kale, and other vegetables, and even “napier grass” for cows. They sent me this picture today, and they hope to harvest in another week.



Thomas and Siblings soon to harvest their corn. But need help with food until they do.

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Kalenjin Church Group. Benjamin Bett visited Koibeyon Church Group on Sabbath June 11, 2022. They requested some additional Bibles.

The Kalejin people of Kenya had a role in defending Egypt up to the time of Herodotus. Even the Bible confirms the presence of the Sebei (Kalenjin) Job 1:15 says “and the Sebeans fell upon and took them away. Ezekiel also wrote about the Kalenjin (Sabeans) Ezekiel 23:42 “And a voice of a multitude being at ease *was* with her: and with the men of the common sort *were* brought Sabeans from the wilderness, which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads.”

The exciting thing is that they are so on fire and receptive for Biblical Truth. We also plan to help them with some Bibles. Currently (as most remote groups in Kenya.) they have but one Bible amongst them (pictured below) and of course it’s worn out.



Picture below is of the border widow’s house that you donors rebuilt for her after her old mud house fell down.



I wanted to write you this short letter and share with you, as I prepare another update. As you can see, we are

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still moving forward in assisting our impoverished brethren, (especially the widows and orphans) and much continues to be accomplished, but it's a struggle. We were hoping that other brethren would learn of the cry for help, and join hands with us to help, but so far that hasn't happened.

Today we had to make a choice between purchasing foods for Sengera House camp (which we normally shop on Sundays) or for crying Widows, I left the choice to them, and they decided to send our remaining funds to the widows. We were able to buy another sack of potatoes for our camp, but currently only have potatoes.

Please pray for others to join hands with us, the need of our church widows and orphans is great.

Your brother in Christ
Bill Goff

Posted 6-28-22