

The Restitution Herald

Volume 93 Number 2

December 2003, January 2004

Celebrating The Advent of Christ

this Issue

in the Minds and Hearts
Biblical Son of God
When You Are In The Pit
Who Are The Lost?
Crossword



From the Editor...

Thoughts on the Christmas Season



The Christmas season is upon us whether we like it or not. One of my favorite writers of fiction is John Grisham. He wrote a little piece called "Skipping Christmas" in which he chronicles the plight of a family that was so fed up with all the Christmas hoopla that they simply tried to ignore it or run away from it. There were many mishaps along the way. Society doesn't like non-conformity very much and they found themselves persecuted for failing to go through with all the rituals. America is supposedly a free country, but when one exercises that freedom they face some repercussions at times. If one exercises the freedom to not celebrate Christmas in the traditional manner, they find themselves at odds with those around them.

Personally, I have a love-hate relationship with Christmas. There are a few things I love about it and there are a number of things which I hate about it. It does provide an opportunity to focus our attention on the Gospel. A careful following of Advent can be a time of internal reflection and focusing on the need for repentance. But far too often Christmas becomes an excuse to succumb to the sin of avarice (greed).

You who read this magazine undoubtedly have a number of ways of celebrating or not

celebrating Christmas, but I do want to share the following piece to give you a historical perspective about the Christmas celebration. It's called "No Christmas Allowed!" and it's excerpted from *Donna W. Payne and Fran Lenzo the Handel's Messiah Family Advent Reader*:

There once was a place where it was against the rules to celebrate Christmas. There was a time when you had to pay a fine if you took a day off from work on December 25. This place that sounds like a country of Scrooges and Grinches was the American colonies during the time of the Pilgrims and Puritans.

The Puritans have gotten a bad reputation in recent years. Most people think of them as a society that dressed in black, lived by strict rules, and never had any fun. And, since the Puritans were the ones who made the anti-Christmas laws, we assume that they must have wanted to ruin everyone else's fun as well. But things are not always what they seem. In this case, it wasn't so much the Puritans who were the problem. Christmas was the problem.

The Christmas that the Puritans knew was not at all

like the Christmas we celebrate today. Our family-oriented, "presents for the kids" type Christmas is only about 150 years old. It developed with changing times and with the help of people who wanted to get rid of some of the disturbing customs that had been a part of Christmas celebrations for centuries.

In his little book, *A Testimony Against Several Profane and Superstitious Customs Now Practiced by Some in New England*, Increase Mather, a Puritan preacher, discussed the Puritan reason for not keeping Christmas. He explained that early Christians never celebrated Christmas, that there was no proof that Jesus was born on December 25, and that the date for Christmas Day was chosen to compete with the old pagan Roman celebration of Saturnalia that worshipped false gods. All these things were true, but Increase Mather had a better reason for not celebrating Christmas. As he put it, "The manner of Christmas-keeping, as generally observed, is highly dishonourable to the name of Christ." And the Puritans were right. Christmas was supposed to celebrate and

(Continued on page 19)



Table of Contents

4	In the Minds and Hearts of Two Women of Faith	Jeffrey Fletcher
7	Recovering the Biblical Son of God	Anthony F. Buzzard
13	When You are in the Pit	Robert Bernheisel
16	Children's Story: A Chosen Leader and a Chosen Land	Verna Thayer
17	Blessed are the Meek	Charles O. Fletcher
18	Who are the Lost?	Pastor Wally Winner
20	Crossword	The Restitution Herald

THE RESTITUTION HERALD
VOLUME 93, NUMBER 2;
DECEMBER 2003, JANUARY 2004 ©2003.

EDITOR
 JEFF FLETCHER

PUBLISHING SPECIALIST
 JUSTIN TAYLOR

PROOFREADER
 SARAH BUZZARD

MAILING AND SUBSCRIPTIONS
 MARCY PREWITT

ADDRESS EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
 THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: JEFF FLETCHER, 130
 WAYNE ST., PONCHATOLA, LA 70454. E-mail:
 happywoodscg@i-55.com

**ADDRESS MAILING AND SUBSCRIPTION
 CORRESPONDENCE TO:**
 THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: MARCY PREWITT,
 P. O. BOX 100,000, MORROW, GA 30260 (E-MAIL ADDRESS:
 info@abc-coggc.org).

PERMISSIONS: Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference grants permission for any original article (not a reprint) to be photocopied or duplicated for use without charge, provided the material is distributed free and the copies indicate the name of the publication and the name of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference, and our mailing address.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD IS OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY THE CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE, A NONPROFIT CHRISTIAN CORPORATION LOCATED AT 5823 TRAMMELL ROAD, P.O. BOX 100,000, MORROW, GA 30260. THE HERALD IS MAILED SIX TIMES A YEAR. THE RESTITUTION HERALD ADVOCATES:

- THE ONENESS OF GOD (1 COR. 8:6);
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S POWER (ACTS 1:8);
- JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (MATT. 16:16), AND IS OUR MEDIATOR (1 TIM. 2:5);
- THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (2 TIM. 3:16);
- THE MORTALITY OF MAN (JOB 4:17; PSA. 146:4);
- THE NEAR RETURN OF CHRIST (ACTS 1:11), AND LIFE ONLY THROUGH HIM (COL. 3:3);
- THE LITERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (JOHN 5:28);
- THE IMMORTALIZATION OF THOSE IN CHRIST (1 COR. 15:53-54);
- THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED (REV. 21:8);
- THE FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL AS THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNDER THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (LUKE 1:32);
- THE CHURCH TO BE JOINT HEIRS WITH HIM (ROME 8:17), AND ISRAEL TO BE MADE HEAD OVER GENTILE NATIONS (ISA. 60:1-3);
- THE "RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS WHICH GOD HATH SPOKEN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN" (ACTS 3:21);
- IT ALSO FIRMLY ADVOCATES REPENTANCE AND IMMERSION IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (ACTS 2:38) AND A CONSECRATED LIFE AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.



In the Minds and Hearts of Two Women of Faith

Jeffrey Fletcher

About the Author:

Jeffrey Fletcher is the Pastor at the Happywoods Church of God in Hammond, Louisiana and is editor of the Restitution Herald.

In the movie "What Women Want" Mel Gibson plays a womanizing advertising executive. In the past, he was wildly successful in advertising because he targeted his advertising at men. And he understood what it takes to get through to men in advertising pretty women.

But now he has a new boss who wants to change the focus of the company. They want to target a new audience, women. The problem is he's clueless about what women really want. He doesn't understand women. Not his ex-wife, not his teenage daughter, not the pretty lady at the coffee shop, and certainly not his new boss, a notorious man-eater.

As he attempts to climb into the mind of women, which includes leg waxing and nail polish, he has a freak accident which renders him capable of hearing and understanding the thoughts of women. And he gets more than he bargained for. At first he uses this new found power to his own advantage. But in the process he discovers how this understanding of women makes him more whole as a person.

The movie challenges all of us to try to imagine what it's like to be another person. One of Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is "Seek first to understand, then be understood." An old American

Indian expression says: "Before you judge another man, first walk a mile in his moccasins." Imagine what it's like to be another person.

When we read the Bible, we need to do so using our imaginations. One of the most effective methods of praying is to take a narrative passage of the Bible and place ourselves in that story. We need to use our imagination to enter into the world of a character.

Now, many of the great persons of the Bible are men, so quite often women have to imagine themselves living out that masculine role, and they do so quite easily and make the necessary adaptations. That's a lot tougher for men to do with the feminine characters.

Like Mel Gibson's character it's tough for most of us men to lay aside our machoness long enough to try to get inside the mind and heart of a feminine person and try to understand what's going on.

Luke 1:39-56 is a story about two women, Mary and her cousin Elizabeth.

Let us try to get inside the minds and hearts of these two women and see what we can discover about them. Men, I want you to really use your imaginations and try to think of what it would be like to be these women.

Let's look at Luke 1:39-45. I'm quoting from the New International Version:

"At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Now let's continue reading "Mary's Song," verses 46-56.

"And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for



In the Minds and Hearts of Two Women of Faith

Jeffrey Fletcher

me—holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those
who fear him,
from generation to
generation.
He has performed mighty
deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those
who are proud in their
inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers
from their thrones
but has lifted up the
humble.
He has filled the hungry
with good things but has
sent the rich away
empty.
He has helped his servant
Israel, remembering to
be merciful
to Abraham and his
descendants
forever, even as he said
to our fathers.”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.”

We begin with Elizabeth. We know that she was a righteous woman. She was a descendant of Aaron the high priest. She was married to Zechariah, a priest. She observed the law faithfully, all the commandments and regulations. By all standards she was a decent, Godly woman and faithful wife. Yet there was an emptiness in her life.

Elizabeth lived in a time where the primary role of a woman was to serve her husband and to bear children and nurture them. As a general rule, women were defined by their relationship to their husband and their sons. They did not have careers outside of the

home. They had no means of support outside of their families. For a woman to be unable to bear children was considered a disgrace. Now, of course, this was a pre-scientific era. There were no fertility clinics. There were no tests to determine if it was the man or the woman who was infertile. It was simply assumed that if no pregnancy occurred it was a problem with the woman. In fact, infertility was grounds for divorce. If the husband became dissatisfied with the wife because she was unable to conceive, then he could divorce her.

How difficult it must have been for the woman who, for whatever reason was unable to have children. Yet this was Elizabeth's plight. She was getting to a place beyond the normal time when women gave birth, and she was still childless. Try to imagine her sense of shame. Try to imagine how cruel and heartless other women of her community may have been toward her. Feel the pain of one who desperately wanted a child but was unable to have one. Feel the judging eyes on her (I wonder how she sinned against God in order to be punished in this way). Can you feel her pain?

Now, can you feel her joy when she discovers that, after many years, she is now pregnant? Can you rejoice with her as she feels the baby moving inside her? Can you imagine how she is dreaming of the day when she will hold her baby to her breast and suckle him? How as she proudly shows him to her family, friends and

neighbors the gossips and the judgmentalists are finally silenced? She was not cursed for any sin of her own. God had remembered her, but God had a greater purpose for her and for her son than she could have ever imagined. Her son would grow up to be a great prophet, and the forerunner to the Messiah.

Let's now get into the mind and heart of Mary. While Elizabeth had been old and barren, Mary's shame was just the opposite. She was young, very young and was anticipating her marriage to her beloved Joseph. She was also a Godly woman, although quite young. She had resisted the temptation to have sex before marriage and was thus still a virgin.

And yet she was told that she was pregnant. Can you imagine her fear! What will the neighbors say? What will my parents say? What will Joseph say? What will he do?

The law said that a promiscuous woman could be executed. To become pregnant by someone other than your husband or your betrothed was a capital offense. Joseph could have legally had Mary killed for her *apparent* disgraceful behavior and Mary knew this full well.

At best, Joseph would call off the marriage by an act of divorce. She would be a single mother, cut off from the community, probably forced into a life of prostitution in order to support herself and her child. And yet, she looked not at her potential shame and disgrace.



Recovering the Biblical Son of God

Anthony F. Buzzard

prophesied Son was not then alive!

Only a few pages later Luke traces the lineage of Jesus, Son of God, back to Adam who likewise is called Son of God (Luke 3:38). The parallel is striking and immensely informative. Just as God by divine fiat created Adam from the dust as Son of God, so in due time He creates within the womb of a human female the one who is the supernaturally begotten Son of God. It is surely destructive of straightforward information and revelation to argue that the Son of God did not have his origin in Mary but as an eternal Spirit. This is to dehumanize the Son—to make him essentially non-human, merely a divine visitor disguised as a man.

Luke presents Jesus as Son of God related to God in a parallel fashion to Adam (Luke 3:38). The attentive reader of Scripture will hear echoes of Israel as Son of God (Ex. 4:22; Hos. 11:1) and Davidic kings (Ps. 2). Like Israel before him, Jesus, the Son of God, goes through water to begin his spiritual journey (Luke 3:21; cp. Exod. 14, 15). In the wilderness and under trial Jesus proves himself to be the obedient Son unlike Israel who failed in the wilderness (Exod. 14-17; 32-34; Num. 11).

The whole story is ruined if another dimension is added to the story, namely that the Son of God

was already a preexisting member of an eternal Trinity. Gabriel has carefully defined the nature of Jesus' Sonship and his words exclude any origin other than a supernatural origin in Mary.

Gabriel's Jesus, Son of God—the biblical Son—originates in Mary. He is conceived and begotten by miracle. In preexistence Christology, the main plank of Trinitarianism, a conception/begetting in Mary's womb does not bring about the existence of God's Son. According to Gabriel it does. Neither Gabriel nor Luke could possibly have been Trinitarians.

No need for centuries of complex wrangling over words. All that is required is belief of the angelic communication: "For this reason precisely (dio kai)—the creative miracle of God through His divine power—the child will be Son of God." For no other reason, for this reason only. (Note the very watered-down rendering of the NIV, "so the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.")

Jesus as Son of God is "the Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:32; 8:28). Christians are also given this title, "sons of the Most High" (Luke 6:35; cp. Ps. 82:6). Jesus' royal Sonship is established by his miraculous begetting. That of the Christians originates with their rebirth or regeneration.

As the center of a new ecumenism the simple truth about the identity

and nature of Christianity's central figure has the backing of those many scholars who know well that neither Luke nor Matthew show any sign of believing in a pre-human eternal Son of God of the post-biblical creeds. Raymond Brown's magisterial treatment of the birth narratives in his *Birth of the Messiah* makes a major point of the fact that neither Matthew nor Luke believed in the Incarnation of a pre-human, prehistoric Son.

Commenting on Luke 1:35, "therefore," Raymond Brown says, "of the nine times *dio kai* occurs in the New Testament, three are in Luke/Acts. It involves a certain causality and Lyonnet (in his *L'Annonciation*, 61.6) points out that this has embarrassed many orthodox theologians since in preexistence Christology a conception by the holy spirit in Mary's womb does not bring about the existence of God's son. Luke is seemingly unaware of such a Christology; conception is causally related to divine Sonship for him. And so I cannot follow those theologians who try to avoid the causal connotation in the 'therefore' which begins this line, by arguing that for Luke the conception of the child does not bring the Son of God into being." Raymond Brown insists that according to Luke, "We are dealing with the begetting of God's Son in the womb of Mary through God's creative spirit." [1]

"Orthodoxy" derived from later



Recovering the Biblical Son of God

Anthony F. Buzzard

Church Councils has to turn a blind eye to Gabriel's definition of the Son of God. It contradicted Gabriel by denying that the conception of Jesus brought about his existence as Son of God.

This is a very serious issue. Is the Jesus of the creeds, the Jesus under whose umbrella churches gather, really the created Son authorized by Scripture in Luke 1:35 and Matthew 1:18, 20?

Again, the exhaustive work of Brown on the birth narratives brings us the important fact that the Jesus of the Gospels is quite unlike the "eternally begotten" Son of the later creeds:

"Matthew and Luke press [the question of Jesus' identity] back to Jesus' conception. In the commentary I shall stress that Matthew and Luke show no knowledge of preexistence; seemingly for them the conception was the becoming (begetting) of God's Son (p. 31).

"The fact that Matthew can speak of Jesus as 'begotten' (passive of gennan) suggests that for him the conception through the agency of the holy spirit is the becoming of God's Son. [In Matthew's and Luke's 'conception Christology'] God's creative action in the conception of Jesus begets Jesus as God's Son . . . There is no suggestion of an

Incarnation whereby a figure who was previously with God takes on flesh. For preexistence Christology [Incarnation], the conception of Jesus is the beginning of an earthly career but not the begetting of God's Son. [Later] the virginal conception was no longer seen as the begetting of God's Son, but as the incarnation of God's Son, and that became orthodox Christian doctrine. This thought process is probably already at work at the beginning of the second century" (pp. 140-142).

Do we really believe the words of the Bible or has our tradition made it difficult to hear the text of Scripture without the interfering voices of later tradition? There is the constant danger for us believers that the words of the Bible can be drowned out by the clamorous and sometimes threatening words of ecclesiastical teaching, which mostly goes unexamined. At stake here is the whole nature of the Savior. Is he really a human being, or did he have the benefit of billions of years of conscious existence before deciding to become a man? Is this latter picture anything more than a legendary addition to Apostolic faith?

The Son of God, Messiah and Savior, is defined in precise theological terms by Gabriel, laying the foundation of the whole New Testament and fulfilling the

promises of the Old. Christians should unite around that clear portrait of Jesus presented by Gabriel. Jesus is the Son of God on one basis only, his miraculous coming into existence in Mary's womb. This was God's creative act, initiating His new creation and providing the model of Christian Sonship for us all. Though obviously we are not, like Jesus, brought into existence supernaturally, nevertheless we, like him, are to receive a supernatural birth from spirit by being born again under the influence of the Gospel (Gal. 3:2; Eph. 1:13, 14; Rom. 10:17; Matt. 13:19; Luke 8:11, 12; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; James 1:18).

The "divine" nature of Jesus has no other foundation than the stupendous miracle granted to Mary and to humanity. A Jesus who claims to be Son of God for any other reason should be rejected. A natural son of Joseph cannot qualify as the Messiah, nor can a person whose existence did not originate in his mother's womb by a divine creative miracle.

The constitution of Jesus as the unique Son of God is given its basis by the superb words of Gabriel in Luke 1:35. This definition of the Messiah, Son of God, should be allowed to stand. It was later, post-biblical tradition which interfered with the definitive, revealing statement of Gabriel. Once Jesus was turned into a preexisting Son of God who



Recovering the Biblical Son of God

Anthony F. Buzzard

gave up one conscious existence for another, Christology immediately became problematic (as witnessed by the centuries of disputes, excommunications, and fierce dogmatic decisions of Church Councils). A Son of God who is already Son of God before his conception in his mother is a personage essentially non-human. Under that revised scheme what came into existence in Mary was not the Son of God at all, but a created human nature added to an already existing Person. But Gabriel describes the creation of the Son of God himself, not the creation of a human nature added to an already existing Son. The two models are quite different.

Some may object that John 1:1ff (“in the beginning was the Word*”) present us with a second Personage who is alive before his conception. If that it is to be argued, let it be clear that John would then be in contradiction of Luke and Matthew. Matthew’s and Luke’s Jesus comes into existence as the Son of God, not in eternity, but some six months later than his cousin John the Baptist.

John cannot have contradicted Luke and Matthew. The solution is to harmonize John with Luke, taking our stand with Luke. John did not write, “In the beginning was the Son of God.” What he wrote was “In the beginning was the word” (not Word, but word). Logos in Greek does not describe a person before the birth of the

Son. The logos is the self-expressive intelligence and mind of the One God. Logos often carries the sense of plan or promise. That promise of a Son was indeed in the beginning. The Son, however, was still the object of promise in II Samuel 7:14. David did not imagine that the promised Son of God (“My Son”), David’s descendant, was already in existence! That Son was in fact begotten in due time. He was “raised up”—that is, made to appear on the scene of human history—when Mary conceived him. Acts 13:33 applies “this day I have begotten you” (Ps. 2:7) to the origin of the Son in his mother.

F.F. Bruce agrees with us: God “raised up” Jesus “in the sense in which he raised up David (Acts 13:22, cp. 3:22, 7:37). The promise of Acts 13:23, the fulfillment of which is here described [v. 33], has to do with the sending of Messiah, not his resurrection which is described in verse 34” (Acts of the Apostles, Greek Text with Introduction and Commentary, p. 269).

The word, plan and promise which existed from the beginning was also “with God.” In the wisdom literature of the Bible things are said to be “with God” when they exist as decrees and promises in His divine Plan (Job 27:13; 10:13; 23:14). Wisdom was also “with God” (Prov. 8:22, 30) in the beginning but she was not a person. Neither was the logos a person, but rather a promise and

plan. So closely identified with God was His word that John can say “the word was God.” The word was the creative purpose of God, in promise and later in actuality. That creative presence of God eventually emerged in history as the Son of God begotten in Mary, the unique Son (monogenes).

A number of unfortunate attempts have been made to force John not only into contradiction with the clear Christology of Matthew and Luke but into agreement with the much later decisions of Church Councils. There is no capital on “word” in John 1:1, a, b, and c. And there is no justification for reading “All things were made through Him.” That rendering improperly leads us to think of the word as a second divine Person, rather than the mind and promise of God. Eight English translations before the KJV did not read “All things were made by Him.” They read “All things were made by it,” a much more natural way of referring to the word of God. Thus, for example, the Geneva Bible of 1602: “All things were made by it and without it was made nothing that was made.” No one reading those words would imagine that there was a Son in heaven before his birth. And no one would find in John a view of the Son different from the portrait presented by Gabriel in Luke.

Christian tradition from the second century embarked on an amazing embellishment of the



Recovering the Biblical Son of God

Anthony F. Buzzard

biblical story which obscured Jesus' Messianic Sonship and humanity. Once the Son was given a pre-history as coequal and coessential with his Father, the unity of God was threatened and monotheism was compromised, though every effort was made to conceal this with the protest that God was still one, albeit no longer one Person, the Father, but one "Essence," comprising more than one Person. But this was a dangerous shift into Greek philosophical categories alien to the New Testament's Hebrew theology and creeds (cp. John 17:3; 5:44; Mark 12:28ff).

Several other "adjustments" became necessary under the revised doctrine of God. John was made to say in certain other verses what he did not say. This trend is well illustrated by the New International Version in John 13:3, 16:28 and 20:17. In none of these passages does the original say that Jesus was going back to God. In the first two Jesus spoke of his intention to "go to the Father" and in the last of his "ascending" to his Father. The NIV embellishes the story by telling us that Jesus was going back or returning to God. A Son whose existence is traced to his mother's womb cannot go back to the Father, since he has never before been with the Father.

In John 17:5 Jesus spoke of the glory which he "had" before the foundation of the world. But in the same context (vv. 22 and 24) that same glory has already "been given" (past tense) to disciples not

yet born at the time when Jesus spoke. It is clear then that the glory which both Jesus and the disciples "had" is a glory in promise and prospect. Jesus thus prays to have conferred on him at his ascension the glory which God had undertaken to give him from the foundation of the world. John speaks in Jewish fashion of a preexisting Purpose, not a preexisting second Person. Our point was well expressed by a distinguished Lutheran New Testament professor, H.H. Wendt (*The System of Christian Teaching*, 1907):

"It is clear that John 8:58 ['Before Abraham was I am'] and 17:5 do not speak of a real preexistence of Christ. We must not treat these verses in isolation, but understand them in their context.

"The saying in John 8:58, 'Before Abraham came to be, I am' was prompted by the fact that Jesus' opponents had countered his remark in v. 51 by saying that Jesus was not greater than Abraham or the prophets (v. 52). As the Messiah commissioned by God Jesus is conscious of being in fact superior to Abraham and the prophets. For this reason he replies (according to the intervening words, v. 54ff) that Abraham had 'seen his day,' i.e., the entrance of Jesus on his historical ministry, and 'had rejoiced to see' that day. And Jesus strengthens his argument by adding the statement, which sounded strange to the Jews, that he had even been 'before Abraham' (v. 58). This last saying

must be understood in connection with v. 56. Jesus speaks in vv. 55, 56 and 58 as if his present ministry on earth stretches back to the time of Abraham and even before. His sayings were perceived by the Jews in this sense and rejected as nonsense. But Jesus obviously did not (in v. 56) mean that Abraham had actually experienced Jesus' appearance on earth and seen it literally. Jesus was referring to Abraham's spiritual vision of his appearance on earth, by which Abraham, at the birth of Isaac, had foreseen at the same time the promised Messiah, and had rejoiced at the future prospect of the greater one (the Messiah) who would be Israel's descendant. Jesus' reference to his existence before Abraham's birth must be understood in the same sense. There is no sudden heavenly preexistence of the Messiah here: the reference is again obviously to his earthly existence. And this earthly existence is precisely the existence of the Messiah. As such, it was not only present in Abraham's mind, but even before his time, as the subject of God's foreordination and foresight. The sort of preexistence Jesus has in mind is 'ideal' [in the world of ideas and plans]. In accordance with this consciousness of being the Messiah preordained from the beginning, Jesus can indeed make the claim to be greater than Abraham and the prophets.

"In John 17:5 Jesus asks the Father to give him now the heavenly glory which he had with the Father before the world was.



Recovering the Biblical Son of God

Anthony F. Buzzard

The conclusion that because Jesus possessed a preexistent glory in heaven he must also have preexisted personally in heaven is taken too hastily. This is proven by Matt. 6:20 ('Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven'), 25:34 ('Come, you blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'), Col. 1:5 ('the hope which is laid up for you in heaven about which you heard in the word of Truth, the Gospel'), and I Pet. 1:4 ('an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, which does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you'). Thus a reward can also be thought of as preexistent in heaven. Such a reward is destined for human beings and already held in store, to be awarded to them at the end of their life. So it is with heavenly glory which Jesus requests. He is not asking for a return to an earlier heavenly condition. Rather he asks God to give him now, at the end of his work as Messiah on

earth (v. 4), the heavenly reward which God had appointed from eternity for him, as Messiah. As the Messiah and Son he knows he has been loved and foreordained by the Father from eternity (v. 24). Both John 8:58 and 17:5 are concerned with God's predetermination of the Messiah" (cp. Teaching of Jesus, pp. 453-460).

Note: Things which are held in store as divine plans for the future are said to be "with God." Thus in Job 10:13 Job says to God, "These things you have concealed in your heart: I know that this is with You" (see KJV). "He performs what is appointed for me, and many such decrees are with Him" (Job 23:14). Thus the glory which Jesus had "with God" was the glory which God had planned for him as the decreed reward for his Messianic work now completed. The promise of glory "preexisted," not Jesus himself. Note that this same glory which

Jesus asked for has already been given to you (see John 17:22, 24). It was given to you and Jesus whom God loved before the foundation of the world (v. 24; cp. Eph. 1:4). You may therefore say that you now "have" that glory although it is glory in promise and prospect, to be gained at the Second Coming. Jesus had that same glory in prospect before the foundation of the world (John 17:5).

Paul can say that we now "have" a new body with God in heaven (II Cor. 5:1)—i.e., we have the promise of it, not in actuality. That body will be ours at our resurrection at the return of Christ. We now "have" it in anticipation and promise only. ("We have a building of God*" II Cor. 5:1). We do not in fact have it yet. This is the very Jewish language of promises decreed by God. They are absolutely certain to be fulfilled. †

Advertisement

Be sure to visit the Restoration Fellowship website for more books by author and scholar Anthony Buzzard. Here is a sample of other works written by Anthony Buzzard.

www.restorationfellowship.org



Our Fathers Who Aren't in Heaven: The Forgotten Christianity of Jesus the Jew \$13.50; ISBN 0-9673249-1-2)



The Coming Kingdom of the Messiah: A Solution to the Riddle of the New Testament (revised 1999, 94 pages, \$5.95; ISBN 0-9673249-0-4)



The Doctrine of the Trinity: Christianity's Self-Inflicted Wound, by Anthony Buzzard and Charles Hunting (1999, 365 pages, 3 indexes, \$25.95)



When You Are In The Pit

Rob Bernheisel



In his insightful article, Rob talks about facing adversity in our lives and what the Bible says about the topic.

Robert Bernheisel is a 1980 graduate of Oregon Bible College and has recently applied to be licensed as a Church of God Pastor. He resides in Knoxville, Tennessee with his wife and two children.

Last summer when I was asked if I would be interested in speaking at a Christian Camp I was excited by the opportunity. I sent an e-mail saying I would be glad to speak. When they responded back with a choice of two topics and text to choose from my response was "Huh?" I have never had someone tell me what to speak about. I quickly got over it when I saw that one of the topics was, "When You Are in the Pit." I knew I could relate to that and dived into preparing the message.

I remembered that when I was at *Oregon Bible College* I had a "pit" experience. We were playing a practical joke on the girls' dormitory and the joke

involved chicken, pizza, and a five gallon bucket of water. My job was to deliver the water. I did so with precision. It made a big splash in more ways than one. However, when I turned to run I had forgotten that they had dug a large pit for a TV tower behind the dorm.

It was about three feet around and five feet deep. My first step was straight down. I had visions of Korah. (See Numbers chapter 16). I think the bucket ended up over my head. Being of more athletic nature than I am today I quickly recovered and returned to the men's dorm. They were already having a good laugh at what we had done but were



When You Are In The Pit

Rob Bernheisel

wondering where I was. I informed them of my personal sacrifice at which they had an even bigger laugh.

However, the "Pit" I was asked to talk about is not humorous or easy to escape. It is based on the experience of Joseph when his brothers decided to get rid of him and started by throwing him into a pit (Gen 37). They hated him and wanted him dead. They discussed their feelings and decided it would be better to sell him as a slave to someone who would take him to a far country where they would never see him again.

Life, as Joseph had known it, was over. No longer would he be living in his father's house in the security of his own home. No more nice clothes, personal space, or good times with friends. He was taken to a foreign land and sold as a slave. He had to learn a new language and was looked down upon as being a member of an inferior race.

If you have ever had your dreams dashed upon the rocks and destroyed, felt like you had to look up just to see the bottom, or wished you could go back in time and undo something awful that happened; then you have an idea of what Joseph was going through. He went from being a favorite son to a piece of property. We want to learn from Joseph's example of what to do when we are in the pit.

When Joseph was lifted out of the dry well it was only the beginning of his "pit" experience. Sold as a slave to Potiphar's household he worked his way up to being in charge of his master's household. He probably had hopes of earning enough money to buy his freedom and return home. But just when things were starting to look pretty good it suddenly got worse. His master's wife, who obviously had too much idle time, lied about Joseph and as a result he was put in prison. Not just a temporary pit this time. He was in prison; charged and found guilty (falsely) of sexual assault. In most countries this charge either resulted in death or a life sentence.

So what did Joseph do when things looked hopeless? He continued to be the same man of integrity that he always was. He served others.

Not just outwardly but sincerely and wholeheartedly. In observing Joseph's "employment history" in Egypt all three of his employers thought he was a good worker. Pharaoh, Potiphar, and the prison warden all thought highly of his work. Genesis 38:21 says that the Lord was with Joseph, and granted him favor in the eyes of the warden. Does this mean that God waved a wand and used some fairy dust to make the warden like Joseph? I do not think so. I think the character of Joseph, from his relationship with God, is

what brought about the respect of the warden.

Consider to what extent Joseph did his job. In Genesis 40 the Pharaoh's servants are put in prison. Joseph notices the extreme stress on their faces in the morning and asks them why are they so sad. Gee Joseph; you are in prison with a life sentence, far from home, your family thinks you are dead, and you are concerned about someone else's happiness? Because Joseph was not busy feeling sorry for himself he was able to see the need and be concerned about others. More importantly, since he was not trapped in the depression of his own mucky muck, he was able to clearly see God's message and what God was doing! His focus on God did not take him physically out of prison but his mind was free.

Now if your solution to your "pit" has been to only feel sorry for yourself I do not want you to think that I am only going to be critical of you. I have done the same myself. Believing that your situation is hopeless does not make it impossible for God to work. It just slows Him down. Unless you enjoy being in your pit let us look for the surest way out.

Staying focused on God with integrity and compassion is a good start. There is another thing about Joseph that I believe is important to getting out of a pit. When his brothers came



When You Are In The Pit

Rob Bernheisel

looking for help he tested them in order to see the attitude of their hearts (Gen 42-44). He was not getting revenge. He wanted to know if they still had the same selfish attitudes. They passed the test with flying colors. They were concerned about their youngest brother and their father. There was a willingness for personal sacrifice for the happiness of others (Gen 44:32-34).

There was no grudge on Joseph's part. Being second in command in the powerful nation of Egypt he could have punished them for what they did to him. And what about Potiphar and his wife? I wonder what they thought when Joseph came to power! Did they consider taking an extended vacation? Run or cower in fear? They did not need to. Joseph knew that God was in control. He knew that God had fulfilled His plan. Not just in spite of the evil efforts of his brothers and Potiphar's wife. But even using them to get Joseph in the position for God to fulfill His plan for Joseph!

Joseph had a dream that his brothers and parents would some day bow down to him. God's dream for Joseph was even bigger. His dream, for Joseph, was that the whole Egyptian nation would bow to Joseph. The bad things that happened to Joseph were used by God to get Joseph where He wanted him so He could fulfill His promise and plan.

A good prayer to pray would be "Lord make me strong enough

to help others but too weak to carry a grudge." Anger, vengefulness, and bitterness are some of the characteristics that can hinder us from hearing from God. Those characteristics are like being overweight or carrying a heavy backpack. It may make you bigger, but it does not make you better.

When we fail to forgive it is not our enemy we keep in prison. It is us. Forgiveness sets the forgiver free. Think about a time when you would or could not forgive. Were you happy? Of course not. When we have bitterness or resentment it is our problem and not our enemies. If we trust God to take care of revenge we can be confident of the following; his aim is better, we will not be doing anything wrong, and his solution will be justice (Romans 12:19-21).

I am sure that Joseph was human and had his down moments. Our heroes in the Bible were just as human as we are, they were not a different species. But by staying focused on God and not his problems or enemies, Joseph was always ready to serve and free to experience the fullness of God.

There is one other remedy for the pit that I do not clearly see if Joseph made a habit of doing but I imagine he did. In Acts 16:16-38 Paul and Silas were thrown in prison for the gospel. The wording suggests that the prison was probably a cave. They were locked in a cave without an electric light or heat

and with weights on their feet. So what were they doing about midnight? Sleeping fitfully? Praying fervently? No. They were praising God! Worshiping! In such a way that the other prisoners did not want to sleep but to listen! Crazy disciples.

So am I saying that if you are down that you should worship God?

Yes. Worship God when you do not feel like it? Yes. That's illogical!

Yes. Excuse me, but do you want an answer that is logical or one that works? There is Holy Spirit fullness, burden lifting, freedom releasing, sinner convicting, heart healing power in whole being worship. Getting out of the pit God's way is victorious and glorifying.

I know God can get you out of your pit because he has gotten me out of mine. Has he raised you from a pit? I would like to hear from you. We need to share testimonies of what God has done and is doing.

There is a song that a choir used to sing which I believe says it best. "I love the Lord, He heard my cry. And He pitied my every groan. Long as I live, and troubles rise. I'll hasten to the throne." ✠

Children's Story: A Chosen Leader and a Chosen Land

Verna Thayer

About the Author:

Verna Thayer was a traveling children's evangelist who conducted Bible Schools throughout the country and very much beloved.



This article was originally printed in the Nov. 25, 1923 issue of the Restitution Herald.

Memory Verse: And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, be cause thou hast obeyed my voice. Genesis 22:18.

A long time ago there lived in the land of Haran a man whose name was Abram and his wife Sarah. When Abram was seventy-five years old the Lord told him to go to another country. Abram obeyed and he with his wife Sarah, his brother's son Lot, and a few other people with their possessions went into the land of Canaan. While they lived in Canaan there came a famine in the land, so Abram went down into Egypt. While he was there the king, Pharaoh, did not like some of the things Abram did so he sent him out of his country. So Abram with Sarah went out of

Egypt to Bethel.

Abram was a rich man, having much silver and gold and many cattle. Lot also had many cattle. They each had so many cattle that there was scarcely enough grass for them all. The men that took care of Abram's cattle and the men that took care of Lot's cattle often quarreled over the place to pasture the cattle. So one day Abram said to Lot, "Now we must not quarrel about the pasture for our cattle. You choose which way you want to go with your cattle and I will go the other way." You see Abram gave Lot his choice. So Lot chose the plain of Jordan and departed there with his cattle toward the city of Sodom. And Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan. Now the people where Lot went to live were very, very wicked. They did not love and obey God as Abram did. They were so wicked that God destroyed their city and only Lot and his two daughters were left.

Abram, whose name God had changed to Abraham, and Sarah had no children. One day God told Abraham that he would have a son. So when Abraham was an hundred years old a son was born to Abraham and Sarah. Don't you imagine they were happy? They called him Isaac. Who can tell me

the story of Abram offering Isaac as a sacrifice? I am sure you all can.

Now Abraham had another son whose name was Ishmael. The mother of this child was Hagar. Ishmael was older than Isaac. After Isaac was born Sarah did not like to have Ishmael and his mother live with them, so Abraham sent them away. They went into the wilderness of Beersheba. They lived in the wilderness and Ishmael became a great archer.

When Sarah was an hundred twenty-seven years old she died. Now you remember in one of your Sunday School lessons that Abraham was a stranger in the land of Canaan. God sent him out of his own country into a strange country. So here he buried Sarah.

The Lord blessed Abraham all his life and lived to be one hundred seventy-five years old and died. His sons, Ishmael and Isaac, buried him beside Sarah in the land of Hebron of Canaan. †

(If desirable the story of Isaac and Rebekah may be told in connection with this lesson also.)



Blessed are the Meek

Charles O. Fletcher

About the Author:

Charles Fletcher was a resident of Fonthill, Ontario, Canada. He was a member of the very first class of what later became Oregon Bible College (there is a photograph of that class in the book "Historical Waymarks of the Church of God" by Clyde Randall—which has his photograph along with the other members of the class)

This article was originally printed in the December 25, 1932 issue of the Restitution Herald. We are reprinting it for its timeless good sense. The author reminds us to humble ourselves in our daily lives as Christ did.

Blessed are the meek. (Matt. 5:5). Meekness conveys the thought of sincere kindness, gentleness, and humbleness of spirit.

This great characteristic was very prominent in Christ's earthly life. The temptation to exalt himself must have been great while gazing upon the vision of his future glory, portrayed by the Word of Holy Writ, yet he remained steadfast and continued to rebuke those glittering temptations that naturally tend to exalt estimation in the mind of self.

We humans have a temptation similar to Christ's. Naturally we are joyous to know that we shall be glorified with Christ, and share his authority and honor. It is right to be proud of such a calling, but should we be to the extent of being "swelled up mentally" above our fellowmen? Was Jesus? Therefore let us, as Christians, be worthy of that name; in meekness be true imitators of Christ, looking ever unto him who is the Author of our faith, and following in his

footsteps.

People, in general, are apt to look upon us, if we are not careful, as Agrippa looked upon Paul. Paul's hope was being questioned; the splendor, magnitude, strangeness, and prejudice of, his presented and defended hope, moved Agrippa to utter these words: "Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad." Acts 26:24.

Much learning has affected us and such may have affected our meekness. I wonder if it is not apparent, that we have preoccupied our thrones and exalted places, so to speak. Thus, perhaps, we look down upon, pass judgment on, and ridicule those who disagree with us in the interpretation of the scriptures; even younger people argue and treat lightly elder individuals' convictions which surely is disrespectful and unchrist-like. Christ expounded the scriptures at the age of twelve years. Can we? Yes, if we are Christ-like enough.

We are surrounded by people who hold numerous doctrinal views. We, as Paul, are questioned concerning our hope in contrast to others. In what manner shall we answer? Friends! Let meekness (not merely assumed for the occasion) predominate; be not

boisterous, but calm; deal not harshly or overbearingly, but lead gently; use the attitude of "Come let us reason together," ever keeping self in the background. Such is meekness!

Christ, the disciples, Paul, and the apostles met and had to contend with opposition, hatred, and prejudice. They mingled, ate, conversed, reasoned and lived with people of such character. We find they did not ridicule, thereby exalting self, but in all humility they attempted to break these barriers. They were not exacting.

As "Pauls," let us advance staunchly, contending for the truth with all meekness. Let the love of God abound, then eventually mankind will respond to our humble efforts. Paul at one time commended the Bereans: let us be blameless and worthy of commendation, not failing his trust, continually studying God's word and earnestly endeavoring to influence for good. (Study Paul's manner.)

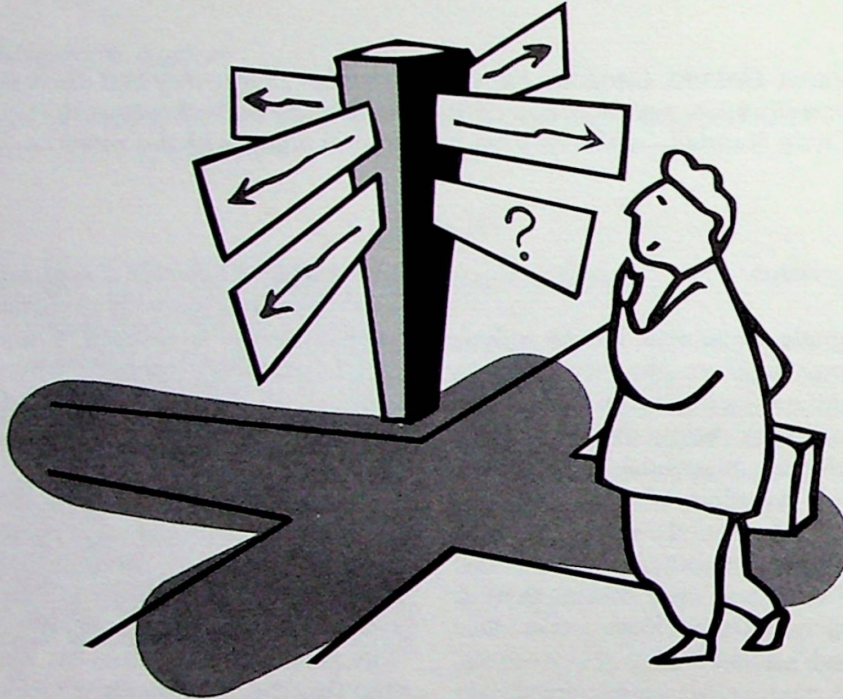
The meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. Psalms 37:11.





Who Are The Lost?

Pastor Wally Winner



About the Author: Wally Winner is the Pastor of the Joy Fellowship Church of God in Anderson, South Carolina.

I saw it written for a congregation's instruction. It had a nice sound. Most bought it. Then I thought about it. The quote was, "We don't want to swap fish between aquariums—we are looking for the lost." Then I thought, "What are aquariums? Churches or denominations? Further, who are the lost?"

Congregations have been encouraged to give a reason for their existence. Many have joined the wave in writing a purpose statement. That purpose statement makes allusion to saving "the lost." But who are the lost?

It was easier in the past. The "lost" was anybody outside the denomination and there were plenty "lost" on the inside. Belief and adherence to the distinctive teachings were the criterion. We had a definition of who was "lost." But, today, who are the lost?

A recent Barna Research Group poll of Protestant and Catholic church attendees shows that more than one-third (35%) believe it is possible to communicate with others after they die. Forty-two percent believe that Jesus committed sins. Half of all adults argue that anyone who is generally good or does good things for others during their life will earn an eternal reward.

Forty-four percent contend that the Bible, the Koran and the Book of Mormon are all different expressions of the same spiritual truths.

Sounds like an "I'm O.K., you're O.K.," ecclesiastical philosophy. So, is anybody lost? Jesus said, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which is lost." Luke 19:10. So acting on the notion that somebody, some place must be lost, who are they?

Are the lost the unchurched? Or those who don't have a church home or a church experience?

Are the lost the uncommitted? They can name a church with which they can identify, but only get a Christmas and Easter experience and hope the preacher will be available when they die.

Maybe the lost are the uneducated. They know something about the Bible and maybe were baptized someplace, but aren't up to speed on the distinctive teachings; illiterate on the truth.

Or the lost could be the unconverted. They have no interest in spiritual concepts or having a relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Please help me. Who are the lost?
✦



Editorial

Jeffrey Fletcher

(Continued from page 2)

honor the good tidings of Christ's birth, but for many it became just an excuse to party.

For most of its history Christmas was celebrated like a carnival, with dancing, singing, and playacting in the streets. Often the joy of Christ's birth was lost in the thrill of celebration. Sometimes Christmas was a bit like an out-of-control Halloween. Merrymakers dressed in animal costumes, and men dressed as women. People went house to house singing songs and expecting a tip or refreshments at the houses they visited. Sometimes they made trouble if they didn't like the handouts they received.

Celebrations lasted throughout the twelve days of Christmas, and it was a time of overeating, drinking, and gambling. After drinking too much wine or with their faces hidden by masks, people acted in ways that they would not normally act. Roving bands of young men threatened people with demands for money and drinks. In medieval times, disorderly crowds elected a "Lord of Misrule" who was a mock king with his court. They ridiculed the authorities and sometimes made fun of the ministers and the customs of the churches.

This was the sort of Christmas that the Pilgrims and Puritans remembered from England. When they came to the New World to set up a Christian community, they wanted no part of such practices. They had made a promise to each other to be a "City on a Hill." Just as the lights of a mountaintop city show the way to travelers at night, so the Puritans wanted to be a light to the world, showing God's love and power to change sinners into children of God. It took strength and courage to cross an ocean and attempt to live out that promise in a strange and dangerous land.

If Increase Mather or others of those colonists were with us today, we might argue with them that they went overboard in outlawing Christmas. We could tell them that Christmas can be kept in a way that honors God. But they might notice that we have added the new customs of overshopping, overworking and overspending to the older Christmas customs of overeating and overdrinking.

There have always been two ways of keeping Christmas. One is just a celebration and nothing more. The other way is the Puritan way, a celebration that honors God.

To our brothers and sisters who read the Restitution Herald, we

invite you to follow your conscience and allow others to follow their conscience with regard to the celebration of Christmas. If you choose to celebrate Christmas, we invite you not to get so caught up on the trappings of "overshopping, overworking and overspending" that you are not able to focus on that which is truly important. From the time of Adam and Eve, God promised to send forth a "seed" or offspring who would defeat the powers of evil (see Genesis 3:15). God promised David that he would never lack for an heir, that his kingdom would endure forever (II Samuel 7). Through the prophet Isaiah God promised that a "virgin would conceive and bear a son and would call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14) which would be a sign that God is indeed with us, God has not forgotten us, God has provided a Messiah and a Kingdom. Christmas celebrates the fact that God was faithful to His promises. God has also promised that He will again send His Christ to once and for all bring His judgment against sin and bring His government to the whole planet. In this is our salvation. Take some quiet time of prayerful reflection to consider all that God has done for us through Jesus the Messiah, and then share that message with another.

May God richly bless you through the coming year.

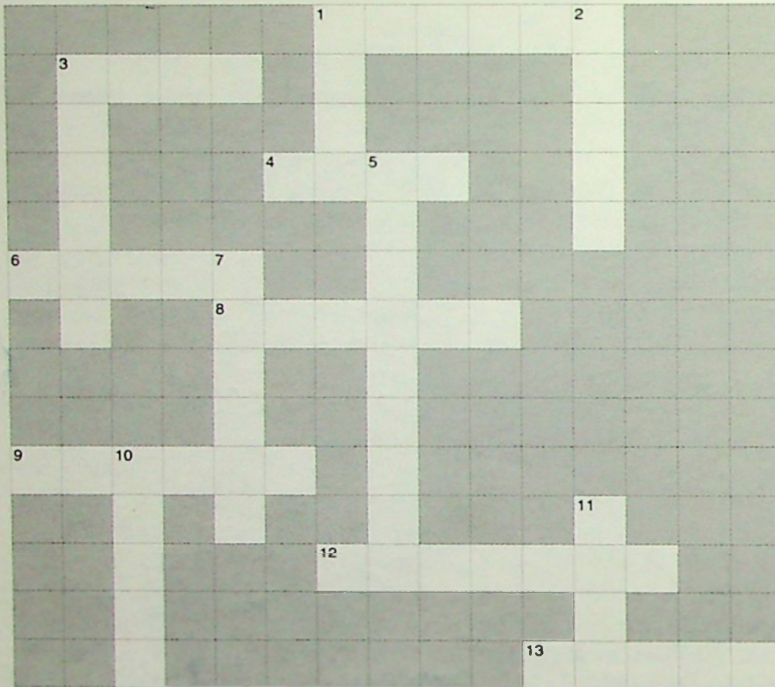
In Christ's Service,



Crossword

"Ruth"

The Restitution Herald



Across

1. Another son of Ruth's first mother-in-law
3. Ruth's second husband
4. Ruth's first son
6. Prominent descendent of Ruth
8. Ruth's son's grandfather
9. Story takes place during the period of _____
12. One son of Ruth's first mother-in-law
13. Ruth's sister-in-law

Down

1. Ruth was from the land of _____
2. Ruth's mother-in-law
3. Ruth gleaned this grain
5. Name of Ruth's first father-in-law
7. The only other Bible book bearing the name of a woman
10. Ruth was the Great Grandmother of _____
11. Number of chapters in Ruth

<p>Subscription Expirations The five-digit number on the top right of your address label identifies the renewal date of your subscription. If the number is 2004.0, it expires with the February/March issue, 2004. A 2004.2 number means a June/July expiration. This method will assist subscribers in keeping tabs on their expiration dates and serve as a reminder for renewal.</p>	<p>Dear RESTITUTION HERALD,</p> <p>I am writing for the following reason:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My address label is incorrect; please note the changes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am moving in the next six weeks; please send the magazine to my new address printed below.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to send a gift subscription to the person listed below. Enclosed is \$13 payment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Subscription renewal, payment enclosed — 1 yr. \$13, 2 yr. \$24, 3 yr. \$33. [British subscribers send U.S. funds.] Thank you.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p>
---	---



Restitution Herald

P.O. Box 100,000 • Morrow, GA 30260

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 114
TAYLORS, SC

Address Service Requested

*****2901***** 2004

Pastor David Krogh
1992 Tiffany Ln
JONESBORO GA 30236-2642





Missions—Updates,
News and Needs

▶ See Page 9

Atlanta Bible College
Alumni Call

▶ See Page 8



PROGRESS JOURNAL

Church of God General Conference · Atlanta Bible College



Atlanta Bible College Campus, Morrow, GA

ABC Achievements Featured By Video Segment

Atlanta Bible College has been selected by The Education Station as an institution to be profiled as part of a 30-minute program to be broadcast nationally. This program was broadcast on the Discovery Channel on February 17, 2004. As part of this process, a six-minute video segment about the College has been prepared by Pat Summerall Productions of Dallas, Texas. The video segment is introduced and narrated by the legendary broadcaster Pat Summerall. This video is available for viewing by streaming video from this Web site:

www.TheEducationStation.com.

6, 2004 through February 13, 2004. It will continue to be available from the Web site for viewing until January 16, 2005. In addition, as mentioned above, the ABC video segment was part of a TV broadcast on February 17, 2004 of Pat Summerall's 30 minute paid program entitled "The Education Station." It aired on The Discovery Channel Network at various times depending upon your local time zone.

ABC was chosen to be profiled in The Education Station program in a multi-part process. Tim was initially contacted and interviewed via phone by program representatives. The production company does research to identify schools that may have an interesting story to tell. ABC was asked to supply documentation for review by the selection panel. The documentation included ABC catalogs, handbooks, class descriptions, historical information, and semester schedules, as well as samples of our various publications and products, such as Christian Education materials and magazines like the *Restitution Herald*. An additional phone interview with Tim was conducted by additional members of the selection panel. ABC was informed of Atlanta Bible College's selection after the final meeting of the selection panel. ABC was visited in October by a videographer who filmed the scenes of the College, its operations, and staff and students. The finalization of scripts and video were completed by early January 2004. The total cost of the project was \$24,000. This includes all production,



Theological Conference 2004

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Theological Conference, April 23rd-25th at Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA.

This year marks the 13th consecutive year for the event, and will be hosted by Bible scholar Anthony Buzzard.

For more information and online registration, go to:

<http://www.abc-coggc.org/ABC/TC04Registration.htm>

or call:

1-800-347-4261

the nation-wide broadcast costs, and the one year streaming video hosting on the Education Station.

In follow-up conversations with Tim Jones, members of the panel expressed their belief that ABC was a worthy recipient of The Education Station designation because of several factors: ABC's 5 Year Vision and the **Building Our Future** program are exemplary
(Continued on page 3)

February, March, April 2004

Volume 46, Number 3

CAO Corner	2
Church of God.....	4
International News	7
Atlanta Bible College.....	8
Missions	9

Updates.....	11
Finance	12
Prayer & Praise.....	14
Church News.....	15

From The CAO



"A Tale of Two Vines"

There is a phenomenon with which we are all familiar. It is the almost magical ability for information to travel from one end of the country to another even faster than the speed of light. To the members of the Church of God, we even have a name for this amazing phenomenon—"the Grapevine!"

Oh, yes, you have heard of the famous Church of God Grapevine. It works better than any communication system yet devised in our technologically advanced society. Information spreads faster than a computer virus, and almost instantly people we know across the country are made aware of events that are transpiring hundreds or thousands of miles away! Perhaps even more amazing, the spread of information through "the Grapevine" takes place without oversight or coordination! No one plots the transmission of information from place to place—no one devises a plan to ensure Louisiana is notified of events in Michigan. Yet as sure as the sun rises, "the Grapevine" works to guarantee the spread of information.

There can be great comfort and blessing from the workings of "the Vine." When our daughter, Heather, was born in December, I found that people across the country knew long before I could send them an e-mail or make a phone call that Heather was healthy and Beth was doing fine. What a neat thing that people could join us in that celebration! The Grapevine can provide comfort as well. The day my father died was certainly one of the saddest days of my life. Even before the word reached our home from the hospital that his heart attack had been fatal, people from the Guthrie Grove Church were arriving at our home,

providing support and comfort to a family that desperately needed it at that moment. People across the nation who knew my dad or our family were praying for us. How did they know—who spread the word? Only God knows, but "the Vine" was a lifeline to us at the time we needed it most.

On the other hand, as wonderful and miraculous as the Grapevine's work can be, it can manifest a sinister side as well. Consider this story I received just yesterday from Jon Cheatwood, our Youth Coordinator. His wife, Sarah, has been admitted to the hospital twice in the last week, and he was writing about his most recent experience with the Grapevine:

My wife's IV dripped slowly as I watched from my seat in the hospital room. It was a foldout bed-chair that they keep in maternity rooms for the husband to sleep in. I had spent the night at the hospital after Sarah had been admitted because of an infection. At five months pregnant, the spreading infection was a potential risk to our baby, and Sarah was not well either. She was dehydrated, her pulse was very high, and her blood pressure was low.

As she tried to sleep, I thought about the conversations I had a few days earlier. I had gotten a call from someone who asked if my wife was out of the hospital yet. Someone else asked me about her gall bladder infection. Trouble was, she hadn't been in the hospital OR had a gall bladder infection. The details of the story were wrong. Sarah had been given IV fluids in her doctor's office, her bladder infection was making her dehydrated, and we spent several hours there. It wasn't too hard for the details I had given to someone else to get confused. I was exhausted and people were concerned about Sarah's health. Thankfully, the story got straightened out by a few people who heard the rumors but knew the truth.

This episode started me to thinking of other situations that I have heard circulating throughout our churches. These rumors, like the mistaken

details about my wife, are sometimes based on partial truths and people's concerns about the subject. However, many times these rumors may misrepresent the truth and are potentially damaging and dangerous. They are an awful lot like the spreading infection that was endangering the health of my wife and our unborn child. They may damage the church, too.

In Jon's story, we can see a different aspect to the remarkable efficiency of the Grapevine. You see, it passes information and passes it very well. But the Grapevine does not ensure that the information is true, edifying, or beneficial to the body. People want to talk about things they care about, and that may include their church, the College, the Conference, or any number of other topics. Unfortunately, that desire to share our thoughts and opinions is not always linked to having the necessary facts.

Spreading information that hurts the body of Christ is wrong. It does not matter whether you are operating from the noblest of motives or a desire to stir up trouble. This situation is not a new one. The following Scripture is II Cor. 12:19 & 20:

Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening. ^{2 Co 12:20} For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. (NIV)

Paul was warning the Corinthians about the disorder that could erupt in the Church. The version of the Bible known as *The Message* renders verse 20 this way: "I do admit that I have fears that when I come you'll disappoint me and I'll disappoint you, and in frustration with each other everything will fall to

(Continued on page 3)

From The CAO

(Continued from page 2)

pieces—quarrels, jealousy, flaring tempers, taking sides, angry words, vicious rumors, swelled heads, and general bedlam.” How tragic that people who are called to be the Body of Christ can create such a situation! But Paul challenges the people of God to be different—to try a more excellent way. From *The Message* II Cor. 13:9 says: “**We don’t just put up with our limitations; we celebrate them, and then go on to celebrate every strength, every triumph of the truth in you.**”

What does this have to do with the Grapevine? You see, I believe the Grapevine has two branches. One branch helps us by spreading all the joyful news of success, the requests for prayer during trials, or the urgent pleas for support in a crisis. This branch performs a wonderful service of building up and strengthening the body. We need to cultivate it, fertilize it, and ensure that it continues to support our efforts to do God’s work.

But the other branch of the Grapevine can spread rumors, gossip, and unworthy

speculations. We need to communicate regularly and effectively with each other. That communication is the backbone that holds us together—that allows us to work together, to love each other, and to accomplish God’s desired ministries. But too often our communication does not work to strengthen or build up the body. Negative communication spread through the Grapevine can have the same effect today that it had in Paul’s time: quarrels, jealousy, flaring tempers, taking sides, angry words, vicious rumors, swelled heads, and general bedlam. Meanwhile, the people outside of the Church continue to die without anyone to share with them the good news of the Gospel. Paul knew that if we look to each other, we would be doomed to continual conflict—“**when I come you’ll disappoint me and I’ll disappoint you, and in frustration with each other everything will fall to pieces . . .**”

That’s why we must ensure that our communications and focus are upon the things we hold in common. We all are joined by a belief that the Bible is the authoritative and inspired Word of God.

We believe that all must accept Christ as their personal savior. We believe God will establish His Kingdom here on earth. When you are about to facilitate the work of the Grapevine by passing on the latest “news” you have received to other people near and far, ask yourself if you are contributing to the advancement of these areas of agreement. Paul concluded II Corinthians with these words—may they be our words as well:

“And that’s about it, friends. Be cheerful. Keep things in good repair. Keep your spirits up. Think in harmony. Be agreeable. Do all that, and the God of love and peace will be with you for sure. Greet one another with a holy embrace. All the brothers and sisters here say hello. The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.” (*The Message*)

Amen

Tim Jones

Video Segment

(Continued from page 1)

strategic plans for an institution of our size, and are powerful tools for growth and development of the College.

ABC’s programs recognize and address the responsibilities of serving our existing churches in the way we train graduates and students.

ABC is dedicated to providing innovative educational programs designed to meet the needs of all our students.

We are excited about the inclusion of ABC in this broadcast, and look forward to the opportunity to present our College in a positive way to the millions of potential viewers on the Internet. The video segment is also useful for showing potential donors or supporters of the accomplishments of our College.

Use these directions to view the video:

Go to the Web site:

www.TheEducationStation.com.

Choose the category “Colleges & Universities.”

Click on the “online database” link

Click on the tab “Name or Location,” then choose “School Name”

Enter “Atlanta Bible College” and then click “Submit”

Click on Atlanta Bible College to watch the video segment

Pastor Alan Cain’s Reactions to ABC’s Appearance on the Discovery Channel:

Tim,

I saw the ABC segment on the Discovery Channel. It was great to see our college featured with other small colleges trying to make a difference in their community, on national television. It was well done.

I have added my prayers to it being broadcast, asking God to help it find itself on in front of the next person/people who can take us to new uncharted opportunities and directions we have not yet dreamed of.

It has been exciting to be able to teach at the Bible College this semester and see an institution that doesn’t look anything like the one I attended in Oregon. No, it’s not that Oregon was wrong or bad, in fact it was one of the greatest times of my life, in fact it changed the very nature of who I was, but my dream (which I preached on at the 91 General Conference when we dedicated the college) was that our halls at the college would begin to look more like the world around us...a world that has many colors and cultures. I had tears in my eyes as I came on campus my first day to teach and found both classrooms full of Korean students with Korean teachers! Anthony Buzzard almost literally bounced up to me announcing that his first N.T. class of the semester had students from 7 different African countries! Praise God! The reason we moved to Atlanta has begun to be realized. The Kingdom message is going to all the world as God brings all the world to us!

I’ll continue to be praying for God’s blessing on the ministry of ABC asking him to continue to stretch us to the whole world with the Gospel of the name of Jesus and the coming Kingdom of God.
Alan

Church of God

The Grapevine

A Letter Regarding Recent Church of God Events

By The Church of God Board of Directors

BoardOfDirectors@abc-coggc.org

Dear Church of God Members and Friends,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We wanted to take this opportunity through the Progress Journal to share with you. Tim Jones, CAO of the General Conference and ABC has written a column in this issue, describing the Church of God grapevine in both its beneficial and destructive aspects. We will give several examples of the destructive side of the grapevine, clear up rumors and share exciting information with you.

We are amazed by much of what we have heard being said. Here's a list of things we have heard which are very destructive and untrue. CAO Tim Jones had his house and/or furniture paid for by the General Conference; Tim Jones cut salaries and gave himself a "big" raise (the truth is Tim recently took a voluntary 3% reduction in his compensation package); a "keg" party was hosted on the ABC campus or sanctioned by ABC; there is tremendous animosity between ABC and RRCC; the CAO and Board have a policy of holding General Conference in Atlanta to hinder or prevent mid-west churches from attending; there is a desire by the CAO and Board to close small mid-west churches to get their financial resources. It is truly too painful to continue, but those are all examples of the destructive things that have been said and spread. We believe those things demonstrate a historic "shoot first and ask questions later" attitude that represents the worst of the Church of God. We want to now share some of the best.

We are excited and find numerous reasons to give God praise for what He is doing in and through ABC and the General Conference. In 2001, the Board at that time developed a 5 Year Vision statement which has guided our focus and direction every since. We are very pleased with the incredible progress made toward fulfilling that Vision statement.

Here are some very interesting statistics in

regard to ABC specifically. In the current semester at ABC, the enrollment is 103 students. There are 84 ABC students (65 returning and 19 new), 19 ABC-KE (ABC Korean Extension - 12 returning and 7 new). The number of hours being taken represents a full-time equivalent of 56 students (12 hours or more). There are students from 7 different nations in attendance. We anticipate four graduates in May with Bachelor degrees and four with Associate degrees. Since 1992 there have been 35 graduates.

Recently, the Education Station featured ABC in a 6 minute segment of a 30 minute program. The cost of this feature was \$24,000. We recognize this as expensive. We believe there will be many benefits to that feature and our presence on the Web. Please read the article beginning on page 1 for full details. Most important we believe this effort fits well into fulfilling the 5 Year Vision statement.

The Korean ministries continue to grow and prosper. God is providing more opportunities for us daily. The Lord's Harvest International mission sending agency keeps working hard to facilitate incredible opportunities in our mission work in Africa, involving approximately 70 churches in 2 countries. Tremendous new Christian Education resources have been produced. Turning Point Youth Ministries is changing many lives. We can mention new video resources, Christian Workers Seminar, the Theological Conference, and the list goes on. We are aware of, and deeply concerned by, at least four recent pastoral resignations. We encourage people to consider God's call to pastoral ministry. The staff at ABC would gladly receive your questions about training opportunities.

A lot is said about Church of God finances. It is true finances are tight. Everything listed above gives abundant reason for your financial support. We encourage your generosity. The Building Our Future

campaign is underway and important to continue the current level of ministries of ABC and the General Conference.

In our recent meetings in February, we had two Church Builders requests to consider. Both requests were for parking lot improvements for churches which had received two fairly recent appeals. We looked around the ABC facilities and felt it appropriate to designate the next appeal for maintenance in a very well used facility. That decision was made by the Board without any staff member's knowledge, presence, or input.

Many people ask questions about the relationship between ABC and Rock River Christian College. Our Board has absolutely no animosity toward anyone at Rock River Christian College. Are there some regrets over events of last summer? Sure. Do we all wish events could have been handled differently and better? Yes. We cannot change any of that at this point. We can all move forward in positive ways. We know Rock River Christian College has a strong enrollment this semester (at last report 32 students) and we wish and pray for their best. We pray God's blessings and success for both schools to His glory.

We recognize communication is a continual process. We may very well have been remiss in not communicating more often with you. We are striving to improve our communication with you. We welcome your questions. We prefer your question over rumors and misinformation.

General Conference will be held in McDonough, Georgia on July 12th and 13th. We hope to see many of you there. Information about General Conference will come out as soon as possible after our March meetings.

God bless each of you. Much peace.

Mark Tschaeann, Chairman
Keith Williams
Larry Mayberry
Dale Brown
Andrea Anders
Joe James
Michael Hoffman

Church of God

Big Church, Small Church

An Interview with Pastor
David Cheatwood

By Tom Colburn
TColburn@abc-cogc.org

I wanted to run a series of articles on the various types of pastorates in the Church of God. I thought it would be interesting to hear the different perspectives of pastors from large churches and small churches, from someone who had served the same church for many years and another who had switched churches once or twice in recent years. What I found in Pastor Cheatwood was a man who could speak to most of these perspectives right from his own experience.

David served the *Blessed Hope Bible Church of God* in Rockford, Illinois for 17 years. Being a relatively small church, they could only provide for a part-time pastor. This necessitated David working a second job in the community. His wife, Wanda, also held a job outside of the church.

While the part-time status presented a challenge, in that his other job took time away from his family and his congregation (ministering to the genuine needs of a congregation is always a full-time job even in a part-time pastorate), it also provided outreach opportunities.

Pastor Cheatwood noted, "Working outside the church gave us the opportunity to increase our income, make contacts with people we wouldn't naturally meet, and be aware of the changes in society and our world. And this did indeed help bring a few folks to the church and Christ, although most growth came from friends and family of current members."

David noted the many positives of pastoring a small church: "It was easier to get to know everyone and you all felt like a family. There was a lot of trust and



Members of the Macomb Church of God, Macomb, IL

closeness. We depended on each other and needed each other to accomplish anything of worth in our service to the Lord."

I asked David about the advantages of serving the same church for those many years: "I think the trust and influence I had as a pastor were greatly increased because of the time we had spent together. You (or the congregation) don't have to reinvent the way things should be done, because you have done so much together that you are comfortable with each other."

But there comes a time in most pastors' lives when God calls them to a new church. And Pastor Dave spoke to the advantages of an occasional move. "It causes us to grow and see things differently. Meeting new people, learning of their needs, helping them with their spiritual walk and relationship with God can be quite challenging. There are also new worship styles to adjust to, different types of brethren to work with that makes life interesting. Each congregation is different and we learn from and through each experience."

David now pastors the Macomb, Illinois Church of God. This is a full-time pastorate with a moderate-size congregation. I asked him the advantages

of a full-time church of this size. He replied, "Being able to visit the sick and those in the hospitals within your day. There is also time to visit with your people and to get to know them. It is easier to be flexible because you are not as rushed and hurried in your life. It also gives me opportunity to work with the General and State Conferences and devote some time to the work at large."

And finally I asked Pastor Cheatwood to describe how he maximized the benefits of both full and part-time pastorates. He said, "I believe that the secret is seeking God and His will in all that we do. We need to be flexible and willing to drop what we are doing and respond to the opportunities He gives us. When we work on our relationship with God and truly listen to His input, life is good and He will use us to help others. There is great satisfaction in knowing He can use us despite our failings. He is faithful and desires to lead us. Our challenge is to be available and willing to follow that lead."

That is excellent, spiritual counsel and a fitting summary of Pastor Cheatwood's lifetime service to God and to His people.

Church of God

Prayer & Persistence:

A Letter from Christy Ross

[Christy is the daughter of and co-pastor with Scott Ross in Omaha, Nebraska (Jaynes St. Church of God) and was recently diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).]

Hello Friends:

Please let me apologize for taking so long to send a note. Many of you have been so kind with your prayers and your words of encouragement. I really don't know what to say but thanks.

Several have asked for an update on how I'm doing. The short answer is I'm better than I was two weeks ago, but not as well as I'd like to be. I experience difficulty with pain and weakness in my right hand and arm (although this is much improved over several weeks ago). Also the fatigue is very frustrating. Many of you—like I did—may think of MS as primarily a disease affecting muscles and movement, but I have since learned that the number one symptom of MS is fatigue.

It's a wacky disease—and I know several of you have parishioners or family with this illness. It strikes in "episodes" where symptoms may include fatigue, muscle weakness, numbness, balance and vision problems and depression—just to name some highlights. Episodes may resolve in a few days, or months. Sometimes they go away and leave no residual effects. Sometimes disability remains. It seems there is really no way to predict when an episode will hit, how long it will last and if it will leave any long-term disability.

That's the bad news. But there's good news as well. Management of MS has improved by leaps and bounds in the last ten years. Standard treatment is now use of an interferon type drug which research shows reduces relapses

(episodes) and long term disability by 1/3. And research in immunology is advancing so rapidly that I've heard from more than one health professional that they think they'll find a cure within the decade. That's good news not just for me, but also for the 400,000 other Americans and countless others worldwide who also have MS.

The truth of the matter is I didn't just "catch" MS last month. I've probably had it for years, and have in fact been remarkably active (and some might say ornery). I try to hold onto that and remind myself that I will feel better again and hopefully soon. But this recent relapse has knocked me for a loop—and add to that the stress of now knowing I have this unpredictable illness. This is where your prayers have really sustained me. The spiritual and emotional battle wages more fiercely than the physical one.

So, please keep praying for me. This isn't a short term prayer request, and I know that. The faithfulness some of you have demonstrated through your prayers and encouragement have been a wonderful testimony to me of God's love and faithfulness. I am reminded how Jesus said all people will know you are my disciples by your love for one another. I hesitate to suggest specifics you might pray for, because I suspect some of you are holding me up in areas I can't even articulate. But here are some specific things for which I desire your prayers: 1) first and foremost please join me in praying for a cure; 2) the interferon drug I will start taking later this month has some side effects that can be rough—please pray that I am not bothered by these side effects; 3) please pray for my complete recovery from this recent relapse and that I would not relapse again; 4) please pray for my spiritual well-being. I hope God grants me both #3 and #4—I have wondered

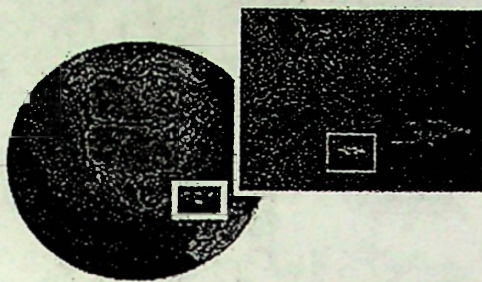
on more than one occasion if they might conflict with each other.

Please permit me to share a couple of things that have been on my mind. Most of these have come from encouragement I've received from others.

First of all, I am holding to the slogan from World Vision's One Life Revolution—their campaign against the ravages of AIDS in Africa. The slogan is simply this: "You Have One Life—DO SOMETHING." This is my "one life"—healthy or otherwise. Having MS does not exempt me from the promise in Ephesians that God has already prepared good works for me to accomplish. THIS is my one life, and with God's help I plan to make the most of it and (hopefully) DO SOMETHING righteous.

The second is something I heard from a speaker with MS. She said, "you cannot be both pathetic and powerful." I get what she is saying in terms of basic attitude and where you put your focus. But I also believe in the N.T. teaching that God is the most powerful in me in fact when I am the most pathetic. I wish I didn't have actually BE weak to remember this. But even as I am praying to become stronger, I am holding to the promise that when I am weak, God will be strong. I hope to feel better soon but still remember this. But I have to say that it's amazing how the human mind and heart work. Each day I feel a little stronger and forget a little more.

And third—let me just say something about the power of God and the impact of prayer. You know my family, our story. I prayed fervently (as many of you) that my sister Sarah might live, and she did. Then, Dad was he had a terminal lung disease, and he didn't. I am 100% confident with prayer this could be a blip on the radar screen of the Ross family but chronic illnesses. :-). I spoke of (Continued on page 15)



New Inroads for Truth in Jamaica

A Letter from a Pastor and New Convert

Dear Mr. Buzzard,

I have read your book "The doctrine of the Trinity" and am convinced of its truth. Have been a Trinitarian for many years, and having stoutly defended that position, the sheer logic and plain scriptures, that you have brought forth has force me to accept the plain truth. I am a minister in Jamaica, and have the oversight of several groups of people. I am prepared and preparing to undo whatever damage I might have caused in my zeal for the Trinitarian position. I have shared a copy of the book with some of my fellow ministers and they were blessed by it. There are still some questions that have to be settled in the minds of some, but we believe that "the

path of the just is as a shining light that shineth more and more to a perfect day."

Jan Salovsky was instrumental in sending me the book. He informed me that if I wanted a few more copies of the book, you would be glad to send them free of charge.

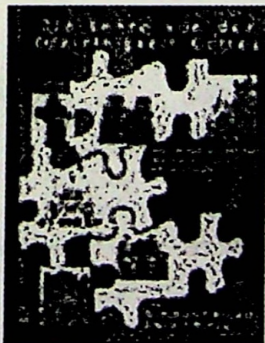
I want to send some to my ministerial brethren in England and to some of the other ministers here in Jamaica.

Thank you for your kind offer. May whatever blessing that you are deserving accrue to your account.

Yours in the Messiah Yahshua's love
Lynval

"The sheer logic and plain scriptures that you have brought forth [have] force[d] me to accept the plain truth."

Anthony Buzzard's book "The Doctrine of the Trinity: Christianity's Self-Inflicted Wound" is available by calling 1-800-347-4261



Sir Anthony Buzzard will be "retiring" at the end of the Spring, 2004 semester at ABC. Anthony's teaching career at OBC/ABC began in 1982, and hundreds of students and members of the Church of God have benefited from his zeal for teaching. I use the term "retiring" very loosely! Anthony has agreed that he will be available on an adjunct basis for classes in the future. But the freedom from regular college classes will give him the opportunity to continue his worldwide evangelistic efforts. Join me in saying thank you to Anthony for all his years of faithful service to Christ. I look forward to continuing to work with him for many years to come! -Tim Jones

Double Baptismal Service Held

A double baptismal service was held on January 18th, 2004 at the Atlanta Bible College chapel for Sean and Ruth Finnegan. Sean and Ruth are both students at Atlanta Bible College and recently have begun serving as residential student apartment managers.

Participating in the service were staff members Anthony Buzzard, Steve Taylor, Craig Wagganer, and Tom Fischhaber.

The Finnegans came to Atlanta Bible College from New York to begin studies in Fall, 2003. Water baptism had been spiritualized in their church, but they became convinced of its importance through personal study within the last year.

Pictured:

(Top) Sean Finnegan being baptized by Steve Taylor and assisted by Tom Fischhaber. (Bottom) Ruth Finnegan being baptized by Steve Taylor and assisted by Tom Fischhaber.



Atlanta Bible College

Enrollment Update



By David Krogh

DKrogh@abc-coggc.org

The second semester of this school year began January 5th with a week long "Women in Ministry" block course taught by Rebekah Martin. The class was taught Monday through Friday and was offered in the morning and in the evening.

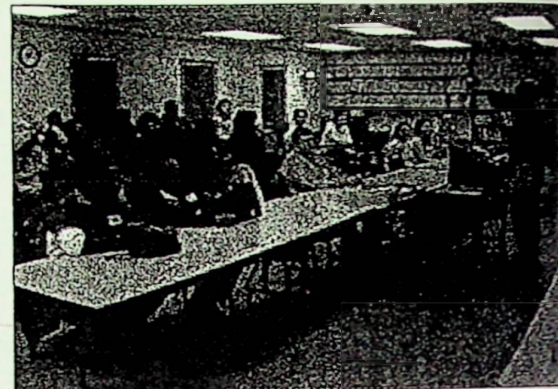
A pre-semester briefing was held for all students Friday evening Jan. 9th and Saturday January 10th. Regular classes began on January 12th.

We are pleased to welcome 26 new students this semester.

A number of students were not able to return after the semester break for various reasons, but most have indicated they will resume their studies in the fall.

The college continues to add to its international flavor. In addition to our large Korean extension program, we currently have students from Cameroon, Nigeria, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya and South Africa.

One of two
Atlanta Bible
College Spring
2004
Semester
Orientations,
both led by
instructor Dr.
Joe Martin.



Paul Bible College L.A. Campus Project Update

In previous editions of the Progress Journal, we notified you of the plans of Paul Bible College to open a campus in Los Angeles. We had agreed to provide instructors for some of their classes. However, Pastor Steve An, helping the

Paul College leaders with all the legal requirements for the new project, learned that the property Paul College had already purchased and remodeled was not zoned by the City of Los Angeles for this type of facility. Although

the real estate agents had assured the Paul Bible College leaders that the facility could be used for classes and worship services, this was not true. Although various efforts were tried to change the zoning, there was no way for

the location to be viable. Therefore, the Paul Bible College administration decided to reconsider their plans for a Los Angeles campus and sell the existing property.



Alumni Corner

ABC/OBC Alumni Association

Julie Driskill
President

Pastor Merry
Peterson
Vice President

Rob Bernheisel
Secretary/
Treasurer

Calling all ABC/OBC alumni! Calling all ABC/OBC alumni! We want to keep you informed of the activities of the alumni association. At our last meeting, held at General Conference in 2003, many ideas were discussed and thoughts expressed. Among the ideas were things such as:

1. How can we help the institution of college learning in the Church of God? Call me prejudice, but I think ours is the most significant and precious of its kind. We have people from outside of our churches and all over the world *coming to us* to learn more about the Bible. They must be having a good experience since they are referring friends and family. Our numbers are small but growing and our God is huge and still the ALMIGHTY.
2. Where are the people we went to school with and what are they doing? A lot of us would like to, and

care to know. We are thrilled to hear of the successes and concerned about those who are troubled, especially if they do not have the support of a local church.

3. What would you, the alumni, like to see from your organization? We would like to have your input and make sure our mailing list is current. You should be receiving, if you have not already, a mailing from your ABC/OBC Alumni Association. If not, please let us know.

We will be attempting to keep you informed through the Progress Journal and regular mailings. We would appreciate your feedback and want to be sure that everyone is on our mailing list. Please send an e-mail to info@abc-coggc.org to be added to the mailing list.

Missions

Updates, News and Needs



By LHI Board

jmlhi@aol.com

to help the people increase their harvest.

To maintain integrity with you, our donors, we wanted to make sure that all the money sent for maize was used for that purpose. On an earlier trip, a separate account for maize was established in a local bank in Malawi. This was a way for us to be able to control how the money was used. On our November trip, all the remaining money in the maize account, except for \$100, was removed to be used for grain. Since we were not able to remove that \$100, it was replaced in the Food Relief Account so that all money collected for that purpose was, or will be, used for Food Relief.

During this trip we were able to learn that the Malawi government sets the standard family size at eight individuals and has set the monthly need as: Ufa flour (maize meal)—50 kg; Pigeon peas or soya beans—7.5-10 kg; and table salt—.5-1 kg. Approximate cost of these three items is \$14.90 plus the cost of delivery. Cost of delivery is \$9.50 for 20 bags or about \$.47 per bag for a cost of approximately \$15.37 per month. Multiplying that by 2½ months comes to just under \$39. Cost of starter packs to be distributed later in the year is \$9.

Due to the reorganization of Conference 1, we do not have an accurate count of the number of families needing food. From the figures we currently have, we know of 795 families who will be in need. This figure will undoubtedly need to be adjusted upward when we know which pastors will stay with us. The need for assistance is from now through mid-March.

We are asking for members in our local churches to consider adopting an African family's food need during this time of crisis. \$48 would provide 2½ months of maize, peas or beans and salt plus a starter kit for increasing their crops at the next planting season. We are asking you to consider rounding that up to \$50 which would assist with wire transfers, postage, and miscellaneous expenses for Africa. Our ultimate goal

with us. Once it is determined which pastors will remain with us, they will appoint a new board and coordinator. We plan to appoint an interim coordinator to serve until someone from America can be present at the meeting for a more permanent appointment. We have made it clear that we will not work with any church or pastor who continues working with Margaret.

In addition to the three conferences we also have a group of very dedicated Bible students that meet in the city of Blantyre. They are believers who are new to the faith and are very zealous in learning truth. This group meets in the home of Linda and Tamande Khofi, who are a great help and blessing to the work in Africa. They have offered their services in a variety of ways. We are very thankful for their dedication and willingness to serve God. Recently, independent from LHI, Anthony Buzzard and two companions made a trip to Africa to teach and study with this group and the pastors in Conference 2.

On our trip, we established a good source of contacts for our ministry needs in the area. Through contacts made at the Rotary Club, we now have a reliable source for the purchase and delivery of maize. The maize source can take care of the needs in the conferences in Malawi but is not able to make deliveries to the people of Mozambique. We will continue to depend on Pastor Bango, coordinator of the Mozambique Conference, to arrange for maize distribution among his churches. We also have information for future planting and harvesting of maize. Assisting the people in improving their harvest yields was one of our goals. Starter packs that include hybrid seed, fertilizer and instructions are available

Africa Reports and Needs

Recently an LHI team consisting of Keith Huffer, Jim Mattison, Rebekah Martin and Warren Sorenson went to Malawi and Mozambique to help stabilize the work and evaluate the food needs of the people in our churches. God's leadership and blessing were very evident throughout the trip and the events taking place while we were there. While we are disappointed with what we discovered about Margaret Sakala, who has been coordinator of Conference 1, we are very encouraged at the way in which God has demonstrated His control over the work in Africa.

A lot was accomplished during the time we were there. At present we have three conferences in the Africa Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith—Conferences 1 and 2 in Malawi and the Mozambique Conference. Each conference is organized with a seven person board of trustees plus a coordinator. Due to the dismissal of Margaret, Conference 1 is in the process of reorganizing the board and appointing a coordinator. We regret that it was necessary to take action in removing Margaret Sakala as Coordinator of Conference 1 and ceasing association with her, but it was necessary to assure accountability and honesty in the work. For a more detailed report, please send e-mail to jmlhi@aol.com.

During this time of transition we are asking you to pray for God to guide and help stabilize the organization of Conference 1. The pastors are in need of strong leadership. We have asked Pastor Rodwell Thawani along with two others to visit the local churches and talk with each pastor in this conference to ask if they wish to continue working

Missions

and responsibility is to teach the people how to provide for their own needs. We believe these "starter packs" will move them toward accomplishing that goal.

Our desire is to collect only the amount of funds needed for this project. It would be very helpful to the LHI Board if each church or family would let us know their desire to help with this project and how much they wished to contribute toward it. In that way, we can let you know when the need has been met and thus encourage you to funnel your support into other areas. A form is at the bottom of this page for your response.

People of the Conference have always been incredibly responsive to needs for missions and we thank you for that. However, it is our desire to encourage your giving not only to missions but also to other endeavors of the General Conference. We are in the midst of a "Building the Future" campaign. Many worthy ministries will be blessed through this effort. Our desire is to raise only what we need to assist those in other lands, not to raise above and over our need at the ultimate expense of other ministries. If you have additional funds to be donated, please support the "Building the Future" campaign. Let us all work together to make our conference a tool by which God accomplishes much throughout the world.

Haiti

Recently we announced that a trip to Haiti had been approved for late

March-early April. Currently plans are on hold as we monitor the unrest in Haiti.

Mexico

Bro. Roberto Badillo underwent hernia correction surgery on January 7th. A report on January 22nd let us know that he is doing well. He will see the doctor again in a couple weeks. We thank all those who supported the Badillos with your prayers. They asked that we relay their sincere appreciation to all of you for your loving concern for them.

Peru Update

Recently an e-mail was sent to you through our pastors telling of the need for renting a larger meeting space in Peru. We are happy to report that a contract was signed for the site that they were looking at and they had their first service there on January 17th. The building is a new building five stories high and they have the ground floor. Beder reports that the space is not as large as the one they had rented earlier but was adequate for their needs and much better situated. It is on an avenue, which basically means that there is much more visibility. Our thanks to those who have indicated their willingness to help with the financial needs for rent during the next year.

Joaquin, Beder's brother who is suffering from leukemia, has been accepted for a government program that will pay for his medical needs. It is similar to our Medicare and they are giving it to him early. However, he

must pay a one time fee of \$200 for the processing of the paperwork. We are making that money available through the emergency relief fund. Your continued prayers for Joaquin are appreciated.

David Krogh and Bill Wachtel will be making a trip to Lima April 15th-21st. Financial support for this trip is needed. We look forward to providing photos and an update upon their return.



Stepan, Tracy, Liza and Misha Zhykhovich

Russia

Stepan, Tracy, Liza and Misha Zhykhovich send their greetings to all those who lift them before the Father in prayer. God is blessing them and giving them opportunity to be "salt" and "light" to the people of Russia. Tracy requests continued prayer for opportunities to share the Word with the ladies that she meets with as well as prayers for Sergey and family as they care for Sergey's wife's mother who recently had a stroke.

AFRICA RELIEF FUND

Name _____

Number of Families _____

Total Amount we wish to provide _____

Mail to: Judy Myers, 6898 E. Brick Rd., Oregon, IL 61061

Updates

Christian Education



By Myra Montgomery
myramontgomery@charter.net

"I'm not good at breaking the huge concepts of our faith into little-boy-size pieces," Michael's mom told me. "His Sunday School teacher can. What a gifted resource she is to my husband and me!"

Christian Education teachers back up what happens in the home. They often teach systematically through the Bible at the age level of your child. They give your child another Christian adult to watch and model. They enlarge your child's understanding of church family.

Partner with them. Ask the teacher what he or she will be teaching this session and emphasize that story and age-level lessons during the week. Many teachers send home a monthly overview of what the child is studying. Post it. Do the activities it suggests.

Talk to the teacher in the presence of your child. There should be no doubt that this class is valuable to you. It is more important than cheering at a soccer game or attending a piano recital.

Plan on regular attendance. When I was a substitute teacher a few weeks ago, I was told to expect between 8 and 14 children. No sports team coach would allow children to show up at practice with that amount of irregularity. On Sunday, children's attendance shows how important this activity really is to your family.

Share with the teacher challenges you are having with the child. If she has started lying or mumbling swear words, let the teacher know. As children's worlds expand, they will often pay more immediate attention to something someone outside the family says.

Sunday school teachers are praying for your child on a regular basis. Sometimes hard things at home—a

father losing his job, or a sister being treated for leukemia—cause changes in a child's behavior. The more the teacher knows, the more effectively he can teach your child.

Expect results. When your child makes friends with a mainstreamed child in her class because she learned in Sunday school that this would make Jesus happy, that's a high grade on her spiritual report card.

Affirming the Teacher. Every week 4.1 million volunteers teach Sunday school. Four percent, or 164,000 teachers, are never thanked.

Say thanks and tell the teacher why. Be specific. Tell stories of what happened at home when children live their Jesus lesson.

- Give spontaneous gifts—fun stuff like a decorated lollipop.
- Ask the teacher how you can pray for him or her.
- Sign on to help with extras—craft materials, treats, a field trip to a local food pantry. Ask if you could be of help with a "Kingdom Quest" activity.

Eight-year-old Jeffrey and his father were watching a TV program about a cult. The boy kept saying, "That's not true. That's not true." His father asked him how he knew it wasn't true. "Well," Jeffrey said, "when you've been in Sunday school as many years as I have, you know what's right and what's wrong" (Marlene La Fever, Cook Communications). Thank your children's Christian Education teacher—they are affecting your child eternally!

VALUEBUILDERS

Christian Education Curriculum



NOW AVAILABLE!

Call

1-800-347-4261

Or E-mail :

info@abc-coggc.org

to order

Features of Value Builders Christian Education Curriculum:

- ▶ Discussion-based lesson format
- ▶ Designed for students of all ages
- ▶ Allow students to examine importance of a particular value in their Christian walk
- ▶ Each unit contains thirteen *undated* lessons
- ▶ Each lesson contains a user-friendly leader's guide and master copy handout for students
- ▶ Lessons may be used in Sunday School, mid-week, or home Bible studies

Finance

Year to Date 2004 Budget (Income)

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	207,083	187,735	-19,348
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	2,917	3,849	932
ABC Boosters	9,917	3,625	-6,292
Subtotal	219,917	195,209	-24,708
SALES:			
Christian Education Materials	37,917	20,657	-17,260
Books	16,917	20,430	3,513
Restitution Herald	4,234	1,777	-2,457
Age to Come Media Products	3,063	173	-2,890
Theological Journal	875	858	-17
Sale of Assets	0	117	117
Subtotal	63,006	44,012	-18,994
ABC:			
Tuition	82,688	114,440	31,752
Korean Extension Tuition	31,500	43,300	11,800
Lodging	30,100	42,334	12,234
Washers/Dryers	790	1,018	228
Rentals - ABC Plant	2,567	2,200	-367
Late Fees/Rent	4,200	6,667	2,467
Fees	5,833	7,261	1,428
Subtotal	157,678	217,220	59,542
PROGRAM INCOME:			
Seminars & Workshops	29,167	4,262	-24,905
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	583	258	-325
Transferred In	0	10,718	10,718
Subtotal	583	10,976	10,393
Income Total	470,351	471,679	1,328

Building Our Future Campaign

Goal	385,000
Contributed through January, 2004	24,952

- ▶ These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2003 through January, 2004
- ▶ The 'Budget' column in each report shows the year-to-date portion of the annual budget for each line item.
- ▶ The 'Variance' column in each report shows the difference between the amount budgeted and the amount actually received (income) or spent (expense). A positive number in this column means the income or expense is better than budgeted. A negative number in this column means the income or expense is worse than budgeted.

Finance

Year to Date 2004 Budget (Expenses)

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
STAFF:			
Salaries & Wages	346,949	349,378	-2,429
F.I.C.A. Tax	4,700	4,699	1
Employee Benefits	73,838	66,212	7,626
Subtotal	425,487	420,289	5,198
SERVICES:			
Assistance to Churches	27,300	26,483	817
Ministerial Association	5,600	4,800	800
Youth Program	7,000	7,000	0
Subtotal	39,900	38,283	1,617
SALES EXPENSE:			
Printing & Binding	20,417	29,920	-9,503
Postage & Shipping	8,750	14,815	-6,065
Media Production Expenses	1,750	0	1,750
Book Store	9,917	11,993	-2,076
Royalties	88	0	88
Subtotal	40,922	56,728	-15,806
ABC:			
Clayton Rebate	2,042	1,200	842
Advertising--Recruitment	5,833	1,964	3,869
ABC Korean Extension Support	9,112	13,715	-4,603
Library Periodicals	1,750	1,339	411
Library Books	292	75	217
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	467	280	187
Staff Training	1,750	1,000	750
Subtotal	21,246	19,573	1,673
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel	23,333	34,429	-11,096
Motor Vehicles	1,167	1,487	-320
Office Supplies & Expense	9,333	13,538	-4,205
Professional Services	6,417	11,121	-4,704
Telephone	11,667	14,525	-2,858
Insurance - Non Plant	292	85	207
Supplies & Expense	1,750	1,438	312
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	8,750	15,603	-6,853
Subtotal	62,709	92,226	-29,517
PLANT EXPENSES:			
Utilities	15,750	17,706	-1,956
Insurance - Property	7,583	8,989	-1,406
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	1,750	4,772	-3,022
Furniture & Equipment	2,917	1,267	1,650
Supplies/Expenses Plant	2,917	2,915	2
Subtotal	30,917	35,649	-4,732
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Other	4,083	9,841	-5,758
Expense Total	<u>625,264</u>	<u>672,589</u>	<u>-47,325</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>-154,913</u>	<u>-200,910</u>	<u>-45,997</u>

Prayer & Praise

March 2004

- 1 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- 2 Praise God for the faithful leadership of the Badillo family in Mexico.
- 3 Praise God for those who have provided spiritual instruction for you.
- 4 Pray that God will raise up missionary candidates for short and long-term service.
- 5 Pray for prospective students attending ABC-I (Atlanta Bible College Invitational) this weekend as they make decisions about their future education.
- 6 Pray for Pastor Tom and Debbie New and the work at McGintytown, Arkansas.
- 7 Praise God for those who provide prayer and financial support for the College/Conference ministries.
- 8 Pray for strength to overcome temptation and for power in the battle against sin in the world.
- 9 Pray for someone you know who is discouraged or depressed.
- 10 Pray for Pastor John Nelson and his work with the Open Bible Church in Bolivar, MO.
- 11 Pray for Pastor Michael and Diane Brown and the Glad Tidings Church, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada.
- 12 Pray for Pastor Kent and Cheryl Ross and the New Friends Bible Church in Morrow, Georgia.
- 13 Pray for Wally and Peggy Winner and the work at Joy Fellowship in Anderson, South Carolina.
- 14 Praise God for all who have dedicated their lives to ministry.
- 15 Pray for a spirit of unity in the bond of peace.
- 16 Pray for a special need in your life.
- 17 Pray for the contacts with churches and Bible colleges in South Korea.
- 18 Pray for an opportunity to share God's love with someone.
- 19 Pray for those who are searching God's Word for answers to life's problems.
- 20 Pray for the students and staff of ABC-KE (Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension).
- 21 Pray for the brethren in India.
- 22 Pray for Steve and Pam Grant and their ministry in the Middle East.
- 23 Pray for the leaders of your government.
- 24 Praise God for the promise of Christ's soon return.
- 25 Pray for eyes to see those who are in need and a heart to reach out to them.
- 26 Pray for the work of the three Conferences in Malawi and Mozambique.
- 27 Pray for the short-term mission team traveling to Haiti today.
- 28 Pray for those traveling to Christian Worker's Seminar today.
- 29 Pray for Pastor Mike and Myra Montgomery and the Guthrie Grove Church, Pelzer, South Carolina.
- 30 Praise God for new attenders or members at your local congregation.
- 31 Pray for the Haiti team as they do evangelistic work this week.

April 2004

- 1 Pray for your pastor and family.
- 2 Pray for safety for those traveling home from Christian Worker's Seminar today.
- 3 Pray for Pastor Keun Joon and Soon Ryu and the Korean New Days Bible Church in Atlanta.
- 4 Pray for Pastor Rex and Sharon Cain and their work at Bedford, Ohio.
- 5 Pray for Anthony Buzzard's correspondence with truth seekers around the world.
- 6 Pray for Pastor Vivian and Paula Kirkpatrick and the Hutchinson, Minnesota Church of God.
- 7 Pray for those whose eyes are blinded to the Gospel.
- 8 Pray for volunteers to be short-term missionaries this summer.
- 9 Pray for Craig Wagganer and his work with pastors and churches.
- 10 Pray for opportunities to witness to those without Christ.
- 11 Praise God for the gift of His Son, and the resurrection of Jesus.
- 12 Praise God for new life in Christ.
- 13 Pray for the churches in your state/district Conference.
- 14 Pray for the students and staff of Atlanta Bible College.
- 15 Pray for Pastor Lesly Bertrand and others who are preaching and teaching in Haiti.
- 16 Pray for the soon return of Christ.
- 17 Pray for the New Hope Church in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- 18 Praise God for dedicated Church of God ministers.
- 19 Pray for retired Chaplain Orville Westlund.
- 20 Pray for the ministry of the Badillo family in Mexico.
- 21 Pray for CAO and President Tim Jones and the Board of Directors as they direct the work of the College/Conference.
- 22 Praise God for His faithfulness.
- 23 Pray for retired Pastor Ed Goit and his wife, Viola.
- 24 Pray for Pastor Curt and Anita Rowden and the East Peoria, Illinois Church.
- 25 Pray that God would use you to lead the lost to salvation.
- 26 Praise God for the Korean American Community Church of God that is meeting in the ABC facilities.
- 27 Pray for Pastor Steve An as he leads the Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension program.
- 28 Praise God for Jill Taylor and Jillian Ramsey as they provide administrative support at Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference.
- 29 Pray for the Family of God Fellowship in Maple Grove, Minnesota.
- 30 Praise God for the ministry and service of your church leaders.

Church News

Pastor Available

Pastor Alan Cain will be available starting the beginning of June, 2004. He has been in the ministry for 18 years: 3 years in Omaha, NE and 15 years in Pelzer, SC. Alan's greatest joys and passions are preaching and teaching. He has had the chance to share those passions not only with the churches he has served but also with youth work on the national and local level and most recently as an adjunct teacher at Atlanta Bible College.

Pastor Cain would be interested in being a guest speaker or helping churches with preaching and teaching needs (After the first of June). He would also be willing to discuss other possibilities. You can contact him at 864-847-1618 or acain@nuvox.net

Pastor Needed



The *Bethel Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith* will be in need of a pastor as of June 1, 2004. If interested, please contact Todd Impson at 864-243-2346 or e-mail to Todd_J_Impson@Bausch.com.

Pastor Available



Pastor Jeffrey Fletcher is currently discerning his next call to ministry. He is a graduate of OBC/ABC with over 20 years of ministry experience within the Church of God, having pastored churches in Illinois, England and currently in Louisiana. Pastor Fletcher has received additional training in Clinical Pastoral Education and has completed an internship in Spiritual Direction. In addition to his pastoral duties in the local church, Pastor Fletcher has also served in hospice and hospital pastoral care programs, served on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the Radical Reformation*, and is the Editor of the *Restitution Herald* magazine. Pastor Fletcher is married and has a large family. He is seeking a ministry setting where he is able to use his gifts to help lead a community to spiritual growth and fulfillment of the Great Commission. Pastor Fletcher is available to relocate in Fall, 2004. For further information or to discuss ministry possibilities and vision, please e-mail him at revjeff@charter.net, or call at 985-386-4573.

Baptisms

Louisiana

Happy Woods – Harold Richard (11/16/03) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Ontario, Canada

Freedom in Christ, Welland – Anna Cifoni, Len Watkins, Leito Araque, Jorge Rodriguez (11/16/03) by Pastor Stephen Bolhous

Ohio

Bedford Church of the Open Bible – Halee Fertig (12/7/03) by Pastor Rex Cain. Her grandfather, Bill Cramer, also spoke at the occasion.

North Hills – Nikki Pierce (11/23/03) by Pastor Seth Ross

South Carolina

Bethel – John and Tammie Layher, Brittany Garrison (9/21/03) by Pastor Alan Cain

Troy View – Cindy and Randy Small (11/19/03) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman; Lacey Supinger (12/28/03) by her uncle, Pastor Michael Brown

Marriages

Ohio

Troy View – Jeff Grote and Melanie Robinson (1/17/04) by Pastor Steve Zimbelman

Deaths

Indiana

Timberland - Judie Patesel, 83 (2/12/04), by Pastor John Railton

Prayer & Persistence

((Continued from page 6)

iPhone today with a woman with MS and she attributed her relative benign course of the illness to prayer and the grace of God. I believe God honors the prayers of his people, and I am so grateful to any of you willing to offer prayers on my behalf.

And fourth is something one of you shared with me (thank you). It's from an O.T. prophet: "if you extract the precious from the worthless then you will be my spokesperson." I am holding to this as well.

God bless you all. Many of you have faced much tougher struggles than me and continue to love and trust. Your lives are a testimony to me. Thanks for letting me ramble. Thanks for your prayers.

Christy

Do You Need More Tax-Free Income?

If so, consider a Charitable Gift Annuity with Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference.

In exchange for a gift of cash or appreciated securities, you and/or a selected beneficiary can receive a guaranteed, partially tax-free income stream and immediate income tax savings.

You will also receive a much higher interest rate than is currently available from certificates of deposit. And in addition you will have the deep satisfaction of helping to advance the Lord's work.

Call David Krogh at **1-800-347-4261** (or e-mail at dkrogh@abc-coggc.org) for more information or to set up an annuity contract.



Sample Rates

Age	Interest Rate
55	5.5%
60	5.7%
65	6.0%
70	6.3%
75	6.9%
80	8.0%
85	9.0%
90+	10.0%

CWS 2004

March 28-April 2, 2004

Highlights

- ▶ Meet 'n' Greet Sunday Night
- ▶ Morning Theology Discussion by the Fire with Anthony Buzzard
- ▶ Insightful classes to help with your spiritual walk
- ▶ Practical training to improve your ministry
- ▶ Wednesday Night Show Night
- ▶ Afternoon Hike with Tom Fischhaber
- ▶ Special Kid's Camp



Register Now!

Call toll-free
1-800-347-4261
 (x101) or (x107) or (x100)

Online Form:
<http://www.abc-coggc.org/form.htm>

Brochure (PDF):
<http://www.abc-coggc.org/cws.pdf>

PROGRESS JOURNAL is owned and published by Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260. Published bi-monthly. Steve Taylor, Editor; Justin Taylor, Publishing Specialist; Jill Taylor, Typesetter; Mary Krogh, Proofreader. Telephone 404-362-0000 or 800-347-4261; FAX 404-362-9307. E-mail Address: info@abc-coggc.org

Atlanta Bible College
 Church of God General Conference
 P.O. Box 100,000
 Morrow, GA 30260

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 1
 TAYLORS, S





The Restitution Herald

Volume 93 Number 3

February, March 2004

Christ's Passion

this Issue

When You Are Falsely Accused
The Blood of Jesus
Prayer
Children's Story
Crossword



From the Editor...

“The Passion of the Christ”

There has been a good deal of controversy generated with the anticipation of the upcoming film “The Passion of the Christ,” produced and directed by Mel Gibson. There is particular concern coming from the Jewish Anti-Defamation League. They are concerned that this film will produce a wave of anti-semitism. They claim that it portrays the Jews as being responsible for the murder of Jesus.

Recently I was granted the privilege of seeing an advance screening of the movie along with about 5,000 other pastors (and a few members of the Anti-Defamation League who gained access to the event by dishonest means). Mel Gibson came to the event and spoke to us about his reason for making the film. His heartfelt desire is and has been through the 12 years that it took him to complete this project, to portray the last 12 hours of Jesus’ life in a way that is authentic and faithful to the Bible and uses his artistic talents to tell the story in a way that provides an emotional impact.

As I watched the film, I was gripped by its realism. Listening to the actor Jim Caviezel, who plays Jesus, speaking in the original Aramaic tongue of Jesus brought a tremendous sense of authenticity. One felt the sense that he was not simply watching a movie, but had been, somehow brought back into time to witness the actual events.

I was drawn deeply into the suffering of the Lord as I viewed the

whips wielded by the Roman Soldiers tearing against his back. I felt the shame and humiliation of our Lord as they spit into his face and beat down a crown of thorns onto his head. But amidst all the disturbing images of violence and degradation, that which really shown through was Jesus’ love and his willingness to accept God’s will. It is clear that Jesus gave his life. It was an act of complete surrender to the will of God in order to atone for the sin of men.

I’m not sure what the Jewish Anti-defamation League saw when they watched the film, but I did not see a singling out of the Jews as being any more responsible for the death of Jesus than anyone else. The profound and powerful message I received was a reminder of the words of the Prophet Isaiah: “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6).

As I saw Christ’s passion reenacted on the screen I was reminded of my own guilt, my own violence, my own acts of betrayal, my own greed, my own need to erase past mistakes and to be granted another chance to live in a way that pleases God and demonstrates love to others. Jesus took upon himself the full measure of my guilt and paid for it with his own sacrifice.

Mel Gibson made a powerful point as he spoke to a group of 5,000 pastors. No doubt this Hollywood celebrity, who is one of the most popular movie stars in all the world, is accustomed to addressing large

crowds of all varieties, and yet he appeared rather shy and nervous in the presence of such a large assembly of pastors. He made a profound theological comment when he said “Jesus could have paid for the sins of the world by simply pricking his finger and shedding one drop of blood, but he didn’t. He took upon himself the full measure of human suffering for all of us” (paraphrase).

I highly recommend “The Passion of the Christ” to everyone. Yes, there are disturbing images of brutality that left many in the audience openly sobbing, and yes, parents need to prepare their children for the images that will be seen and use discernment with younger children. But no one should walk away from the story pointing a finger at anyone, either the Jews or the Romans and say that they were responsible for the death of Jesus. Rather, we should all humbly accept the reality of our own sinfulness and need for the salvation of God through Jesus Christ.

For those who are skeptics and not followers of Christ, they need to see this film, which is in no way a propaganda piece, but a legitimate artistic rendering of the Story of the last 12 hours of Jesus’ life. And for those who are followers of Christ, they need to be reminded of the lengths that Jesus went to make it possible for us to be restored to fellowship with God.

Jeff Fletcher, Editor





Table of Contents

4	When You Are Falsely Accused, Part I	Ray C. Stedman
9	The Blood of Jesus and the Kingdom of God	Gary Turner
11	Book Review	Jeffrey Fletcher
14	James	F. L. Austin
17	Children's Story: Ghost in the House	Betsy Moore
19	Crossword Solutions	The Restitution Herald
20	Crossword	The Restitution Herald

THE RESTITUTION HERALD
VOLUME 93, NUMBER 3;
FEBRUARY, MARCH 2004 ©2004.

EDITOR
 JEFF FLETCHER

PUBLISHING SPECIALIST
 JUSTIN TAYLOR

PROOFREADER
 SARAH BUZZARD

MAILING AND SUBSCRIPTIONS
 MARCY PREWITT

ADDRESS EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
 THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: JEFF FLETCHER, 130
 WAYNE ST., PONCHATOULA, LA 70454. E-mail:
 happywoodscg@i-55.com

ADDRESS MAILING AND SUBSCRIPTION
CORRESPONDENCE TO:
 THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: MARCY PREWITT,
 P. O. BOX 100,000, MORROW, GA 30260 (E-MAIL ADDRESS:
 info@abc-coggc.org).

PERMISSIONS: Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference grants permission for any original article (not a reprint) to be photocopied or duplicated for use without charge, provided the material is distributed free and the copies indicate the name of the publication and the name of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference, and our mailing address.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD IS OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY THE CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE, A NONPROFIT CHRISTIAN CORPORATION LOCATED AT 5823 TRAMMELL ROAD, P.O. BOX 100,000, MORROW, GA 30260. THE HERALD IS MAILED SIX TIMES A YEAR. THE RESTITUTION HERALD ADVOCATES:

- THE ONENESS OF GOD (1 COR. 8:6)
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S POWER (ACTS 1:8)
- JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (MATT. 26:36) AND IS OUR MEDIATOR (1 TIM. 2:5)
- THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (2 TIM. 3:16)
- THE MORTALITY OF MAN (JOB 4:17; PS. 146:4)
- THE NEAR RETURN OF CHRIST (ACTS 1:11) AND LIFE ONLY THROUGH HIM (COL. 3:3)
- THE LITERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (JOHN 5:28)
- THE IMMORTALIZATION OF THOSE IN CHRIST (1 COR. 15:51-52)
- THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED (REV. 21:8)
- THE FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL AS THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNDER THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (LUKE 1:32)
- THE CHURCH TO BE JOINT HEIRS WITH HIM (ROM. 8:17) AND ISRAEL TO BE MADE HEAD OVER GENTILE NATIONS (ISA. 60:1-3)
- THE "RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS WHICH GOD HATH SPOKEN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN" (ACTS 3:21)
- IT ALSO FIRMLY ADVOCATES REPENTANCE AND IMMERSION IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (ACTS 2:38) AND A CONSECRATED LIFE AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.



When You Are Falsely Accused

Ray C. Stedman



About the Author:

Mr. Stedman was pastor of Peninsula Bible Church in Palo Alto, California for 40 years until his retirement in 1990. He had preached more than 800 sermons at PBC and authored 28 books. Pastor Stedman passed away in 1992.

Psalm 109 reflects a common problem which we have all experienced. The psalm describes the reactions of a man who has been unjustly accused, wrongly treated. He has been set upon by those who are attempting to destroy him, yet without a cause. The psalm also is a problem psalm. One need only read it to be troubled about this psalm. Why should this strange, extravagant

language of hostility against another human being be included in the Book of Psalms? We shall attempt an answer to that as we go through the exposition of this psalm.

Notice that it is a psalm of David and therefore reflects an experience which David went through. It is difficult to tell exactly which of his recorded

experiences is referred to. Personally I think it probably is the time when he was railed upon by Nabal, the husband of Abigail, as recorded in the twenty-fifth chapter of First Samuel. Later, God judged Nabal and took him in death and David married Abigail. I think this psalm best fits on that occasion. It is clearly a psalm of someone who is deeply, deeply disturbed.

The opening words of the psalm set before us the problem this man faces.

**Be not silent, O God of my praise!
For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me,
speaking against me with lying tongues.
They beset me with words of hate,
and attack me without cause.
In return for my love they accuse me,
even as I make prayer for them.
So they reward me evil for good,
and hatred for my love.
(Psa. 109:1-5, RSV)**

Here is a man who is under attack and that from rather unscrupulous persons. Those who attack him so bitterly are obviously not to be trusted. "They are deceitful," he



When You Are Falsely Accused

Ray C. Stedman

says, “they are wicked,” i.e., they are determined upon evil, and they are thoroughly unscrupulous; they do not care what they say or what they do. With lying tongues they are out to destroy.

Perhaps some of you have had this experience. You have been unjustly accused by someone who has deliberately sought to slander you, to besmirch your character, or ruin your reputation, and you know just how this man felt. Furthermore, these people are wholly unjustified in this attack. He says they do this “without a cause,” at least as far as the Psalmist can see, and we take him to be an honest man. He sees absolutely no reason for their accusations. They are afflicting him, upsetting him, and attacking him without him having given them any reason to do so.

In Verses 4-5 it is apparent that this man has tried to remedy the situation, but it has come to a place where it is humanly hopeless. He has tried to answer these people in the right way. He says,

**In return for my love they
accuse me,
even as I make prayer for
them.
So they reward me evil
for my good,
and hatred for my love.
(Psa. 109:4-5, RSV)**

This man understands that “a soft answer turns away wrath,” and he has tried that with them. He has followed the New Testament standard of praying for those who

hate him and spitefully use him. It is remarkable, is it not, that here in the Old Testament you find such a clear demonstration of the fulfillment of the New Testament requirement to pray for our enemies. We are to love those who persecute us and try to do good toward them. This man has done that, yet it has not altered the situation. His enemies have not ceased their attack; they are just as vicious, just as malicious, just as fiercely hostile as they were before, and now he does not know what to do next. This is the problem that faces him at this point.

Now according to the next verses it sounds as though he gives up. He has tried the right thing, and it doesn't work so he gives up. It is very much as you sometimes hear the Sermon on the Mount quoted. “If someone smites you on the right cheek, turn to him the other cheek”—and then, POW, let him have it! It almost sounds as though this man is doing this. He has tried the right thing and when it didn't work he lets them have it. Listen to the vitriol that pours out!

**Appoint a wicked man
against him;
let an accuser bring him
to trial. [Literally it is,
“stand at his right hand”
and means to accuse him in
court.]
When he is tried, let him
come forth guilty;
let his prayer be counted
as sin!
May his days be few;
may another seize his
goods!**

**May his children be
fatherless,
and his wife a widow!
May his children wander
about and beg;
may they be driven out of
the ruins they inhabit!
May the creditor seize all
that he has;
may strangers plunder
the fruits of his toil!
let there be none to
extend kindness to him,
nor any to pity his
fatherless children!
May his posterity be cut
off;
may his name be blotted
out in the second
generation!
May the iniquity of his
fathers be remembered
before the Lord,
and let not the sin of his
mother be blotted out!
Let them be before the
lord continually;
and may his memory be
cut off from the earth!
(Psa. 109:6-15, RSV)**

What strong language! What hostility! How fierce is the invective here! Some of you are trying to memorize this so you'll remember to say it the next time a suitable occasion arises! This passage has raised the problem of so-called “imprecatory psalms,” these psalms which seem to heap imprecations, maledictions, against people. Many have been troubled by these, and this is the worst of them all. There is no stronger language in the Psalms. We have chosen the toughest one of all to deal with.



When You Are Falsely Accused

Ray C. Stedman

How do you explain language like this in the Psalms? What do you do with this? Well, it seems to me that the clearest and simplest answer is, this is not one of the imprecatory psalms at all. This man is not saying this himself, but is quoting what his enemies say about him. In Hebrew there is no way of indicating a quotation, as we do in English, with quotation marks. There are no quotation marks in Hebrew, so the Psalmist simply has to run on. But there are several things which give us a clue here:

First, you will notice a very remarkable and immediate change of attitude between Verses 5 and 6. In Verse 5 he says, "They reward me evil for good," (i.e., I am doing good to them; they do evil back), "and hatred for my love." Now it seems to me incredible that a man should so suddenly turn from an expression of love and of warmth to one of such violent and appalling invective. So there is a drastic change of attitude which comes in here.

Second, there is a change of number that occurs. We must have a little lesson in grammar here. Notice that in Verses 1-5 you have his enemies referred to in the plural, "them," "they;" but now suddenly it has become "he." If this Psalmist is going on now describing what he wants to have happen to his enemies, it is difficult to explain this sudden change of number. Why does it suddenly become "he" instead of "they"? But if what he is doing is quoting what they say about him,

it makes perfect sense. The harsh words fit best in the mouths of the psalmist's accusers. This is confirmed by the fact that in the Jewish version of the Old Testament, Verse 20, which is the conclusion of this quoted portion, instead of reading "May this be the reward of my accusers from the Lord," says instead, "This is the reward which my accusers seek from the Lord, those who speak evil against my life!"

This would confirm, therefore, that this entire portion from Verse 6 through Verse 19 should be put in quotation marks. Perhaps you might like to mark your own Bible that way. He is simply revealing what these people have said about him that distresses him so, and which makes him cry out before God. They are so fierce and unrelenting in their hostility, and from their language, we get a glimpse of the intensity of their hatred.

In Verses 6-15 there is a revelation of the strategy they have devised against him. Notice what they are after.

First, they want to rig a false trial. They want to get him before the law on a false charge and arrange a false witness to accuse him and thus gain a legal condemnation. Note the cleverness of these people. They are not going to waylay him and murder him; they would be open to charges themselves if they did that, but they are going to destroy him legally. They have figured out a way by which they can rig the trial

and get him condemned, and do it all legally. Then they mean to accomplish his death. They want a death sentence.

**May his days be few . . .
(Psa. 109:8a, RSV)
May his children be
fatherless,
and his wife a widow!
(Psa. 109:9, RSV)
May his children wander
about and beg . . . etc.
(Psa. 109:10, RSV)**

Clearly they are out to destroy him physically.

Then they want to take everything he has. Their hatred is so terrible that they want to leave nothing for his wife and children but wish to destroy them as well.

**May the creditor seize all
that he has;
(Psa. 109:11a, RSV)
Let there be none to
extend kindness to him,
nor any to pity his
fatherless children!
(Psa. 109:12, RSV)**

Finally, so fierce, so appalling is their revenge that they even want to carry it on before God himself. The attempt is made on their part to seek his eternal damnation. Their prayer is,

**May his posterity be cut
off;
may his name be blotted
out in the second
generation! (Psa. 109:13,
RSV)
May the iniquity of his**



When You Are Falsely Accused

Ray C. Stedman

**fathers be remembered before the Lord, (Psa. 109:14a, RSV)
Let them be before the Lord continually; and may his memory be cut off from the earth! (Psa. 109:15, RSV)**

To put it bluntly, what they are asking for is that God should damn this man. They are saying, "God, damn him!" Now is it not rather revealing that this is the most common oath heard today? When hatred rises in the heart, the easiest thing for men to say is "God, damn him!" Hatred seeks the ultimate destruction, even the eternal destruction of an individual. The ultimate wish of hate is that God would damn.

Now the psalmist lists the reasons his enemies give for this vituperation. What is it this man has done that makes them so vindictive, so filled with fierce hatred? He lists the two reasons they set forth. First,

For he did not remember to show kindness, but pursued the poor and needy and the brokenhearted to their death. (Psa. 109:16, RSV)

From their point of view that was the way it looked. You can see in this that strange twisting of reason that occurs when we act in self defense; that strange rationalizing by which we appear to be ourselves the victims of injustice, even though we may well deserve

what is happening to us. This is what these men are feeling. They are blaming this poor man, saying that he did not remember to show kindness but pursued the poor and needy and brokenhearted to their death, but all the time it was they who were doing it.

I am struck by how prevalent this is in human nature. Some of you may remember that just a few weeks ago a trial was concluded in San Mateo where a man was on trial for his life. He was charged with the rape and murder of a young woman who stopped by his service station late one night to get the lights on her car fixed. In a very cruel and terrible manner he had destroyed this woman. All the ugly facts were brought out at the trial and the jury brought in their verdict. He was found guilty and the judge sentenced him to death. According to the papers, when the sentence was pronounced the parents of this man stood up and shook their fists at the judge and the jury and threatened them, charging them with injustice, although the man was caught red-handed in his guilt. There is this strange reaction in humanity which blames another for the things we ourselves have caused.

The second reason for his enemies' hatred is like the first. They said of him,

**He loved to curse; let curses come on him!
He did not like blessing; may it be far from him!
He clothed himself with cursing as his coat, (Psa.**

109 17-18a, RSV)

Again they are blaming him to justify their own cursing. They have just cursed him, they have just said, "May God damn you!" But to justify it they say, "Well, that's what he said to us!" Again, this is human nature, is it not? I remember seeing two children fighting, one of whom happened to be my own. I broke up the quarrel and said to them, "Who started this?" The boy said, "She did! She hit me back!" How true that is to our nature. We love to blame the other. We accuse others of the very things for which we are guilty. That is what is happening here.

Notice how they intensify this.

**may it [these curses] soak into his body like water,
like oil into his bones!
May it be like a garment which he wraps round him,
like a belt with which he daily girds himself!
(Psa. 109:18b-19, RSV)**

So terrible is their hatred, so malevolent is their fierce reaction, that they intensify language to the ultimate refinement of malice. They pour out invective upon him to justify their own hate.

Before we go on to look at the psalmist's reaction perhaps it might be well to note one further thing in this section. In verse 8 are words which are taken by the Holy Spirit and applied, in the New Testament, to Judas Iscariot.



When You Are Falsely Accused

Ray C. Stedman

**May his days be few;
may another seize his
goods! (Psa. 109:8, RSV)**

Or literally, "May another take his office!" You will recall that in the first chapter of Acts the eleven apostles are gathered together to appoint a successor to Judas. Peter quotes from two of the psalms to justify that appointment. One of them is Psalm 69 which stated, "May his habitation be left desolate," and the other is this verse from Psalm 109, "May another take his office!" This has raised the suggestion that perhaps this whole passage applied to Judas, that it is all a prediction of the terrible fate that would await Judas Iscariot; his wife and children would be left desolate and he himself would be damned of God.

Perhaps that view is justified in the light of the New Testament. Remember that it was Jesus who said, "Woe unto that man by whom the son of man is betrayed. It were better for that man that he had not been born," (Matt. 26:24, KJV). At any rate this indicates that cursing, though men do it rather lightly, has a terrible reality about it. There is really such a thing as being cursed. There is such a thing as being damned. What makes cursing so terrible is that men take it upon themselves to pronounce this sentence of damnation and they do it in the lightest way, as though it were nothing. When you hear someone

say, "God damn you!" remember that it is a terrible malediction, an awful thing which only God has the right to say.

Now let us look at the reaction of this man. Here he is in this terrible situation with his enemies attempting to take his life. He has tried the right way to react but it does not seem to work. He does not know what to do now. He cries before God, in the literal rendering of Verse 20,

**This is the reward which
my accusers seek from
the Lord,
those who speak evil
against my life! (Psa.
109:20, Literal)**

What shall he do? Well, what he does is beautiful. He commits the whole matter to the Lord in prayer. This closing prayer of the psalm is a marvelous picture of the right attitude, the right reaction, the right way to handle this kind of a situation. Listen to it.

**But thou, O God my
Lord,
deal on my behalf for
thy name's sake;
because thy steadfast
love is good, deliver me!
For I am poor and needy,
and my heart is stricken
within me.
I am gone, like a shadow
at evening;
I am shaken off like a
locust.**

**My knees are weak
through fasting;
my body has become
gaunt.
I am an object of scorn to
my accusers;
when they see me, they
wag their heads.
(Psa. 109:21-25, RSV)**

Notice that the first thing he does is to commit the cause to God. "Thou, O God of my life, deal on my behalf for thy name's sake!" Here is a man who understands the nature of reality. He understands how life operates. He understands the truth behind the admonition of Scripture, both in the Old and New Testament, "Vengeance is mine, says the Lord; I will repay," (Deut. 32:35; Rom. 12:19). Vengeance is mine! Don't you try it, don't you attempt it. Don't try to "get even" because if you do you'll only make the matter worse. You will perpetuate a feud that may go on for years, even for centuries, destroying, wrecking, damaging others and creating all kinds of difficulties both for them and for you. No, no, vengeance is mine, says the Lord. I am the only one who has the wisdom adequate to handle this kind of a problem. This man recognizes that and commits the cause to God.

Look for Part II of this article in the next issue of THE RESTITUTION HERALD.

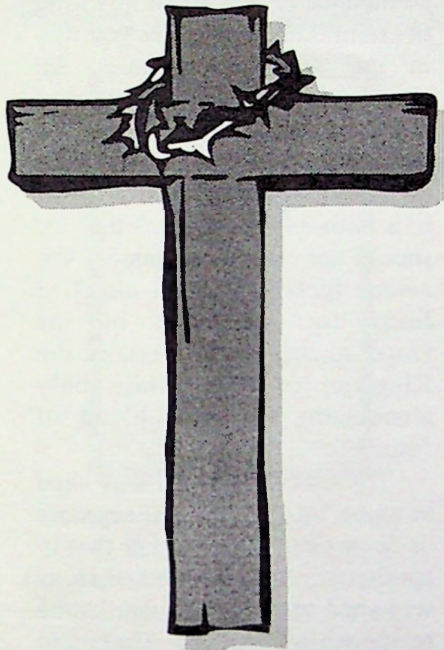


The Blood of Jesus and the Kingdom of God

Gary R. Turner

About the Author

Gary is a pastor at the New Life Bible Church in Winnebago, IL.



There has been much discussion recently within the *Church of God* regarding the relationship between the doctrine of the Kingdom of God and its relationship to the doctrine of the Blood Atonement. During the course of the discussion it sometimes feels as though we are being asked to choose either the Kingdom of God or the Blood Atonement of Christ. Do I need water or air? Of course, I need both to live life as God intended the human race to live. Am I saved because of the shed blood of Jesus or because I have an understanding of the Kingdom of God? In the spiritual realm, I feel it is important that we understand and proclaim both!

For the sake of the article,

let's first look at what the Bible says about blood, and the sacrificing of blood. In the Old Testament, we are told that the blood is the life source of an animal, and in the sacrifice of that animal it is through the blood that there is atonement for one's life. God set this system up for Israel as they came out of Egypt and moved through the wilderness toward the promised land. This Old Testament shadow, or type, was an example of things to come and we are told it is most holy to the Lord God.

In the book of Revelation, we are told that Jesus is the Lamb that was sacrificed from before the foundation of the world. Also, in the book of Revelation, we are told that the blood of the Lamb purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and then added to that text is the victory of that purchase: "to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God and reign on the earth." God created man and expected him to live in a paradise garden (kingdom) for the purpose of fellowship and relationship with each other. Adam failed and allowed sin to come into the world through his failure. God knew that Adam would fail before He created anything—He set up a sacrificial system that would atone for the sins of mankind.

According to the dictionary,

"atonement" is the repairing of a wrong that is committed against someone. In the Old Testament that wrong, or sin committed against God, was repaired by the sacrificing of an animal and the shedding of its blood. In the New Testament, Jesus stepped in and took the place of the animal. He was the sacrificial Lamb and through the shedding of his blood, we can be reconciled with God and His original plan for mankind—a kingdom paradise of fellowship and relationship. Jesus became the sacrifice of atonement, once and for all, so that mankind could spend eternity with God in His kingdom. We cannot proclaim the kingdom that God intends for us to inherit at the cost of the death, burial and resurrection of His sacrificial lamb. Paul quoted Jesus in his first letter to the church at Corinth, when he told them to participate in the Lord's Supper and "do this in remembrance of me." Paul then says, "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

As Christians, we must realize there is power in the blood of Jesus! In Hebrews 1:3, there is a strong connection between purification from sin (it took shed blood) and sustaining all things by his powerful word. Salvation is often thought of as being our reward for accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and that reward is something given through eternal life. A better definition of salvation is "nothing missing and



The Blood of Jesus and the Kingdom of God

Gary R. Turner



nothing broken," which will be perfectly completed when Jesus comes again for his saints. But we can have salvation now in our daily living. We can be complete in our finances, our marriages, our relationships, at work and our health. In every aspect of life, we can be working toward a salvation of abundant life with the things we are missing being restored to us and things that are broken being repaired. Paul's gospel is described as "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." Paul saw and taught that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ we have many benefits for this life that unsaved people do not have. These benefits are for today and not just for eternity after Jesus comes again!

Let's look at what some of those benefits are through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. In his farewell address to the elders at Ephesus, Paul says that the church was bought with the blood of Jesus. It takes something of some value to be able to buy anything. As

Christians, followers of Jesus, we have been bought back from Satan's realm (Adam sold us out) and placed into a realm of the Kingdom of God, which simply put is His way of doing business. In the realm of the Kingdom of God, if you want something, the currency you use is called faith. We accept Jesus by faith. We believe in the things of God by faith. We work because of faith in the kingdom system that God presents to us and the rewards that come by working within that system. Our faith is increased by hearing the Word of God. Paul says, "God presented him (Jesus) as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood." It is because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ that we can come into the realm of faith. Think about what that means! In the world around us, the more money we have, the more we can accomplish in life. In God's way of doing things (present kingdom system) the more faith we have, the more we can accomplish in life. In the world around us, a person with lots of money is considered

rich. In the Kingdom of God, a person with lots of faith has true riches. Oil or gold or an abundance of just about any kind of commodity will make you rich in the world's system. An abundance of faith in the shed blood of Jesus will make you rich in God's system. That is an incredible benefit to daily living in a faith-depleted world that we should not take for granted! We cannot ignore the shed blood of Jesus for the sake of the kingdom, nor can we ignore the Kingdom of God while only recognizing the shed blood of Jesus.

The blood of Jesus was shed to atone for the sins that separate us from God. Let me say that in another way. The blood of Jesus was shed to repair the tear in the relationship between God and mankind that came through Adam's sin. Without recognizing the shed blood, you can talk about the Kingdom of God all you want, but you remain on the opposite side of the tear from God. Is the Kingdom of God important to preach and teach? Of course it is! Does it take top priority over the shed blood of Jesus? No, I don't believe so. Not any more than air takes priority over water in our physical needs. We must have both air and water. We must have both the shed blood of Jesus Christ and the message of the Kingdom of God!

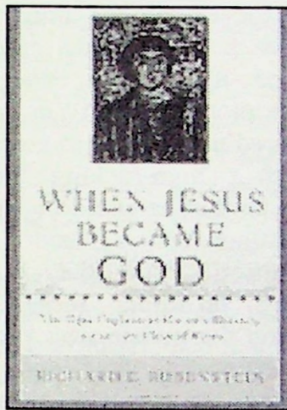


Book Review

Jeffrey Fletcher

About the Author:

Jeff Fletcher is Editor of the Restitution Herald and a graduate of Oregon Bible College (currently Atlanta Bible College). He carries with him over 20 years of ministry experience within the Church of God, including pastoring churches in Illinois, England and presently in Louisiana.



Richard E. Rubenstein, *When Jesus Became God: The Epic Fight over Christ's Divinity in the Last Days of Rome*, New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1999.

How did Jesus of Nazareth, a Jewish carpenter turned rabbi who many believed to be the Messiah of Israel, who died on the cross and was raised from the dead by God, come to be worshiped as God Himself. For most churchgoers this is a simple article of faith. The "orthodox" Nicene Creed is recited by millions of Christians of various denominational labels in their houses of worship each week. Together, they proclaim that Jesus is "God of God, light of light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father." It is a rare worshiper who questions the Biblical validity of these statements. Those who do are told by their priests and pastors that it is a mystery. Many

students of the Bible recognize that a trinitarian doctrine is nowhere explicitly stated in the Scriptures. Yet they honor the theologians who they believe carefully and prayerfully formulated this doctrine in the early days of the Christian Church. One might imagine these great saintly theologians working in unison with the Holy Spirit to make explicit that which is implicit in the sacred Scripture. At least, that's what one would hope. Unfortunately, nothing could be further from the truth.

Richard Rubenstein is a professor of public affairs and conflict resolution at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He specializes in analyzing social and religious conflict. While on sabbatical in France he rented the house of a French historian. As he was perusing the historian's library he came upon a book describing the Arian controversy of the fourth century. It was in the midst of this controversy that orthodox doctrines were formulated and became the official teachings of the Catholic Church. What fascinated Rubenstein, a specialist in conflict resolution, was the nature of this conflict, the passion and violence associated with it, and the way it was intertwined with the politics of the Roman Empire. He decided it would make an excellent case study in

the nature of religious and socio-political conflict. The fruit of his many years of research into the Arian controversy is the highly readable and concise book *When Jesus Became God*.

Rubenstein gives a detailed narrative of the conflict which began in Alexandria, Egypt as a disagreement between the bishop, Alexander, and a charismatic priest named Arius. Arius publicly called into question the bishop's theological position. The bishop's response was to have Arius removed from his church and excommunicated. When Arius appealed to some of his sympathetic bishop friends in the east, the controversy spread. It's difficult to imagine that a religious quarrel about the nature of Christ could end in violence and bloodshed, until you consider that at the same time, the young emperor was seeking to bring unity to the eastern and western parts of his diminishing empire. Constantine, who was not yet a baptized Christian, was the first emperor not only to be sympathetic to Christianity, but to have the idea of using the Christian faith as a means of uniting his empire. Spurred on by a mystical vision telling him to conquer in the name of Christ, Constantine set out on his scheme of creating a unified empire by promoting a unified Church.

When news of the conflict



Book Review

Jeffrey Fletcher

between Arius and Alexander reached the ears of the emperor, he decided, with the help of his advisors, to take action. In 325 AD Constantine called for a council of bishops to come together and formulate a doctrinal statement upon which all Christians could agree. Rubenstein documents the story of the politicking that followed. The chief spokesman for Bishop Alexander was a fiery young redheaded priest named Athanasius. Athanasius defended the position that the Son, Jesus, was of the same substance (*"homoousios"*) as God. He emphasized Jesus' equality with God. This was opposed by Arius, who taught that Jesus was subordinate to God. After months of wrangling and negotiating, Athanasius' position was voted on by the council and chosen as orthodox or accepted doctrine. Arius and those supporters of Arius who refused to sign the Creed of Nicea (the city where they held their council) were excommunicated from the Church. One can imagine Constantine's satisfaction at finally achieving the long-awaited union of Church and empire. He soon discovered that his vision of uniting the Church to achieve his political purposes would not be as easy as he had hoped.

Rubenstein documents the political intrigue that followed the decision at Nicea. The story continued to unfold over the next 60 years as a kind of tennis match between the eastern and western bishops. The eastern portion of the empire continued to be largely

Arian, while the western part of the empire maintained its allegiance to the Nicene Creed. That which kept tipping the scales back and forth was not sound biblical exegesis or religious fervor — it was, rather, the struggle for power. Constantine and those emperors who followed him continued to struggle to hold the empire together internally, at the same time staving off external threats from the Persians in the east and the Barbarians in the west. Meanwhile, within the Church there was a struggle for power and control over the bishoprics in the east and west. The Church had undergone a major shift, from being persecuted by the Roman Empire, to being embraced by the Roman Empire. Rubenstein demonstrates that the Church was more united when it was being opposed by the government than when it was in favor with the government and used for its political purposes. In the Church, everything depended on the position taken by the emperor. If Caesar was an Arian, then Arian bishops were installed and the Church embraced an Arian creed. If Caesar supported Athanasius and the creed of Nicea, then the Arian bishops were excommunicated and the Nicean sympathizers placed in positions of power in the Church.

Rubenstein shows the behind-the-scenes plotting and intrigue. He raises questions surrounding the mysterious death of Arius, who died tragically from diarrhea the evening before the bishop would be required to give him communion. Was Arius poisoned?

Or was this God's judgment on a heretic? We hear about Athanasius, on five different occasions excommunicated, who several times managed to evade arrest by fleeing to the desert to be cared for by monks until such time as a sympathetic emperor assumed the throne. We read about a plot by two Arian priests who hired a prostitute to go to the bed of a high-ranking Nicene bishop so that he could be caught in a compromising position and discredited. But the quick-thinking prostitute turned the tables on the priests who became the victims of their own evil scheming. Rubenstein tells us about Julian, who became emperor but secretly espoused paganism and decided to sow seeds of division in the Church in an attempt to destroy the followers of Christ and pave the way to Rome becoming, once again, a pagan empire. And we see how badly Julian misjudged the Church, as the Church was able to lay aside its internal fight in the face of an external enemy. We hear how the Arian position nearly became, once and for all, the orthodox dogma in the Roman Church and empire, only to be thwarted when the Arian emperor was killed by the warring Visigoths.

Rubenstein also demonstrates that Arianism was a product of eastern thinking and world view. Arianism espoused a more optimistic view of people's ability "to make moral progress." To them, Jesus could be the supreme example of what humanity could become. This was in contrast to



Book Review

Jeffrey Fletcher

the more pessimistic western world view, which required nothing less than God Himself to come and save mankind. And where Arianism was more tolerant of diversity in religious dialogue, the Nicean western church was far more intolerant.

What Rubenstein clearly shows is that the doctrines held by Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant believers today, did not develop in a hermetically sealed theological vacuum. The desire to arrive at the truth about the nature of Jesus Christ was not the primary issue in this whole conflict. The real issue was political power. The various emperors of Rome were guilty of using their power and influence in the Church to achieve their own ends of securing a powerful and unified empire. The bishops of the Church were guilty of allying themselves with various earthly political powers in an attempt to gain control over the Church. The clash was largely one of differing values in the eastern and western halves of the empire. The division which was so clearly evident during the Nicean-Arian struggle would later lead to the complete fissure of the Church in the 9th century.

One of Rubenstein's most intriguing observations is that, in the western Church, as Jesus ascended to the place of God, his status as the approachable human mediator between man and God was taken by Mary. This is no doubt the reason that she is the object of religious devotion throughout the Roman Catholic Church to this very day.

Another of Rubenstein's

observations that I find of huge interest is the way the population involved itself in the religious discussion. In a way, their thinking was purer than that of the theologians who used doctrine as a means of achieving power. Among the common laity, there was intense interest in learning the truth about God and Jesus. Ordinary shopkeepers and bath attendants engaged in serious intellectual debate regarding the nature of Christ. Rubenstein writes: "Converting a pagan population was no mere matter of getting people to make an emotional 'decision for Christ.' It meant bringing them to an understanding of the basic theological and ethical concepts embodied in the Old and New Testaments. It was not just Christ the evangelists and theologians were teaching, but a world view derived originally from Judaism—a passionate monotheism fundamentally at odds with the premises of pagan thought" (12-13).

How different this approach is to our contemporary evangelical approach. One has to wonder what would happen if today's lay people would give as much energy to studying the Scriptures and Christology as those simple pagan shopkeepers of 1,700 years ago did. Would there be another reformation? Not simply a reformation of Church government—but a total reworking of Christian thinking about the person of Christ, leading to a rediscovery of the real Jesus as described in the Bible. What would happen if Biblical theology

could be divorced from worldly power struggles and hidden agendas? What if we could simply go to the Scriptures and ask, what do they teach about the person of Jesus and his relationship with God? If every Christian in every church were willing to invest a year of their time to Biblical study, they would no doubt come to entirely different conclusions about the person of Jesus than those of the "theologians" who were often motivated by a lust for power and fear of persecution and ruled over by a government that co-opted the Church for its own political purposes. If a person was willing to undertake such a search for truth, a reading of *When Jesus Became God* would be a significant first step in the process of demythologizing all doctrines. We have seen what happens when political extremists use religion as a means of achieving their political ends. It frequently ends in bloodshed. We need only to consider the events of September 11, 2001 or the ongoing conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians to see where such an uneasy marriage takes us. The Arian-Nicean conflict provides a case study in the outcome of such events. One has to wonder how much bloodier it would have been had the conflict happened in an age of suicide bombers. But the damage has been done. We now have a divided Church that is alienated from other monotheistic faiths. Orthodox Christianity cut itself off from any meaningful dialogue with Judaism. Islam, the other widely accepted

(Continued on page 16)



James

F. L. Austin

About the Author:

F.L. Austin was a member of the Committee of Ten that was instrumental in the organization of the Church of God General Conference in 1921. He served as editor of the Restitution Herald and Executive Secretary of the Conference from 1922-1931. He also was the administrator and an instructor in the Bible Training School (the forerunner of Oregon/Atlanta Bible College) from 1923 to 1931. He also served as pastor of churches in Indiana, Illinois; and Fonthill, Ontario, Canada.

The Epistle of James, though questioned by some, was undoubtedly written by "the Lord's brother" (Gal. 1:19), who was one of the "pillars" (Gal. 2:9), and who gave the "sentence" of the apostles and interest of the church at Jerusalem (Acts 15:13, 19).

This Epistle is understood by many to have been the first New Testament epistle written, probably before many Gentiles had accepted Christ's teachings, that is, while as yet the church was composed principally of Jewish stock and before the mysteries of the Gospel were revealed, as later declared by the Apostle Paul. Thus, the character of this epistle is largely Jewish. It contains much reference to Mosaic custom, law and promise, and analytically is comparable with Old Testament teachings, as is the sermon on the Mount.

The Course of All Ages Affected by Speech

After exhorting the brethren (James 3:1), "Not many teachers become ye, my brethren! Knowing that a severer sentence we shall receive" (Rotherham), James then continues to show that the teachings of individuals determine not only the course of individual lives, but also the course of nations. Therefore (verse 2), "if a

man stumble (Rotherham) not in his words (his teachings) the same is a perfect man."

As the bit guides the horse and the rudder the ship, so the words imparted to others guide and influence their actions, even the actions of the world as a whole. It was not so much the assassination of Serbia's prince as it was the fiery words which followed said assassination, that provoked, developed, and continued the great world war. Words caused actions, which affected the entire earth of mankind.

Therefore James' exhortation to utter words of knowledge (verse 13) and above all (verse 17) to be guided as to words by "wisdom that is from above."

Experience Proves God More Helpful than Man

"Wars and fightings among you" (4:1), come "even of your lusts." And in all the struggle (verse 2), man "can not obtain." His ways are the ways of weakness; his aims are selfish, sensual; his ends are disappointment. "Ye have not" (verse 2) "because ye ask not." (Verse 3): "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask basely" (Rotherham) "in order that in your pleasures ye may spend it."

Here is the answer to the oft

repeated question "Why are our prayers not answered?"

So many of man's aims and efforts are prompted by the ideals of the carnal and selfish nature. Even many religious aims are prompted by the selfishness of pride, pleasure, and such like. All such aim and effort is not only in estrangement with God, but even though the aims are accomplished in large degree and the results appear to be great, yet if they are of carnal lust they only weaken and disrupt life, both individually and nationally. "God resisteth" (verse 6) such. James urges (verse 7) that the Christian submit himself "to God." "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you." (Verse 10): "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

God "is law giver, who is able to save and to destroy" (verse 12). In opposition to Him man is helpless. He is like the morning dew or the grass of the field—impotent. God's way leads eventually to righteousness, peace, and restful satisfaction, as is indicated by prophetic statements relative to the perfected conditions yet future.

Prophecy

It would seem that the apostle



James

F. L. Austin

in Chapter 5 predicts that the result of man's way and method, as referred to in previous chapters, will tend to greater and greater evil and weakness as time goes on. The result will be one of class division, hatred, and strife. These friends of carnal effort will continue unto the coming of the Lord, but "be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the Lord draweth nigh" (verse 8). Regardless of the time of the return of our Savior, James sees the results of human effort as weakening and deteriorating more and more until changed by the active presence of Him to whom all power has been given. This truth should be most encouraging to the people of the present day.

While James wrote to the twelve tribes scattered abroad (1:1), yet those twelve tribes have probably never appreciated his epistle. But in connection with the coming of our Master the great truths of this epistle will stand out prominently to the Israelitish student, even as they stand now before Gentile Christians. With such counsel to his Christian brethren, James commits them in their thought to God.

"Is Any Man Sick among You?"

"Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick". "Confess your faults one to another," "pray one for another" (5:14).

All of these beautiful exhortations are treasured more

and more in proportion as we submit (3:7) ourselves to God.

Elect Strangers

Four different translations before the writer each state that the word "elect," in verse 2, in the original Greek precedes the word "strangers" in verse 1. The text thus reads: "elect strangers scattered through according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctification of the spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ."

The word "scattered" refers to the dispersion of Israel. Thus the Apostle Peter is addressing the Christians of the race of Israel who are scattered through the various provinces, but who, regardless of their racial connection, have come to recognize the blood of Christ as effective unto them.

It is by Christ (verse 3) that these same Israelitish people have been begotten again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Peter then emphasizes (verse 4) the grandeur that follows. Their hope points them "to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away." Their former anticipated inheritance had never been realized. Sorrow and privation had attended Israel for centuries. Not only is their new hoped-for inheritance unfading, but it is reserved (preserved, Rotherham) for them.

The change of hope held up by these Israelitish brethren was

undoubtedly greater than Gentiles of the present century can possibly appreciate. The difference between the promises through Moses and those through Christ were great indeed. These new hopes introduced them to new trials of faith, which in turn would introduce them to new honor and new glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. It was this greater salvation, this greater hope, that the prophets anxiously awaited, though feebly, if at all, understood by them. "The sufferings of Christ had been testified unto those prophets as also had the glory that should follow." It is well to note that in most, if not all of the prophetic utterances of Christ the mention of His suffering was accompanied by a statement concerning His glory that should follow. In Isaiah 9:6, we have the announcement of the birth of Christ followed immediately with a great exaltation which the Father designed for Him. In Isaiah 53, He bears our sins with the result (verse 12) "I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong." Psalm 2, the heathen rage against Him, but the Father sets Him upon His holy hill of Zion. Many other prophecies speak of Christ's sufferings and His following glory.

Apparently the Jews of the Savior's day stumbled at the sufferings of Christ and therefore could not anticipate His glory. But to those whom Peter is addressing, his exhortation is that they shall recognize the achievements for them through the sufferings of



James

F. L. Austin

Christ and have corresponding assurance not only of His glory, but of their glory with Him. Therefore he exhorts them (verse 13) to soberness; to obedience (verse 14); to holiness (verses 15, 16). His reason is given (verse 18): "Ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things—but with the precious blood of Christ." It was through this process and transformation that they had been brought to a newness of life (verse 23).

In harmony with all the foregoing, Peter exhorts in chapter 2:1, to "lay aside all malice . . . and all evil speaking," and as those who are born to a new and different life that they should "desire the sincere milk of the word." After citing Christ (verse 4) as a living stone, he then (verse 5) compares them to lively stones, even a spiritual house, "a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices." Peter teaches how, through Christ, they had been brought from a forsaken and desolate position and had been made to be a "people of God" (verse 10).

In all of this it is plainly taught that their new status required of them that they do much (verse 13) "for the Lord's sake." Their lives should be lived as unto Him, and their efforts performed with a view to a service unto Him. In the world they were to live so true and faithful as to cause others (verse 12) to glorify God in the day of visitation.

Peter continues his exhortation to clean lives in Christ—even though they must suffer for well doing (3:17). In doing this they

would only be repeating what Christ had done when He (verse 18) "suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." He then shows how that in the end of His sufferings Christ died in the flesh. While death meant to His enemies that Christ was forever removed as an obstacle to them, yet it meant little unto God, for God raised Him—no longer in flesh, but in spirit. (The word "by" in the phrase "by the spirit" is the same word as the word "in" in the phrase "in the flesh." In the Greek both are "in." The article "the" is absent before both "flesh" and "spirit" in the Greek.)

The baptism which these Christian Israelites had evidently engaged in is spoken of in verse 21 as being of definite value unto salvation. It is by the process of baptism that they had buried the old man (Rom. 6:3, 4), from which death and burial they had been raised to walk in newness of life. The illustration emphasizing this is that of Noah who was saved by the very elements which destroyed all unprepared by God. So death is the factor which destroys all unless God, by His saving power, saves therefrom. And baptism into Christ, even into His death, and a present calling forth from the same unto a newness of life—a seal of the Holy Spirit—gives assurance of final salvation by God to all who "walk in newness of life." Wherefore, "baptism doth also now save us."

Book Review

(Continued from page 13)

monotheistic faith, grew out of the eastern milieu that never fully embraced orthodox doctrines, but was forced to accept it on pain of excommunication, or worse. One has to wonder what would have happened if Arius had won the day. Would Islam ever have flourished? Would the preaching of the prophet of Allah, the one God, have found so many willing adherents in the East, had a more monotheistic version of Christianity won the day? This is a question that Rubenstein never asks directly. He leaves it to the reader to ask and wrestle with that question. This book should be required reading for all seekers of truth who are not content blindly to accept the dogmas that grew out of a hunger for power. Those who want to continue blindly believing doctrines that are not Biblical should not read this book. Those who don't want to be challenged by learning the uses and abuses of politics and religion when they are mixed, should not read this book. Everyone else—read this book!

Jeff Fletcher



Children's Story: Ghost in the House

Betsy Moore

About the Author:

Betsy Moore is a longtime member and teacher at the Troy View Church of God in Ohio.



As I stepped off the bus, I cheered as snowflakes danced in the air. The wind pulled at my hood and I shielded my face from the cold wind with my arm. The blustery breeze pushed me backwards as I walked down the long lane that led to my house. I could see smoke rolling from the chimney and ran to feel the warmth of the fire. Living out in the country is a pleasure but on days like today I wished I lived in town! My town friends would be gathering at David's house to build a snow fort or have a snowball fight. I had homework and chores to do before I could even think of playing in the new fallen snow.

"Hi, Michael, I'm in here," yelled mom as I entered the house. "Your dad wants you to go check on the sheep before you do anything else."

"Oh, okay," I groaned as I reached for my work coat and looked for

my barn boots.

My lamb had been born on February 14th and was a gift of love from my grandfather. I was really excited to have my own lamb and instantly named it "Valentine" in honor of its birthday. She jumped, ran, and played with the other lambs, but instantly came every time I went to the barn to feed the sheep. She followed me like a pet dog. My lamb had grown a lot in a year and was a perfect pet.

As I walked to the barn, I noticed the cold wind had erased all signs of wildlife in the bushes and trees. The birds found comfort out of the cold, winter storm and I could hear the cows mooing inside the shelter of the barn.

The barn door creaked as I pulled it against the wind to open it just wide enough to squeeze through. I was startled when I heard a low moan and I pulled the light cord that was just inside the door. Just a few steps in front of me lay Valentine with a lamb of her own. Steam was rising from the baby lamb, but it wasn't moving. Was it dead?

"Mom, Mom," I screamed as I jerked open the kitchen door. "Come quick, I need your help!" Mom grabbed her coat and a towel and raced to the barn.

"Your ewe looks fine, but this

baby needs some help," Mom explained as she began rubbing the lamb with the towel. The lamb sneezed and jerked as mom continued to rub life into its body. "Go to the house and grab a blanket and a box," Mom said.

I followed her directions as quickly as I could. With blanket and box in hand, I squeezed through the small opening in the barn door. I could see my mom was still rubbing the lamb as it wiggled. I didn't know if the wiggle was from her rubbing or if the lamb was struggling to get up. Mom continued to rub the lamb vigorously until she was exhausted.

"Michael, we need to take this little guy in the house by the fire and let him warm up," she said.

I didn't need to be told twice. I slid the box close to the lamb, wrapped it in the warm blanket, and lifted it into the box. I closed the lid and looked at my ewe that was curiously watching us. "I'll take good care of him," I promised as we took the lamb.

This was not the first time we had a baby lamb in our kitchen, but this was my first time to have complete care for my baby lamb. I got the dry milk and mixed it in warm water making sure it wasn't too hot for my new baby. I put the nipple on the bottle and walked toward the lifeless



Children's Story: Ghost in the House

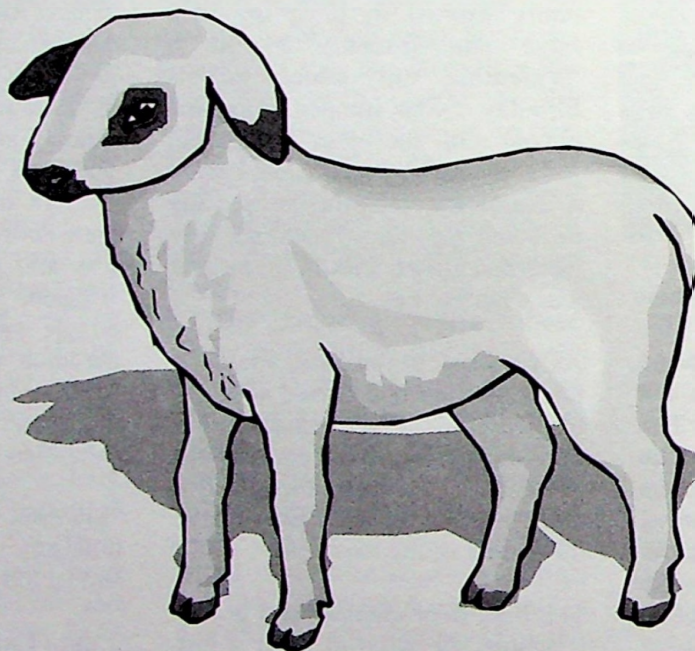
Betsy Moore

lamb. The lamb's nose was cold as I slid two fingers into its mouth and pried it open to insert the milk bottle. There was no reaction from the lamb. I sat down on the floor and placed the lamb across my lap. I lifted its head and tried a different approach. Finally, the nipple was in the lamb's mouth and milk was flowing. Was the lamb getting any nutrition or was all the milk flowing out onto my pants? I gently lay the lamb back in its box and went to clean up.

Every four hours, I went back to the box near the fireplace and tenderly picked up the lamb. I massaged it and tried to encourage it to drink. There was little life in this lamb. What could I do to get my new baby to live? For three days I continued to rub and massage and force it to eat. I set my alarm clock every four hours during the night to get up and feed the lamb.

The wind whistled outside as I lifted the box with the lamb inside and slowly walked up the stairs to my bedroom. I prayed as I walked, "Dear God, please help this baby lamb. I know this may be a silly thing to ask for, but I know you're listening and this baby needs your help. In Jesus name. Amen." I was exhausted and went right to sleep. At three

o'clock I jumped to the ringing of my alarm clock. Was it time to feed my baby again? I shook my body trying to wake up as I grabbed the bottle and shoved it into the lamb's mouth. My eyes closed as I climbed back into my warm bed and went back to sleep.



T H U M P , B U M P , CRASH! Startled, I sat up in bed! The wind was still howling outside and it sounded as if a tree had crashed through my bedroom window. But there was no cold air so what could it be? **BUMP!** There it went again! I pulled the covers over my head afraid to move. What was in my bedroom? Slowly I peeked out and saw a ghost moving against my closet door.

"**MOM, DAD, HELP!**" I screamed. The ghost ran at the sound of my voice. **THUD!** Were my mom and dad even in the house? Could they hear my desperate plea? What was happening? Something hit my bed and I bolted for the door. I pushed and pushed and the door didn't open. I felt trapped!

"**MOM, DAD, ANYBODY, HELP ME!**" I screamed in desperation. "**GET ME OUT OF HERE!**"

I turned as something hit my leg. In panic I switched on the light. There rubbing against my leg was a fuzzy, wobbly, lamb trying to snuggle. The ghost in my room was my lamb.

What was wrong with me? I asked God to help my lamb and when He did I didn't expect it. I thought my house was being haunted, but it was God's quick answer to my prayer! My lamb was nuzzling me, wanting more to eat.

After three long days my lamb was back in the barn with her mother. He would be very special to me and I wanted the perfect name! I thought and thought. The perfect name for my lamb had to be "Ghost!" Ghost would be a constant reminder to me that God does answer prayer!



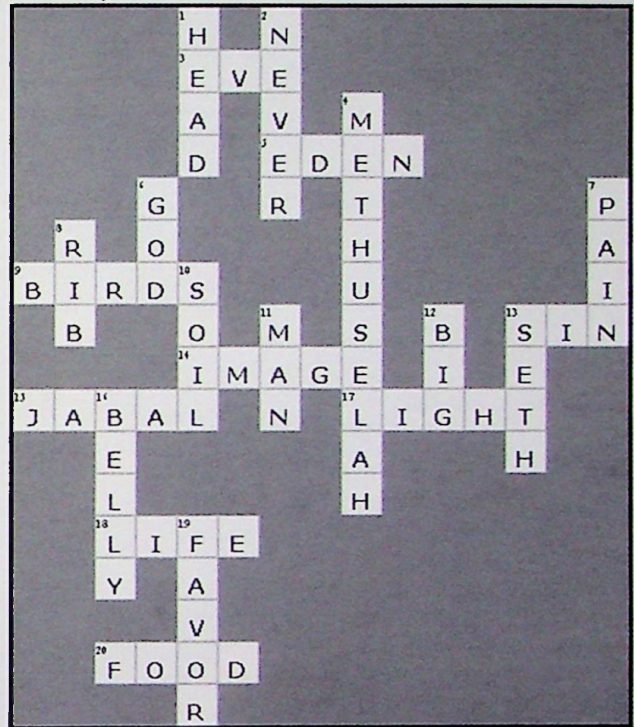
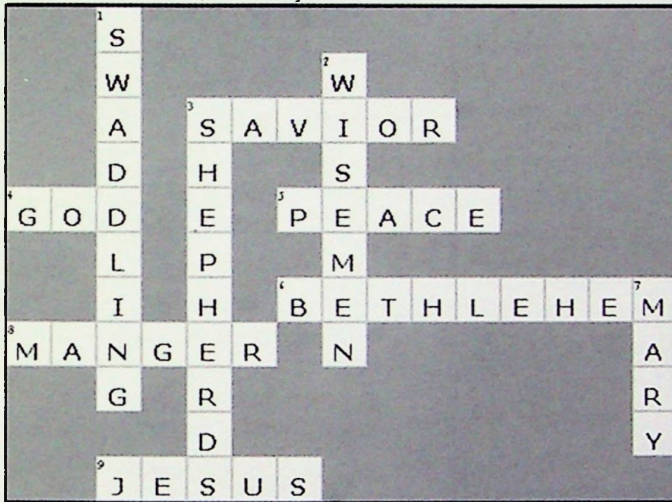
Crossword Solutions

The Restitution Herald

We present you with these four crossword solutions from previous issues of THE RESTITUTION HERALD.

February, March 2003

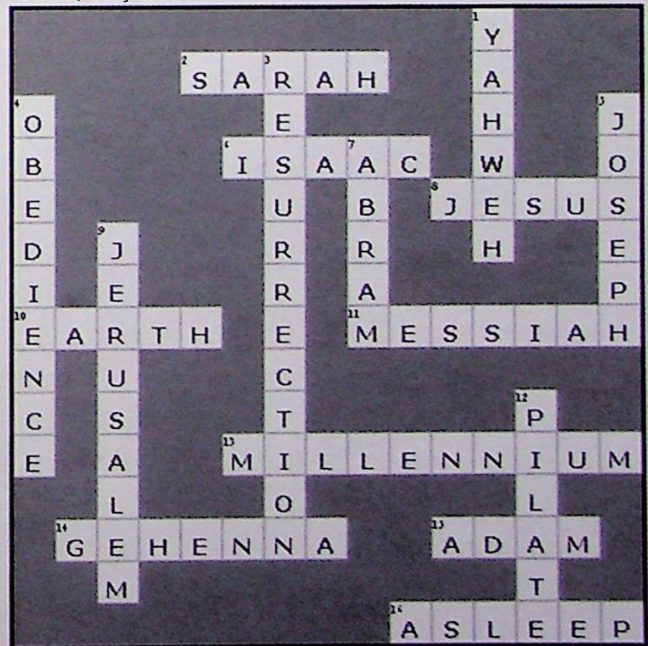
December 2002, January 2003



April, May 2003



June, July 2003

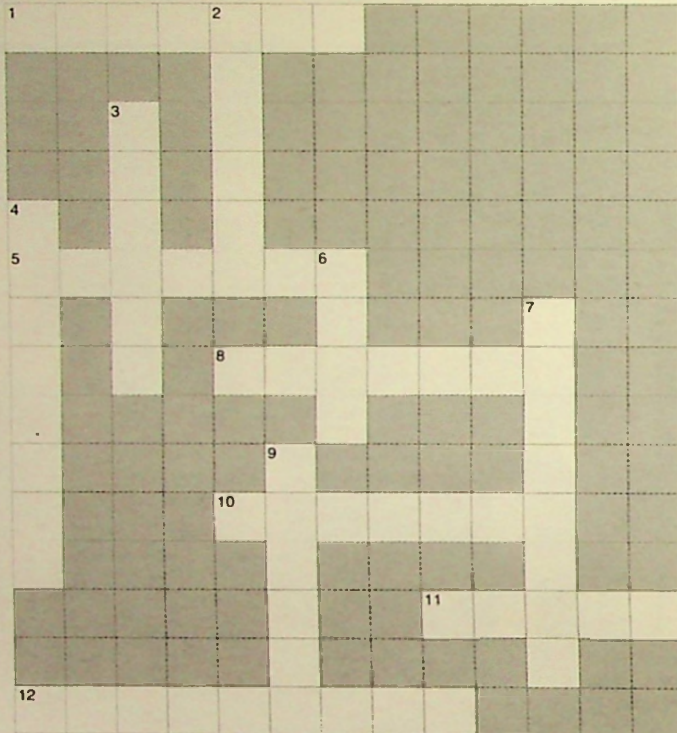




Crossword

"Psalm 1-39 (KJV)"

The Restitution Herald



Across

1. Blessed is the man that _____ not in the counsel of the ungodly. (Psa. 1:1)
5. The _____ declare the glory of God. (Psa. 19:1)
8. What is man, that thou art _____ of him? (Psa. 8:5)
10. The _____ of death compassed me. (Psa. 18:4)
11. Sweeter also than _____ and the honeycomb (Psa. 19:10)
12. The Lord is my light and my _____; whom shall I fear? (Psa. 27:1)

Down

2. Weeping may _____ for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. (Psa. 30:5)
3. Redeem _____, O God, out of all his troubles. (Psa. 25:22)
4. The Lord is my _____; I shall not want. (Psa. 23:1)
6. Remember not the _____ of my youth. (Psa. 25:7)
7. The lines are fallen unto me in _____ places; yea, I have a goodly heritage. (Psa. 16:6)
9. Into thine hand I _____ my spirit. (Psa. 31:5)

Subscription Expirations
 The five-digit number on the top right of your address label identifies the renewal date of your subscription. If the number is 2004.0, it expires with the February/March issue, 2004. A 2004.2 number means a June/July expiration. This method will assist subscribers in keeping tabs on their expiration dates and serve as a reminder for renewal.

Dear RESTITUTION HERALD,

I am writing for the following reason:

- My address label is incorrect, please note the changes.
- I am moving in the next six weeks; please send the magazine to my new address printed below.
- I wish to send a gift subscription to the person listed below. Enclosed is \$13 payment.
- Subscription renewal, payment enclosed — 1 yr. \$13, 2 yr. \$24, 3 yr. \$33. [British subscribers send U.S. funds.] Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



The Restitution Herald

P.O. Box 100,000 • Morrow, GA 30260

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 114
 TAYLORS, SC

Address Service Requested



Restitution Herald

Volume 93 Number 4

April, May 2004



I One Nation Under God

this Issue

Faiths or One Faith?
The First Easter
Children's Story
Easter Poem
Crossword



From the Editor...

“The Ten Commandments”



The following is a portion of an e-mail which I recently received from a pastoral colleague:

DID YOU KNOW?

As you walk up the steps to the building which houses the U.S. Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world’s law givers and each one is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full frontal view—it is Moses and he is holding the Ten Commandments!

DID YOU KNOW?

As you enter the Supreme Court courtroom, the two huge oak doors have the Ten Commandments engraved on each lower portion of each door.

DID YOU KNOW?

As you sit inside the courtroom, you can see the wall, right above where the Supreme Court judges sit, a display of the Ten Commandments!

DID YOU KNOW?

There are Bible verses etched in stone all over the Federal Buildings and Monuments in Washington, D.C.

DID YOU KNOW?

James Madison, the fourth president, known as “The Father of Our Constitution” made the following statement: “We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Patrick Henry, that patriot and Founding Father of our country said, “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Every session of Congress begins with a prayer by a paid preacher, whose salary has been paid by the taxpayer since 1777.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fifty-two of the fifty-five founders of the Constitution

were members of the established orthodox churches in the colonies.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of interpreting the law would begin making law . . . an oligarchy . . . the rule of few over many.

DID YOU KNOW?

The very first Supreme Court Justice, John Jay, said, “Americans should select and prefer Christians as their rulers.”

I spent my childhood living only 15 miles away from America’s Capital, Washington, D.C. With a father who also happened to be a teacher, I spent many hours visiting the buildings described above and many hours studying the history of the establishment of American Government. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I am, first and foremost, a citizen of God’s Kingdom. I live here in America as an Ambassador of the Kingdom of God to this society. (Just as I lived for several years in England doing the same thing.) My mission is to point others to the Kingdom of God. Yet I do maintain a sort of dual status

(Continued on page 17)



Table of Contents

4 When You Are Falsely Accused, Part Two
Ray C. Stedman

6 Faiths or One Faith?
Anthony Buzzard

11 The Only True God, Jesus His Son
Joe James

12 The First Easter
Lottie E. Young

14 Children's Story: The Lamb
Betsy Moore

16 Easter Poem
George Herbert

18 Special General Conference Section
Church of God General Conference

19 Crossword Solutions
The Restitution Herald

20 Crossword
The Restitution Herald

THE RESTITUTION HERALD
VOLUME 93, NUMBER 4;
APRIL, MAY 2004 ©2004.

EDITOR
JEFF FLETCHER

PUBLISHING SPECIALIST
JUSTIN TAYLOR

PROOFREADER
SARAH BUZZARD

MAILING AND SUBSCRIPTIONS
MARCY CLY

ADDRESS EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: JEFF FLETCHER, 130 WAYNE ST., PONCHATOU LA, LA 70454. E-mail: happywoodsg@i-55.com

WEBSITE
<http://www.abc-coggc.org>

ADDRESS MAILING AND SUBSCRIPTION CORRESPONDENCE TO:
THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: MARCY CLY, P. O. BOX 100,000, MORROW, GA 30260 (E-MAIL ADDRESS: info@abc-coggc.org).

PERMISSIONS: Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference grants permission for any original article (not a reprint) to be photocopied or duplicated for use without charge, provided the material is distributed free and the copies indicate the name of the publication and the name of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference, and our mailing address.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD IS OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY THE CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE, A NONPROFIT CHRISTIAN CORPORATION LOCATED AT 5823 TRAMMELL ROAD, P.O. BOX 100,000, MORROW, GA 30260. THE HERALD IS MAILED SIX TIMES A YEAR. THE RESTITUTION HERALD ADVOCATES:

- THE ONENESS OF GOD (1 COR. 8:6)
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S POWER (ACTS 1:8)
- JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (MATT. 16:16) AND IS OUR MEDIATOR (1 TIM. 2:5)
- THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (2 TIM. 3:16)
- THE MORTALITY OF MAN (JOB 4:17, PSA 146:4)
- THE NEAR RETURN OF CHRIST (ACTS 1:11) AND LIFE ONLY THROUGH HIM (COL. 3:3)
- THE LITERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (JOHN 5:28)
- THE IMMORTALIZATION OF THOSE IN CHRIST (1 COR. 15:53, 54)
- THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED (REV. 21:8)
- THE FINAL RESTORATION OF ISRAEL AS THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNDER THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (LUKE 1:32)
- THE CHURCH TO BE JOINED HEIRS WITH HIM (ROM. 8:17) AND ISRAEL TO BE MADE HEAD OVER GENTILE NATIONS (ISA. 60:13)
- THE "RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS WHICH GOD HATH SPOKEN BY THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN" (ACTS 3:21)
- IT ALSO FIRMLY ADVOCATES REPENTANCE AND IMMERSION IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (ACTS 2:38) AND A CONSECRATED LIFE AS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION.



When You Are Falsely Accused, Part Two

Ray C. Stedman



About the Author:

Mr. Stedman was pastor of Peninsula Bible Church in Palo Alto, California for 40 years until his retirement in 1990. He had preached more than 800 sermons at PBC and authored 28 books. Pastor Stedman passed away in 1992.

[Continued from the February, March 2004 issue of THE RESTITUTION HERALD.]

But he also understands something else. He understands that God's name is involved in all this. When God's people are being persecuted then God is also being persecuted. His name is involved in it. It is up to God to defend that name, not man. Recall that when Saul of Tarsus was converted on the Damascus road and the Lord Jesus appeared to him in light brighter than the sun, that Saul cried out to him and said, "Lord, who are you?" Jesus said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." Saul was persecuting the Christians, but when he was persecuting them he was also persecuting the Lord. God is involved in his people's trials. God is involved in what happens to his own. The Psalmist,

understanding this, commits the whole cause to God and says, "God, you deal with it. It is your problem. Your name is involved; you handle it on my behalf for your name's sake." Is that not a thoroughly Christian reaction? Listen to Peter as he shows us that this was exactly the reaction of the Lord Jesus, himself.

**He committed no sin; no guile was found on his lips. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he trusted to him who judges justly.
(1 Pet. 2:22-23, RSV)**

Peter says he has left us an example that we should follow in his steps. He trusted himself to him who judges justly.

Dr. F. B. Meyer has said,

We make a mistake in trying always to clear ourselves. We should be wiser to go straight on, humbly doing the next thing, and leaving God to vindicate us. "He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noon day." There may come hours in our lives when we shall be misunderstood, slandered, falsely accused. At such times it is very difficult not to act on the policy of the men around us in the world. They at once appeal to law and force and public opinion. But the believer takes his case into a higher

court and lays it before his God.

That is what this man has done. He has laid it before God. Then he cries out for strength. He himself is in need.

**For I am poor and needy, and my heart is stricken within me.
I am gone, like a shadow at evening,
I am shaken off like a locust.
My knees are weak through fasting;
my body has become gaunt.
(Psa. 109:22-24, RSV)**

It is a difficult thing to endure slander. It is hard; it does something to you; takes something out of you. When I read this my reaction was, "Lord, is this what I do to people when I accuse them? Is this what I have done to others? Made them feel like this? What an awful thing!" This man cries out to God for help in his physical weakness, in his humiliation and the scorn that he feels heaped upon him.

Then he asks for vindication, and he does it on two grounds.

Help me. O Lord my God!

**Save me according to thy steadfast love!
Let them know that this is thy hand;
thou, O Lord, hast done it!
let them curse, but do thou bless!
(Psa. 109:26-28a, RSV)**



When You Are Falsely Accused, Part Two

Ray C. Stebbins

The version as we have it puts the next two sentences in the optative mood, i.e., "may this happen," "let this happen." It should, however, be stated in the indicative: it is really a statement of fact.

**My assailants shall be put to shame,
and thy servant shall be glad!**

**My accusers shall be clothed with dishonor;
they shall be wrapped in their own shame as in a mantle!**

(Psa. 109:28b-2, Indicative Mood)

Now notice what this man is doing. He is asking God to vindicate him, but to do it in such a way as to reveal the fact that God is doing it. He says, "Now, Lord, let them curse. I can't stop them, and you may not choose to, but if you let them curse, bless me anyhow so that they will see that you are not cursing me; it is they who are doing it. Give me inner strength, inner blessing, so that I can remain calm, untroubled and undistressed in the midst of the cursing. Then men will see that it is your hand that is holding me up, your hand that is strengthening me. Second, do it in such a way as to make the accusers ashamed of themselves." Now he does not mean "put to shame" in the sense of heaping scorn and humiliation upon them; he means let them be ashamed of themselves, let them see the facts in such a light that eventually they'll be sorry, be ashamed, that they ever attempted anything like this, because it is so unjustified. "Lord, vindicate me in that way."

Once again this is exactly in line with the New Testament. Again in First Peter, Chapter 3, Peter says,

And [you who are abused] keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame (1 Pet. 3:16, RSV).

It is the same thing, you see. If you are in this situation, keep your conscience clear. Don't return in kind. Don't strike back. Don't curse, don't revile, don't attack, don't try to get even, don't avenge yourself; but walk with God. Those who revile your good behavior will be brought to shame, brought at last to the place where they are ashamed of themselves. Someone has beautifully expressed that truth this way:

When you are neglected or snubbed or insulted, and you're able to thank God for the experience, accepting it as allowed by him for your spiritual development, that is victory.

When you're seeking to serve him faithfully and you find yourself criticized severely for the way you do it, and you accept the criticism patiently for his sake—that is victory.

When you are slandered and your motives are impugned and you do not complain but receive it in love and as a measure of the filling up of that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ—that is

victory.

Such a victory can only be won in the yieldedness of self to Christ. "Thanks be to God who causes me to triumph through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

This is the note on which this psalm closes. It is a note of ringing affirmation, of confidence:

With my mouth I will give great thanks to the Lord:

**I will praise him in the midst of the throng.
For he stands at the right hand of the needy,
to save him from those who condemn him to death (Psa. 109:30-31, RSV).**

Recall that in Verse 6 this man's enemies had wanted to appoint an accuser to stand at his right hand and condemn him. But he closes the psalm by saying that he realizes it is God who stands at the right hand of the needy. God who makes their cause his own. God who knows a thousand ways to work it all out without violence, without the perpetuation of hatred, without the destruction of lives: to bring truth to light and to establish the facts in such a way that even the accusers will be ashamed of themselves that they ever attempted such a thing. How wise it is to commit our cause to God in times like this.

© Copyright 1995, Discovery Publishing.



Faiths or One Faith?

Part One

Anthony Buzzard



About the Author:

Anthony Buzzard teaches at Atlanta Bible College and is the author of several books including "Our Fathers Who Aren't in Heaven."

Current concern over the nomination of a Democratic candidate illustrates America's uncertainty about what "the faith" and "the Gospel" are. Politicians recognize that voters generally care about the spiritual life of potential leaders. An investigation into the faith journeys of the various candidates provides us with typical histories of uncertainty and disunity. There is little clarity about where the Christian faith really lies—in this or that denomination, in churchgoing or no churchgoing, in Jesus or some vague spirituality, in one faith or many faiths. All brands of "belief" seem to be represented. None must be

promoted as better than others. This "ecumenical" outlook is typical of the populace as a whole. *World* magazine (Jan. 24, 2004) heads its article "Keeping the Faiths," faiths, plural. But can we honestly refer to *faiths* in the name of Christ? Is there more than one Christianity? Is not denominationalism really an admission that we have departed from the standard of the New Testament? Is an appeal to the Golden Rule, which appears in all the great religions, as the *only thing* that really matters in faith, a valid justification for the "ecumenical" view that "all religious paths lead to the same God and the same salvation"?

It would be comforting to think so. But it seems to us that the New Testament is dead against such an idea. First of all the biblical writers are consistently pessimistic about the state of things this side of the Second Coming. Satan is said to be "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4).

The sublunar space is described by Paul as the residence of demonic forces, "cormorants" (Eph. 6:12), the first-century word for astral deities who control much of what goes on here below.

John's final comment on the state of the world is this: "The whole world lies in the power of the evil one" (1 John 5:19)—hopelessly given over to the Devil. "Satan is now the deceiver of the whole world" (Rev. 12:9). Are these the statements of gloomy prophets only, or do they represent reality and the only truly intelligent world

view?

For those of us committed to Scripture as the revelation of the divine mind, these ominous statements must carry much weight. Not that Jesus has not overcome the world nor that believers in Truth cannot "take courage." But how do we arrive at Truth amidst all the claims and all the competing Christian (and other) voices?

It is clear that runners for political office have not solved this problem. Here is what *World* magazine discovered when it investigated the spiritual journeys of the Democratic candidates, who surely must be reckoned amongst the most intelligent and gifted of their generation—able in some measure to command the respect and admiration of thousands of other human beings.

One candidate began as Episcopal, but now does not go to church. He has spent time with Judaism and the Congregationalists. His favorite New Testament book is Job. Another seeker for public office is a convinced New Ager, vegan and devotee of Shirley MacLaine. His strength lies as he said in being immersed "in contemplation of a world beyond our experience, one of spirit, of mysticism, one which sees the potential of the country as unfolding in a multidimensional way." Another candidate was raised as a Baptist and converted to Roman Catholicism and now attends a Presbyterian church, but still sometimes goes to Mass. Yet another runner is Roman Catholic



Faiths or One Faith?

Part One

Anthony Buzzard

and claims to be very private about his religion and very rarely attends Mass. Another is a Methodist, formerly a Southern Baptist who fell away from church in his college years, returning to the Bible after a tragic death in his immediate family. He says he is "very, very careful" not to allow his faith to influence his policies.

Yet another candidate started preaching in a Pentecostal church at the age of four and was ordained by the congregation at the age of nine. He says he believes in gay marriage and would be willing to perform the ceremony. The most religiously dedicated of the candidates is not Christian but Jewish and would not be willing to work or campaign on the Sabbath.

The New Testament presents a very stark contrast to the current muddle over what Christianity is. Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, issued an urgent warning even before the end of the first century that Christians should make a strenuous effort to hang on to the one true faith. He described genuine spirituality, the religion based on Jesus and his teaching, as "the faith once and for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). Jude obviously understood the Christian faith to be a single, clearly defined deposit and tradition handed down from Jesus and the Apostles. It was a fixed entity. It had been defined "once and for all" and it needed to be conscientiously clung to. It was a faith needing to be contended for with urgency. "Loved ones, I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation [in the

singular]. But I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith which was once and for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 3).

To be a Christian implied a constant battle for an exclusive truth. Why? "Admission has been secretly gained by some who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly persons who pervert the grace of God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ" (v. 4).

New Testament Christianity is never a mass of conflicting opinions, nor a plethora of divided denominations. The ideal for which Paul strove is made utterly clear. After reminding the Corinthians that they had been "enriched in Jesus with all speech and knowledge" (I Cor. 1:5), he immediately appealed to them "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you but that you be perfectly united in the same mind and the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10). He went on to deplore the incipient denominationalism reported by Chloe's family: "There is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul,' or 'I belong to Apollos,' or 'I belong to Cephas [Peter],' or 'I belong to Christ.' Is Christ divided . . . were you baptized in the name of Paul?" (vv. 11-13). The implied answer of course is that Christ is not divided and that division in Christianity points only to one thing: something has gone wrong with the faith. Alien elements have

been introduced into it. The teachings of Jesus have been distorted and perverted. The result is division and disharmony. The faith is no longer recognizable as one religion.

What has gone wrong? In our New Testament survey class at Atlanta Bible College, I mention that the most terrific words of Jesus are found at the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount:

"Struggle to enter [the Kingdom of God] by the narrow way, because the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to Life and those who find it are few" (Matt. 7:13, 14).

And then in the same breath, as an explanation for the difficulty of walking the narrow path:

"Beware of false preachers who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? So, every sound tree cannot bear evil fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits. Not every one who says to me 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day [the



Faiths or One Faith?

Part One

Anthony Buzzard

future day of the arrival of the Kingdom] many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not preach in your name, and cast out demons in your name and do many mighty miracles in your name?' And then I will make this announcement to them, 'I never recognized you; depart from me, you evildoers'" (Matt. 7:15-23).

Who will deny that these words of Jesus are alarming? The road to destruction is the popular one, and it is filled with professing "Christians." The "many" will have been thoroughly convinced that they were preaching and even performing exorcisms and miracles *in the name of Jesus*, as his representatives, and yet will suffer the bitter disappointment when Jesus comes back that they had been completely deceived.

I think that the words of Jeremiah 23 were in Jesus' mind when he uttered these extraordinary warnings. "'Woe to the pastors who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!' says the Lord. Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the pastors who care for my people: 'You have scattered my flock, and have driven them away and have not attended to them. Behold I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and I will bring them back to their fold, and they will be fruitful and multiply [they will also bear good fruit] . . . Behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord, 'when I will raise up for David a righteous

Branch [the Messiah] and he will reign as king and act righteously and he will execute justice and righteousness *in the land*. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in security. And this is the name which will be given to him, 'The Lord is our righteousness' . . . Then they will dwell in their own land'" (23:1-8).

Jeremiah is appalled at the deceptive power of the religion of his day. "Concerning the preachers: my heart is broken within me . . . because of the Lord and because of his holy words" (v. 9). It is the wholesale departure from Scripture which is so painful. "For the land is full of adulterers . . . their course is evil and their might is not right. 'Both prophet and priest are ungodly; even in my house I have found their wickedness,' says the Lord" (vv. 10, 11). The rest of the passage should be consulted: "Do not listen to the words of the preachers who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes; they are speaking visions of their own imagination, not from the mouth of the Lord. They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, 'It will be well with you' and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No evil will come on you.' For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to perceive His word, or who has given heed to His word and listened?" (vv. 16-18).

We have here firstly a brilliant picture of the Messianic future presented in page after page of the prophets and thoroughly confirmed by the New Testament. But

Jeremiah's description of the Christian future is far removed from the popular teaching about Christian destiny.

The Christian future has nothing to do with "going to heaven" at death. The biblical vision is constantly directed toward a renewed and peaceful society *in the land* and on the earth. Jesus is coming back to the earth. He is not swooping down toward the earth and then doing a "U-turn" to disappear again by departing into the heavens. That would not be a Second *Coming* at all. It would be a temporary visit, a sort of "drive-by" episode which does not correspond at all to the promise that "this same Jesus will come in exactly the same way as you saw him leave" (Acts 1:11).

It is not Jesus who makes a "U-turn." He will not snatch up the saints and make off to heaven with them. It is the raptured saints (post-tribulation rapture: "immediately after [post] tribulation he will gather the elect"—Matt. 24:29-31) who are to ascend in the clouds to meet the Lord Jesus as he comes toward the earth. It is those raptured believers who make the U-turn and escort the arriving dignitary to the earth. Jesus belongs on the restored throne of David in Jerusalem. Gabriel promised that Mary's miraculously begotten son would inherit that royal throne and reign as king permanently in the land restored (Luke 1:32-35). This has plainly never happened.

Is that picture of the royal Davidic climax to God's amazing plan for the earth clear in the minds of



Faiths or One Faith?

Part One

Anthony Buzzard

churchgoers? Clarity on that point involves clarity on the Gospel itself. The Gospel as Jesus preached it was about the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is the restored Kingdom of David (Acts 1:3, 6; Matt. 19:28; Luke 22:28-30). The Gospel announces in advance the solution to the intractable question of who owns *the land*. The answer of course is that the land belongs to God, and He has graciously conferred the right to rule in and over it to His Messiah Jesus. And the Messiah himself has with equal generosity agreed to involve the Christians in the supervision of that coming Messianic government of the world, with headquarters in a renewed and peaceful Jerusalem (Isa. 2:1-6; Dan. 2:44; 7:27).

This truth is hardly central in the popular gospel of today. This unclarity about what the Gospel is, we suggest, lies at the root of all the confusion and division demonstrated by current denominationalism. While the word "Gospel" is heard often, a *definition* of the Gospel which matches the New Testament is conspicuous by its absence. Gospel is equivalent to Christianity.

The Christian faith *is* the Gospel, and there is only one Gospel, to be guarded and preserved with all the strength we can muster. Paul was bitterly opposed to a distortion of the Gospel. It brought forth by far his toughest apostolic denunciation—on any who would dare to pervert the sacred, saving Message. Galatians 1:6-8 "I am

astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and turning to a different Gospel — not that there is another Gospel, but there are some who are disturbing you and want to pervert the Gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a Gospel contrary to that which we preached to you let him be accursed."

The Gospel presented by the New Testament has a very clear label. It is called by Jesus and by the Gospel writers "**the Gospel about the Kingdom of God/Kingdom of Heaven**" (the two expressions are synonymous). Matthew reports that first John the Baptist announced the saving Gospel of the Kingdom (Matt. 3:1, 2). By Kingdom John obviously meant the day of reckoning when the Messiah would return and "burn up the chaff," those who did not bear fruit as good "trees," and welcome the wheat, the true believers, into the barn of the Kingdom.

Two outcomes. Two alternate destinies: The barn or the bonfire. No wonder the people were amazed at this teaching! Jesus followed John's ministry with precisely the same Gospel proclamation. He too preached "**the Gospel of the Kingdom**" throughout all Galilee (Matt. 4:23; 9:35). This task of preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom was Jesus' career activity. His own mission statement was declared with simple clarity when he refused to remain in one location. "I must preach **the Gospel of the**

Kingdom of God to the other cities also: that is the reason for which I was commissioned" (Luke 4:43).

Would this not then inevitably be the mission statement of the Christian churches? Did not the Great Commission mandate the continuation, during the temporary absence of Jesus, of everything that he had taught as Gospel: "Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all the nations, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that I taught you" (Matt. 28:19, 20). "This Gospel of the Kingdom will be announced in all the inhabited earth and then the end [of the present age] will come" (Matt. 24:14).

We would invite our readers to listen carefully to sermons and Bible studies. Is it clear that the current Gospel is in fact *the Gospel about the Kingdom of God*? Do pew sitters, if asked to define the Gospel, instinctively take their cue from Jesus' definition of the Gospel as *about the Kingdom*? Do sermons resound from the pulpits expounding not only the definition of the Gospel as the Gospel of the Kingdom but also the meaning of the Kingdom of God as the heart of the saving Message—as a synonym in fact of biblical Christianity? And is the biblical procedure for gaining entrance into that future Kingdom of God plainly stated in Christian offers of "salvation"?

We suggest that there is a glaring absence of the phrase "Gospel of



Faiths or One Faith?

Part One

Anthony Buzzard

the Kingdom.” And if this phrase is so obviously typical of the language of Jesus and Paul (Luke 4:43, etc.; Acts 20:25; 19:8; 28:23, 31) would not the absence of this defining marker of the faith be a cause for alarm and concern?

A leading evangelism expert, Dr. Mortimer Arias (*Announcing the Reign of God*, Fortress Press, 1984), observed: “We seem to be faced with what can be called an eclipse of the Kingdom of God lasting from the apostolic age to the present, particularly in our theology of evangelization.” He adds: “The Kingdom of God is God’s own dream, His project for the world and for humanity! He makes us dreamers and He wants us to be seduced by His dream and to dream with Him . . . It is not we who dream but God who dreams in us.”

Arias admitted: “When I left the seminary I had no clear idea of the Kingdom of God and I had no place in my theology for the second coming, the Parousia . . . I had no concerns about the future. Thousands of books are printed and circulated every year on evangelization; most of these fall into the category of ‘how to’ manuals for churches (devising plans, strategies, methodologies and goals) . . . our traditional mini-theologies (the ‘plan of salvation’ or ‘four spiritual laws’) do not do justice to the whole Gospel. Not all this activity or activism is a sign of health or creativity . . . The Good News of the Kingdom is not the usual way we describe the gospel and

evangelization . . . The Kingdom of God has practically disappeared from evangelistic preaching and has been ignored by traditional ‘evangelism.’ The evangelistic message has been centered in personal salvation, individual conversion, and incorporation into the church. The Kingdom of God as a parameter or perspective or as content of the proclamation has been *virtually absent* . . . Those interested in evangelization have not yet been interested in the Kingdom theme . . . Why not try Jesus’ own definition of his Mission—and ours? For Jesus, evangelization was no more and no less than announcing the Kingdom of God” (emphasis added).

This remarkably discerning critique of what goes under the name of “gospel” should be taken seriously. Could it be that the heart of the faith has been “gutted” and that this tragedy could be easily identified and rectified by comparing Jesus’ Gospel preaching with the content of what is now thought to be the Gospel? The definition of Christianity is at stake.

Albert Schweitzer contributed a valuable critical analysis of what has gone so wrong: “What Paul firmly grasped was later lost hold of—the inner connection between the idea of redemption in Jesus Christ and a **living belief in the Kingdom of God**. When Christianity became Hellenized [polluted and perverted by alien Greek thinking] there grew up an idea of redemption which no longer stood within that of the

Kingdom of God, but alongside it. And thus it has continued through the centuries . . . In Catholicism and the Protestantism of the Reformers, both of which had their structures determined by the form which Christianity has taken in the process of being Hellenized, Christian doctrine is dominated by the idea of redemption based on the atoning death of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. Alongside this the belief in the Kingdom of God maintains a not too vigorous existence” (*Mysticism of Paul the Apostle*).

The biblical Gospel of Jesus, the Gospel as he preached it, places the divine future clearly before the potential convert. What Jesus presents is a vision of coming judgment here on earth, never a judgment to take place in an invisible subterranean hell, and never the promise of a supercelestial disembodied existence in “heaven.”

[To be continued in the next issue of THE RESTITUTION HERALD.]



The Only True God, Jesus His Son

Joe James

About the Author:

Joe is a member of the Guthrie Grove Church of God and a long time leader in the General Conference having served on many boards and committees.

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). Before his arrest and crucifixion, Jesus very intensively prayed an intercessory prayer on behalf of his disciples and those who would follow. This prayer is recorded in John 17. In praying Jesus recognized his Father, the God of creation, as the **only true God**. We too, in our prayers and other acts of worship should follow the example of Jesus, the **only begotten Son of God**, by recognizing God as the **only true God**. To know God is to have a relationship with Him and to be submissive to His will. To know Jesus involves accepting him as savior and following him as Lord of our lives. If we do these then eternal life is promised.

God expected Israel to be monotheistic in their belief, belief in one God. “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord” (Deut. 6:4). This is a very simple and important truth. Jesus expressed this belief in his prayer. As followers of Jesus we are to accept the truth that there is only one who is the true God. God is “from everlasting to everlasting”. He has always existed and will never cease to exist. God has not and will not die. Jesus, on the other hand, was conceived, born of a woman, grew up, died, and was

resurrected. Prior to his conception and birth, Jesus existed only in the divine plan (*logos*) of God as expressed in chapter one of the Gospel of John. Jesus prayed to God and honored God as his Father. One should question any other teaching than that given in the Holy Word. It is simple, God is the Father, Jesus is the Son of God.

The apostles taught the oneness and supremacy of God. Paul stated in I Cor. 8:4, “we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and there is no other God but one.” He further emphasizes in verses 5 and 6, “For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or earth (as there are gods many, and lords many), but to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” Paul also stated in Eph. 4:6, “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

Psalm 90:2 exclaims, “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” It is comforting to know that the **only true God** is eternal. He has always existed and will never cease to exist. In Rev. 4:8 God is described and praised as “the Lord God Almighty” and in Rev. 19:6 as “the Lord God omnipotent.” This gives us assurance that our all-powerful God is in control and His divine plan will prevail. God through the prophet Isaiah proclaimed in Isa. 46:9, 10 that “I am God, and there

is none else; I am God, and there is none like me” and that He is able to declare the end from the beginning. These attributes of God are to be ascribed to God only.

Jesus Christ is the most important person in God’s plan for the ages. In contrast with God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Jesus was begotten, born of a woman, suffered and died sacrificially, was raised from the dead and now is at the right hand of God. Jesus will remain in heaven until the time in God’s plan for Jesus to return to earth to reign from Jerusalem. We look forward to the return of Christ and for the Kingdom which he will establish. Only then will peace prevail.

Paul writing to Timothy, I Tim. 2:5, states, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” Paul makes a distinction between God and Jesus Christ who is performing his priestly work as our mediator and high priest. Sin separated man from our Holy God. Through Jesus, God’s son and our mediator, we may have access to and a relationship with God. We are thankful that God sent Jesus and loved us so much that He gave His only begotten son (John 3:16). God indeed is a loving and merciful God of grace.

The hope of eternal life must be very important to everyone. The hope of resurrection and immortality at Christ’s coming can be ours if we develop a saving relationship with the **only true God** and with **Jesus Christ, the Son of God**.



The First Easter

Lottie E. Young

About the Author:

Lottie Young was an early worker in the Church of God. She served on the Board of Directors of the General Conference in the 1920s.



This article is taken from the March 26, 1929 issue of THE RESTITUTION HERALD.

I feel sure all Christians have pictured to themselves the first Easter morning when the women

who had ministered to the Lord Jesus in his daily life started for the tomb which they thought held the body of their beloved Master, questioning on the way as to who should be able to roll away the great stone from the mouth of the

sepulcher; how, as they stood perplexed after finding an empty tomb, and affrighted as "two men in dazzling apparel" said, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen," afterwards with what hurrying feet must they have returned to Jerusalem to tell this wonderful story to the apostles! But even though we may have a realistic picture of what happened so long ago, if we went to Palestine, and looked for the place where the Lord lay, I wonder how many would feel that their imagination was verified by what they would see. When I was on the boat going to the Holy Land, I was asked if I had any delusions or illusions about Palestine. I replied that I did not think any existed in my mind, but when I reached there and was visiting the places where Jesus Christ had walked and talked, I felt constantly a little twinge of disappointment, as there was so much uncertainty about everything connected with the life of the Master. "Perhaps", "doubtless", "tradition says so", and similar phrases accompanied the marked out points of interest mentioned in the Bible as associated with the One who spake as never man spake.

Of course we should remember that Jesus Christ had few friends when He died, and most of them



The First Easter

Lottie E. Young

of the poorer class; besides, burial places in that far off day did not have the care bestowed upon them that we love to give to the green beds of our dear ones. I do not believe the apostles had any idea as to how great an extent the teachings of the Lord would spread, and as they were soon scattered, very likely little attention was paid to the place where the Savior of the world lay when He was three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. It was not until the fourth century when Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire, and the mother of the Emperor Constantine became interested in the earthly life of the Lord Jesus Christ, that a search for the tomb was made. In the years which had elapsed between his death and about 350 A. D. Jerusalem had been conquered, the Temple destroyed, the palaces laid waste, and the followers of Christ dispersed into many different parts of the world.

Now I will take you to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher as it stands today, tradition asserting that it covers Calvary as well as the tomb. The Chapel of the Crucifixion is in the second story of the church, so we must climb up a steep flight of stairs before we can stand in a little room crowded with lamps, which are incrustated with gold and silver. In front of a rich altar is a silver star marking the place in the rock where the cross stood, according to our conductor, and close beside it a crevice in the stone which we

are told is the very break in the rock that was made when Christ perished on the cross, the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in twain. Down dark steps we stumble and then enter the Chapel of the Angels. In the very center of this is a very tiny chapel with a door so low you have to stoop to enter, and this covers the holy sepulcher itself. Many pendant lamps are hanging here, made of gold and silver, while mass is celebrated daily by different Christian sects—Roman and Greek Catholics, Copts, Armenians.

This is where millions of men and women have come to pay homage to the One who was "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" for hundreds of years, but about half a century ago a tomb was discovered, which may have belonged to Joseph of Arimathea, as some competent to judge claim it to be the veritable place where the Lord lay between His death and resurrection. The afternoon I spent in the garden where it is situated I consider the most vivid picture of my trip. Cut out of the living rock is a room about eight feet square, and there must have been a huge stone to block the entrance, which explains the fears of the women as they came to embalm their Lord. There is a hole in the roof through which the light could have revealed to the one who "stooping down and looking in saw the linen clothes lying", and also to Mary Magdalene who saw angels sitting, the one at the head and the

other at the foot where the body of Jesus had lain in a depression on the stone floor. Here are no buildings, no church of any kind, no lamps; only a lovely garden full of flowering trees and shrubs, with birds singing. A short distance away is a hill somewhat resembling a skull, which may be the veritable Calvary. We went through Damascus Gate in the old wall to reach this place, and I like to think of this garden as associated with our Savior rather than the gaudy and gorgeous ornaments with which the Romanist church has filled the place they claim as the one where He suffered and rested.

Since my visit to this quiet spot my mind has a clearer picture of the wonderful event which took place on Easter Sunday morning so many centuries ago when He who had conquered death and the grave came forth with everlasting life. May all His followers rejoice at this and the promise He gave, "Because I live, ye shall live also." And as the words, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God" were written to give comfort to the Thessalonian church, so may they also strengthen us who are living in these "last days."



Children's Story: The Lamb

Betsy Moore

About the Author:

Betsy Moore is a longtime member and teacher at the Troy View Church of God in Ohio.



Michael shielded his eyes from the bright sun as he walked out the door toward the barn. The mound of sooty snow was a constant reminder of the long hard winter. The crocuses were peeking out from underneath the cold blanket of dirt in the flowerbed to proclaim spring was on its way. Michael thought, "These flowers are God's gift to me to let me know warm weather is coming soon." Michael reached down and picked a handful of delicate purple-blue flowers to surprise his mom.

Inside the barn, he hurried to feed and water the chickens and gather the eggs. The flowers covered the eggs as he placed them safe inside the kitchen. He ran back down the hill and jumped the fence to save time getting to the sheep barn. The noise of the sheep inside the barn was enough to make the door burst open by itself. Michael laughed, thinking of the sheep anxiously waiting for him to give them freedom. The bleating sheep got louder as he turned the door knob. He recognized the weak "baaa" of his baby lamb, Ghost, and pulled opened the door. The barn yard instantly filled with running,

jumping sheep. Ghost flew across the barnyard and danced in the sunshine. Michael laughed at the silly sight. Ghost heard the voice of his master and clumsily collided with another lamb as he tried to get to Michael. The oily feel of the curly wool made Michael's fingers tingle as he rubbed Ghost. "Sorry, I can't massage you more but I've got a big day planned," Michael explained to Ghost as he climbed the fence in a hurry to get back to the house.

"Michael, do you want to play a game with Rachel and me?" Mom asked as he entered the door.

"Sure," Michael replied, "but I thought we had to clean the house for our company."

"This is a new game I played at Grandma's," Rachel explained. "It's a new fun way of cleaning the house with lots of surprises!"

"I've never heard of a fun way to clean the house, but I'm ready to try any new game," Michael said.

"This jar is filled with things to do," Rachel explained. "You draw a paper and I draw a paper. If there is a star at the top of the paper, we each do the job on our own but if there is a heart at the top of the paper, whatever the paper says, we do together. I want to name our job jar a special name but I can't think of anything special. Can you help me, Michael?"

"Let's just get started on the game and I'll be thinking of a name for the jar while we play. Who gets to draw first?" Michael

asked.

"The youngest goes first," Rachel replied with a smile on her face as she reached inside the jar and lifted out the first slip of paper.

"My turn," Michael said, as he reached into the jar and pulled out a paper.

"This is my kind of game," Michael said as he flashed the paper to show Rachel.

"Here's a quarter for you, Michael and a quarter for Rachel, now you can pick another paper, Michael," Mom said.

Michael was excited about this new game and instantly grabbed another paper. The game continued with lots of surprises. Rachel's favorite paper was to make cookies. Michael liked the paper that said, "Take a break and play your favorite game." At lunch time Rachel and Michael were searching for more papers inside an empty jar and the house was spotless. To celebrate a job well done with no complaints, they decided to go out for lunch.

As they were going out the door the phone rang. "It's for you, Michael, the pastor wants to speak to you," Mom said.

"What could he want?" Michael wondered as he answered the phone. The look on Michael's face was unexpected. Rachel couldn't wait until he got off the phone to see what the pastor wanted.

Michael hung the phone up calmly and then exploded with excitement and jumped up and



Children's Story: The Lamb

Betsy Moore

down. "The pastor wants me to bring Ghost to church Sunday for his sermon. Can I? Can I? Can I, please, Mom and Dad?" Michael begged.

How could they say no? "Of course you can take your lamb to church with you Sunday, but you'll have to keep him under control," they said.

"What does the pastor want with your lamb?" Rachel whispered.

"Look. LOOK at the church sign!" Michael yelled as they passed. "I should have told the pastor my lamb's name was Ghost. Then he could have put Ghost on the message board instead of 'The Lamb.' I can't wait to tell Justin, Natalie and David the preacher is going to talk about my lamb on Sunday."

Michael woke up early Sunday morning and hurried to the barn to get Ghost. He wanted to wash him before they went to church. The pastor made him feel special by asking to use the lamb for the service. Michael really liked the pastor. He had gone to watch Michael's ball games and they had even gone to McDonald's together. The pastor was his friend and he appreciated being able to help out with the morning message.

The pianist began to play and Michael giggled as he watched the box on stage wiggle and wobble. Ghost was a small lamb but had plenty of energy to jump right out of the box. Thank goodness the movement in the box stopped as everyone sang.

Michael was surprised when the pastor began the message by

talking of a lamb that had been killed. Michael was very glad his lamb had lived. He remembered what a tough start Ghost had and the hours he spent rubbing the lamb and feeding him with a bottle. His hard work and prayer paid off. It took three long days for Ghost to get the energy to walk on his own and drink. All the work was worth it and it made Michael feel proud to be able to share his lamb with all the church people.

The pastor kept talking about the lamb that died. Michael felt really sad for the person that owned that poor lamb. Suddenly the box began to move across the stage. Michael covered his mouth as he laughed out loud. The box lid opened and Ghost bounced onto the stage. The pastor jumped, trying to grab the lamb as it sprang out of the box. Everyone gasped at the sight and watched as the pastor fumbled and fell trying to grab the energetic creature. It looked as though the stage was a trampoline and Ghost was a gymnast bouncing and turning in mid-air. Women screamed and children burst into laughter as Ghost leaped straight into the air and into the pastor's arms. Huffing and puffing with exhaustion, he stroked the lamb trying to calm it.

"Many of you have heard about this special little lamb," the pastor gasped trying to catch his breath. "Michael let us borrow him for today. Michael, can you come up here and help me with your lamb, please?" The pastor asked in desperation.

Michael jumped from his seat and raced to the stage to help hold

his baby lamb. Michael rubbed his lamb's head and the lamb snuggled in his arms and went to sleep.

The pastor talked about Jesus being the Son of God and being a lamb. The sound of Jesus being a lamb startled Michael. He didn't understand how a person could be called a sheep. Michael thought about what the pastor was saying. It was interesting to hear so much about sheep in the Bible. The pastor mentioned a lost sheep and Michael didn't like the idea of Ghost being lost. But the pastor was explaining that the owner was desperate to find that one lost sheep even though there were ninety-nine more. Michael knew exactly what he was talking about!

There were over a hundred sheep on his farm and if he lost Ghost he would look desperately until he found him. It was really interesting to hear the pastor talk about God feeling the same way. He doesn't want anyone to be lost. He wants everyone to find and worship Him. "If there is someone that is no longer in church, something must be done!" Michael thought about it for a minute and remembered there were several people that used to go to church each Sunday but he hadn't seen them for a while. Did God want him to do something about that? Michael wondered. He'd need to talk this over with his parents and see what they thought.

Michael caught himself daydreaming about what could be done for the lost sheep in the church. Suddenly the pastor
(Continued on page 17)



Special Church of God General Conference Section

Church of God General Conference

The following information is published for Church of God members and pertains to the head organization's constitution. To contact the organization regarding matters on this page, please see page 3.

The General Conference/Atlanta Bible College Board of Directors present the following amendments to the Constitution for delegate approval at the 2004 Annual Conference:

Article I - Current

Time and Place of Conference

Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place as may be determined by the Conference or its Board of Directors, but in no case shall the date be fixed earlier than July 1, or later than August 31. Announcements of the time and place shall be made by the secretary of the Conference at least one month in advance by publication in *The Restitution Herald* and/or *Progress Journal*. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.

Article I - Suggested Amendment

Time and Place of Conference

Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place as may be determined by the Conference or its Board of Directors. Announcements of the time and place shall be made by the Board of Directors at least two months in advance by publications of the General Conference or other means of general communications available to the General Conference. The General Conference may be called at such

other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.

Article II - Current Delegates

Section 4. An individual member who has attended at least thirteen services and who has made a financial or service contribution during the year is considered an active member at his church. These shall be considered as minimum requirements only.

Section 6. Each church shall certify to the secretary of the College/Conference the names of its delegates or delegate and alternates; this certification shall be accompanied by a list of the names and addresses of the active members to be represented. No delegate will be recognized in any Conference session without having been recognized by the credentials committee. If any delegate is absent from any Conference session, an alternate who has been approved by the credentials committee may be appointed to act.

Section 7. Any church which cannot send a delegate or delegates to the annual Conference may appoint a delegate or delegates from the general active membership of the Church of God. However, any delegate appointed under this section shall have only one vote, and under no circumstances can any delegate represent more than one church or state or district conference. A

notice must be sent to the secretary of the College/Conference containing a statement of the intentions of the church and the names and addresses of its active members to be represented, at least fifteen days before the Conference convenes.

Article II - Suggested Amendments Delegates

Section 4. Members shall be defined as active in accordance with the requirements of the local church.

Section 6. Each church shall certify to the College/Conference staff the names of its delegates or delegate and alternates. No delegate will be recognized in any Conference session without having been recognized by the credentials committee appointed by the Chairman of the Board. If any delegate is absent from any Conference session, an alternate who has been approved by the credentials committee may be appointed to act.

Section 7. Any church which cannot send a delegate or delegates to the annual Conference may appoint a delegate or delegates from the general active membership of the Church of God. However, any delegate appointed under this section shall have only one vote, and under no circumstances can any delegate represent more than one church or state or district conference.



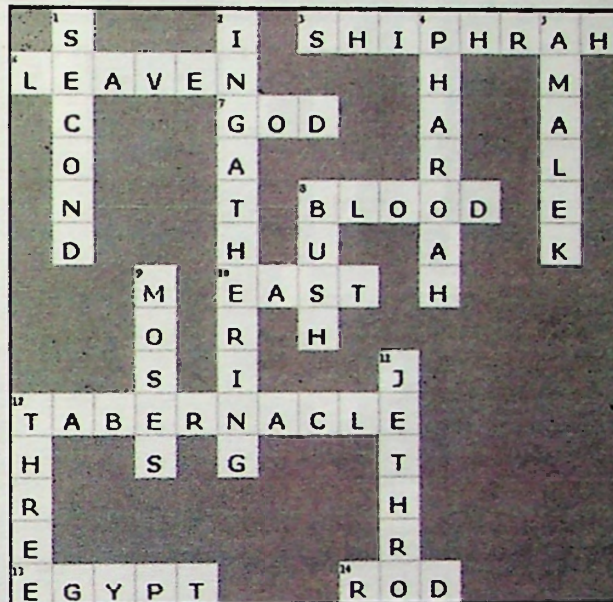
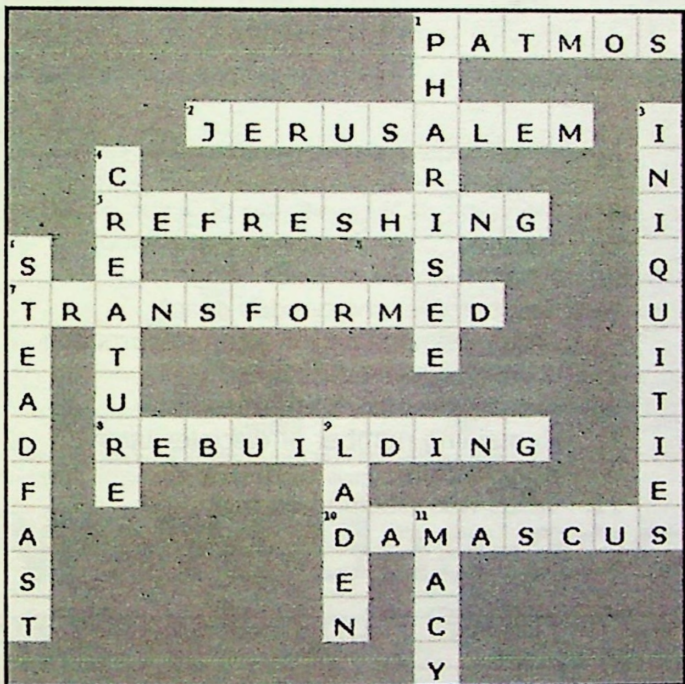
Crossword Solutions

The Restitution Herald

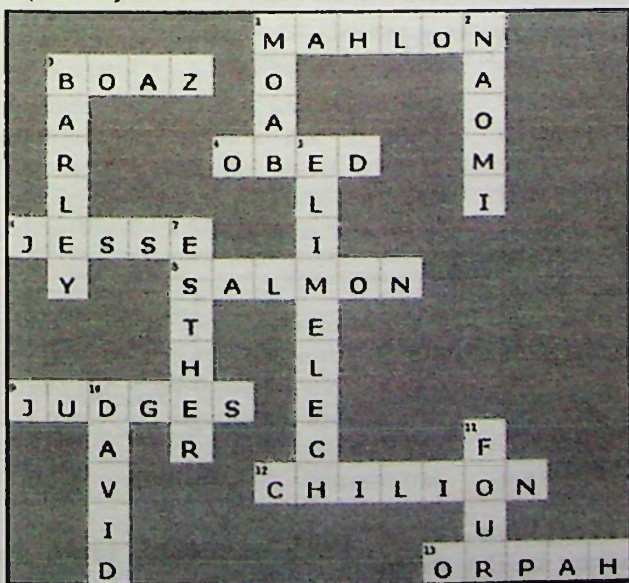
We present you with these four crossword solutions from previous issues of *THE RESTITUTION HERALD*.

October, November 2003

August, September 2003



April, May 2003



June, July 2003

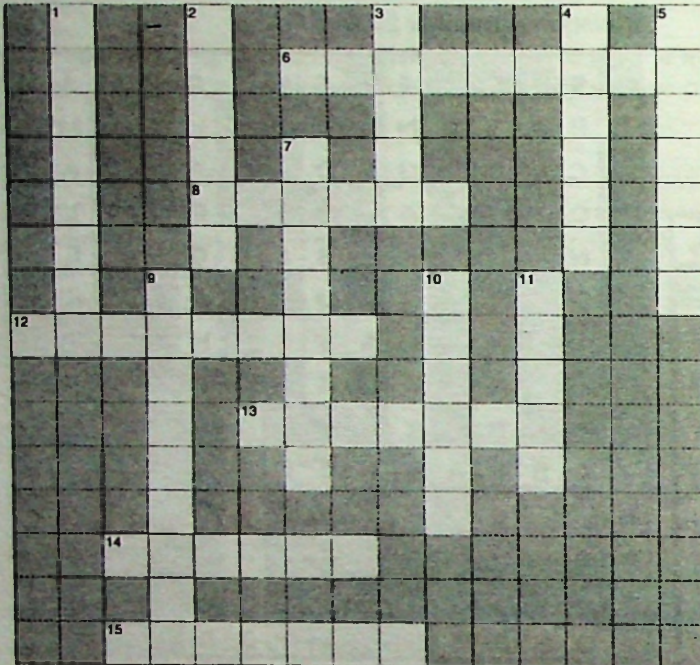




Crossword

"Resurrection"

The Restitution Herald



Across

- 6. Tomb owner's hometown
- 8. Jesus crown was made of these
- 12. The betraying Judas
- 13. They were crucified with Jesus
- 14. Where Jesus ascended to
- 15. A title for Jesus

Down

- 1. He was released instead of Jesus
- 2. He washed his hands of Jesus' blood
- 3. He carried Jesus' cross
- 4. The disciple who needed proof
- 5. Jesus first destination upon resurrection
- 7. It means "place of a skull"
- 9. One of the Mary's at the tomb
- 10. Remaining number of disciples upon resurrection
- 11. Jesus was crucified on this

Subscription Expirations
 The five-digit number on the top right of your address label identifies the renewal date of your subscription. If the number is 2005.0, it expires with the February/March issue, 2005. A 2005.2 number means a June/July expiration. This method will assist subscribers in keeping tabs on their expiration dates and serve as a reminder for renewal.

Dear RESTITUTION HERALD,

I am writing for the following reason:

- My address label is incorrect; please note the changes.
- I am moving in the next six weeks; please send the magazine to my new address printed below.
- I wish to send a gift subscription to the person listed below. Enclosed is \$13 payment.
- Subscription renewal, payment enclosed — 1 yr. \$13, 2 yr. \$24, 3 yr. \$33. [British subscribers send U.S. funds.] Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



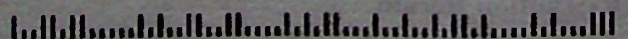
Restitution Herald

P.O. Box 100,000 • Morrow, GA 30260

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 114
 TAYLORS, SC

***** 2004
 Pastor David Krogh
 1992 Tiffany Ln
 Jonesboro GA 30236-2642





**Pastors Available,
Needed**

▶ See Page 15

**National Youth
Camp Primer**

▶ Page 8



PROGRESS JOURNAL

Church of God General Conference · Atlanta Bible College



"The CWS Trio" we were all introduced to in last year's Progress Journal: Dorothy, Lee and Frances return for Christian Workers Seminar 2004 in Gatlinburg, TN.

"We're Baa-aack!"

More Memories and a Recap of CWS 2004

By Tom Colburn

TColburn@abc-coggc.org

Do you remember these three first-timers to CWS from last year's article? Well, they returned for more fun and fellowship! And what's not to like? Gatlinburg is a beautiful resort town in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and Christian Workers Seminar is just a fun place to be.

Last year I drove from Atlanta where I was still attending Atlanta Bible College. The drive brought me through many miles of mountains and it was breath-taking. This year I traveled from my new pastorate in Blanchard,

Michigan (an awesome church, by the way. If you're ever in the area, stop by!), and thus missed much of the real scenic mountain roads.

However, Tom Fischhaber, Maintenance Director and current student at Atlanta Bible College, was on hand to lead a hiking group through some of those mountain paths. Tom is a retired survival trainer from the U.S. Air Force.

I roomed with Tom at the seminar. He confessed that he'd never hiked in these particular woods, but he assured me that

if he got us lost he could teach us how to stay alive, living off the land for weeks before we got eaten by bears!

Seriously, the trails are well marked. Tom's expertise benefits hikers as he points out things in nature useful for survival or perhaps those things to look out for. Tom taught a class at seminar which drew a thought-provoking analogy between physical and spiritual survival.

The days began at 7 a.m. for "Discussions with Anthony Buzzard." This rooster-early session, as were all classes, was by voluntary attendance. But if anyone can wake you up it's Sir Anthony Buzzard's engaging conversation on things spiritual.

During the day there was a potpourri of class offerings ranging from "Brain Drain" with Georgia Pastor Rufus Meyers, to "You Only Thought You Knew" by South Carolina Pastor Wally Winner.

Sessions were taught by the young as well as the senior, by converts to life-time Church of God stalwarts. A fascinating array of perspectives on the truth we all share in common. It's a wonderful experience.

Some familiar names among the instructors were Bob Ballard, Becky Bull, Janice Hart, Joe James, Rebekah Martin, and Myra Montgomery, as well
(Continued on page 3)

May, June 2004

Volume 46, Number 4

CAO Corner.....	2
Church of God.....	3
General Conference 2004.....	6
Missions.....	7
Updates.....	8

Atlanta Bible College.....	10
Finance.....	12
Prayer & Praise.....	14
Church News.....	15

From The CAO

One Nation Under Who?



By Tim Jones
TJones@abc-coggc.org

Hello to you all once again! It is a privilege to have the chance to write to you in each edition of the Progress Journal about the happenings at the College, matters of concern, opportunities we face, or just things we need to consider to make our ministries more effective. In this column, I would like to discuss a topic that I feel is critical in being effective in spreading the gospel. Did you do a double-take when you saw the title of this column? Let me explain the thinking behind this unnerving question. I believe the United States of America was founded as a nation that believed in God. From our earliest days as a republic, we shared many ideals and elements of our philosophy, and our religious faith was one of those ties that bound us together. People came to the New World for a variety of reasons, and some of them were looking for a place where they could worship and serve God in the way they wished. When we look at the people who have led our nation through the years, we see that a belief in God was a fundamental aspect of the American way of life. Although Christian denominations have different understanding of the Scriptures, the basic idea of the Bible as the authoritative Word of God was generally not challenged.

But in recent years, this system of belief is increasingly under attack. I would like to share with you the following quotations from two familiar people in our nation. The quotations were taken from the book The Emerging Church by Dan Kimball:

I believe in God. I just don't know if that God is Jehovah, Buddha, or Allah.

Actress Halle Berry

Eastern thought, Western mysticism. I really dig the whole Hindu pantheon. And I

just pull from all kinds of different things.

Actress Meg Ryan

In my columns before I've quoted Scripture, John F. Kennedy, etc., but what about Hollywood actresses?! But these quotes are more significant than just the thoughts of two well known actresses. Looking at other information from the world around us, I am increasingly concerned that their form of "spirituality" represents the direction in which our world is going. And that represents a tremendous challenge for the Church of God. The people around us today do not see and understand the world in the way we do. This means the people we witness to are increasingly "fuzzy" on who God is, the inspiration of our Scriptures, doubt that there is such a thing as universal truth, etc.

Whether it is an athlete that has just scored the big touchdown, an actress that gives her acceptance speech for an Academy Award, or someone that we meet on the street, there is no shortage of people talking about "God" in today's world. But what "god" are they referring to? For all of our nation's history, we have been able to assume that that question did not need to be asked. Even when faced with the atheist, the person agreed with Christians on the basic nature of the one in whom they did not believe! Many scholars tell us that our culture is moving into a period of history that some have labeled "postmodern" or even a "post-Christian" world. If this thinking is correct, we are moving away from our roots of being "one nation under God." Do we continue to print on our money, "In God We Trust," while in reality our God is increasingly less important to our world?

Believers are alarmed at the hostility we see toward Christianity exhibited by our government institutions. Christians arise to fight when displays about the 10 Commandments are removed from courthouses or civic displays. We rally in protest when a federal court in California says the phrase "one nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional. These actions are indeed

cause for concern. But even more alarming to me is the fact that we are growing evidence that the people of our nation are moving away from belief in any type in the **God of the Bible**. Dan Kimball quotes from an article in *Newsweek* magazine about America's young people's search for religion: "*teens might cobble together bits of several faiths: a little Buddhist meditation or Roman Catholic ritual, whatever mixture appeals at the time.*" To me, this is a frightening scenario.

"Wait a minute," you say. "Our young people aren't like that at all. No one in our church thinks like that." But look around you next Sunday at church. How many new families are represented in the worship service? By new, I do not mean people that have left another church to begin worshipping with you, but people with no previous experience with Jesus that have come to know Christ as their Savior. How effective are we being in taking the Good News of the Kingdom to the world around us? No matter how eloquently I speak, if my words are in English and you understand only French, I have little hope of communicating with you. Many of the people around us do not share our most fundamental beliefs in God, His son Jesus, and the Gospel of salvation. How do we communicate to them about the Gospel in a way that they can understand?

This fall the Bible College will be offering for the first time a class called "Christianity in a Post-Modern World - B351." This class is offered on Saturday sessions (October 9 and November 6, 2004.) We are offering this class in this flexible format for anyone that wants to learn more about this changing world paradigm and what it may mean to you and your church. You may take the course for credit or simply to improve your ministry skills. Please call the College for more information about how to enroll.

All the classes offered by the College are open to enrollment by our members on a non-credit basis. Please check our listing in this issue to see if one of our classes will benefit you or your local church.

Church of God



From left to right: Attendees Ruth Finnegan, Jillian Ramsey, Flo Coverstone and Gary Burnham enjoy an afternoon break at CWS 2004.



From left to right: Attendees Marilyn Kelly and John and Alice Railton enjoy an afternoon break at CWS 2004.

CWS 2004

(Continued from page 1)

as pastors Jon Cheatwood, John Railton, and Steve Taylor. Some newer faces were James Engelbert, Ruth Finnegan, and Terrence Raper.

The evening worship speakers were CAO Tim Jones, yours truly—Pastor Tom Colburn, an on-fire college student Sean Finnegan and our very own Energizer bunny, the tireless Pastor Joe Martin, instructor at ABC.

This year's event was coordinated by new staff member Jillian Ramsey, with the assistance of Marcy Cly, our seasoned director of past events. Both ladies did a wonderful job.

Once again this year, Pastor Francis Burnett, of Oaklawn Church of God in Iowa was likely the ministerial dean of the event. And from what I hear he was excited about what he was seeing and hearing. A testimony like that makes it doubly worth checking out this event next year!

Mrs. Joyce Knapp of Garden Park Church of God in Michigan maintained her record of attending every Christian Workers Seminar since they began over 30 years ago. Come shake her hand in

2005 and ask her to relate some stories of seminars from years past.

Now back to those three returning ladies, Dorothy Moore, Lee Whittiker and Frances Pearson. Naturally, I sat with them for dinner on a couple of occasions. We were joined by their fellow Brush Creek Church of God members Jim and Charlene Moore.

Have you ever been in the situation where two conversations were going on at the same table and you're kind of in on both and can't quite recall what points go to which story? Jim was talking about motorcycles and the ladies about riding around in the mountains and I was talking about writing this article. So here's what I gathered.

Dorothy, Lee and Frances were riding triple-seated on a Harley-Davidson Chopper motorcycle—you know, the ones that have the extension fork and front tire out in the next county somewhere—up on the curvy roads of the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee.

Now something was said about Frances having a "lead foot" and Lee being a back-seat driver. So near as I can figure, Frances must have been in the front, cranking on the handle accelerator for all it's worth while Lee was in the back reaching around to the left handlebar

trying to steer. Or maybe she was just leaning from side to side trying to "back-seat drive" in that manner. Anyway, that left Dorothy in the middle screaming to the Lord for help!

This demonstrates how fun and spirituality can be had at Christian Workers Seminar in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. That's my story and I'm sticking to it! See you next year!



Pastor Jack Hearp of Ohio and ABC distance learning student Amanda Musch sharing a hug at Christian Workers Seminar 2004.

Church of God

General Conference Constitution Amendments

By The Church of God Board of Directors

BoardOfDirectors@abc-coggc.org

The General Conference/Atlanta Bible College Board of Directors present the following amendments to the Constitution for delegate approval at the 2004 Annual Conference:

Article I - Current

Time and Place of Conference

Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place as may be determined by the Conference or its Board of Directors, but in no case shall the date be fixed earlier than July 1, or later than August 31. Announcements of the time and place shall be made by the secretary of the Conference at least one month in advance by publication in *The Restitution Herald* and/or *Progress Journal*. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.

Article I - Suggested Amendment

Time and Place of Conference

Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place as may be determined by the Conference or its Board of Directors. Announcements of the time and place shall be made by the Board of Directors at least two months in advance by publications of the General Conference or other means of general

communications available to the General Conference. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.

Article II - Current

Delegates

Section 4. An individual member who has attended at least thirteen services and who has made a financial or service contribution during the year is considered an active member at his church. These shall be considered as minimum requirements only.

Section 6. Each church shall certify to the secretary of the College/Conference the names of its delegates or delegate and alternates; this certification shall be accompanied by a list of the names and addresses of the active members to be represented. No delegate will be recognized in any Conference session without having been recognized by the credentials committee. If any delegate is absent from any Conference session, an alternate who has been approved by the credentials committee may be appointed to act.

Section 7. Any church which cannot send a delegate or delegates to the annual Conference may appoint a delegate or delegates from the general active

membership of the Church of God. However, any delegate appointed under this section shall have only one vote, and under no circumstances can any delegate represent more than one church or state at district conference. A notice must be sent to the secretary of the College/Conference containing a statement of the intentions of the church and the names and addresses of its active members to be represented, at least fifteen days before the Conference convenes.

Article II - Suggested Amendments

Delegates

Section 4. Members shall be defined as active in accordance with the requirements of the local church.

Section 6. Each church shall certify to the College/Conference staff the names of its delegates or delegate and alternates. No delegate will be recognized in any Conference session without having been recognized by the credentials committee appointed by the Chairman of the Board. If any delegate is absent from any Conference session, an alternate who has been approved by the credentials committee may be appointed to act.

Section 7. Any church which cannot send a delegate or delegates to the annual Conference may appoint a delegate or delegates from the general active membership of the Church of God. However, any delegate appointed under this section shall have only one vote, and under no circumstances can any delegate represent more than one church or state at district conference.



Christian Education Materials

Kingdom Quest Learning Curriculum prepares the way for exploring Bible Stories, leading the way to clear understanding of important truths!

- ▶ Based on the theory that everyone learns using different intelligences
- ▶ Each unit contains six updated lessons
- ▶ Four levels: Preschool, Primary, Elementary and Teenage
- ▶ Non-consumable
- ▶ Make great resources for your church's library



Call Now to Order!

1-800-347-4261

Church of God

What the COG Has Accomplished

Reflections from the Head of the Board of Directors

By Mark Tschaenn
MarkTschaenn@aol.com

I remember my first General Conference board meeting well. It was September of 2000 and the delegates had just voted to reorganize the General Conference. I sat in a classroom with the other board members as we began to develop the vision for the General Conference. Tim Jones was leading us in an exercise in which two board members worked together to list statements of where we would like to see the Conference and the Bible College in five years. As I returned with my partner to hang our list on the wall next to the other groups' ideas, a sense of awe came over me. All the groups had a similar picture of what the college and conference should look like. We went through each other's ideas, noted the common points, and discovered we had an exciting list of vision statements laid out before us.

As we finalized the product I glanced over the statements and realized we had agreed to some pretty hefty goals. Two specifically stood out to me: having 250 students studying for ministry at Atlanta Bible College and becoming a multi-racial and multi-cultural conference. Were we nuts? It wasn't that we did not desire these things to happen because we did, but these goals seemed so far beyond all of our capabilities. The Church of God had never attempted anything like this before. Could this ever work?

I recall Mary asking a question of Gabriel as he announced the birth of Jesus. She asked him, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" She too questioned for a moment the abilities and the power of God. Gabriel's answer was brief but effective. He told her with man it is impossible but for God it was not. There are times I must admit that I have to be reassured that with God nothing is

impossible. I don't believe I have ever seen a vision laid out any clearer than I did in that first meeting. God certainly was in it, so why did I doubt? Perhaps it was because I believe (like others) that the Church of God has always been small and we were just not cut out to handle such hefty goals.

Was I wrong in my thinking? The answer is "YES" and let me explain why. We are over halfway through the five-year vision and God has accomplished a lot of His vision already through the



faithfulness of many of His servants. We have developed and published our own Church of God Sunday School material. The recent video from Pat Summerall Productions offers us opportunity to be seen by people we may have never reached before. In fact, a local station for an interview about the college has contacted our CAO Tim Jones from viewing this video. Craig Wagganer, our Director of Church and Pastor Services, has aided many of our churches.

This is a sample of some of the things we see happening but let me return to the two goals I mentioned before because they are the ones I doubted—and these are the ones in which God has really showed me my error. God is opening the floodgates when it comes to students. Not long ago we prayed for over 100 students in classes at Atlanta Bible College and currently we have 115 with 138 registered for the fall. I was also told we are easily within reach of 150 students! Suddenly 250 does not seem

so impossible. The makeup of the student population and our churches has also changed dramatically. Suddenly we have African-American students and two African-American churches in the conference. We have the ABC Korean Extension with 15 students and Pastor Steve An on staff at the Bible College as well as several Korean American churches in the conference.

God is good and I can't wait to see what He will do next. As I stated, the 5-year vision is coming to an end and the next board will have to look at years 6 through 10. What visions will God give them and what will He do next? Will we suddenly be looking for instructors who speak Spanish or Japanese? Will we need to knock out a few walls or build a new wing on the college?

I am excited to think about the possibilities because I already see the works He is doing on the previous vision He set before us. I want to share some remarks I heard at Christian Workers Seminar this year regarding what God is doing through the conference and Atlanta Bible College. In a question and answer period with the Conference staff and the Board members, Pastor Dennis Baldwin stated, "This is what we have worked to accomplish for so many years." Francis Burnett remarked that after being in the conference since 1935 he had never seen anything like this. Francis expressed his excitement to me later with the desire to be a part of the wonderful ministry God is placing before the conference. These two pastors, whom I respect a great deal, are able to see the fruits of their labors and the path God is leading us on while boldly looking forward to what is still to come.

I can only hope that you too can feel the excitement and desire the opportunity to join in this vision. What have I learned from my time serving on the board? To let go of my doubt by saying "O.K., God, what's next?" Then "Let's Do It!"

General Conference 2004

Schedule

Sunday, July 11, 2004 (all Sunday activities are optional for all attendees except Board Members)

Board Meeting – Time to be established
Cookout at Cornerstone – Begins at 5:00 p.m.

Monday, July 12, 2004

9:00 – 11:30 Optional Morning Classes

11:30 Lunch

Delegate Session Agenda – 1:00 pm

Opening Prayer
Chairman's Welcome
Chairman's Message
Nominees for Director – 2 Directors will be elected. At least 3 nominees are required for election.
Annual Report – Tim Jones, Chief Administrative Officer
Presentation of Budget and Discussion – Tim Jones

Reports from Departments

College Report
Korean Initiatives
African Initiatives

LHI Initiatives in other mission fields
Christian Education Program
Turning Point Youth Ministries

New Business Proposals

Constitutional Amendments:

These amendments are proposed by the Board – published 3 times in the Restitution Herald or Progress Journal.

Other Business

Adjourn with Prayer – end session by 5:00 p.m.

Dinner – 5:30

Evening Service – 7:00 Michael Hoffman, speaker

MVRA Meeting – Commence at the end of the service

Tuesday, July 13, 2004 9:00 a.m.

Reading of the minutes of the

Tuesday Session – approval required

Election to the Board of Directors -

Election of two directors for the Board of Directors for four-year

terms. A simple majority is required for election.

Adoption of Budget - A motion is in order to approve the proposed revised budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year and the proposed budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. A simple majority is required for passage.

Constitutional Amendments – approval required.

Other Business

Reading of the minutes of the Session – approval required

11:30 – Lunch

1:00 Delegate Session Continued (only if required)

Board Meeting - TBD

ABCDF Board of Trustees Meeting - TBD

2:00 – 5:00 Classes, workshops, or outings in area attractions

5:30 Dinner

7:00 Evening Service – Scott Ross, speaker
Commissioning Service

General Conference 2004 Form

1. Cut and fill out the following form (up to 4 attendees per form) Rates are per person.
2. Postmarked after **June 4 or later**, please add **\$50.00** to your total.
3. Mail this form to: **General Conference 2004 PO Box 100,000 Morrow, GA 30260**

Contact	Contact Name _____ Day Phone _____ E-mail _____
Address	Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Church	Pastor Discount? (10%) Y/N Home Church _____ Number attending optional Barbeque _____

If you wish to share a room with someone, please list them here

Your Name	Last _____ First _____
2	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose an option below (All rates are per person. For reduced rates persons sharing the room must be adults over age 16 paying per person charge)

Sunday Arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 per room (\$180) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 per room (\$200) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 per room (\$235) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 per room (\$350)
Monday Arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 per room (\$160) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 per room (\$180) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 per room (\$200) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 per room (\$270)

Transportation Needed from Airport **Please note: Transportation must be in writing no later than July 1st, 2004.**

Arrival Airline # _____ Flight # _____ Arrival Time _____ Departure Airline # _____ Flight # _____ Arrival Time _____

Subtotal from above	\$ _____
_____ Number of Children ages 5–16 sharing room/w parents X \$35.00	\$ _____
_____ # of Commuters w/meals X \$70 _____ # of Commuters, no meals X \$15	\$ _____
Subtotal	\$ _____
Pastor Discount—subtract 10%	\$ _____
Registration after June 4, add \$50	\$ _____
Less \$50 Deposit	- \$50.00
Total due at Conference	\$ _____

Missions

Haitian Pastor Expresses Thanks in Recent Letter

Recently, monetary aid was sent to Haiti in lieu of a crisis occurring there. Below is a letter sent by Haitian Pastor Lesly Bertrand to Judy Myers, Director of Lord's Harvest International, a Church of God missions group:

Dear Sister Judy,

Greetings to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to take this opportunity to thank God and each of you at the Lord's Harvest Mission International for your prayers and gifts. It was because of your financial resources and prayer support that several families in Haiti were helped

spiritually and physically. You also made possible for our ministry to purchase some bags of rice and beans to distribute to the needy people in our community. Also we had the privilege to feed our orphan children as their regular daily meals. It has been an answer of prayer and so thrilling to see how your people responded to our need. You and your people will receive a full reward for anythings that this ministry accomplish in His name and for His kingdom. God keeps records.

Again on behalf of the Grace Assemblies Network of churches we want to thank you for your prayers, encouragements and gifts. Our prayers to you is for God to continue to bless and prosper you abundantly in the Lord Jesus.

God's blessings to you.

Because of Him,

Lesly Bertrand

On behalf of LHI, I also wanted to mention that the food crisis in Malawi and Mozambique was not as bad this winter as it was a year ago and the needs have been satisfied. Thanks to all who were willing to help with this need.

LHI would like to provide Starter Kits that will provide the seed and fertilizer needed to produce crops in the fall. If anyone would like to help with these kits, the cost is \$9 per kit. There are also funds needed to help with expenses of the team that will be going to Africa this summer.

David Krogh, on behalf of LHI

News and Updates



By Lord's Harvest International
jmlhi@aol.com

Updates on Areas of Recent Concern

Haiti—Word was received after the last Progress Journal went to print that our friends in Haiti were without food. The Emergency Fund was used to send \$500 immediately to Pastor Lesly Bertrand for purchasing food. At the last report, he had traveled to 12 of the 26 churches in the Grace Assembly Fellowship and provided help to them. The Oregon Church of God has designated their special Easter offering to LHI for use with the Haiti food situation. We are anticipating that with their support, we will be able to provide the additional needs that Pastor Lesly will have. I have been asked to express their heartfelt thanks to the people of the General Conference for the prayers offered on their behalf and the assistance given to them in this hunger crisis as well as in the ongoing support for the education of many of their children.

Mexico—Pastor Roberto Badillo is doing

well following his hernia surgery. In a recent letter to Bro. Dean Moore he asks that this word be passed on. "I am very thankful for all that the brethren did to help me and to the Lord! I hope that He will help them with many blessings in their work and in their health. I am very grateful, and want to thank them for all that they have done so that I can be well now. Thanks to God! Lupe and I send our greetings to the brethren."

Upcoming Trips

Peru—David Krogh and Bill Wachtel were in Lima, Peru on April 15th-21st. David will provide a written report and photos of the work in the next issue of the Journal. Our thanks to those who assisted with the funding for this trip.

Africa—A trip is being planned for July 16th-August 7th. The team selected is: Joe and Rebekah Martin, team leaders; Warren Sorenson; Rufus Meyers; Keith Huffer; and Sean and Ruth Finnigan. The objective of the trip is to provide preaching services and mission exposure for those who have not been on a previous trip. LHI also felt it was important to have Joe, Rebekah and Warren there when a permanent coordinator for Conference 1 is selected to replace Margaret Sakala. The projected cost of the trip is \$3,000 per

team member. Anyone wishing to donate for this project is encouraged to send the donation to: P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260-7000. Additional information will be provided to our churches as it becomes available.

Mexico—A summer trip to provide a Vacation Bible School, "The Jesus Expedition," for the church in Labor Vieja, Mexico is planned for July 26th-August 8th. Actual time projected to be in Mexico is July 30th-August 4th. The additional days will be spent in travel and visiting in churches along our route. Cost for this trip is \$250 per person. Team members are: Judy Myers, team leader; Kayla Andrew; Rachel Carr; Tom Clark; Kala Fertig; Jay Laurent; Russ Magaw; Cynthia McLeod; Quentin Snook; Suzy Stevens; and Jennifer Tschaenn. Dean Moore will meet us in Texas and go with us into Mexico, health permitting. Our thanks to the Oregon church for the use of their church van and trailer for this trip.

We thank you for your support of the missions ministries of the General Conference administered by the Lord's Harvest International. Please feel free to send an e-mail to jmlhi@aol.com with your questions or requests for additional information.

Updates

Turning Point Youth Ministries



By Jon Cheatwood
jonc@abc-coggc.org

FUEL Primer

My family moved into a new house the weekend before Christmas. With a third child on the way, we needed the space. Turns out that a new family member isn't the only reason we need space: my wife found many 'memory' boxes of mine, and she asked if I really needed all of that stuff. Well, I of course told her that it was all completely necessary, but I started going through the boxes in an effort to reduce the clutter.

I found a lot of old toys, notes from friends when I was in junior high, and various items that brought up elementary school memories. There was a box loaded with the posters from my college dorm room, as well as other items collected during college. It was while I was throwing away many things from that box that I came across my collection of *Challenge* magazines (*Challenge* was the Church of God youth and youth worker magazine for years). There were pictures of national camps and old camp friends, some music reviews that I had written, and some articles that I had enjoyed.

One of those articles in the spring 1989 issue jumped out at me: "Just Between Youth Leaders" article by Bob Alcumbrack, then the youth pastor at Oregon Church of God. Bob listed reasons "why each church should be active and aggressive in getting its youth to state and national camps," and his points were pretty solid. Here they are:

1. The different setting, be it camp or campus, allows us a special opportunity to give attention to issues that our home setting and schedule either ignore or conceal. With the distractions of the daily rat race

removed, the voice of God has a much better chance of actually being listened to.

2. Camp counselors will spend more time with your youth in one week than you will in several months of classes. A general rule of thumb is that the more time you spend with a student, the greater your impact will be.
3. Due to the isolation of many of our churches, state and national events are all we have to teach our students that they are not alone in this world. Our groups need to know the extent of the Church of God "Youth Group." I wonder how many lifetime friendships started at some long-forgotten camp.
4. Throughout the Bible, God is concerned that we remember His interaction with us. Our ability to deal with today's trials is very connected with our ability to recall God's faithfulness during times of past trials. This being true, it is our responsibility as leaders of youth to get them into situations where strong memories of the reality of God in His people are created.

Bob was my youth leader when I was in college, and I had the pleasure of seeing and working with him this year at the *Midwinter Retreat* (you should have been there!). The memories of camps and retreats with Bob were awakened as we caught up on news of each other's lives and families. The lessons learned by

being with Bob came to mind, and I was reminded of the impact that can be made through time spent with leaders away from home. I was reminded of my own responsibility to those I spend time with.

The events that *Turning Point Youth Ministries* presents are designed to offer opportunities for students and youth workers to spend time together. *FUEL* puts students into groups with staff members in hopes of creating lasting relationships to the glory of God. I have many younger friends that came to be my friends through *FUEL/RYOT/National Camp*, and those are relationships that I must guard, nurture, and cherish.

In his article, Bob described some work that youth leaders can and should do to get kids to camp:

The first kind of work you will need to do is PRAYER. Don't minimize this point, and please do not think I mention it only as a prelude to the real work. If you can create desire to attend an unknown activity, time off from a summer job, and money for those who can't afford it, then perhaps you can skip prayer.

Another form this work will take is that of PROMOTION. Understand, for many of our groups we are not simply maintaining a camp tradition; we are in the difficult labor of creating such a tradition.

Promotion also requires your talking, writing, and phoning prospective campers and their parents to let them know what is available. Posters and bulletin announcements can serve as periodic reminders, but should not be expected to replace the personal contact any

(Continued on page 10)

Updates

Christian Education



by Myra Montgomery
myramontgomery@charter.net

Volunteers— Handle With Care

A beautiful tapestry is so well made that rather than looking at the fabric, one sees only the woven images and patterns. One whose thread pulled is no big deal, but if left untended, soon a large portion of the tapestry can unravel. It's the same with the fabric of our faith.

When well tended, the amazing image of our faith reflects the love and grace of God. Yet there are times we can run ragged or feel a little frayed around the edges.

Just think about all the threads God has woven to create the tapestry of you—and all your volunteers. In Genesis 1, we read that we're created in God's image. And Psalm 139:13 says that God formed and knit us together in our mother's womb. Each and every person is uniquely precious. In all of time, there will

never be two people who are exactly alike!

When we examine and evaluate our Christian education ministries in our own church, the bottom line is the inner strength of our volunteers. What keeps them motivated?

In looking at our volunteers, we're gazing upon an amazing tapestry being woven right before our eyes. Their spiritual fabric and the health of that fabric is what gives them breath and the energy to live abundantly. The spiritual life of our volunteers, their walk with God, and their personal relationship with Jesus are of utmost importance to us as their shepherds. All of us have ragged edge times. So let's explore the following ways to care for the spiritual fabric of our volunteers.

Love Your Volunteers!

Really love them! Love your volunteers with the love of Jesus. Be genuine, authentic, and real in expressing the value of each volunteer. What's their love language? People tend to express and like to receive love in one or two of five languages: words, gifts, quality time, affection, or acts of service.

Speak love. Words of encouragement, affirmation, and gratitude go a long way. Positive comments lift us up and cause us to walk a new walk. Listen and watch for times a volunteer touches another heart and life. Be there with a note or a comment. Let your volunteers know you notice and appreciate their ministry.

Give love. A meaningful gift, small token of appreciation, or helpful resource is an unexpected touch that lifts the spirit of a volunteer. The impact of a simple gift is very powerful. In fact, these items are so important that you need to have a line item for gifts in your budget.

Spend time on love. For people who speak this love language, nothing says I love you better than time together. Go out for coffee, take a walk together, meet at the park or McDonald's Play Land to visit while your kids play. The investment of your time is a genuine, specific way to tell volunteers you care about them.

Embrace love. A hug, a pat on the back, a handshake, even a high five communicates love in this language. So don't be stingy with your affection.

Serve love. As I learn more and more about "southern hospitality" from a wonderful church family here in South Carolina, one of the most important things to remember is: Never discount the power of a casserole in times of need! To a person who speaks this love language, this simple act of service is better than getting flowers. Look for practical ways to meet needs.

Obviously, to do all this regularly requires commitment and time—time you may not have. So recruit and empower key people to join you in looking out for, shepherding, and loving volunteers. If you empower a team of people to make it their ministry to care for, assist, and love a group of volunteers, you'll see volunteers who are energized—even when life frays their edges.

Just think, without volunteers, what ministries would still continue in your church?

VALUEBUILDERS

Christian Education Curriculum



NOW AVAILABLE!

Call
1-800-347-4261
Or E-mail
info@abc-coggc.org
to order

Features of Value Builders Christian Education Curriculum:

- ▶ Discussion-based lesson format
- ▶ Designed for students of all ages
- ▶ Allow students to examine importance of a particular value in their Christian walk
- ▶ Each unit contains thirteen *undated* lessons
- ▶ Each lesson contains a user-friendly leader's guide and master copy handout for students
- ▶ Lessons may be used in Sunday School, mid-week, or home Bible studies

Atlanta Bible College



Alumni Corner

ABC/OBC Alumni Association

Julie Driskill
President

Pastor Merry
Peterson
Vice President

Rob Bernheisel
Secretary/
Treasurer

Greetings Alumni! I want to thank you for the monetary responses we have been getting to the Alumni letter. We are looking forward to General Conference and hoping many of you can come. If you cannot, we are still very interested in your input.

There are two things I would like to share with you. One from the past and another from the present. The one from the past someone shared with me and the present is from my own experience.

In my senior year at OBC, about 20+ years ago, there was a freshman who was quite a character (Actually, when I think about it, most of the freshmen were characters). He was a nice guy and fun to be around—never a dull moment. The only thing that I remember about him that was not good was the fact that he missed a lot of classes. He stayed up late a lot and overslept. As a result, he was asked to leave the college.

I am told that he is now the principal of a school! Did we miss some hidden talent? How had we failed him? Actually we did not. Being dismissed from school made him stop, think, and begin to take his education seriously. I think his experience might help him to be an excellent principal by helping students who need direction. Even though it may be painful, doing the right thing can have

constructive results.

The second thing I wanted to share is what I observed this past semester at ABC. I know you have heard of the diversity at the college. I have heard and seen it. But the magnitude of it became greater to me when I visited one of the classes.

One student had been to another Bible college but chose ABC because he was tired of the legalism at the other college he had attended. Another student spoke five languages and wanted to put that talent to use in serving God. She came to ABC to increase her Bible knowledge to be a better teacher. I could go on and on about the diversity of the needs and desires. People from other countries and denominations are coming to ABC for training. The one thing they have in common is that they are all training for leadership positions. What an opportunity for good! These people will return to teach the best of what ABC has taught them. Let's make it the best we can!

Once again we ask your input on what you would like to see from your alumni association? Email: info@abc-coggc.org to be added to the Alumni mailing list or for questions/input.

Rob Bernheisel
Secretary/Treasurer

FUEL Primer

(Continued from page 8)

more than a commercial can replace the salesman.

Your work will also be found in the form of PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT. Where no adults have an investment or concrete interest, it will not be long until the youth respond in kind. On a national level, it is not possible to have adult representation from every

congregation since the staff is simply not that large. However, it is possible to have adults involved in transportation, fund-raising, and a variety of other activities that communicate to youth that the adults believe in camp enough to be involved.

If that isn't a big enough job description, add this: potential campers frequently need FINANCIAL HELP. Our

congregation so believe in the benefit of Christian camping that we have chosen to underwrite one third of [the] camp fee. I would strongly recommend that your church do something of this nature to communicate to your youth that you truly want them to attend.

Thanks for the article, Bob! I hope all you will take Bob's advice!!

Atlanta Bible College

Fall 2004 Class Listing

MINISTRY COURSES

BIBLE AND THEOLOGY COURSES

OBJECTIVE: To provide a biblical foundation for teaching, preaching, and ministry.

B1111 Old Testament Doctrine and Survey I—3 hours. A reading survey of the Pentateuch and the books of history.

B1112 Old Testament Doctrine and Survey II—3 hours. A reading survey of the books of poetry and the prophets.

B1161 Basic Bible Doctrine—2 hours. A survey of the fundamental doctrines of the Bible with emphasis on the distinctive doctrines of the Church of God.

B3323 Old Testament Poetry—2 hours. The poetic books are studied for their devotional and doctrinal value.

B3344 1 and 2 Corinthians—3 hours. A detailed study of a troubled church exhibiting concerns common to many modern churches.

B3345 Non-Pauline Epistles—2 hours. An overview of the non-Pauline section of the New Testament and a detailed exposition of the letters by Peter, Jude, and John.

OBJECTIVE: To provide a practical foundation for ministry.

M101, 102, 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, 402—Christian Life/Service or Supervised Ministry. These no cost courses allow students to fulfill the one semester Christian ministry activity per year (pass/fail) graduation requirement.

M112 Introduction to Ministry & Leadership—2 hours.

M214 Ethics—2 hours.

M242 Introduction to Evangelism and Missions—2 hours. The principles of evangelism and their application to the local church. Also a study of how missions can be popularized and understood.

M262 Practical Youth Ministry—2 hours. This course is designed to give students an understanding of youth ministry, lead students through organizing a youth ministry calendar, and help students gain experience in youth ministry.

M271 Christian Education and the Family—2 hours. Defining important keys

to effectively accomplish the task of helping our children become more like Christ by understanding our children and making sure they know that they are understood.

M272 Leadership Development

M372 Church Leadership—2 hours.

M383 Marriage and Family—2 hours.

M473 Pastoral Leadership and Administration—2 hours. A study of the leadership style and methods of the pastor in the local church.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

G191 Media Technology Lab—2 hours. This lab provides an opportunity to develop a vision for communicating the biblical gospel through electronic media, and to develop hands-on experience with a variety of media tools.

G261 Introduction to Biblical Languages—2 hours. A study of the essentials of Greek and Hebrew forms, syntax, and vocabulary to enable the student to read the Bible in the original languages.

SATURDAY, BLOCK, & DISTANCE LEARNING CLASSES

SATURDAY Classes (9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.):

- B1183 (2 Sem. Hrs.) - Beginning Youth Ministry (Cheatwood) - Sept. 11, Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 4**
- B1121 (2 Sem. Hrs.) - Christian Education Principles (Montgomery) - Aug. 28, Sept. 18, Oct. 23**
- B3384 (2 Sem. Hrs.) - Small Groups (Krogh) - Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Nov. 6, Dec. 11**
- B3211 (2 Sem. Hrs.) - The Bible World Visualized (Huffer) - Aug. 28, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Nov. 20**
- B3341 (2 Sem. Hrs.) - Interpersonal Cross-Cultural Communication (Nyaronga) - Sept. 11, Oct. 30, Nov. 13, Dec. 4**
- B3351 (1 Sem. Hr.) - Christianity in a Post Modern World (Jones) - Oct. 9 and Nov. 6**

BLOCK Classes:

- B1 - Aug. 16-20 - M110 (1 Sem. Hr.) Bible College Survival (Rebekah Martin) - M-F 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon or M-F 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**
- B441 (2 Sem Hrs.) Synoptic Gospels (Scott Deane) - M-F 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.**
- B2 - Oct. 16-23 - B271 (3 Sem Hrs.) Systematic Theology I (Dr. Alva Huffer) - Saturday, Oct. 16, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; M-F 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; and Saturday Oct. 23, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**
- M or B350 (2 Sem. Hrs.) Christ and Culture: Battling Worldviews (Dr. William Lawrence) 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.**
- B3 - Dec. 13-18 - G271 (3 Sem Hrs.) Church History I (Jim Graham) - 8 a.m.- noon and Saturday, Dec. 18, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

DISTANCE LEARNING:

- B111 - O.T. Survey I (3 Sem. Hrs.)--Self Directed Internet Study with full lecture notes & syllabus.**
- B112 - O.T. Survey II (3 Sem. Hrs.)--Self Directed Internet Study with full lecture notes & syllabus.**
- B161 - Basic Bible Doctrine (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard)--Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation**
- B222 - History and Major Prophets (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin)--Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation**
- B224 - History and Minor Prophets (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin)--Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation**
- B242 - Gospel of John (2 Sem. Hrs) (Buzzard)--Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation**
- B470 - Evangelical Theology (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - DVD/E-mail**
- M242 - Evangelism and Missions (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) - Videos/Internet/E-mail Presentation**
- G181 - Personal Finance (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation**

Seminars* - Youth Worker Training (Jon Cheatwood)

Progress Journal



Finance

2003 Annual Giving Report

We are very thankful for all who helped support the work of Atlanta Bible College and the Church of God General Conference during the past year.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOAL FOR GIVING

(For General Operations and Building our Future Campaign)

Individuals and Families	245	\$197,652
Churches and Groups	69	163,652
Conferences	6	7,557
Total to Goal for Giving and Building our Future Campaign		\$368,861

(Of this amount \$15,523.92 is for the Building Our Future Campaign)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL FUNDS

Library Memorials	1,600
ABC Development Foundation	2,170
Scholarships	24,879
Church Builders' Appeals	32,895
Africa (trips and famine relief)	31,069
Haiti	12,287
Korea	1,887
Mexico	3,207
Peru	1,906
Russia	16,837
Fund the Dream	1,300
Radio Ministry	10,877
Church Planting/Evangelism Fund	180
Investment Fund	1,000
Miscellaneous	439
Total to Special Funds	\$142,533

Grand Total of Contributions \$511,394

In Memoriam

Gifts were given in memory of the following individuals:

Richard L. Boyer	Gertrude Morrison
Amanda Cline	Lucian Murphy
Worth Cline	Mansel Rogers
Marie Cooper	Mildred Schroeder
John Craig English	Cecil Smead
Virginia Grim	Missy Thal
Helen Jones (Missouri)	Dale Ward
Harvey U. Krogh, Jr.	Norma Warmolts
Arlen Marsh	Faye Werneke

Scholarships and Grants for Atlanta Bible College

The following grants and scholarships were awarded to Atlanta Bible College students during 2003. Other individuals, churches and groups provided assistance directly to students in addition to these scholarships and grants administered by the college.

ABC/OBC Alumni Association	Mildred Schroeder
Arkansas Conference	Ministerial Association
Blanchard Missionary Society	Minnesota Conference
Burnham-Stadden	Missouri Conference
Carolyn Brown	Monroe Elton Memorial
Delbert Jones Memorial	New Hope Church, Little Rock
Francis and Lyla VanFleet Memorial	Pennellwood Mission Department, Grand Rapids, MI
Glen and Violet Booth Memorial	Ritenour Trust Fund - In Memory of Eliza Boyer Ritenour, Virginia
Harold J. Doan Memorial	Ritenour Kincheloe, and Seraphine Ritenour Cleek
Harry and Emily Berry Memorial	Orine Richardson Robinson
Harvey U. Krogh, Jr. Memorial	Simi Valley, California Church
Hattie Bottolfs Memorial	Southwest Members in Memory of Norman McLeod, S. J.
Helen Overholser Memorial	Lindsay, Harold J. Doan and C. E. Randall
Illinois Conference	Stan Ross Memorial
Indiana Conference	Treva Williams Memorial
Iris Elton Memorial	Troy View/Demmitt/Overholser
James A. Patrick Memorial - Northeast Conference	Wenatchee Church
Jean Elton Fortney Memorial	William and Rhoda Hans Memorial
John and Opal Hayse Memorial	Zelma Weaver Memorial
John and Ruth Lewis Memorial	
Lawrenceville/Overholser	
Lois Blakely Memorial	
Lucian Murphy Memorial	
Mary Helen Mattison Memorial	
Michigan Conference	

Finance

Expense Budget Report for March, 2004

	Budget	Actual	Variance
STAFF:			
Salaries & Wages	446,077	438,630	7,447
F.I.C.A. Tax	6,043	5,649	394
Employee Benefits	94,935	83,399	11,536
Subtotal	547,055	527,678	19,377
SERVICES:			
Assistance to Churches	35,100	36,883	-1,783
Ministerial Association	7,200	7,200	0
Youth Program	9,000	9,000	0
Subtotal	51,300	53,083	-1,783
UTILITIES EXPENSE:			
Printing & Binding	26,250	35,217	-8,967
Postage & Shipping	11,250	16,099	-4,849
Media Production Expenses	2,250	0	2,250
Book Store	12,750	13,819	-1,069
Loyalties	113	0	113
Subtotal	52,613	65,135	-12,522
TRAVEL:			
Travel Rebate	2,625	1,200	1,425
Advertising--Recruitment	7,500	2,080	5,420
ABC Korean Extension Support	11,715	13,055	-1,340
Library Periodicals	2,250	1,380	870
Library Books	375	119	256
Staff Periodicals, Books, Dues	600	443	157
Staff Training	2,250	3,103	-853
Subtotal	27,315	21,380	5,935
ADMINISTRATION:			
Travel	30,000	42,167	-12,167
Motor Vehicles	1,500	1,896	-396
Office Supplies & Expense	12,000	15,926	-3,926
Professional Services	8,250	12,593	-4,343
Telephone	15,000	15,134	-134
Insurance - Non Plant	375	127	248
Supplies & Expense	2,250	1,824	426
Repairs/Maintenance - Non Plant	11,250	17,509	-6,259
Subtotal	80,625	107,176	-26,551
PLANT EXPENSES:			
Utilities	20,250	22,936	-2,686
Insurance - Property	9,750	8,989	761
Repairs/Maintenance - Plant	2,250	3,844	-1,594
Furniture & Equipment	3,750	2,801	949
Supplies/Expenses Plant	3,750	4,276	-526
Subtotal	39,750	42,846	-3,096
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Other	5,250	10,437	-5,187
Expense Total	803,908	827,735	-23,827
GRAND TOTAL	-199,172	-288,491	-89,319

Income Budget Report for March, 2004

	Budget	Actual	Variance
CONTRIBUTIONS:			
General Contributions	266,250	233,534	-32,716
G.C. - Devises & Bequests	3,750	4,663	913
ABC Boosters	12,750	4,450	-8,300
Subtotal	282,750	242,647	-40,103
SALES:			
Christian Education Materials	48,750	27,583	-21,167
Books	21,750	22,049	299
Restitution Herald	5,444	2,748	-2,696
Age to Come Media Products	3,938	173	-3,765
Theological Journal	1,125	858	-267
Sale of Assets	0	117	117
Subtotal	81,007	53,528	-27,479
ABC:			
Tuition	106,313	132,080	25,767
Korean Extension Tuition	40,500	43,300	2,800
Lodging	38,700	43,008	4,308
Washers/Dryers	1,016	1,668	652
Rentals - ABC Plant	3,300	2,800	-500
Late Fees/Rent	5,400	8,686	3,286
Fees	7,500	7,701	201
Subtotal	202,729	239,243	36,514
PROGRAM INCOME:			
Conferences & Workshops	37,500	-10,066	-47,566
Subtotal	37,500	-10,066	-47,566
MISCELLANEOUS:			
Interest	750	362	-388
Transferred In	0	13,530	13,530
Subtotal	750	13,892	13,142
Income Total	604,736	539,244	-65,492
Building Our Future Campaign	385,000		
Contributed through March, 2004	27,374		

These statements report College/Conference income and expense for July, 2003 through March, 2004. The 'Budget' column in each report shows the year-to-date portion of the annual budget for each line item. The 'Variance' column in each report shows the difference between the amount budgeted and the amount actually received (income) or spent (expense). A positive number in this column means the income or expense is better than budgeted. A negative number in this column means the income or expense is worse than budgeted.

Prayer & Praise

May 2004

- 1 Pray for the editors of our Conference publications.
- 2 Pray for Pastor Ray and Susan Hall and the Garden Park, Michigan Church of God.
- 3 Pray for Pastor Charles and Carol Jones and the Pomona, California Church.
- 4 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Ken and Eva Howe and the Country Chapel, Indiana Church of God.
- 5 Pray for the planning for mission trips to Mexico and Malawi this summer.
- 6 Praise God for students who are preparing for service at Atlanta Bible College.
- 7 Pray for Maxine Head, Charles Jones, Kab Soo Kim, and Johnathan Wincapaw as they complete their Bachelor's Degrees at ABC.
- 8 Pray for Pastor Greg and Karen Demmitt and the work at the Lakeshore Bible Church, Tempe, Arizona.
- 9 Praise God for your mother and her influence.
- 10 Pray for Pastor Jeff and Karen Fletcher and the Happy Woods Church in Hammond, Louisiana.
- 11 Pray for believers who are in nursing homes and hospitals.
- 12 Praise God for the strength He provides each day.
- 13 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Michael and Linda Hoffman and the Oregon, Illinois Church of God.
- 14 Pray for the congregation at Omaha, Nebraska, and Pastor Scott and Gayle Ross.
- 15 Pray for Pastor Mark Good and his work with Arkansas Churches.
- 16 Praise God for new attenders at your local church.
- 17 Pray for God to raise up workers for our churches.
- 18 Pray for those who are responding to the Focus on the Kingdom Radio Program.
- 19 Praise God for the faithful work of retired Pastor Le and Delores Driskill over many years.
- 20 Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.
- 21 Pray for Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood and the ministry of the Macomb, IL Church.
- 22 Pray for your family and friends.
- 23 Pray for the ministry of Pastor Scott and Theresa De and the church at Pleasant Hill, Ohio.
- 24 Pray for those who are preparing for Christian service.
- 25 Pray for the work of Pastor Don and Joyce Ward and the Countryside Bible Church in Missouri.
- 26 Pray for Pastor Jim and Cory Shaul and the Blood River Church in Springfield, Louisiana.
- 27 Pray for Elder Jim Davis and his wife Betty and the Family Bible Church in Pueblo West, Colorado.
- 28 Pray for Church of God members throughout the world as they minister to others.
- 29 Pray for the brethren in India.
- 30 Pray for Pastor Jon and René Welch and the Frederick MO Church.
- 31 Praise God for all that He has done and is doing in your life.

June 2004

- 1 Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as they make decisions for the future.
- 2 Pray for Pastor John Nelson and the Open Bible Church, Bolivar, MO.
- 3 Pray for believers in the Philippine Islands.
- 4 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.
- 5 Pray for boldness to share your faith.
- 6 Pray that God might speak to you through the services of your church today.
- 7 Pray for Pastor Dan and Charlotte Fyfe and their work at Anderson Chapel, Hendersonville, NC.
- 8 Praise God for His power and knowledge.
- 9 Pray for the ministry of your local church.
- 10 Praise God for those who regularly remember our Conference and College with their prayers and contributions.
- 11 Praise God for your pastor and his family and their dedication to ministry.
- 12 Pray for Pastor James and Linda Hill and the work at Royal, AR.
- 13 Praise God for your family and circle of friends.
- 14 Pray for preparations for the summer General Conference next month.
- 15 Pray for Pastor Gordon and Barbara Landry and the work at Flagg Center, IL.
- 16 Pray for Pastor Rufus and Jerri Meyers and the Simple Teachings Bible Church, Jonesboro, GA.
- 17 Pray for those who are listening to the Focus on the Kingdom Radio Program.
- 18 Pray for Pastor Tom and Anne Colburn and the Blanch MI Church.
- 19 Pray for those planning the summer General Conference that will be held next month.
- 20 Praise God for your father.
- 21 Pray for Pastor Beder Ucanay and the believers in Peru.
- 22 Pray for the Midwest Family Camp at Camp Mack this week.
- 23 Praise God for the editors of our Sunday School curriculum and our printed publications.
- 24 Pray for pastors who are changing pastorates this year.
- 25 Pray for God's direction in future mission efforts.
- 26 Pray for God's direction in the preparation for FUEL (Youth Program).
- 27 Praise God for your church family.
- 28 Pray for Bible Schools being held at many churches this summer.
- 29 Pray for the Board of Directors as they lead the College Conference.
- 30 Praise God for the dedication of the College/Conference staff.

Church News

Pastors Needed



Bethel Church of God will be in need of a pastor as of June 1, 2004. If interested, please contact Todd Impson at 864-243-2346 or e-mail to Todd_J_Impson@Bausch.com.

Happywoods Church, located in Southeast Louisiana, in one of the fastest growing areas of the state, is searching for a person to fill the position of SR. PASTOR in our church.

We are currently in a building program which will double our floor space increasing our opportunity to serve the community.

We provide a complete package of benefits and a competitive salary. If you feel God is possibly calling you to exercise your gifts in the area of Pulpit ministry and leadership in growing and developing our church both numerically and spiritually, please contact the Search Committee at one of the following addresses:

Search Committee
Millard L. Hutchinson
43302 Happywoods Rd. Ext.,
Hammond, LA 70403
(985-345-8832)
e-mail: mlhutchinson@i-55.com

Search Committee
Charles G. Bottolfs
43137 Happywoods Rd.
Hammond, LA 70403
(985-542-1555)
e-mail: cgbottolfs@charter.net

We will keep all contacts in strict confidence and will respond in confidential manner to all who contact us. Please respond with any expressions of interest as soon as possible.

Baptisms

Louisiana
Happywoods – Sidney Joffray, Amelia Sledge, Camp Sledge (3/25/04); Nathan Egnew (5/2/04) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Michigan
Blanchard – Laurie McDonald-Stanley, Savannah Wheeler (2/29/04) by Pastor Chris Seiders; Travis Wood (3/21/04) by his father-in-law, Kenny Bush; Ferny Sharp, Cody Bailey (3/21/04) by Pastor Chris Seiders

Missouri
Countryside Bible – Paul Bremmer (11/23/03); Shannon Dilbeck, Shelby Dilbeck (3/7/04) by Pastor Don Ward

Ohio
Bedford – Kelly Spiker (3/14/04) by Pastor Rex Cain

Columbia Christian Fellowship – Lisa Bania (3/7/04) by Pastor David Swartz

Pleasant Hill – Tyler Moore, Timothy Stine (7/13/03); Mike Davis (7/20/03); Brett Casey (8/24/03); John M. Dick (8/31/03) by Pastor Scott Deane

South Carolina
Bethel – Erica Monroe (3/7/04); Martin Hammonds (4/11/04); Carly Griffith (4/11/04); Mitchell Hammonds (4/18/04) by Pastor Alan Cain

Marriages

Illinois
Blessed Hope – Steve and Judy Carter (3/13/04) by Pastor Neal Bryant

Washington
Wenatchee – Errol Burbank II and Bethany Davis (2/29/04) by Pastor Kirby Davis

Pastors Available



Pastor Jeffrey Fletcher is currently discerning his next call to ministry. He is a graduate of OBC/ABC with over 20 years of ministry experience within the Church of God, having pastored churches in Illinois, England and currently in Louisiana. Pastor Fletcher has received additional training in Clinical Pastoral

Education and has completed an internship in Spiritual Direction. In addition to his pastoral duties in the local church, Pastor Fletcher has also served in hospice and hospital pastoral care programs, served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of the Radical Reformation, and is the Editor of the Restitution Herald magazine. Pastor Fletcher is married and has a large family. He is seeking a ministry setting where he is able to use his gifts to help lead a community to spiritual growth and fulfillment of the Great Commission. Pastor Fletcher is available to relocate in Fall, 2004. For further information or to discuss ministry possibilities and vision, please e-mail him at revjeff@charter.net.

Pastor Alan Cain will be available starting the beginning of June, 2004. He has been in the ministry for 18 years: 3 years in Omaha, NE and 15 years in Pelzer, SC. Alan's greatest joys and passions are preaching and teaching. He has had the chance to share those passions not only with the churches he has served but also with youth work on the national and local level and most recently as an adjunct teacher at Atlanta Bible College.

Pastor Cain would be interested in being a guest speaker or helping churches with preaching and teaching needs (After the first of June). He would also be willing to discuss other possibilities. You can contact him at 864-847-1618 or acain@nuvox.net

Deaths

Indiana
North Salem – Gerald Osborn, 91 (3/20/04), member, by Pastor Stanley Lawrence

Louisiana
Happywoods – Eddie Hutchinson (4/23/04) by Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Missouri
Countryside Bible – Lewis McKinney, 68 (2/5/04) by Pastor Don Ward

South Carolina
Bethel – Charles Hicks (4/11/04) by Pastor Alan Cain

Washington
Wenatchee – Clark Cronin, 82 (2/22/04), long time faithful member, by Pastor Merry Peterson



Share the Message . . .

With These Exceptional Publications

from the Church of God General Conference

The Restitution Herald

In its 93rd year of production, The Restitution Herald provides readers with insightful editorials and articles dealing with life issues, prophecy and Biblical perspectives.

Available for these low prices:
\$13/year
\$24/2 years
 Published bi-monthly



The Age to Come DVD

Each program is approximately one half-hour in length and focuses on the good news of the coming kingdom as well as how to live a purposeful life in anticipation of the coming kingdom. To view the latest program, go to <http://www.abc-coggc.org/atc.wmv>

Available for this low price:
\$36/year

Subscribers receive 8 programs on DVD approximately every 6 weeks.



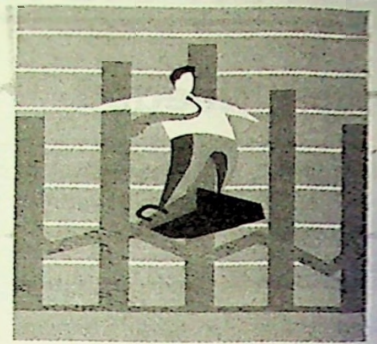
A Journal from the Radical Reformation: A Testimony to Biblical Unitarianism

In its eleventh year of publication, the JRR is a scholarly journal presenting many of the fundamental doctrines advocated by the Church of God.

Available for these low prices:
\$24/year
Foreign: \$30/year
 Published quarterly



Order Now! 800-347-4261



**It's No Fun to Ride
 the Market Up and Down .
 Especially When Your Money
 Is in It!**

Charitable Gift Annuity

Now you can give cash or stock and receive an immediate tax deduction for a substantial portion of the amount, and also receive a partially tax-free income stream for the remainder of your life. And most importantly, you'll feel the satisfaction of knowing your annuity investment will equip people for ministry, provide financial assistance to new and existing churches, and do the work God has commissioned us to do.

Please contact **David Krogh** for more information or to set up a charitable gift annuity:

Phone: **1-800-347-4261**
 E-mail: **dkrogh@abc-coggc.org**
 Mail: **Box 100,000,
 Morrow, GA 30260**

PROGRESS JOURNAL is owned and published by Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260. Published bi-monthly. Steve Taylor, Editor; Justin Taylor, Publishing Specialist; Jill Taylor, Typesetter; Mary Krogh, Proofreader. Telephone 404-362-4261 or 800-347-4261; FAX 404-362-9307. E-mail Address: info@abc-coggc.org. Website: www.abc-coggc.org.

Atlanta Bible College
 Church of God General Conference
 P.O. Box 100,000
 Morrow, GA 30260

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
 U.S. POST
 PAID
 PERMIT NO.
 TAYLOR



Institution Herald

Volume 93 Number 5

June, July 2004

Wars, Rumors & Wars

this Issue

Nonresistance
Power & Money
Faiths or One Faith?
Children's Story
Crossword



From the Editor...

Reflections on Recent Events



June, 2004 saw two historical events. The 60th anniversary of D-Day and the death of the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

D-Day commemorates the beginning of what was to be the end of Hitler's reign of terror in Europe. It was a war where much blood was shed. Some estimate that the total number of lives lost worldwide in the war was **50,000,000**. Here are some figures regarding United States Service men and women:

- **Total service members:** 16,112,566 soldiers, sailors, air forces, and marines
- **Battle deaths:** 291,557
- **Other deaths in service:** 113,842
- **Non-mortal wounding:** 671,846
- **Living veterans:** 5,451,378.

Hitler caused the deaths of at least 6 million Jews in Europe. President Ronald Reagan will go down in history as the one who is most largely responsible for bringing to an end the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.

One man was clearly an evil, sadistic dictator, the other was certainly, by all accounts from those who knew him an honorable, God fearing man.

Additionally, those men and women who are part of the "Greatest Generation" and sacrificed so much to rid the world of Hitler's Nazism were people of great courage and tremendous sacrifice. From one perspective of history, the world is certainly a better place as a result of their efforts to rid the world of evil and tyrannical regimes. At face value, these are clearly black and white issues of right and wrong.

However, as those whose primary

focus is centered, not on the kingdoms of this world but on the coming Kingdom of God, I do feel that it is at least necessary to ask some questions and consider some of the effects of these actions on the course of history from a Kingdom perspective.

For example, although Hitler was certainly an evil man, did not God use the evil that Hitler did to bring about His will of creating the kind of conditions whereby the Jews would return to their land and reestablish the Nation of Israel?

Many Christians believed that the Communist U.S.S.R. was to be the Beast of Prophecy. If the Soviet Union indeed was to be the Beast of Prophecy, did bringing about their collapse perhaps delay God's timetable for bringing about Armageddon?

But perhaps The Soviet Union was not the Beast, then could it be, as some scholars suggest, that the Beast is to be found in the modern day Arab world with such evil tyrants as Saddam Hussein as potential candidates for anti-christ?

During the first Gulf War there was much speculation that Saddam saw himself as a modern day Nebuchadnezzar and would lead the final war against Israel. But President Bush has, apparently, put Hussein out of power through the war against terror in Iraq.

Could we, perhaps, be seeing another delay in Armageddon due to the use of military force by the United States? This question is not intended to diminish President Bush, who is clearly a man with a deep faith in God and strong convictions regarding the locus of evil in our world. And yet, we need to ask if his course of action in ridding

the world of Saddam is, in fact, working in conjunction with God's plan and purposes?

These questions are, to a large degree unanswerable. But they introduce a difficult set of ethical questions for Christians. How can we know when and how it is appropriate to intervene in the affairs of nations through force? When the United States uses its military power to defeat tyrants, are we working with God to achieve His purposes or are we working against God's purposes to bring about the final judgment and usher in the coming Kingdom of God?

As Christians, we have to wrestle with our own consciences regarding our participation in armed conflict. For 2,000 years there have been Christians who were active in military affairs and Christians who refused to participate in the military due to their conscience and faith.

During the Crusades, Christian soldiers took up arms against the Islamics in defense of the Holy Land. At other times, Anabapists* have steadfastly opposed participation in war.

Within the Church of God there has never been a singly held view with regard to our participation in war. Learned Bible students have, at times, spoken eloquently in defense of participation in war when the cause was just.

Some have sided with Luther, who preached that Christians should be peace-loving and non-violent in their private lives, but can legitimately use violence as an arm of the state. Others within the Church of God have appealed to us to consider Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount as being

(Continued on page 19)

* Anabaptist: noun: a Protestant sectarian of a radical movement arising in the 16th century and advocating the baptism and church membership of adult believers only, nonresistance, and the separation of church and state. (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary)



Table of Contents

4 The Principal Of Nonresistance
John Horsch

8 Love & Money
James L. Wilson

10 Faiths or One Faith? Part Two
Anthony Buzzard

13 Peace That Passeth Understanding
Samuel B. Haney

15 8 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor
Victor Parachin

17 Children's Story
Betsy Moore

20 Crossword
The Restitution Herald

THE RESTITUTION HERALD
VOLUME 93, NUMBER 5;
JUNE, JULY 2004 ©2004.

EDITOR
JEFF FLETCHER

PUBLISHING SPECIALIST
JUSTIN TAYLOR

PROOFREADER
SARAH BUZZARD

MAILING AND SUBSCRIPTIONS
MARCY CLY

ADDRESS EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: JEFF FLETCHER, 130
WAYNE ST., PONCHATOLA, LA 70454. E-mail:
happywoodseg@t-55.com

WEBSITE
<http://www.abc-cogge.org>

ADDRESS MAILING AND SUBSCRIPTION CORRESPONDENCE TO:
THE RESTITUTION HERALD, ATTN: MARCY CLY,
P. O. BOX 100,000, MORROW, GA 30260. E-MAIL ADDRESS:
info@abc-cogge.org.

PERMISSIONS: Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference grants permission for any original article (not a reprint) to be photocopied or duplicated for use without charge, provided the material is distributed free and the copies indicate the name of the publication and the name of Atlanta Bible College Church of God General Conference, and our mailing address.

THE RESTITUTION HERALD IS OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY THE CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE, A NONPROFIT CHRISTIAN CORPORATION LOCATED AT 5825 TRAMMELL ROAD, P.O. BOX 100,000, MORROW, GA 30260. THE HERALD IS MAILED SIX TIMES A YEAR. THE RESTITUTION HERALD ADVOCATES

- THE ONENESS OF GOD (COR. 8:6)
- THE HOY SPIRIT IN GOD'S POWER (ACTS 1:8)
- JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, MADE OF GOD AND IS OF RADIANT GLORY (JN. 1:18)
- THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (2 TIM. 3:16)
- THE MORTALITY OF MAN (JOB 4:17; ISA. 51:6)
- THE NEAR RETURN OF CHRIST (MAT. 24:14; 1 COR. 15:23)
- THE LITERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD (1 COR. 15:52)
- THE IMMORTALIZATION OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE (1 COR. 15:50)
- THE DIVINE RESURRECTION OF SEVEN ASIA (1 COR. 15:20)
- UNDER THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST (1 COR. 6:2)
- THE CHURCH OF GOD IS AS WE (1 COR. 12:13)
- THE SUNDAY IS A DAY OF REST AND HOLINESS (1 COR. 16:2)
- THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE ONLY AUTHORITY (1 COR. 14:37)
- THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE ONLY AUTHORITY (1 COR. 14:37)
- THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE ONLY AUTHORITY (1 COR. 14:37)



The Principle of Nonresistance, Part One

John Horsch



About the Author:

John Horsch was born in Germany in 1867, and died in 1941 in Scottsdale, Pa. He was an editor, writer and historian, whose work helped to create an interest in Anabaptist history among North American Mennonites.

Introduction

The Christian Church in general has in all ages of its history recognized the fact that our Lord taught the principle of nonresistance, and yet, excepting the earliest Christian centuries, the great majority of Christian professors have always found a way to circumvent the practical requirements of this principle. The Roman Catholic Church has always held that Christ taught nonresistance, not however as a commandment but as an advice; hence, according to the doctrine of this church, those engaging in war do not transgress a divine command and do not become guilty of sin.

Martin Luther, the father of Protestantism, defended a peculiar view on this question, a view which is even today held by many Protestant theologians. He taught that a Christian is to be strictly nonresistant and that no one can as a Christian have a part in violence and bloodshed, be it in self-defense or in war. No one can do so as a Christian. But a Christian, he says, is also a "world person," or a citizen, and as such he is under duty to use violence in the service of the government, as a magistrate, officer, or soldier. When in such capacity he acts contrary to the precept and example of Christ, it is not a sin to him but is his duty.

He does this as a citizen, not as a Christian. Luther divided the Christian into two personalities, the duty of the one being the opposite to that of the other.[1] The fact will bear repetition that he in theory defended the principle of strict nonresistance of the Christian. He also emphatically agreed with the Mennonites in the opinion that civil government using force would not be necessary if all men were true Christians.[2]

Nonresistance Pre-Eminently a New Testament Doctrine

Many fundamental Christians, outside the so-called peace churches, believe that the Old Testament commands, except the ceremonial law, are binding for the Christian Church, the same as the Scriptures of the Old Testament. In plain fact, however, there are many portions of the Mosaic law, besides those containing the ceremonial law, that are not binding in the

New Covenant. It is noteworthy that Herbert Booth, the author of the book, "The Saint and the Sword," which is the most thoroughgoing defense of the principle of nonresistance from the Bible viewpoint, is not a member of one of the so-called peace churches.

Our Lord, after quoting literally from the Old Testament law: "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" (Ex. 21:24; Lev. 24:20; Deut. 19:21), goes on to say: 'But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil . . . Love your enemies,' etc. (Matt. 5:38-48). On such points as war, the oath, and divorce, Christ's teaching is at variance with the Old Testament law. He is pre-eminently the Lord and Lawgiver, as well as the Saviour of men. In the light of His teaching, the law of the Old Covenant is not faultless. (Heb. 8:7). War, being contrary to His teaching, is sin.

It has been supposed by various writers that Jesus in the words, "I came not to send peace, but a sword" (Matt. 10:34), spoke of the material sword and declared Himself against the principle of nonresistance. The supposition, however, that He came into the world to send the material sword is simply contrary to fact. He did not come for any such purpose. That He should have made a statement to that effect is unthinkable and impossible. If the purpose of His coming had been to send the carnal sword, Christianity would necessarily be a "religion of the sword," somewhat of the order of Mohammedanism, possibly. The parallel reference in Luke (12:51) has "division" (separation) instead



The Principle of Nonresistance, Part One

John Horsch

of "sword," and this is undoubtedly the meaning, as the context in both Matthew and Luke clearly indicates. The conflict which resulted from Christ's coming into the world is not one that is to be decided by the carnal sword. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal" (II Cor. 10:4). The conflict with evil is of a spiritual nature, as fully described in Eph. 6:10-18. The sword to be used by the Christian is "the sword of the Spirit."

As an argument against nonresistance, the passage in Luke 22:36 has also been quoted, "He that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one." Opinions may differ as to our Lord's intended purpose in uttering these words. The question which concerns us here is, whether He intended to say that the disciples should make practical use of the material sword. As we may directly see, this was by no means the case. Yet the disciples may have understood Him so. Just a few moments later, when the multitude came on the scene to arrest Jesus, one of the disciples asked, "Lord, shall we smite with the sword?" Peter, without waiting for a reply, drew the sword and injured the high priest's servant, Malchus. Christ, then, while healing the injury Peter had done, addressed him with the solemn words, "Put up . . . thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

Peter, as well as the rest of the disciples, evidently took these words of Christ to heart. Apparently none of them ever

transgressed again by using the sword for self-defense. Peter, in his first epistle, points out with emphasis that Christ gave us the example of meekness and nonresistance, and that upon His followers devolves the solemn duty to "follow his steps" (I Pet. 2:20-23).

Evidently the context of the passage under consideration (Luke 22:36) must be taken into account to understand the meaning of these words. Verse 38 reads, "And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough." Do not the words of Jesus, "It is enough," indicate that the two swords were not to be used by the disciples against their antagonists?

Or was it Jesus' thought, as some have supposed, that, since He was about to return to the Father, the disciples needed the material sword for self-defense? Did Jesus mean to indicate that they should use the sword against the persecuting governments? Would they not have proved themselves transgressors by becoming insurrectionists against constituted authority? Or was it His thought that they should use the material sword in defense against their neighbors who would antagonize them? Would not the disciples, by taking in such a way the civil law into their own hands, have become guilty of glaring transgression?

Again, could it be supposed that Jesus meant to say that the disciples should have swords ready to be used against the multitude armed "with swords and staves"

which was just then drawing near to take Him? Was it His thought that the disciples should engage in an armed struggle with the multitude? Would in this case two swords have been enough for the eleven disciples? Would eleven disciples, even if they all had swords, have been enough to defend themselves with the sword against the multitude? Would not the disciples, by making Gethsemane the scene of carnal struggle and bloodshed, have made our Lord the head of a band of wrongdoers, if He had permitted it? Think of the defeat which His cause would have suffered, had the disciples made such use of the carnal sword. Such is the absurdity of the opinion that they were to use the two swords for self-defense and that Jesus here taught against peace and nonresistance.

Clearly, Jesus' words, "It is enough," could not have meant that the two swords were "enough" for self-defense, or were to be used for such a purpose. But they were enough to give occasion for an impressive object lesson to the disciples concerning the use of the sword: "Put up . . . thy sword." Besides, the two swords may have had some symbolic significance as is the opinion of various commentators.

It is of interest to note that in recent decades various prominent theological writers in this country and Europe have admitted that war is sin, that it is indeed the most appalling outbreak and manifestation of sin in the world. And yet they do not disapprove of military service. It is a distinctive



The Principle of Nonresistance, Part One

John Horsch

principle of Mennonitism that there never can be an excuse for sin.

If participation in warfare were consistent with Christian principles, war could not be so great an evil as it is generally recognized to be. Without question anything one may do that is consistent with true Christianity cannot be an evil. As already stated, the causes of war are ever present among the nations of the world. It is not within the power of the Christian Church to change the nature of the world and to remove the causes of war. The practical and highly important question is, What is the Christian to do in case of war, when he is bidden to have a part in it?

It is an easy way out to say, as some do, that the Sermon on the Mount was not intended for this age. Any one reading this sermon carefully must realize that Christ asked His hearers to make it the rule of their lives. And the plain fact remains that war is absolutely and intrinsically contrary to Christian principles. It is the very opposite of what Jesus taught concerning practical Christian duty. If He had never preached the Sermon on the Mount, this would not change the fact of the anti-Christian character of war. The unsophisticated Christian conscience revolts against participation in war.

To say that war is consistent with Christian principles means that the Christian Church of the first three centuries misunderstood Christ's teaching. It is an established historical fact that the early church did not permit participation in war.

Nonresistance of the Early Christians and in Pre-Reformation Times

Until about two generations ago the Mennonite people were a unit in the belief that the Scriptures of the New Testament teach the principle of nonresistance, and that the early Christians accepted and defended this principle. We notice with regret that, with the growth of militarism in certain European countries, the opinion has been advanced, even among Mennonite people, that the church of the first centuries failed to take a decided position against war. This opinion is based principally on the writings of the late Professor Adolf von Harnack of the University of Berlin, Germany. Since this question does not fall under the scope of the present treatise, it must suffice to call attention to the standard work on this subject, namely, the book, "The Early Christian Attitude to War," by Professor C. John Cadoux of Oxford, published in 1919.[3]

It is of particular interest to notice that in a review of this book[4] Professor Harnack stated that it is thoroughly reliable; in fact, he uses the expression that the book is "the last word on this subject." This admission by Professor Harnack is the more remarkable since, as already intimated, he had previously held the contrary opinion. In his book, "Militia Christi," published in 1905, he had attempted to show that the early Christians' attitude in this regard was one of comparative indifference. The book of Cadoux

furnishes conclusive evidence that the Christian Church of the first centuries took a decided position as regards the principle of nonresistance, taking substantially the same attitude toward violence and war as did the early Waldenses, the Mennonites, and other nonresistant Christians. Participation in war as well as suing at law was forbidden.

The Waldenses have just been mentioned as a nonresistant sect. Their history dates back a number of centuries before the time of Martin Luther and Menno Simons. The question has been raised, "How is it to be explained that the modern Waldenses (in Italy and America) do not object to military service, while in medieval times the Waldenses held the principle of nonresistance?" The answer is that during the Reformation period the Waldenses yielded to influences of one of the leading Protestant churches which defended the rightfulness of a union of church and state and of war. In 1532, after the Waldenses had been in touch with theologians of the Reformed Church for a number of years, they held a synod at Angrogna in Northern Italy in the presence of William Farel and other theologians from Geneva. With the exception of a small minority they repudiated those doctrines and principles in which they differed from the Reformed Church including the rejection of the oath and military service, and accepted the doctrine of predestination.[5] They became a branch of the Reformed Church.



The Principle of Nonresistance, Part One

John Horsch

The Peace Testimony of Peter Chelchitzki

Peter Chelchitzki, a farmer of Chelchitz in Bohemia, was born about 1395. Little is known of his life and his religious connections. He was probably connected with one of the Hussite groups, the followers of John Huss who was burned at the stake at Constance, Germany, in 1415. That Chelchitzki was a consistent defender of the principle of nonresistance is evident from a number of his extant books. The following quotations will serve as evidence that about a century before the rise of the Mennonite Church there were, even outside of the Waldensian Church, those who maintained a strong and consistent testimony against violence and war. Chelchitzki says:

Worldly rulers have contentions for the sake of material wealth and worldly honor. Let some one threaten their sovereignty, and at once they engage in war. They seize the men and bring them together like a herd and drive them into the conflict where those on the one side kill and rob those on the other. . . . And the worst is that they undertake to compel Christians to engage in such conflicts, for on both sides there may be a few who cannot with a good, clear conscience kill and rob others. Yea, brother goes against brother to harm him, when according to the Christian faith he should be ready to die for him. Compelled by self-seeking authorities he goes out to kill and rob his brother, and does not have the conviction

and the love to follow the Lord unto death rather than become guilty of such evil deeds.

The one party is praying for their armies and the other party for theirs that they may be victorious. Each party prays for victory against the other. And both are named Christians though each one is wishing well only to his own party. The Christians on both sides engage wrongfully in the bloody strife and pray that they may be victorious over the other side. Whom, now, will God hear? Since on both sides there are Christians, they combat unlawfully with each other and theirs is not a prayer of faith. God does not hear them. The faith of these Christians is as if torn to shreds and their prayer is powerless since it is aimed at shedding the blood of brethren. And if those with whom they are engaged in such conflict are not brothers, they may be enemies and God has commanded to pray for such and to do them good.

The whole rabble of these divided multitudes are called Christians and together they pray: "Our Father which art in heaven." They approach God in this way while each party has in mind the destruction of the other. They think they are serving God by shedding others' blood. And on both sides they say: "Forgive us as we forgive." And every party seeks to increase its military force and never thinks of forgiving the other so long as they can hope to overcome

them. Therefore their prayers are blasphemies against God.[6]

The Original Position of the Earliest Protestant Leaders on the Principle of Nonresistance

It is interesting to notice that both Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli (the founder of the Reformed Church), in the earliest period of their labors as reformers, were advocates of the principle of nonresistance. This was the period before they consented to the compromise of a union of the church with the state, or in other words to the establishment of all-inclusive state churches.

Luther, in the year 1520, wrote to his opponent, Dr. Johann Eck: "You say that I would give room to the peace-breakers and murderers, because I have taught that a Christian should abstain from violence and should not fight to recover his belongings of which he was robbed. Why do you not rebuke Christ who has taught this?" Again, in his booklet, "Why the Pope's Books Have Been Burned," written in the same year, Luther gives many reasons for committing these books to the flames. His twenty-fourth reason is, "Because the pope teaches that it is right for a Christian to meet violence by violence, contrary to Christ's teaching who says, 'Whoever will take thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.'"

[To be continued in the next issue of the Restitution Herald]



Love & Money

James L. Wilson



About the Author

James L. Wilson has served churches in Texas, New Mexico and California. Currently he is the Pastor of Lighthouse Church in Seaside, CA.

"Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless" (Eccles. 5:10, NIV).

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a non-profit association of attorneys, surveyed their 1500 members and compiled a report of the results of that survey in a booklet entitled *Making Marriages Last*. In it, they say, "Not all marriages fail for the same reason. Nor is there usually one reason for the breakdown of a particular marriage. Nevertheless, we hear some reasons more often than others. They are: poor communication, financial problems, a lack of commitment to the marriage, a dramatic change in priorities, [and] infidelity."

Other sources I read cited abuse, drugs and Internet addictions as other causes of divorce, but I do believe

the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers is a good source for this kind of statistic. After all, divorce lawyers should have a feel for these trends. Specifically what I want to zero in on with this message is Love & Money: how financial problems can negatively impact a home.

On one level, poverty itself is a problem that can lead to hopelessness, despair and can contribute to relationship problems. But poverty isn't necessarily the only financial problem that can hurt a marriage. Proverbs 19:1 says, "Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool" (NASB). And James 2:5 says, "Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?" (NASB) Given the choice between being rich or poor, most of us would choose wealth, but having a lot of money doesn't necessarily solve our money problems.

Whenever we think about our financial woes, we often think the solution is more money. And in all fairness, sometimes our financial problems are because we aren't making enough money, but sometimes, they are because we aren't managing what we make. Take Suzanne Mullins for example. In 1993, she won 4.2 million dollars in the Virginia Lottery. Eleven years later, she is deep in debt to a Florida Company that lent her money using the winnings as collateral. A circuit court ruled that Mullins owes \$154,147.

Though Mullins could not be reached for comment, her lawyer said

Mullins blamed the debt on extensive medical bills of an uninsured son-in-law who needed \$1million dollars in medical bills before he died four year ago. The lawyer, Michael Hart said, "It's been a hard road. It's not been jet plane trips to the Bahamas."

In 1998, Mullins took out a loan with a Florida company that serves lottery winners who need their money faster than the annual payments can arrive. The Florida Company lent money, expecting payments from the yearly lottery checks through 2006. When the lottery rules changed allowing winners to collect their money in a lump sum, Mullins decided to cash in the remaining amount and did not make payments on the loan after February, 2001.

A spokesman for the Florida lending company said his understanding was that Mullins had no assets to repay the remaining money. Tom Nasta of Personal Financial Planning in Roanoke said it's not unusual for people to go broke after winning the lottery. He says one client of his who won \$1 million dollars only had a mobile home to show for it seven years later.

For Mullins, and other lottery winners that Nasta cited, more money didn't solve their money problems. Well if more money isn't the answer to the problems many couples face, what is? Our culture's quick fix for marriage problems is divorce. Divorce not only kills a marriage, but most of the time doesn't solve the money problem.

Leslie Haggin Geary, Staff Writer for CNN/Money agrees that money problems can be a major source of conflict in the home, but she doesn't think divorce improves the problems. She writes, "... money



Love & Money

James L. Wilson

woes are among the leading causes of divorce. But in many cases, your financial troubles get worse—not better—after you bid adieu to your ex.”

Conventional wisdom has taught for years that divorce is the best option for a bad marriage, but a study recently conducted by the University of Chicago is shattering that myth. Linda Waite, lead author of the report said, “Staying married is not just for the children’s sake. Some divorce is necessary, but results like these suggest the benefits for divorce have been oversold.”

The primary conclusion of the study was that divorce did not increase the level of happiness of individuals in troubled marriages. There was “about the same proportion of couples who avoided divorcing despite an unhappy marriage ended up happy five years later as those who split up.”

Divorce is not a cure all. It doesn’t solve a couple’s financial problems, and according to this study, doesn’t improve their chances of being happy. Perhaps that is one of the reasons God says, “I hate divorce,” in Malachi 2:16 (NASB).

So if more money or divorce won’t necessarily solve the problem, what will? To be totally honest with you, nothing will. Not if you are looking for a quick fix. And that’s what winning the lottery and divorce have in common, they are both a big gamble that something, anything can fix the hole you have in your soul that is the real problem. Hear me good . . . nothing is going to give you an instant fix.

Now with that reality check, let me say, there is hope. In his best-selling

book, *The Purpose-Driven Life*, Rick Warren writes, “When God wants to make a mushroom, He does it overnight, but when He wants to make a giant oak, He takes a hundred years. Great souls are grown through struggles and storms and seasons of suffering” (*The Purpose-Driven Life*, p. 222).

Have you ever stopped to think that there could be a purpose in your financial struggles? That your struggles and the suffering they are causing could bring you closer together instead of driving you further apart? If you find finances are dividing you, step back for a minute and ask why. In your wedding vows you promised to love and cherish each other in richer or poorer. Are you keeping those vows? What I’m saying, is instead of putting your energy into solving your *PROBLEMS*, why not invest the same time in your relationship and solve your *PROBLEM*.

Do you get what I mean? The financial problem could be an opportunity to grow stronger, instead of a threat to tear you apart. James 1:4 says, “So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way” (MsgB).

A few years ago, we were driving along Hwy 10 toward my mother-in-law’s home in Indio, CA and pulled over at the rest stop that is near all the wind-driven electric generating machines in the desert. Oh, how the wind was blowing that day. As I was waiting for Susan, I noticed a small tree that was being tossed around by the wind. The tree was bending, but it hadn’t broken. But the stake that the gardener had tied to the tree had snapped in half. Half of it was in the

ground, the other half was tied onto the tree and was flapping in the wind.

The rigid stake snapped while the flexible tree survived. The tree had the inner strength it needed to survive the trial. And so do you. Instead of fighting with each other over the problems you have, financial or otherwise, why not come together and attack the problem instead of each other and cooperate with a God who loves you enough to let you grow instead of constantly rescuing you from your problems.

I want to close by giving you a starting point. I suspect that most arguments over money begins because one or both of you have failed to master a very simple truth. 1 Tim. 6:6-8 says, “But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. [7] For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. [8] And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content” (NASB). And Hebrews 13:5 says, “Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,’” (NASB). We reap great problems when we love money and use people. It is supposed to be the other way around.

© Dr. James L. Wilson, used by permission, all rights reserved.



Faiths or One Faith?

Part Two

Anthony Buzzard

About the Author:

Anthony Buzzard teaches at Atlanta Bible College and is the author of several books including "Our Fathers Who Aren't in Heaven."

In Part I of his article, Mr. Buzzard decried the lack of a single faith among Christians. He mentioned the varied and disjointed theology that each in the recent crop of Presidential Primary candidates held as evidence of the common misapprehension as to what "faith" is. In Part II, Anthony continues to present his view of the Bible's definition of the "faith" that all Christians should share.

Note: On the first page of Faiths or One Faith, Part One, the word "kosmocrats" was inadvertently spelled as "cormorants." The staff of The Restitution Herald wish to apologize for this typographical error.

Jesus' Gospel of the Kingdom speaks of a time when God will restore Israel and inaugurate a worldwide government based in Jerusalem. Jesus' vision is based on that of the Hebrew prophets. One of many samples of this end-time (not end of time!) vision is found in Isaiah 10:5-11:4:

"Woe to the Assyrian . . . [the instrument for the punishment of Israel, to bring her back to God and the Messiah]. When the Lord has completed all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, He will say: 'I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the King of Assyria . . . ' The Lord God will send a

wasting disease among his stout warriors. And under Assyria's glory a fire will be kindled like a burning flame. And the light of Israel will become a fire and His Holy One a flame and it will burn and devour Assyria's thorns and his briars in a single day . . . Now it will come about in that day that the remnant of Israel and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel. A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob to a Mighty God [Divine Warrior, the Messiah]. For though your people Israel may be like the sand of the sea, only a remnant within them will return. A destruction is determined overflowing with righteousness.

For a complete destruction, one that is decreed, the Lord of Hosts will execute in the midst of the whole land. Therefore, thus says the Lord of Hosts, 'O my people who dwell in Zion, do not fear the Assyrian, who strikes you with a rod and lifts up his staff . . . For in a very little while My indignation against you will be spent and My anger will be directed to the destruction of Assyria . . . Behold, the Lord God of Hosts will lop off the boughs with a terrible crash . . . Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. And the spirit of the Lord will rest upon him: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit

of knowledge and the fear of the Lord . . . With righteousness he will judge the poor and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth. And he will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth and with the breath of his lips he will destroy the wicked one."

How does Paul deal with this information? He gives inspired commentary on it. In Romans 9:27, 28 he quotes Isaiah 10:22, 23, repeating the prophet's vision of the future when the Messiah returns. In 2 Thessalonians 2:8 he warns of the coming of the Antichrist and describes the destruction of the Antichrist by Jesus, using the words found in Isaiah 11:4 (above).

Paul, in other words, expects the Antichrist to be the Assyrian of the end-time and he sees the fulfillment of Isaiah 11:4 at the coming of Jesus. Jesus will eliminate the Assyrian antichrist "with the breath of his lips." All this is part and parcel of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom to which the Gospel invites us and the Kingdom which will assert divine government across the globe. The inauguration of that divine economy, the establishment of the Kingdom of God in a renewed earth, will not happen until the seventh trumpet — the trumpet of the resurrection of the faithful dead (1 Cor. 15:22, 23; 51-58; Rev. 11:15-18).

Our Christian task is to take this information to the world and prepare men and women for the



Faiths or One Faith?

Part Two

Anthony Buzzard

Kingdom of God. One of the great barriers to understanding is the diversionary teaching about "souls going to heaven" when they die. This is not the Christianity of Jesus at all and it distracts us from an appreciation of the center of Jesus' Gospel of the Kingdom.

William Strawson, a tutor in systematic theology and the philosophy of religion, made a detailed study of *Jesus and the Future Life* and dedicated 23 pages to an examination of the word "heaven" in Matthew, Mark and Luke. He concluded:

"In few, if any, instances of the use of the word 'heaven' in the teaching of Jesus is there *any parallel with modern usage*. The gospel records of our Lord's life and teaching *do not speak of going to heaven*, as a modern believer so naturally does. Rather the emphasis is on that which is 'heavenly' coming down to man . . . Our modern way of speaking of life with God as being life 'in heaven' is not the way the gospels speak of the matter. *Especially is there no suggestion that Jesus is offering to his disciples the certainty of 'heaven' after this life*" (p. 38).

"Heaven as the future abode of the believers is [a conception] conspicuous by its absence from St. Paul's thought. The second coming is always *from heaven* alike in the earliest (I Thess. 1:10) and the latest (Phil. 3:20) of Paul's letters . . . Possibly he so takes it for granted that believers will have their place in a Messianic earthly Kingdom that he does not think it

necessary to mention it" ("Heaven," *Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels*).

"Jesus was not thinking of a colorless and purely heavenly beyond, but pictured it to himself as a state of things existing upon this earth—though of course a transfigured earth—and *in His own land*." [1]

"The creation of the Christian religion necessarily involved a retreat from the teaching of Moses, the Prophets *and Jesus*, which more and more became a rout . . . As one Protestant Christian wrote: 'The great people of God's choice [the Jews] were soon the least adequately represented in the Catholic Church. That was a disaster to the Church itself. It meant that the Church as a whole failed to understand the Old Testament and that *the Greek mind and the Roman mind in turn, instead of the Hebrew mind, came to dominate its outlook: from that disaster the Church has never recovered either in doctrine or in practice* . . . If today another great age of evangelization is to dawn we need the Jews again' . . . Christianity is a synthesis of Judaism and paganism. As such, it is a **corruption of as much significance as the ancient Israelite defection in blending their religion with the cults of the Canaanites**. Therefore, it is not for the Jews to embrace orthodox Christianity, but for the Christians, if they are to be Israelites indeed as the People of God, to review and purify their beliefs, and to recapture what basically they have in common with the Jews, the Messianic vision." [2]

On what basis should we deny that Jesus shared Jewish beliefs? "Many of us like to think that Jesus denied Jewish beliefs about supernatural revelation and exclusive privilege, because our minds are so profoundly influenced by the philosophical way of looking at things. But have we any right to assume that he knew the falsity of the Jewish belief? Was it false? Have we a right to assume that, because a non-Jewish universalism based on philosophical modes of thought appeals *to us of the twentieth century*, it must therefore be the absolute truth and the divine will? Surely we must seek for some evidence. But there is no evidence in the Gospels . . . , and his disciples believed as firmly in the exclusive value of the Jewish religion after his resurrection as before." [3]

Commentators seem to complain in vain about the absence of the Kingdom of God from the Gospel in popular preaching:

Professor Tom Wright, the world's most famous current writer on Christianity and on Jesus: *Jesus and the Restoration of Israel*, p. 251:

"The church's use of the Gospels has given scant attention to what the Gospels themselves are saying about the actual events of Jesus' life and his **Kingdom proclamation** [Gospel of salvation] . . . Therefore the church is in effect sitting on but paying no attention to a central part of its own tradition that might,



Faiths or One Faith?

Part Two

Anthony Buzzard

perhaps, revitalize or reform the church significantly were it to be investigated . . . This must involve understanding what the Gospels are saying about Jesus within the world of first-century Judaism, not within the imagination of subsequent piety (or impiety) . . . To content oneself with a non-historical Christ of faith seems to me . . . demonstrably false to NT Christianity."

Dr. Charles Taber, Professor Emeritus of World Mission, Emmanuel School of Evangelism, Johnson City, Tennessee (letter to *Christianity Today*):

"I read with the greatest interest the nine statements in *Christianity Today* attempting to answer the question, 'What is the Good News?' I am amazed and dismayed to find not even a passing mention of the theme which was the core of Jesus' Gospel in three of the four accounts: **The Kingdom of God**. Every one of these statements reflects the individualistic reduction of the gospel that plagues American evangelicalism. In addition to being biblical, founding one's understanding of the gospel on the Kingdom of God bypasses two false dilemmas that have needlessly troubled theologians for several centuries: 1) the either-or between individual and systematic salvation, and 2) the either-or between grace and works. On the one hand God intends to rescue *the entire cosmos* from the bondage to decay; on the other hand how

can one claim to be saved who does not make every effort to do God's will?"

Gary Burge in *NIV Application Commentary (Revising Evangelical Theology)*:

"Stanley Grenz has reviewed the failed attempts of evangelical theology to fire the imagination of the modern world. He argues for the Kingdom of God as the new organizing center of what we say and do."

The Word of the Kingdom

Jesus' evangelism is devoid of appeals just to "accept him" or "ask him into our hearts." His method is based on an authoritative command to "repent and believe the Gospel of the Kingdom" (Mark 1:14, 15). The issue is one of responsive and trusting *obedience* to the divine word of command on the lips of Jesus. Asking people to "repent and accept Jesus" is perilously vague in comparison with the express invitations to salvation issued by Jesus. To Nicodemus Jesus lays out the conditions on which we may be saved: "Unless a person is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God . . . unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3, 5). Equally significant, but apparently far less well known, are Jesus' clarifying statements about salvation in the other Gospels: "Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it" (Luke 18:17). We invite readers to see how very much clearer and more incisive are the Gospel preaching

words of Jesus compared with "unless you accept Jesus in your heart, you will not go to heaven." Firstly "accepting Jesus" can be deceptive unless it is defined as "accepting and obeying the commands and words of Jesus." No one hearing the statement "obey your mother" would understand anything other than "obey the words of your mother," but in religion, a startling misdefinition abounds. Jesus can apparently be accepted but not obeyed! His first and primary command was given in Mark 1:14, 15. Repent (a command) and believe my Gospel of the Kingdom (another command).

Secondly Jesus promised no one "heaven," but rather entrance in the future into the Kingdom of God on earth. The process of salvation was according to Jesus conditioned on the reception of his own Kingdom of God Gospel. "If they do not receive that Gospel of the Kingdom they cannot return [repent] and be forgiven" (see Mark 4:11,12).
[To be continued]

- [1] W. Bousset, *Jesus*, London: Williams and Norgate, 1906, p. 82.
- [2] H.J. Schonfield, *The Politics of God*, pp. 98, 99, citing Canon Goudge, *Essays on Judaism and Christianity*.
- [3] H.D. Hamilton, *The People of God*, Vol. I, p. 260.

This article appears in the Feb. 2004 (Vol. 6 No. 5) Issue of *Focus on the Kingdom Magazine*

Peace that Passeth Understanding

Samuel B. Haney



Excerpted from The Restitution Herald, Vol. 18, No. 37 (July 11, 1929).

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

This peace which the Lord left for His faithful followers is that heavenly peace which the angels in heaven enjoy, and that prevailed in Eden. It is perpetual and enduring. Many, even during these "perilous times" are

enjoying it despite the terrible adverse conditions. "Peace" and the Holy Spirit are inseparable; they emanate from "God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." Note the salutation of Paul's epistles. That which the world and nominal Christians call peace is not the peace of which Jesus speaks. Nations are crying, "Peace! Peace!" while they know they are not sincere. They act like disputants having guns in their pockets and saying, "Let us have a peace pact." The Lord knew that unregenerate humans could not live peacefully together, hence the discrimination: "Peace . . . my peace I

give unto you." "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world (in common with others) ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Jesus also knew that His followers, all down the age, would need additional help; one was the Holy Spirit—"Comforter" ("Helper"; "Advocate"); "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7).

But more than this has been provided and set forth in the Word. Some of our heavenly Father's provisions for His children's peace and comfort while they sojourn here have been in abeyance and some others misconstrued. Let us be Bereans, and search the Scriptures daily (and see), whether those things were so—provided.

Jesus throws the door of God's storehouse wide open when He says, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you ('shall be given you', Diag.; 'shall be done for you', Wey)" (John 15:7). This is a wonderful statement, but the Lord is able to redeem His promises. Note the little conjunction, "if", which makes the proposition conditional, not absolute. It is a mental operation: one cannot "abide" in Jesus, and in the world at the same time. Neither can the Lord's words "abide" in one's heart while the heart is full of the world. Those depending upon the thrills and frills of this world for peace and comfort will ere long hear the creaking "door" go shut! Then the plea, "Open to us!" the only response being, "I know you not"!

To procure the blessings which God secured for mankind by the sacrifice



Peace that Passeth Understanding

Samuel B. Haney

of His Son, one must comply with God's fiat conditions: do this, and one becomes the recipient of the Holy Spirit, the power of God. Paul says, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18). It is by this "power" in Christian's hearts and souls that they get into spiritual (personal) contact with God who makes promises, then fulfills them wherever they produce sufficient faith to make them effectual: Abrahamic faith, "And being fully persuaded that, what he (God) had promised, he was able also to perform" (Rom. 4:21).

It is generally believed and taught that since the apostles fell "asleep", God's blessings have been confined to the soul. But what says the Word and what of those having, in recent years, experienced bodily blessings? (See Isa. 53:4.) The word here translated "griefs" is rendered "disease" and "sickness" in Deut. 7:15; 28:61; 1 Kings 17:17; 2 Kings 1:2; 8:8; 2 Chron. 16:12; 21:15. And the word translated "sorrows" is rendered "pain" in Job 14:22; 33:19. Leeser's (a Jew) version, "He was despised and shunned by men; a man of pains and acquainted with diseases . . . But only our disease did he bear himself, and our pains he carried; while we indeed esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. Yet he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities and through his bruises was healing granted to us." David says (Psa. 103:1-5), ". . . who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases . . . who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." Paul says (Rom. 8:11), "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that

dwelleth in you ('shall give life also to your mortal bodies', R.V.; 'will also make your mortal bodies live', Moffatt; 'will also make alive your MORTAL Bodies', Diag.)" One more should suffice for this article: "For the Spirit's Law—telling of Life in Christ Jesus—has set me free from the Law that deals only with sin and death" (Rom. 8:2, Wey).

Isaiah says, (26:3) "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." But God knows, and we know this cannot be done—on our part—when our bodies are burning up with fever or contorted with pain; hence, "He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25). Jesus' love, compassion and mercy for suffering humanity are the same today as of yore, and He is just as willing and anxious to help us physically: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). God will obviate sickness and afflictions if His requirements are met. But knowledge, belief, obedience and faith are prerequisites. Of the last Paul says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Those, in recent years, having "heard," investigated, and put into practice this phase of the ransom are reaping physical blessings, and are having continuous peace—"not as the world giveth." And have hearts that are not "troubled" nor "afraid."

To prove that this is not all theory with the writer, I shall verify the above by my testimony, to the glory of God. I was an intense sufferer through a period of thirty years—about twenty years actual pain at base of brain. There were periods of three to six months that I could not read, write, nor talk more than ten minutes

at a time. I would emit from nose hulks of dark, coagulated blood. For several weeks at a time one or two, of the twenty-four hours, were my limit of sleep. After having tried various doctors and remedies to no avail, I decided to make a special study of God's Word on the subject at times when I could read. And on November 10th, 1926, before retiring, I talked the matter over with the Lord, disrobed, went to bed and slept like an infant all night. Next day I could read and write three hours. The only incommodity since has been for an hour or so at times, caused by indiscretion, of which we all are guilty. A year ago I had a growth like a seed wart an inch below my right eye. I thought little of it until adjacent nerves bothered me. A month later the whole side of my face, to the point of the chin became involved in pain. As soon as I decided to place the affliction at the foot of the cross where I had placed my former affliction, and where thirty years ago, my sins, the pain ceased, and in a week the growth had gone—not a scar left.

I simply believed the Holy Spirit which said through St. Peter: "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Pet. 2:24).

I have proved—to my own satisfaction—that it is possible—by God's grace—to possess that "peace" which Jesus gives unto us; and to keep our "hearts" above the "troubles" and "fears" which are so prevalent these days.



8 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor

Victor Parachin



About the Author:

Victor M. Parachin, M. Div., is a Canadian-born minister, published author, and freelance writer living in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Sometimes pastors are the loneliest people in the church. Often their hours are long, the pay minimal, the criticism considerable and constant. Feelings of disappointment, discouragement, and defeat may begin to plague the best of them.

Paul's admonition to "serve one another in love" (Gal. 5:13) should encourage us to remember our shepherds. Here are eight ways to make their lives better.

1. Cut the criticism

Presbyterian minister Fred Rogers, creator and host of television's "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood," gave an address describing the time he was a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and attended a different church each

Sunday in order to hear a variety of preachers.

One Sunday he was treated to "the most poorly crafted sermon [he] had ever heard." But when he turned to the friend who had accompanied him, he found her in tears.

"It was exactly what I needed to hear," she told Rogers.

"That's when I realized," he told his audience, "that the space between someone doing the best he or she can and someone in need is holy ground. The Holy Spirit had transformed that feeble sermon for her—and as it turned out, for me too."

Unlike most workers who are evaluated once or twice a year, clergy are often critiqued weekly after each worship service. It's not unusual to hear people say "the music was poor," "the hymn selection was awful," or "the sermon was boring." We would do well to remember that most

spiritual leaders work hard to make worship a unique celebration each week.

2. Pray regularly

Ask God to shower your pastor with an abundance of love, hope, joy, faith, peace, power, wisdom, and courage. Pray for your spiritual leader's maturity and growth in the faith. As you pray keep in mind this wisdom from German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: "If you treat a person as he is, he will stay as he is; but if you treat him as if he were what he ought to be, he will become what he ought to be and could be."

3. Express appreciation in writing

A spoken compliment is always welcome, but a written one can be read over and over again for years. So, when you hear or see something you like from your minister, write an appreciative note.

4. Use your skills to bless

Are you proficient with computers? Help your pastor master the church's new computer. Are you a mechanic? Offer to service the car free of charge or at a reduced fee.

One pastor I know recalls: "I was pastoring my first church—a small



8 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor

congregation with limited resources. While there, I developed a series of dental problems and could not afford treatment. What a joy it was when a dentist in the church offered to treat me for free. Correcting my dental problem involved nearly a dozen visits. He treated me carefully and cheerfully each time. I have thought of that dentist many times since then and the memories of his kindness continue to bless my life."

5. Squelch gossip

If you hear a negative comment, respond with a positive one. If misinformation is being spread, correct it with the accurate information. Or, if people are gossiping, just walk away. Remember the Bible soundly condemns gossip and careless speech. James 1:26 says, "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless." And Psalm 34:13 reads, "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies."

6. Offer to meet a need

Some people make their spiritual leaders defensive and angry by saying, "You need to ____" That approach is seldom welcome and almost always counter-productive. If you see a need, approach your spiritual leader by saying, "I'd like to help by ____" If you see an area that can be improved, take responsibility for working on it. Be an active participant in your

church. Get involved by teaching a class, leading a workshop, singing in the choir, feeding the hungry. Ask your spiritual leader where and how you can employ your gifts.

7. Be openly responsive

Nothing so animates and excites a spiritual leader as seeing people respond to the preaching and teaching. Imagine the surprise and delight of a pastor in Virginia Beach, Virginia, who, when greeting a visitor to his church, found she came because of the kindness of a church member who was her neighbor:

"I'm recently divorced, a single parent and new to this community," she told the pastor. "To keep up with rent and provide for my three children, I must work two jobs. That leaves me very little time for yard work. I was relieved when the weeds didn't overrun my yard as I had feared they might. However, when I made an unscheduled trip home in the middle of my workday, I discovered the reason why the weeds had not taken over my yard.

My 86-year-old neighbor—a member of your church—was on his hands and knees pulling my weeds. I barely knew this man and he was embarrassed to be caught in this anonymous act of kindness. He explained that he heard you preach a sermon on the importance of living a life of compassion and

Victor Parachin

kindness and decided to put that sermon into practice by weeding my lawn."

One pastor's heart filled with joy when a group of women in Washington, D.C., responded to a sermon preached from the words of Jesus—"Do not judge, or you too will be judged" (Matt. 7:1, NIV). After hearing the sermon, the women decided to give a baby shower for the young woman who provided childcare while they met for Bible study. She was unmarried, close to going on welfare, and without support from her family or the father-to-be. The young woman was moved to tears by the surprise baby shower.

Later, the women explained to the pastor, "Your sermon taught us that it's possible to reach out to someone in need—in this case, an unwed mother—without judging or condoning the situation."

8. Throw away the measuring stick

Don't expect that your present spiritual leaders will do things the same way their predecessors did. Lay aside personal agendas and preferences. Instead, focus on how your leader is being used by God to do effective ministry now. By serving your shepherds, you will ensure that they will not only be encouraged but will feel appreciated and continue to minister with enthusiasm and energy.

©1999 by Victor Parachin and Christianity Today. Used by Permission



Children's Story: A Gift for Dad



About the Author

Betsy Moore is a long-time Church of God member from Troyview Church of God in Ohio.

Michael stared motionless as the syrup dripped onto his French toast. It had been a while since he checked his stash. Michael jumped as his Mother said, "Your French toast is swimming in syrup. I think you have enough."

He gobbled his breakfast down, placed his dishes in the dishwasher, and quickly climbed the stairs hoping no one would miss him. Quietly, he grabbed the attic doorknob and listened to make sure no one had followed. He turned the knob silently hoping to keep his secret hidden for just a little longer. He remembered the last time he entered the attic when spider webs covered his face. He hated spiders! He gently pulled on the door, but it was stuck. He held the handle tightly and pulled. The door jerked open and the hot air surrounded him. Michael blinked his eyes trying to adjust to the darkness. Small rays of sunlight were filtering through the small covered window. The attic looked different and scary.

He flew down the stairway and raced to open the tool cabinet. He grabbed the flashlight and shoved it into his pocket. He rounded the corner at the stairway and was excited he had avoided his sister.

"Whacha' doin', Michael?" Rachel asked as she bounced into the hallway.

"Nothing," Michael replied. He thought for a moment and knew he had to distract Rachel. "Today is cartoon day, how about if I turn on the TV for you," he said as he flipped the TV on.

"Whacha' doin' with that flashlight in your pocket, Michael?" Rachel asked as she danced around her older brother. "Are you going to find some shadows? We studied all about shadows in school and I like shadows. Do you know about shadows, Michael? I think I'll follow you everywhere you go today and be your shadow." Rachel chattered.

"MOM!" Michael yelled. "Rachel's bugging me. Can you make her leave me alone!"

"Michael, whacha' doin'?" You never answered me." Rachel whined.

"I'm going crazy," Michael answered.

Rachel jumped up and down excitedly, "Can I go with you?"

"I'll never get to check on my stash with her following me," Michael thought. "I'll have to get Rachel involved in something she likes to do so I can get back to the attic. I wonder if I closed the attic door," Michael thought as he walked into

the pantry with his shadow following close behind. He looked for the craft box, but didn't see it. He grabbed a bag of beans, macaroni, and fruit loops. He reached for colored paper where he discovered the craft box and grabbed it.

"Whacha' doin'?" Rachel looked inquisitively as she climbed on the stool beside Michael.

Michael spread the craft materials on the table in front of Rachel. "This is a secret project just for Dad." Michael whispered. "I want to make something really special."

Rachel squealed, "I want to make something too!"

"Shhhhhhh!" Michael whispered. "It's a surprise for Dad for Father's Day."

"Are you gonna make a card or a picture or what, Michael?" Rachel asked.

"I don't know yet, I just know I want this year to be very special and I want to give Dad the perfect gift." Michael replied. He had to be careful and make sure he didn't tell Rachel too much or everyone would know about his secret stash.

Michael watched Rachel place dried bean flowers on the drops of glue on the blue paper. She dug into the craft box and began pulling out pipe cleaners and twisting them into stems. Silently Michael slid off his chair and tip-toed out of the room and up the stairs.

He turned his flashlight on and cautiously entered the attic. He gasped! He couldn't believe his eyes. His stash was gone. He ran to

Betsy Moore



8 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor

Victor Parachin

congregation with limited resources. While there, I developed a series of dental problems and could not afford treatment. What a joy it was when a dentist in the church offered to treat me for free. Correcting my dental problem involved nearly a dozen visits. He treated me carefully and cheerfully each time. I have thought of that dentist many times since then and the memories of his kindness continue to bless my life."

5. Squelch gossip

If you hear a negative comment, respond with a positive one. If misinformation is being spread, correct it with the accurate information. Or, if people are gossiping, just walk away. Remember the Bible soundly condemns gossip and careless speech. James 1:26 says, "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless." And Psalm 34:13 reads, "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies."

6. Offer to meet a need

Some people make their spiritual leaders defensive and angry by saying, "You need to ____" That approach is seldom welcome and almost always counter-productive. If you see a need, approach your spiritual leader by saying, "I'd like to help by ____" If you see an area that can be improved, take responsibility for working on it. Be an active participant in your

church. Get involved by teaching a class, leading a workshop, singing in the choir, feeding the hungry. Ask your spiritual leader where and how you can employ your gifts.

7. Be openly responsive

Nothing so animates and excites a spiritual leader as seeing people respond to the preaching and teaching. Imagine the surprise and delight of a pastor in Virginia Beach, Virginia, who, when greeting a visitor to his church, found she came because of the kindness of a church member who was her neighbor:

"I'm recently divorced, a single parent and new to this community," she told the pastor. "To keep up with rent and provide for my three children, I must work two jobs. That leaves me very little time for yard work. I was relieved when the weeds didn't overrun my yard as I had feared they might. However, when I made an unscheduled trip home in the middle of my workday, I discovered the reason why the weeds had not taken over my yard.

My 86-year-old neighbor—a member of your church—was on his hands and knees pulling my weeds. I barely knew this man and he was embarrassed to be caught in this anonymous act of kindness. He explained that he heard you preach a sermon on the importance of living a life of compassion and

kindness and decided to put that sermon into practice by weeding my lawn."

One pastor's heart filled with joy when a group of women in Washington, D.C., responded to a sermon preached from the words of Jesus—"Do not judge, or you too will be judged" (Matt. 7:1, NIV). After hearing the sermon, the women decided to give a baby shower for the young woman who provided childcare while they met for Bible study. She was unmarried, close to going on welfare, and without support from her family or the father-to-be. The young woman was moved to tears by the surprise baby shower.

Later, the women explained to the pastor, "Your sermon taught us that it's possible to reach out to someone in need—in this case, an unwed mother—without judging or condoning the situation."

8. Throw away the measuring stick

Don't expect that your present spiritual leaders will do things the same way their predecessors did. Lay aside personal agendas and preferences. Instead, focus on how your leader is being used by God to do effective ministry now. By serving your shepherds, you will ensure that they will not only be encouraged but will feel appreciated and continue to minister with enthusiasm and energy.

©1999 by Victor Parachin and Christianity Today. Used by Permission



Children's Story: A Gift for Dad

Betsy Moore



About the Author

Betsy Moore is a long-time Church of God member from Troyview Church of God in Ohio.

Michael stared motionless as the syrup dripped onto his French toast. It had been a while since he checked his stash. Michael jumped as his Mother said, "Your French toast is swimming in syrup. I think you have enough."

He gobbled his breakfast down, placed his dishes in the dishwasher, and quickly climbed the stairs hoping no one would miss him. Quietly, he grabbed the attic doorknob and listened to make sure no one had followed. He turned the knob silently hoping to keep his secret hidden for just a little longer. He remembered the last time he entered the attic when spider webs covered his face. He hated spiders! He gently pulled on the door, but it was stuck. He held the handle tightly and pulled. The door jerked open and the hot air surrounded him. Michael blinked his eyes trying to adjust to the darkness. Small rays of sunlight were filtering through the small covered window. The attic looked different and scary.

He flew down the stairway and raced to open the tool cabinet. He grabbed the flashlight and shoved it into his pocket. He rounded the corner at the stairway and was excited he had avoided his sister.

"Whacha' doin', Michael?" Rachel asked as she bounced into the hallway.

"Nothing," Michael replied. He thought for a moment and knew he had to distract Rachel. "Today is cartoon day, how about if I turn on the TV for you," he said as he flipped the TV on.

"Whacha' doin' with that flashlight in your pocket, Michael?" Rachel asked as she danced around her older brother. "Are you going to find some shadows? We studied all about shadows in school and I like shadows. Do you know about shadows, Michael? I think I'll follow you everywhere you go today and be your shadow." Rachel chattered.

"MOM!" Michael yelled. "Rachel's bugging me. Can you make her leave me alone!"

"Michael, whacha' doin'?' You never answered me." Rachel whined.

"I'm going crazy," Michael answered.

Rachel jumped up and down excitedly, "Can I go with you?"

"I'll never get to check on my stash with her following me," Michael thought. "I'll have to get Rachel involved in something she likes to do so I can get back to the attic. I wonder if I closed the attic door," Michael thought as he walked into

the pantry with his shadow following close behind. He looked for the craft box, but didn't see it. He grabbed a bag of beans, macaroni, and fruit loops. He reached for colored paper where he discovered the craft box and grabbed it.

"Whacha' doin'?' Rachel looked inquisitively as she climbed on the stool beside Michael.

Michael spread the craft materials on the table in front of Rachel. "This is a secret project just for Dad." Michael whispered. "I want to make something really special."

Rachel squealed, "I want to make something too!"

"Shhhhhhh!" Michael whispered. "It's a surprise for Dad for Father's Day."

"Are you gonna make a card or a picture or what, Michael?" Rachel asked.

"I don't know yet, I just know I want this year to be very special and I want to give Dad the perfect gift." Michael replied. He had to be careful and make sure he didn't tell Rachel too much or everyone would know about his secret stash.

Michael watched Rachel place dried bean flowers on the drops of glue on the blue paper. She dug into the craft box and began pulling out pipe cleaners and twisting them into stems. Silently Michael slid off his chair and tip-toed out of the room and up the stairs.

He turned his flashlight on and cautiously entered the attic. He gasped! He couldn't believe his eyes. His stash was gone. He ran to



Children's Story: A Gift for Dad

Betsy Moore

the big wooden box in front of the window and began to dig through it. He went from box to box, pulling open the lids but found nothing. He dropped to the hard wooden floor in despair. He sat with his head in his hands. He had saved it for so long just to get his Dad the perfect gift for Father's Day and now it was gone. He wondered who had been in the attic. Maybe it was Rachel. She was nosy and liked getting into things she wasn't supposed to. And come to think about it, she had a new doll. But, she couldn't open the door, so it couldn't be her. His money was gone and his dream of giving his Dad the perfect gift was vanishing. In tears he called out to God, "Please help me. I'm desperate and I know You always provide."

He jumped to his feet and ran down the stairs. He avoided the kitchen and Rachel, but searched the rest of the house for his Mother. Nonchalantly he entered the kitchen and asked, "Rachel, do you know where Mom is?"

Rachel didn't look up and continued to glue cotton ball clouds on her Father's Day card.

"She just went outside with a clothes basket," Rachel answered.

Michael closed the kitchen door behind him and ran to the clothesline. Michael caught one edge of a towel in the breeze and lifted it against the line. His Mother squeezed the clothespin and secured the towel on the line. He watched as the clothes flapped in the wind. He chose his words carefully, "Mom, the attic looks nice."

"Thanks for noticing," she answered.

The grass bent back and forth under the toe of Michael's shoe. He fidgeted not sure of what to say next and asked, "Did you happen to see my old school box when you cleaned the attic?"

"Yes, I did and I threw it."

"YOU WHAT!?" Michael screamed. "I can't believe you'd throw my school box away. All my money is gone." Tears came to his eyes. His hopes of giving his Dad the perfect gift were gone. He thought of his Dad, working out in the cold rain. His money was gone and so was his dream of the perfect gift. "How could you just throw my school box away?" Michael cried.

"What are you so upset about? And why are you yelling at me? I didn't say I threw your box away." His mother replied calmly. "I put your box on the top shelf of your closet."

Michael sighed, "Whew! What a relief! I got so upset because that box has the money I've been saving for Dad's Father's Day gift and I thought it was gone. I'm sorry I yelled at you! I'm going to give him the perfect gift this year and I only need three more dollars. Will you give me the money so I can go get Dad's gift?"

"You can earn the money yourself for Dad's gift. And you can start by taking two loaves of fresh bread to the neighbors. What is this perfect gift you're getting for Dad?" Mother asked.

"It's not two loaves of fresh baked

bread," Michael answered. "You'll never guess it."

"Is it a flashlight? I know he needs one," She responded. "I see one in your pocket."

"No, it's not a flashlight. It's something he needs more than a flashlight," Michael answered.


"Let me think. The perfect gift. Actually God gave us the perfect gift, Jesus. He was the two things I just mentioned. He was the bread of life and the light of the world. It sounds like the gift you're giving your Dad is wonderful. Now make sure the bread is cooled on the counter and take it to the neighbors for me," Mom said.

Michael gently placed the bread in a bag and hurried down the lane toward the neighbors. Dust was blowing in the breeze and he made sure the bread bag was sealed to keep it clean. He sighed to himself, "God, I don't need bread. I just need three dollars for my Dad's gift. Please help me get the money." He thought, "I know God provides!"

The doorknocker clanked as he dropped it and he stepped back. "Michael, It's so good to see you, please come in," Mrs. Martin said through the screen door. "How could she walk around carrying two babies," Michael thought.

"I'm so glad your Mom sent over fresh baked bread. Since I've had the twins, I don't have time to do anything," Mrs. Martin explained. "Would you please, take these eggs over to Widow Wanda's on your way home."

General Conference
2004 Information



Children's Story: A Gift for Dad

Betsy Moore

I know she needs them and I have to put the twins down for a nap. See you later."

"Sure," Michael sighed, as he removed the bread and tucked the eggs carefully in the bag. He was hoping to get paid, but instead he got a couple dozen eggs. He caught the door before it slammed and slowly walked down the sidewalk. He thought, "God, I asked You for help. You know I didn't need bread and now I'm stuck with eggs. I know You will provide so would You please let Widow Wanda pay me for these eggs?"

As he climbed the steps, Widow Wanda met him at the door. "Michael, I'm so glad to see you. I'm baking for the church bake sale and I just ran out of eggs."

Michael joyfully opened his bag and displayed the two dozen eggs. "God does supply," he thought, as he patiently waited to be paid for the eggs.

"I don't have any money to give you for those eggs, but I've got a big chocolate cake I think you might enjoy." Wanda smiled as she carefully wrapped the cake and handed it to Michael.

Michael kicked the dirt as he slowly walked home. "God, You know I didn't need bread or eggs and now I've got this cake. And I don't even like cake. I need three dollars for my Dad's perfect gift. What am I going to do? I need help!" He jumped as a horn from a passing car blared. The car slowed down. Stopped. And began to back up. David, his best friend jumped out of the car and yelled, "Do you need a ride?"

"No thanks," Michael replied.

"Wow, that cake looks delicious! Where are you going?" David asked.

"I'm going home to try to make some money for my Dad's Father's Day gift," Michael said. "Where are you going?"

"We're on our way to town to get mom a birthday cake for tomorrow and I want one just like that one!" David explained excitedly.

Michael smiled, "You can have this one and it's only three dollars."

"Sorry, but I don't have any money," David answered. "We have to return a new raincoat that doesn't fit my Dad and with the refund money we were going to buy a cake."

Michael laughed, "A RAINCOAT! That's the perfect gift I'm giving Dad for Father's Day. I'll trade you this cake for the raincoat."

"What's with this cake, David and what's Michael doing with the raincoat," his Father asked as he greeted the boys.

Michael chuckled as he explained about his stash and needing three dollars for the perfect gift. Then how he asked God to provide and he got bread and then received the eggs, and of course the cake that he didn't even like. And to his surprise, he traded for a raincoat.

He slid the raincoat under his shirt and ran home. "God does supply!" Michael said out loud. "Thank you! And I won't forget this!"

Editorial

(Continued from page 2)

incompatible with participation in warfare.

Many Church of God members have and continue to participate in the defense of our nation by serving in the armed forces while others have, with the support of the local churches, state and General Conference, refused to participate in military service as conscientious objectors.

Let me clearly state, I do not wish, in any way to minimize the important contributions of those who served courageously to stem the tide of Nazism or Communism, nor do I wish to, in any way disparage those who are now serving to bring an end to terrorism in our world.

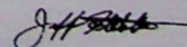
As Editor of the Herald I do not intend to use my position to promote one position over the other, but I do invite all seekers of truth to weigh the various points of discussion and give a prayerful, spirit-led decision for themselves. We owe it to the young men and women of our churches to guide them into making a decision regarding their possible involvement in military matters that are guided by careful, prayerful thought and study.

To that end, this issue of the Herald begins a dialogue providing our readers with "food for thought" regarding this important issue. We begin with an article which articulates the Anabaptist position on military involvement.

In future issues we will look at other questions and points of discussion and we certainly welcome reader feedback and questioning.

As the United States continues its war against terrorism and as we consider questions regarding the end of the age, this is an issue of discipleship that should not be ignored.

Thank you. It is always a privilege to serve as your editor.



Address Service Requested

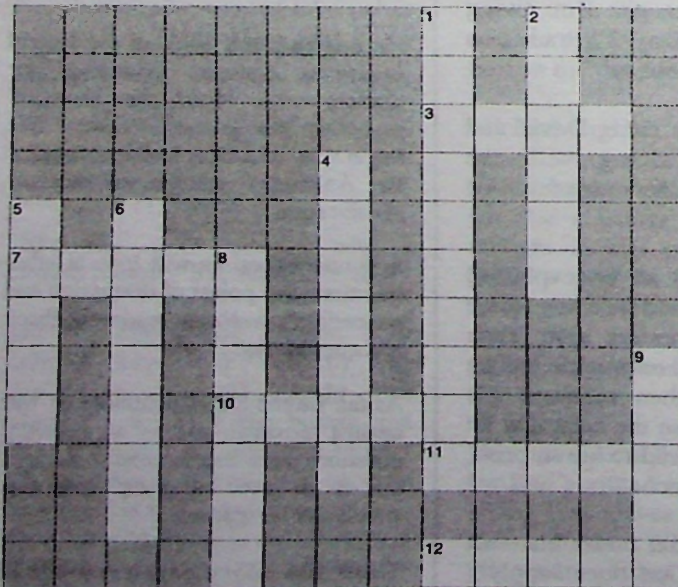
<p>Subscription Expirations The five-digit number on the top right of your address label identifies the renewal date of your subscription. If the number is 2005.0, it expires with the February/March issue, 2005. A 2005.2 number means a June/July expiration. This method will assist subscribers in keeping tabs on their expiration dates and serve as a reminder for renewal.</p>	<p>Dear RESTITUTION HERALD,</p> <p>I am writing for the following reason:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My address label is incorrect; please note the changes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am moving in the next six weeks; please send the magazine to my new address printed below.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to send a gift subscription to the person listed below. Enclosed is \$13 payment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Subscription renewal, payment enclosed — 1 yr. \$13, 2 yr. \$24, 3 yr. \$33. [British subscribers send U.S. funds.] Thank you.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p>
---	---



Crossword

“War” (Verses from KJV)

The Restitution Herald



Across

3. "these shall make war with the _____" (Rev. 17:14).
7. "Neither shall they _____ war any more" (Isa. 2:4).
10. "He teacheth my _____ to war" (Psa. 18:34).
11. Then the King of _____ warred against Israel" (2 Kings 6:8).
12. "He maketh wars to _____ unto the end of the earth" (Psa. 46:9).

Down

1. "All the men of war died in the _____" (Josh. 5:4).
2. "Ye shall hear of wars and _____ of wars" (Matt. 24:6).
4. ". . . girded on every man his _____ of war" (Deut. 1:41).
5. "though we walk in the flesh we do not war" (2 Cor. 10:3).
6. "shalt go to they _____ in peace" (Gen. 15:15).
8. ". . . they that war against thee shall be as _____" (Isa. 41:12).
9. "A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of _____" (Eccl. 3:8).



General Conference 2004 Information

▶ See Pages 10-12

Register now
For FUEL 2004,
July 18-23
▶ www.tpym.com



PROGRESS JOURNAL

Church of God General Conference · Atlanta Bible College



Graduation 2004

ABC Students, Instructor Honored

By Tom Colburn

TColburn@abc-coggc.org

Atlanta Bible College (formerly Oregon Bible College) celebrated its 61st graduation service on May 7, 2004. Seventeen students received recognition, as well as Instructor Anthony Buzzard, who unofficially "retired" from ABC.

Maxine Head of Georgia, Chuck Jones of California and Johnathan Wincapaw of Wisconsin received their Bachelor of Theology degrees. Presenting the diplomas were Pastors Steve An and Dr. Joe Martin.

Pastors Gary Burnham, ABC-COGGC Operations Manager, and David Krogh, Registrar, presented the two-year diplomas.

Elizabeth Egbe, Jasper Fletcher, Gladys Smith and Fleming Thompson, all of Georgia, and Amanda Musch of Illinois received their Associates of Arts in Theology.

Also recognized were those receiving one-year Foundation Certificates. These were presented to Katrina Davis, Shaun Fewell, Ruth Finnegan, Rachel Lockett, April Musch, Kim Musch, Andrew Noh, Priscilla Quinn and Dustin Smith by Pastor Steve Taylor and Conference CAO Tim Jones.

Congratulations to all our fine graduates!
(Continued on page 2)

Theological Conference 2004

13th Annual Event Held at Cornerstone Bible Church

By Anthony Buzzard

Some 150 truthseekers gathered for our 13th annual conference. This has been called the "theological" conference and perhaps that title needs clarifying. It is directed towards evangelism and teaching, and building up the body of Christ. It is positively not an exercise in speculation or intellectualism! It is an opportunity for scattered folk who have found or are finding the Abrahamic Faith to come together for mutual encouragement. Particularly it allows opportunity for those to speak who are not "born and bred" members of the Abrahamic Faith but have come to us from differing backgrounds of all sorts.

The conference began 13 years ago in Oregon, IL when Kent Ross generated the idea of having a "scholarly" gathering and the *Journal from the*
(Continued on page 4)

July, August 2004

Volume 46, Number 5

CAO Corner	2
Atlanta Bible College	2
Updates	2
Church of God	4
Missions	5

Finance	7
Prayer & Praise	9
Church News	10
General Conference 2004	10

Year In Review



By Tim Jones
TJones@abc-coggc.org

Greetings to you all! I come to you at a great time of the year! The weather is great, schools are dismissing, and families are traveling to vacation spots around the country for their summer get-aways. Perhaps the most important thing of all for our College staff, we have reached the end of another school year. As hard as it is to believe, we had our graduation ceremony at the beginning of May. It seems as if it was only days ago that we were beginning the school year. The old saying about how time speeds up as we get older is certainly true. Let's look back at this school year that just completed.

ABC and our ABC Korean Extension had our largest enrollment ever. But more than numbers, I was excited about some of the growth and development we can see in the students AND the staff. I was privileged to co-teach a new class, Personal Spiritual Development, with Pastor Alan Cain. We had the opportunity to read and study aspects of Spiritual Disciplines along with the students. It was a great blessing to spend time in the class with the students discussing important topics like prayer, meditation, worship, celebration, etc. I know that some of the most special times I have had in this position of CAO for the College came as students shared about what God can do and was doing in their lives. Our Korean Extension efforts have also been a source of great blessing. Pastor An and all those who have assisted him have done a superb job of integrating biblical teaching and a welcoming spirit for all those students in the Extension. I ask you to thank God for their efforts and to continue to pray for growing success in the Extension for the coming school year.

My thanks go to all the full-time staff of the College/Conference, as well as to the adjunct faculty and part-time staff that fill such critical roles in the College. I also want to again take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you that support us. Your financial support, words of encouragement, and prayers on our behalf are wonderful ministries to help us. May God continue to bless us all in the months ahead, as we begin to set the stage for the ABC School Year 2004-2005!



Graduation 2004 (Continued from page 1)

(Top Left): Instructor Anthony Buzzard receiving his honorary "Bible Man" costume; (Top Right): Members of the Restoration Church of God providing special music; (Bottom Left): ABC Instructor Joe Martin and ABC Graduate Maxine Head; (Bottom Right): ABC Graduates Jasper Fletcher and Gladys Smith

Updates

Christian Education



By Myra Montgomery
myramontgomery@charter.net

The root word for "discipline" is "disciple." So why is it that in the church we think of "discipling" as positive and "disciplining" as negative? Perhaps the problem with discipline in our Christian Education ministries begins with what we believe about discipline.

Good discipline, like discipling, trains students to develop self-control. Training is the key word here—not punishment. When we disciple children, we correct them in a way that shows them they are loved. When they sense our loving concern, they're much more willing to imitate our values and relationship with God. Good discipline is guidance toward right behavior, which is much more effective than punishment for wrong

behavior.

Discipline should form the very core of our Christian Education programs. We don't teach children and adults so that they'll be able to regurgitate facts from the Bible or so they'll do whatever we say whenever we say it. We teach to change lives!

The goal of discipline in our programs must be to train others to be Christ-like. We want students to internalize the biblical principles we teach and to grow in their personal relationships with God. Discipline is an ongoing process in which teacher control gradually gives way to Christian self-control (Hebrews 12:11).

The intent of Christian Education material published by the Church of God General Conference is to provide an opportunity to develop this disciple in positive activities for all learning styles. An excellent source on this subject is the book *The Discipline Guide for Children's Ministry* by Jody Capehart, Gordon West, Becki West. Group Publishing.

Turning Point Youth Ministries



By Jon Cheatwood
jonc@abc-coggc.org

The Mud Pit

"Discouragement may be the single most powerful feeling that entices great women and men to exit prematurely from youth ministry."

Tough times. We all have them, and we will as long as we live in this age. Truthfully, anyone that tells you otherwise may be selling you something.

Something that bothers me a lot in dealing with my college students is finding out that their pastors tell them that true, faithful Christians are always happy. That a Christian is "too blessed to be stressed." That Christians do not have to deal with discouragement and depression, because Jesus takes all of that away. Why does that bother me so much? I guess it bothers me because I believe it is a load of manure. That manure line is a bit of double-speak, too, but we'll get to that.

Why is this "God makes every day better than Disneyland" teaching so prevalent? Well, it sounds great, doesn't it? No worries, no stress, no tough times? That's something I would probably sign up for if I did not know better. What a deal! But it isn't the truth.

The Bible is filled with people who experienced discouragement and depression in the service of God. Paul, Jeremiah, and Elisha each went through it, among many others. Why? Where did it take them? What resulted from their difficult journeys?

Doug Fields, writing in *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry*, says that God can use discouragement to increase your effectiveness in ministry. "God may be using periods of discouragement to take your life and your ministry to a deeper and better place." In other words, the tough times and pains you go through now are shaping who you are, and possibly preparing you to be a stronger example of faith for those around you.

Several months ago, my doctor told

me to lose some weight. My blood pressure was borderline, and she suggested exercise and some dietary changes to get me back to normal. I got started immediately, because I was determined to get this problem under control quickly. After all, we have a baby arriving soon at the Cheatwood home.

I started working in my backyard, which I enjoy doing. I just worked on cleaning it up. There is a section of goo that is sometimes known as the Mud Pit. There is apparently a spring under that pit, and the water keeps the mud thick all of the time. I have dreams of making it



into a very small, spring-fed pond someday.

I have no outdoor power tools, so it was just me and a shovel, rake, bow saw, and a few hatchets. Since those hand tools were giving me a good workout and helping me lose the weight, I decided to just stick to using them. The work is a bit harder that way, but the results for me have been great. I have lost 35 lbs., my blood pressure is good again, and I have cleared a good bit of the backyard.

A man knocked on my door one day to see if I would hire his company to clear the backyard for me. If it were not for the realization that my work back there was important for my body, for my health, I might have considered hiring them. They could have cleaned it all out with a little

heavy machinery, hauled away all of the trees, and been gone pretty quickly. Easily. But that is not what I wanted. I have also enjoyed the time spent working. It is hard, especially with the cool air of spring giving way to the thick, humid air of summer, but I have learned to just enjoy the difficult work. I know it is helping me in one way or another.

That's the attitude I need to develop for ministry, too. It is hard work, at times, as is your ministry, I am sure. Parents may sometimes blame your ministry for their children's actions. The church might not always respect the youth ministry. Maybe the students have revolted, and you are left with only one or two to teach. Or maybe there have been tragedies within the church or community that have really rocked you, the church, or the local schools. These are tough times. I think about the many times that I prayed that God would just take away a difficult situation, because I did not want to deal with it. The times that I did not think I could survive in ministry. Having those times removed seemed like a great option, but that would have limited my growth.

Remember that line about manure? I was saying that the teaching—often called the health and wealth doctrine—is just plain wrong. Manure. But I also think our tough times are manure. Manure is a seemingly bad by-product of cows (among others) that can be used to bring growth to vegetation; our trials can help us to grow into stronger believers, better ministers, and better people (*see James 1:2-18*). Our trials shape us.

I could list for you the problems, tough spots, and issues that I have experienced and explain how I believe God has shaped me, but I would rather ask you to look into your own life here. What trials stand out in your mind? Where had you been the most discouraged as a Christian and as a youth worker? How has facing your fears, trials, and troubles helped you to grow, to change?

You know, I love that mud pit. I get real dirty working in it, but it is fun to see it taking shape. It is beginning to look like something new. So am I.

Church of God

Theological Conference 2004

(Continued from page 1)

Radical Reformation, which is still being produced.

Many are shocked that they can ask questions without being "shot down" or excommunicated! We had a large contingent of enthusiastic visitors from the NY area. They had spent time in earlier years with the Way International. Several of their group are going to attend as students at ABC. One of their number, along with Ingrid Mages from CA, and joined by Sarah my daughter, delighted us with some highly-trained musical numbers, including a trio from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

Those from a Jehovah's Witness or Armstrong background find this conference very refreshing. One of those gathering was Ray Faircloth of Somerset, UK. Ray was there with his wife, Carol, and they have recently emerged from 35 years with the Watchtower. Ray and Carol have painstakingly reexamined all the major biblical topics and are thoroughly Abrahamic in their outlook now. Their excitement and gentleness are a lesson for us all. Greg Deuble (pronounced "dibble") presented an account of his journey of faith, plus a full length paper on Babylon in biblical prophecy. Greg has suffered considerably after espousing the Unity of God as the Father. His denomination, the Church of Christ, in which he would become a leading evangelist in Australia, is upset with his abandonment of the Trinity. But he is making inroads amongst family and friends. Greg has been provided with a large number of our Trinity books (*The Doctrine of the Trinity: Christianity's Self-Inflicted Wound*, now in process of being in 13 languages).

Other speakers included David Maas, who again addressed the issue of Christian non-violence. He urged us to remember our "anabaptist" background and our status as Christians separate from the politics and the wars of this world. It is a subject which we should keep "on the table." Robert Hach from Miami is a professor of rhetoric at a community college. He is the author



of a compelling book *Possession or Persuasion*. He addressed us brilliantly on the centrality of the Gospel of the Kingdom as the saving energizing power of God in our lives. He raised other questions for reflection and insisted that nothing of what he said was to be taken without personal investigation.

We had two visitors from London, Alex Hall and Delroy Gayle, who work together at the House of Prayer, which was founded by Alex. Alex spoke of our servant role following the model of Isa. 53 and Delroy reported on their public evangelizing at "Speakers Corner" in central London.

It was a remarkable day for the Church of God when Dr. Colin Brown of Fuller Seminary stepped to the podium at the conference. Dr. Brown is one of the world's leading experts on Christology and he expressed his basic agreement with us on the nature of God and stressed the importance of the historical Jesus and his words and spirit. The presence of Dr. Brown and his wife, Olive, was personally for me the fulfillment of a dream of many years: to see the best of scholarship combine with our own Abrahamic Bible searching. Dr. Brown complimented the group on their openness and the freedom which he felt at the meetings.

Bill Wachtel addressed us most expertly on the "difficult" text in Col. 1:15ff. and gave us increased reason to believe that Paul was not there speaking of a pre-human, pre-historic Jesus but of Jesus as the preeminent created being in the universe, God's tool for the Kingdom of God.

Interspersed between the formal papers and following question times were short "faith stories," in which some 20 people took part. The personal histories were simply amazing and the DVD's of all the

sessions and the faith stories are available from the college for any who would like them (enquire from 800-347-4261 about costs or e-mail Steve Taylor staylor@abc-coggc.org). These accounts of progress in the faith towards an Abrahamic understanding of the Bible show that when left to study the Bible in an atmosphere divorced from traditional church, earnest seekers will come to see that God is One and Jesus the Messiah and the Gospel about the Kingdom of God. They are a strong encouragement to us all. On the Saturday evening I gave a paper on the encouragement I have gained from recent trends in scholarship. Leading scholars are beginning to tell the public that "heaven in the Bible is nowhere the destination of the dying." Historians of dogma also make sense of our radical and different traditions when they point out that the mainstream church departed from biblical truth from the second century. Abrahamic faith is an original biblical orthodoxy now viewed as suspect!

On Sunday, the meetings were brought to a close with a fine sermon from Kent Ross who urged us all to stand firm, at all costs, for Truth as we find it.

I am grateful to the staff of Atlanta Bible College, teachers, secretaries and maintenance personnel, for their wonderful teamwork in transporting so many people from the airport and generally ensuring a trouble-free weekend for all the participants. We plan another conference in April of 2005 and the dates will be announced. All interested in the progress of the Abrahamic faith around the world are welcome. You will find this a unique experience. This year's numbers were about 1/3 larger than last year and nine different nations were represented.

Missions

Peru

By David Krogh
DKrogh@abc-coggc.org

The Jorge Chavez Airport in Lima, Peru was bustling when Bill Wachtel and I arrived at 4:45 in the morning. For some reason, many flights to Lima from the United States arrive during the night, even though Peru is in the same time zone as the eastern United States.

We had not planned on arriving at 4:45 a.m., but when our plane departed an hour late from Atlanta, we missed our connecting flight from Miami to Lima. But despite the early morning hour, Pastor Beder Ucanay and church member Jorge Terrones were excitedly waving to us as we came out of the terminal. It had been 2 ½ years since Bill and I had been to Lima along with Judy Myers and Alice Badillo. It is easy to remember when we were there last because Judy, Alice, and I had flown home on September 5, 2001, and Bill, who had planned to stay another week to do additional teaching and preaching found himself stranded in Lima because of the grounding of all airplanes related to the disaster in New York City on 9-11.

After a couple of hours of sleep at a modest hotel, we were ready to travel to the church for our first afternoon Bible study class on Galatians. Bill Wachtel speaks fluent Spanish, so he did most of the teaching and preaching. He translated for me when I spoke one evening, although by the end of our visit, my previous Spanish training was being recalled and I was more comfortable communicating directly. Several young people who are learning English in school were anxious to practice their English with me.

For the next few days, Bible studies were held each afternoon and preaching services were held in the evening. The people were attentive and responsive. Eight individuals came forward to request baptism and others requested prayer. Some broken relationships were



Bill Wachtel, Pastor Beder, his wife Maria, and their four children: Meche, Joshua, Joel, Rebekah

restored. It was evident that God was at work in the lives of these people.

We found the local congregation to be strong in their faith and eager to study the Word. We found Pastor Beder to still be a faithful, caring shepherd for his congregation. He continues to have the heart of an evangelist, with a passion for preaching the good news regarding Jesus



Children posing with David Krogh and Bill Wachtel following a dynamic musical performance.

and the coming Kingdom. We were pleased to see a thriving children's ministry with classes on Saturdays and Sundays for around 40 children. Pictured is a musical performance presented by the children who attend the Saturday classes. They did a superb job! The ladies who work with the children are extremely enthusiastic and competent.

Peru has a population of 28 million and 25% of the country's population lives in Lima. The population of Peru has tripled over the past 50 years. Though Catholicism has been the predominate religion in the past, "evangelical" churches are making major inroads with the people.



A children's class

Under the direction of the Lord's Harvest International, mission groups, churches, and individuals are providing \$200 per month to assist this congregation to pay rent for their
(Continued on page 6)

Missions

Thailand Trip Planned

By Tom Colburn
TColburn@abc-coggc.org

On November 4, 2004, a group of Church of God people will be traveling to Thailand on a missions trip. This is the first missions trip to this country that we're aware of sponsored by Church of God people. It's an exciting opportunity!

A couple years ago, God made us aware of a small orphanage in northeastern Thailand. There are about 40 children ranging in age from newborn to about 15 years, both girls and boys. Many are kids abandoned on the street at young ages. Some had been in drugs or petty crime. Others were left at the orphanage as infants by their unwed, teenage mothers. It really is a sad sight to behold.

These children are living in squalor with minimal food, many without even a mattress to sleep on. Their education is sparse and their hygiene is primitive. Yet they are nice kids being cared for by kind volunteers who do what they can.

We have been allowed by the directors of this orphanage to bring in Bibles, tracts, or other literature at will. Also, we are allowed to minister to these children in other ways. We have been doing what we can for about a year and a half, sending things there via some local minister friends of my wife's from a distant Thai village. The Blanchard Church Missionary Society

has been assisting with the humanitarian aid for six months now.

As I mentioned, this November, several Church of God people will be traveling to Thailand and visiting this orphanage. We have made other contacts there as well and will be setting up further assistance for the orphanage. We also have developed connections at a high-profile restaurant in the city in which we will likely display the Christian message via literature and perhaps tapes.

As with any missionary effort, we are in need of sponsoring and support. Would your Missionary Society within the church be willing to help with this effort? Would your church be willing to take up a special offering once or twice between now and next November dedicated to the Thailand Missionary work? Would you, as an individual, like to make a contribution to this mission outreach project?

This is an on-going effort and, should we collect more than we need for this trip, the additional funds will be saved and used for future mission trips and/or future donations sent to Thailand. We will be seeking Church of God members from throughout our denomination to join us in future trips.

We may have room for one additional person. If you feel that God is calling you in this direction and would like to be considered for joining us on this trip please contact Pastor Tom Colburn (contact info at the end of this article).

I want you to know that Thailand is not yet an official Missions field of LHI (Lord's Harvest International). LHI is considering

adding Thailand to their missions countries and is supportive of our desire to spread God's Word there. Perhaps after this trip they will have the resources and ability to take this on. But this first missions trip is being spearheaded by the Blanchard Church of God Missionary Society.

We will make available pictures and reports of the missions effort there when we return from Thailand in November. Please pray about this and follow God's guidance. We have a wonderful opportunity to reach people in a country that is 97% Theravada Buddhist. This particular sect of Buddhism does not contemplate God and thus Christians (respectful ones) are not perceived as a threat. Thailand is also a relatively American-friendly country and fairly safe.

While many in Thailand live as if in the 17th century, for the most part, they're a nice, friendly people. We believe Thailand has the potential to be a wonderful missions field.

Again, please pray for God's guidance on this and respond to this request according to His will. Thank you and God bless.

In Service to God and to Christ,
Pastor Tom Colburn

Blancog@power-net.net or
tcolburn59@power-net.net
Blanchard Church of God - Missions
200 S. 4th St., Blanchard, MI 49310
(989-561-5021)

*(Note: Please make checks payable to
Blanchard Church of God - Missions)*

Peru

(Continued from page 5)

meeting facility. This congregation is extremely grateful for our prayer and financial support. They are encouraged to know that we care about them and their ministry. They repeatedly asked us not to forget them.

In addition to help with the rent, we have provided Christian education materials. Our suitcases were loaded with copies of the Systematic Bible

Study Course by Dr. Alva Huffer, translated into Spanish. We also took Church of God Sunday School curriculum, also translated into Spanish, for use in the children's classes. This material will be put to good use.

Pastor Beder continues to have a big vision for ministry. He is training potential pastors who will be able to help start additional churches in Peru and he looks forward to the day when the message of the Kingdom will spread to other countries in South America. One day we took a bus trip north along

the coast to visit a small village where Pastor Beder's brother, Gaston, has done some preaching in the village square. He hopes to make more trips to this area in the future.

Bill and I are thankful for your prayer and financial support that made our trip possible. We are thankful for safety and good health. We were blessed by the opportunity to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ in Peru.

Finance

Explanation of Accounts in the Budget

The budgets proposed include both a revision of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 adopted by the delegates at the 2003 Summer Conference and a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

Income

11. **General Contributions** – non-specific giving by individuals, churches, and conferences
22. **G. C. – Devises & Bequests** – the College/Conference is the recipient of annuity payments on a contract of a deceased member
33. **ABC Boosters** – an annual giving program that raises funds for the College
44. **Christian Education Materials** – includes all sales of Quarterlies & Kingdom Quest materials
55. **Books** – sale of textbooks and other materials
65. **Restitution Herald** – subscriptions are currently \$13/year, \$24 for 2 years, \$33 for 3 years
77. **Age to Come Media Products** – video products and study aides being produced by the Conference
88. **Theological Journals** – A Journal From the Radical Reformation is currently \$24/year
99. **Hymnals** – all copies of the Psalms, Hymns, & Spiritual Songs have been sold
110. **Systematic Theology** – sales associated with the Systematic Theology text & products are now included in the 'Books' budget line
111. **Sale of Assets** – non-recurring sales of property or assets
112. **Tuition** – income is based upon growth in enrollment and increased tuition rate
113. **ABC Korean Extension Tuition** – income is based upon growth in enrollment and increased tuition rate
114. **Lodging** – rent received from residential properties of the College
115. **Washers/Dryers** – income from laundry facilities in apartment building
116. **Rentals** – ABC Plant – rent received from use of the administration building
117. **Late Fees/Rent** – interest income, registration and other fees from students
118. **Fees** – charges for specific programs for college students, such as seminars or educational events
119. **ABCDF Transfer In** – transfer of investment income from the Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation. *This transfer will be suspended in FY 2004-2005 because of declines in the stocks, bonds, and other assets that make up the Foundation. Transfers will be suspended until asset values recover to \$1,000,000 level*
220. **Interest** – money earned on checking account through the year
221. **Other** – miscellaneous income and

- revenues from seminars or training events
22. **Transferred In** – amounts transferred in from Restricted Funds for Missions Support & income from the Church Builders Appeal designated for Atlanta Bible College

Expenses

1. **Salaries and Wages** – compensation for all full-time staff, part-time employees, student employees, paid committee staff, and writers/editors for publications and curricula. Full-time staff in the Atlanta area are co-employed by Administaff, an employment service that provides tax compliance, legal compliance assistance and employment services, and benefit provisions
2. **FICA Tax** – required payment of employer taxes on all employees not covered by Administaff
3. **Employee Benefits** – all tax coverage, health insurance premiums, workmen's compensation, and other charges for co-employed Administaff employees, as well as conference premium for Ministers Voluntary Retirement Association for some employees
4. **Assistance to Churches** – funds provided to churches granted Church Development Aid
5. **Ministerial Association** – support for programs and expenses of the Ministerial Association
6. **Youth Program** – funding to subsidize the cost of Turning Point Youth Ministries and the summer FUEL event
7. **Printing and Binding** – includes all materials printed by the College/Conference, such as Kingdom Quest, and the binding of permanent materials for the Library
8. **Postage and Shipping** – shipping charges for the Progress Journal, the Restitution Herald, A Journal from the Radical Reformation, tracts, books, and all correspondence
9. **Media Production Expense** – costs of consumable supplies used by media operations – these costs are being paid out of other budget line accounts
10. **Book Store** – textbooks and other materials, which are purchased for resale
11. **Royalties** – fees paid for copyrighted material used in our publications
12. **Clayton Rebates** – during the first three semesters of education, ABC students who attend Clayton College and State University are eligible for a rebate to help offset the out of state tuition until they can establish residency
13. **Advertising – Recruitment** – includes newspaper, television, radio advertising (Telephone calls, travel, printing, and postage are included under other line items)
14. **ABC Korean Extension Support** – expenses associated with the providing for the expense budget of the ABC Korean Extension
15. **Special Speakers** – expenses associated with speakers for college events
16. **Library Periodicals** – journals and other magazines for the Library collection
17. **Library Books** – newly published books are acquired to keep the Library collection up to date
18. **Staff Periodicals, Books & Dues** – a small allowance is provided to staff to purchase resource material for classes and to participate in professional organizations
19. **Staff Training** – staff members are provided opportunities to enhance their skills in areas associated with their responsibilities
20. **Program Development** – the purchase of resources to enhance teaching programs at ABC
21. **Travel** – includes travel for Board members, advisory committees, special boards and committees, student groups, and staff
22. **Motor Vehicles** – license plates, insurance, and maintenance for vehicles
23. **Office Supplies & Expense** – paper, printer cartridges, stationary, envelopes, etc., and includes supplies for Kingdom Quest and other products
24. **Professional Services** – costs of annual audit, as required by the Constitution and annual fees to accrediting association
25. **Telephone** – basic and long distance service, including the cost of all "800" number calls which are provided toll free to the caller; also includes internet data lines
26. **Insurance – Non-Plant** – liability insurance for employees and directors
27. **Supplies & Expense** – printing supplies, paper products, and other operational expenses
28. **Repairs & Maintenance – non-plant** – maintenance agreements and repairs for office and library equipment, Kingdom Quest printers
29. **Utilities** – costs of electricity, water, etc.
30. **Insurance – Property** – costs of insurance for facilities
31. **Repairs/Maint/Plant** – costs for plant support and maintenance
32. **Furniture and Equipment** – includes all furniture, software, computers, and office machines
33. **Supplies/Exp Plant** – cleaning supplies, restroom supplies, etc.
34. **Interest** – interest paid on funds borrowed from Restricted Funds
35. **Other** – miscellaneous charges

Finance

Income	Adopted Budget	Amended Budget	Proposed Budget	Expenses	Adopted Budget	Amended Budget	Proposed Budget
	FY '04-'05	FY '04-'05	FY '05-'06		FY '04-'05	FY '04-'05	FY '05-'06
CONTRIBUTIONS:				STAFF:			
General Contributions	\$443,750	\$373,080	\$410,388	Salaries & Wages	\$535,292	\$472,161	\$495,000
G. C. - Devises & Bequests	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	F.I.C.A. Tax	\$7,251	\$5,500	\$5,500
ABC Boosters	\$21,250	\$18,700	\$20,570	Employee Benefits	\$113,922	\$101,515	\$118,000
Subtotals	\$470,000	\$396,780	\$435,958	Subtotals	\$656,465	\$579,176	\$620,200
SALES:				SERVICES:			
Christian Education Materials	\$85,000	\$36,300	\$36,300	Assist. to Churches	\$42,900	\$37,900	\$37,900
Books	\$32,000	\$42,000	\$50,400	Ministerial Assoc.	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600
<u>Restitution Herald</u>	\$10,163	\$6,000	\$6,000	Youth Program	\$13,000	\$5,000	\$12,000
<i>Age to Come</i> Media Products	\$18,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	Subtotals	\$65,500	\$52,500	\$59,500
Theological Journals	\$1,700	\$1,870	\$2,057	SALES EXPENSES			
Hymnals	\$0	\$0	\$0	Printing & Binding	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$35,000
Systematic Theology	\$0	\$0	\$0	Postage & Shipping	\$13,000	\$16,000	\$20,000
Sale of Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	Media Production Expenses	\$6,000	\$0	\$0
Subtotals	\$146,863	\$88,170	\$96,757	Book Store	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$22,000
Atlanta Bible College				Royalties	\$150	\$150	\$0
Tuition	\$184,275	\$198,450	\$238,140	Subtotals	\$66,150	\$64,150	\$77,000
ABC Korean Extension Tuition	\$127,500	\$78,700	\$88,900	ABC:			
Lodging	\$57,792	\$58,750	\$64,625	Clayton Rebate	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$2,000
Washers/Dryers	\$1,896	\$2,031	\$2,437	Advertising--Recruitment	\$13,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Rentals - ABC Plant	\$5,940	\$4,620	\$4,851	ABC Korean Extension Support	\$51,525	\$23,500	\$31,000
Late Fees/Rent Fees	\$9,000	\$7,200	\$5,000	Special Speakers	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotals	\$400,403	\$361,751	\$416,953	Library Periodicals	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$1,500
MISCELLANEOUS:				Library Books	\$500	\$0	\$1,000
ABCDF Transfer in	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	Staff Period., Books, Dues	\$800	\$400	\$0
Interest	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	Staff Training	\$4,500	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other (inc seminars/products)	\$84,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	Program Development	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transferred In (Missions Support + CB)	\$0	\$30,000	\$18,000	Subtotals	\$76,825	\$29,400	\$33,000
Subtotals	\$115,000	\$61,000	\$49,000	ADMINISTRATION:			
Total Revenues	\$1,132,265	\$907,702	\$998,669	Travel	\$40,000	\$25,000	\$27,500
				Motor Vehicles	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
				Office Supplies & Expense	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$14,000
				Professional Services	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$11,000
				Telephone	\$20,000	\$21,000	\$23,000
				Insurance Non-Plant	\$500	\$500	\$0
				Supplies & Expense	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$3,000
				Repairs/Maint Non-Plant	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$21,000
				Subtotals	\$108,500	\$93,000	\$102,000
				PLANT EXPENSES:			
				Utilities	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
				Insurance - Property	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$15,000
				Repairs/Maint/Plant	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$5,000
				Furniture & Equip.	\$8,000	\$3,000	\$5,000
				Supplies/Exp. Plant	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
				Subtotals	\$61,000	\$54,000	\$62,000
				Interest	\$0	\$28,000	\$28,000
				Other	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
				Subtotals	\$7,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
				Total Expense	\$1,041,440	\$907,226	\$994,000
				Net Gain (Loss)	\$90,825	\$476	\$4,669

Church of God General Conference/Atlanta Bible College Proposed Budget 2004

The document on this page is displayed for Church of God delegates to review for voting during the annual summer General Conference.

How to Read:

This column presents originally adopted budget for 2004-05

This column presents changes to adopted budget finances for 2004-05

This column presents proposed budget for 2005-06.

Adopted Budget

Amended Budget

Proposed Budget

General Contributions

\$443,750

\$373,080

\$410,388

Prayer & Praise

July 2004

- 11 Pray for Pastor Emory Macy and his work in Weiser, ID.
- 22 Pray for Pastor James and Rebecca Ritch and the work at Lenoir, NC.
- 34 Pray that God might move the Church of God forward in new areas of ministry.
- 44 Pray for Pastor Dan and Amy Kennedy and their work at Winnebago New Life Church in Illinois.
- 51 Pray that many will hear God's call into full-time Christian service.
- 61 Pray for the soon return of Jesus.
- 71 **Praise God for the leadership of your church family.**
- 81 Praise God for the abundant life you have in Christ.
- 91 **Praise God for efforts being made to plant new churches.**
- 100 Pray for the brethren in India.
- 111 Pray for those traveling today to the summer General Conference in McDonough, GA.
- 122 Pray for the Business Sessions being held today at the summer Conference.
- 133 Pray for safety for those traveling home from the summer Conference.
- 144 Praise God for the continuing opportunities to present the Gospel of the Kingdom over the radio, shortwave, and the Internet.
- 155 Pray for a great hunger and thirst for righteousness in your church.
- 166 Pray for the Malawi and Mozambique team as they travel to Africa today.
- 177 Praise God for the many people in our churches who have

August 2004

- 1 Pray for your church family as you join together in worship today.
- 2 Pray for the Africa mission team as they teach and preach in the churches in Malawi.
- 3 Pray for the Mexico team as they minister in Labor Vieja, Mexico.
- 4 Pray for the Mexico team as they travel home.
- 5 Pray for new students as they prepare to attend Atlanta Bible College later this month.
- 6 Praise God for the beauty of His creation.
- 7 Pray for the Africa mission team as they travel home today.
- 8 Pray for Pastor Connie Scott and her ministry at Pine Grove, Minnesota.
- 9 Pray for the Board of Directors as they lead the ministries of the College/Conference.
- 100 Pray for your pastor and his family today.
- 111 Praise God for the faithful ministry of the ABC/General Conference staff.
- 122 Pray for ABC instructors as they prepare to teach classes at Atlanta Bible College.
- 133 Pray for the Focus on the Kingdom radio ministry.
- 144 Pray for Jon Cheatwood in his work as Youth Coordinator for ABC and the General Conference.
- 155 Praise God for the faith of the brethren in the Philippines.
- 166 Praise God for the challenges He sends your way.

- 18 Pray for safety for those traveling to FUEL (former RYOT) today.
- 19 Pray for Pastor Hollis and Hilda Partlowe and the work at Dixon, IL.
- 20 Pray for the staff of FUEL and the influence they are having on the young people.
- 21 Pray for Pastor John and Alice Railton and the work at Timberland, IN.
- 22 Pray for those who are studying the Systematic Bible Study Course over the Internet.
- 23 Pray for safety for those traveling home from FUEL today.
- 24 Pray for your pastor as he prepares to share God's message tomorrow.
- 25 Pray for the Badillo family and the work in Mexico.
- 26 Pray that God will lead many of our young people into ministry at home and abroad.
- 27 Pray for Rufus and Jeri Meyers and the work of the Simple Teachings Bible Church, Jonesboro, GA.
- 28 Pray for safety as the mission team travels to Mexico.
- 29 Pray for Freedom in Christ Ministries, Welland, Ontario and Pastor Stephen and Joyce Bolhaus.
- 30 Pray for someone you know who needs to accept Christ as Savior.
- 31 Praise God for His great love shown to us by the sacrifice of His Son.

- 17 Pray for pastors who are making transitions in ministries.
- 18 **Praise God for His love and faithfulness.**
- 19 Pray for Steven Taylor as he works for ABC/General Conference in Technology and Communications.
- 20 **Praise God for His faithfulness in your life.**
- 21 Pray for individuals who feel led by God to pursue mission careers.
- 22 Pray for the leadership of your local church.
- 23 Pray for Atlanta Bible College students as classes begin today.
- 24 Praise God that He is sufficient to meet every need.
- 25 Pray for spiritual renewal for yourself and your church.
- 26 Pray that the financial needs of the Conference and College will be met.
- 27 Praise God for your heritage of faith.
- 28 Pray that God might speak through you to someone who is hurting.
- 29 Pray for someone you know who needs to make Christ Lord.
- 30 Pray for an opportunity to share your faith this week.
- 31 Pray for Pastor Sydney and Dee Kirkpatrick and their ministry at Pine Grove, MN.

General Conference 2004

Board Member Nominations

Hugh Harmon

Hugh Harmon of *Lakeshore Bible Church* in Tempe, Arizona is a potential nominee for the Board of Directors (to be voted on by his home church prior to the Conference).

Hugh and his wife, Mary, have been married for 50 years. He graduated from *Texas Western* in 1957 with a B.A. in Physical Education with a minor in Social Studies and from *Arizona State University* in 1973 with a M.A. in Counseling and Guidance (with 45 hours beyond M.A. to maintain Arizona school district requirements).

Hugh has been employed in a number of capacities over the years including as a teacher and coach at various secular schools and as the Executive Director of *Western Valley Youth Ranch* (Christian oriented rehabilitation program for delinquent youth).

In 1974, he was hired by the *Church of God General Conference* to assume directorship of *IBYF* and editorship of the youth publication "*Challenge*," and also served as the Conference Youth Director until 1984.

Hugh and his wife, Mary, served as dorm parents for the girls' dormitory of *Oregon Bible College* from 1976-1978 and Hugh served as the Director of Student Affairs of *Oregon Bible College* from 1976-1979.

Hugh returned to teach and coach in Arizona in 1979, but retired in May of 1997. He continues to substitute at times, however.

Since returning to Arizona and the Tempe church, Hugh has continued to serve. He has held the office of Trustee as well as serving on the Board of Elders for several years.

Hugh writes, "It has been my privilege to serve my God in these capacities over the years and I now look forward to the possibility of serving in a different role, one of a different capacity, but equally as challenging and rewarding."

Church News

Deaths

Michigan
Southlawn – George Van Fleet (10/28/03), long time member

Texas
Gatesville – Scott Weiss (2/21/04), member, by Pastor Travis Ramsey

Dale Bliss

Dale Bliss was born and raised in Kokomo, IN. He was baptized at the Jay Street Church of God in 1976. Dale began his leadership experience as a teen, serving as a member of the church board and youth ministry president at Jay Street Church of God and as Indiana State Youth President. In 1981, he served in a church planting effort in Winter Haven, FL. Inspired by Cecil Patrick and Clyde Rasmussen, Dale attended Oregon Bible College and graduated in 1988.

Dale began his pastoral leadership in 1988 as an intern. He served as Associate Pastor at Timberland Bible Church with Pastor J. R. Railton. In 1992, Dale became the Sr. Pastor at North Kent Church, Rockford, MI. When the Jay Street Church of God was considered closing in 1998, Dale led a revitalization effort that formed the Maple Grove Community Church, which now has a 30-acre campus and growing membership and strong spiritual influence in the Kokomo area.

State and General Conference experience includes 4 years as Indiana State Youth Leader and 8 years on the Church of God Youth Advisory Committee.

Dale's ministry leadership experience includes staff formation and management, leadership reorganization, multiple building projects and financial strategy development for ministry. He is spiritually gifted in leadership, communication and counseling.

In business, Dale has served as Production Manager at Aeroquip in Fort Wayne, IN and as Human Resources Consultant at Kendall & Davis, also in Fort Wayne. In 1998, Dale began Advantage Enterprises LLC, a privately owned business and real estate development company. His company has developed projects in central Indiana.

Family has always added strength to Dale's ministry. He has been married to his wife Julie (See) for 22 years. Julie is the co-instructor of a Jazzercise dance fitness studio in Kokomo. He has two children: daughter Michelle, age 21, and son Jereme, age 17.

When asked why he would like to serve on the Church of God Board of Directors, Dale replied,

"I have seen the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College experience great seasons of growth and influence. I have also witnessed seasons of confusion, doubt and failing. Regardless of the ups and downs, the potential for greatness has always been there. I would like to do my part to lead us to the next level of success.

I have a passion for a Biblical model of leadership and vision. Combined with my ministry and business experience, leadership could be a positive influence on the board and the church. Leadership it provides. I don't know what every church needs from the Conference and College, but I do know what my church needs and am pleased to say that it has been provided most of the time.

I don't have a specific agenda, only to serve with the wisdom and compassion God has given. I do know one thing is true: we will only be remembered for two things: the problems we create and the problems we solve. I would like for myself and the board which I serve to be remembered for the latter."

General Conference 2004

Constitution Amendments

By The Church of God Board of Directors

BoardOfDirectors@abc-coggc.org

The General Conference/Atlanta Bible College Board of Directors present the following amendments to the Constitution for Delegate approval at the 2004 Annual Conference:

Article I - Current

Time and Place of Conference

Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place as may be determined by the Conference or its Board of Directors, but in no case shall the date be fixed earlier than July 1, or later than August 31. Announcements of the time and place shall be made by the secretary of the Conference at least one month in advance by publication in The Restitution Herald and/or Progress Journal. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.

Article I - Suggested Amendment

Time and Place of Conference

Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place as may be determined by the Conference or its Board of Directors. Announcements of the time and place shall be made by the Board of Directors at least two months in advance by publications of the General Conference or other means of general communications

available to the General Conference. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.

Article II - Current

Delegates

Section 4. An individual member who has attended at least thirteen services and who has made a financial or service contribution during the year is considered an active member at his church. These shall be considered as minimum requirements only.

Section 6. Each church shall certify to the secretary of the College/Conference the names of its delegates or delegate and alternates; this certification shall be accompanied by a list of the names and addresses of the active members to be represented. No delegate will be recognized in any Conference session without having been recognized by the credentials committee. If any delegate is absent from any Conference session, an alternate who has been approved by the credentials committee may be appointed to act.

Section 7. Any church which cannot send a delegate or delegates to the annual Conference may appoint a delegate or delegates from the general active membership of the Church of God.

However, any delegate appointed under this section shall have only one vote, and under no circumstances can any delegate represent more than one church or state or district conference. A notice must be sent to the secretary of the College/Conference containing a statement of the intentions of the church and the names and addresses of its active members to be represented, at least fifteen days before the Conference convenes.

Article II - Suggested Amendments

Delegates

Section 4. Members shall be defined as active in accordance with the requirements of the local church.

Section 6. Each church shall certify to the College/Conference staff the names of its delegates or delegate and alternates. No delegate will be recognized in any Conference session without having been recognized by the credentials committee appointed by the Chairman of the Board. If any delegate is absent from any Conference session, an alternate who has been approved by the credentials committee may be appointed to act.

Section 7. Any church which cannot send a delegate or delegates to the annual Conference may appoint a delegate or delegates from the general active membership of the Church of God. However, any delegate appointed under this section shall have only one vote, and under no circumstances can any delegate represent more than one church or state or district conference.

Schedule

Sunday, July 11, 2004 (all Sunday activities are optional for all attendees except Board members)

Board Meeting - Time to be established

Checkout at Cornerstone - Begins at 5:00 p.m.

Monday, July 12, 2004

8:00 - 11:30 Optional Morning Classes

11:30 Lunch

Delegate Session Agenda - 1:00 pm

Opening Prayer

Chairman's Welcome

Chairman's Message

Nominees for Director - 2 Directors will be elected. At least 3 nominees are required for election.

Annual Report - Tim Jones, Chief

Administrative Officer

Presentation of Budget and

Discussion - Tim Jones

Reports from Departments

College Report

Korean Initiatives

African Initiatives

LHI Initiatives in other mission fields
Christian Education Program
Turning Point Youth Ministries

New Business Proposals

Constitutional Amendments:

These amendments are proposed by the Board - published 3 times in the Restitution Herald or Progress Journal.

Other Business

Adjourn with Prayer - end session by 5:00 p.m.

Dinner - 5:30

Evening Service - 7:00 Michael Hoffman, speaker

MVRA Meeting - Commence at the end of the service

Tuesday, July 13, 2004 9:00 a.m.

Reading of the minutes of the

Tuesday Session - approval required

Election to the Board of Directors -

Election of two directors for the

Board of Directors for four-year

terms. A simple majority is required for election.

Adoption of Budget - A motion is in order to approve the proposed revised budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year and the proposed budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. A simple majority is required for passage.

Constitutional Amendments - approval required.

Other Business

Reading of the minutes of the Session - approval required

11:30 - Lunch

1:00 Delegate Session Continued (only if required)

Board Meeting - TBD

ABCDF Board of Trustees Meeting - TBD

2:00 - 5:00 Classes, workshops, or outings to area attractions

5:30 Dinner

7:00 Evening Service - Scott Ross, speaker
Commissioning Service

Atlanta Bible College
 Church of God General Conference
 P.O. Box 100,000
 Morrow, GA 30260

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 1
 TAYLORS, SC

Address Service Requested

PROGRESS JOURNAL is owned and published by Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260. Published bi-monthly. Justin Taylor, Publishing Specialist; Jill Taylor, Typesetter; Mary Krogh, Proofreader. Telephone 404-362-0052 or 800-347-4261. FAX 404-362-9307. E-mail Address: info@abc-coggc.org. Website: http://www.abc-coggc.org.

General Conference 2004 Form

1. Cut and fill out the following form (up to 4 attendees per form) Rates are per person.
2. Mail this form to: **General Conference 2004 PO Box 100,000 Morrow, GA 30260**

Contact	Contact Name _____ Day Phone _____ E-mail _____
Address	Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Church	Pastor Discount? (10%) Y/N Home Church _____ Number attending optional Barbeque _____

If you wish to share a room with someone, please list them here

Your Name	Last _____ First _____
2	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Last _____ First _____ Age _____ Check if Childcare Needed <input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose an option below (All rates are per person. For reduced rates persons sharing the room must be adults over age 18 paying per person charge)

Sunday Arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 per room (\$180) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 per room (\$200) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 per room (\$235) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 per room (\$350)
Monday Arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 per room (\$160) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 per room (\$180) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 per room (\$200) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 per room (\$270)

Transportation Needed from Airport **Please note: Transportation must be in writing no later than July 1st, 2004.**

Arrival Airline # ____ Flight # ____ Arrival Time _____ Departure Airline # ____ Flight # ____ Arrival Time _____

Subtotal from above		\$
_____	Number of Children ages 5-16 sharing room/w parents X \$35.00	\$
_____	# of Commuters w/meals X \$70	\$
_____	# of Commuters, no meals X \$15	\$
Subtotal		\$
Pastor Discount—subtract 10%		\$
Registration after June 4, add \$50		\$
Less \$50 Deposit		- \$50.00
Total due at Conference		\$



Missions Updates
 ▶ Africa ▶ Thailand
 ▶ Korea ▶ Mexico

▶ **ABC Record Breaking Enrollment For Fall 2004**
 See page 6

PROGRESS JOURNAL

Church of God General Conference · Atlanta Bible College

Heavenly Spirit at the 2004 Annual Conference

By Tom Colburn

TColburn@abc-coggc.org

Tom Colburn is the pastor of Blanchard Church of God, located in Blanchard, MI., and an Atlanta Bible College graduate

Many esteemed attendees were in McDonough, Georgia on July 12-13, 2004 for the annual Summer Conference of the Church of God. All these folks had gathered to renew old friendships, make new relationships, and conduct the business affairs of the General Conference. From the first moments of registration to the final closing moments of the Communion Service on Tuesday evening, the assembled members of the Church of God were aware that God Himself, through His Holy Spirit, was making His presence known in a powerful way. The Conference, so graciously hosted by the Cornerstone Bible Church in their new facility, was an example of unity and cooperation between brothers and sisters in Christ.

For several years, the delegates of the various churches had expressed a desire that Conference be shortened and focused on the necessary business that must be transacted. But this shorter, business-focused Conference was in no way less blessed by God's presence. If that sounds corny, let me

say this; if you were there, you'd know what I mean. God was there. And if you weren't, you missed out.

However, before we experienced the power of God at the Conference, some of us had to deal with the power of security at various airports! My entourage from the Blanchard Michigan Church of God, met our challenge at the Flint, Michigan airport. Our group thought we'd be smart by traveling light and checking in online. This allowed us to by-pass the usual check-in procedure and go directly to security and then on to our gate. The best laid plans are of mice and men!

If you attempt to get your boarding pass online and you're refused, plan on showing up at the airport a half hour early. You've been "selected!" Of course, if you're a dark-colored man who looks like he could be from, let's say Iran, and you happen to have the last name of Shaw (which sounds suspiciously like "Shah"), another possibility for detention might come to mind! For our part, the rest of our group found this whole ordeal quite amusing. A nice bit of comic relief in

(Continued on page 4)

Traveling for the Gospel—Part 1

By Anthony Buzzard

Anthony Buzzard is an instructor at Atlanta Bible College and the founder of Restoration Fellowship.

After a troublesome start (security was so severely drawn out in Atlanta that I missed the plane to Seoul and had to go the next day, spending the night in San Francisco), things went wonderfully. Steve An was a stalwart support as he and his wife Young met me in Seoul, Korea and drove four hours to the Bible College where we were due to teach the following morning. (Steve then drove me back in pouring rain the next afternoon to the airport to collect the bags which the airline had managed to lose for a couple of days!). Steve and I had a great time speaking to the students at the Bible College, with the kind approval of Dr. Chung who was most welcoming. I was also asked to don a long white robe and full academic regalia and then give the graduation address—which I did, urging them to preach the Kingdom of God. All the faculty were recep-

(Continued on page 5)

September/October 2004

Volume 46, Number 6

CAO Corner	2
Atlanta Bible College	6
Annual Conference	4
Missions	8

Finance	13
Prayer & Praise	19
Church News	17
Annual General Conference Minutes	15

CAO Corner

To Have the Faith of Abraham



By Tim Jones
TJones@abc-coggc.org

Tim Jones is the current CAO and President of Atlanta Bible College.

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." (NIV, emphasis added)

How easy it is for us to follow in the footsteps of our father in the faith, Abraham! Greetings to you all from the Bible College and General Conference! It is an exciting time as we begin Fall classes today (August 23) and there are several issues I would like to tell you about. I am pleased to let you know that God has blessed us with the largest number of students in our history! For months we have been telling you the number of prospective students and asking you to pray that they be able to attend. It is with great appreciation for your prayers and thanksgiving to God that we tell you more than 140 students are registered!

I can't help but compare this first day of the semester with my first Bible

College semester. No, not the semester when I was hired as CAO. I am speaking of my first semester as a student in August, 1982! As hard as it is for me to believe, that was 22 years ago. We were located in Oregon, Illinois. We had one of the larger freshmen classes to enter OBC in some years, with a total count of 35 full-time and 5 part-time students. Fifteen of the students had just graduated from high school, while I was a recent graduate from Clemson University. To my recollection, only 5 or 6 students were older than 22 years of age. The students who had traveled the longest distance to attend OBC had journeyed 1791 miles from Phoenix to Oregon. The most exotic food we ate was served on Wednesday, as Betty Hall

cooked her fabulous Mexican dishes - fractured tacos, enchilada casserole (my favorite!), or green-chile bake. As I settled into a Men's Dorm room and prepared for the semester to come, I was excited but apprehensive about the upcoming semester. Would I be ready for the challenge?

Once again I am excited but apprehensive about the semester that we are



▲ Oregon Bible College student body Fall 1982

▼ Classes have officially begun!



▼ Students receive their books for the new semester.



▼ Overflow parking spilled onto the lawn at ABC's first day of classes.



beginning. Are we prepared to handle the blessings God is providing? Gary Burnham and I just finished an in-the-hallway emergency meeting to figure out what to do about overflow parking: both ABC parking lots are full (*see accompanying photos.*) The Korean Extension classes, meeting today in the Chapel, have 54 students, exceeding the total 1982 enrollment by 17 people. Our oldest student this semester is 80 years of age. Students are here from Kenya, South Korea, and Ghana, among others. Lunch was prepared for the Korean students and instructors. It was a big ceramic bowl of rice, watercress, shredded carrots, spicy radishes, ground beef, bean sprouts, kimchee, partially fried eggs, sesame oil, and fiery chili paste, complete with your own set of chopsticks. I didn't even know I could eat watercress! Anthony Buzzard, Steve An, and I ate while discussing how cultural differences may impact theological understanding. We took a break to check the library to determine where we could store books for a new Korean section.

Do I know exactly where we are going? We continue to pursue the long-term goals I have shared with you before. I do know that we are attempting to follow the path God has in store for us. I can understand how Abraham felt as he set out for an unknown destination. Yet he was confident that God would lead him to the right place. In the same way, the College is on a journey – and I believe that God is leading us to a destination that He has identified. We face challenges and opportunities that we have never faced before,

but God will see us through. Just like Paul and Apollos at Corinth, we must plant and water the seeds, and God will make them grow. You can be part of the team. We need you to help us both spiritually and financially.

Here are some ways you can help. We have begun an exciting new aspect of the *Building Our Future* campaign. An anonymous family gave a donation of \$40,000 to support the work of the College! We are so grateful to them for their generous support of ABC. They also asked us to challenge the general membership and the ABC Alumni Association to each make an effort to match this gift! The Alumni Association met during General Conference and agreed to this challenge—the Association sent letters to alumni to inform them of this exciting opportunity. Can the members also accept this challenge to donate at least \$40,000 in new contributions this year? Your contributions make it possible for the College to continue to help men and women prepare themselves for a lifetime of ministry. We will keep you informed of the Challenge progress.

Please, keep praying for the staff and the students. Ask God to make us wise enough to cope with challenges and to take advantage of opportunities. Pray that the students are daily drawn to a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior. Ask God to provide the resources and contributions we need to handle our growth.

In addition to our Challenge Gift effort, October will mark Atlanta Bible

College Booster Month. You will be seeing more information about becoming a Bible College Booster in your church and in this Progress Journal. Begin thinking now about how you can become a more involved participant in the College's ministry.

I also want to notify you of an important change in our magazine publications. Beginning with the next issue, the Board of Directors has approved the merging of The Restitution Herald and The Progress Journal into a single publication. The new Restitution Herald and Progress Journal will be mailed to all current households that receive The Progress Journal. The Herald will no longer be a subscription-based publication. This change is positive for several reasons. The Herald is currently mailed to fewer than 280 households. Under the new policy more than 2600 households will receive the Herald and its great articles about our beliefs, building stronger churches, and people, etc.. The costs of producing and mailing the single magazine will be much less than producing 2 smaller but separate magazines. I think you will enjoy the combination of the magazines, and more people will benefit from our publications. Thank you for your support, and may God bless you in every way.

Tim Jones

▼ABC staff and Korean students.



▶ABC pre-semester briefing.



Heavenly Spirit at the 2004 Annual Conference

(Continued from page 1)

an otherwise boring process of airline travel. But then again, we weren't the ones getting accosted! Fortunately, our friend Mr. Shaw has a wonderful sense of humor and submitted to the rather thorough security check with the patience and cooperation befitting the fine Christian that he is. And other than offering to hold the plane door open for us (at 30,000 feet!), he seemed to maintain his usual positive attitude and good spirits toward his chuckling traveling companions.

We arrived in Atlanta safely and were greeted by ABC's Marcy Cly in the old, familiar college minivan. The Shaws and the Woods (Blanchard parishioners) went with Marcy, and I caught a ride with my daughter Jenn who lives in Jonesboro, Georgia with her husband Kyle and my new granddaughter Maria.

Monday morning we all gathered at the Conference at 9 a.m. Once checked in, I engaged my Italian nose in the work of following that heavenly aroma of hot water flowing through filtered, ground beans of mountain grown coffee. Thank you, Juan Valdez!

If you're anywhere near that proverbial "loop" in any organization, you will hear the rumblings about problems that plague all groups of imperfect human beings. And rumblings I indeed heard in the weeks leading up to the Conference; enough rumblings to make me a little anxious as I entered into the meetings. I knew there were some real differences of opinion out there on a few issues and I feared that emotions were definitely strained.

When I was in politics, especially local politics, I learned the value of a good moderator. The guy running a town

meeting could make the difference in whether it was manageable or mayhem. Well, Chairman Mark Tschaenn, Michael Hoffman, CAO Tim Jones, Scott Ross, and every other Conference speaker did a superb job of managing the various meetings. They are professional, good Christian men. But God held the gavel and the power of His spirit working through every person who uttered a word at the meetings was truly a sight to behold.

Conference room like the noontime Georgia sun. Truly amazing!

Some notables actions from the Conference: Pastor Mark Tschaenn and Keith Williams finished their terms on the Board, and were replaced by Hugh Harmon of Tempe, AZ and Pastor Dale Bliss of Kokomo, IN. Jamie Engelbert was recognized as the first person to graduate from ABC through primarily distance learning



Pastor Steve An introduces the ABC-Korean Extension .

What a great bunch of Christians were in attendance! (a big congrats to him!).

It reminded me once again how easy it is for us to judge another person based on that part of them that's imperfect and how simple it is to forget that God works through imperfect people. Of course, being imperfect describes us all. As frustrated as we allow ourselves to get when "dealing" with someone else's imperfection, how awesome it was to witness the universal working of God through all parties at the Conference. God's spirit, working with what is good in each person, just overwhelmed disunity and warmed the

In his report on ABC, Dr. Joe Martin, ABC's Academic Dean, stated that since 1992 there have been 38 Bachelor degrees granted at ABC. He also brought word that in this past spring's New Testament Survey class, instructor Anthony Buzzard had students representing 8 countries! The goal of ABC becoming multi-racial and multi-cultural has certainly been achieved.

Pastor Steve An noted that in the ABC-Korean Extension, there are 45 full time, and 5 part time students. Steve is

a tireless evangelist for the Abrahamic faith in the Korean community. We were also treated to a wonderful musical presentation by the newly forming ABC Korean Extension Band!

Myra Montgomery, director of Christian Education, indicated that the *Kingdom Quest* material is now completed. She is currently working for the General Conference on a part time basis.

David Krogh, ABC Registrar & Recruiter, gave the *Lord's Harvest International* (LHI) report for the various mission fields. Africa continues to be a fertile area for growth. There was a special report from Rebekah Martin on the developments in the Africa mission efforts in Malawi and Mozambique. Peru and Haiti are also continuing efforts. Mexico and India are in need of new evangelists as their current pastors are approaching retirement.

Thailand is the latest mission field being explored by LHI. The LHI members have asked David and Lynne Krogh to join my wife and I (Colburn's) and several others on our trip this November to assess the situation there. (*see related article on the upcoming trip to Thailand in this issue.*)

Pastor Jon Cheatwood, even as he prepared for FUEL (youth camp) in Indiana the next week, addressed the Conference discussing *Turning Point Youth Ministries* (TPYM). He encouraged those interested to view their website at: tpym.com. Rebecca Dauksas was elected to the TPYM Advisory Committee to replace Pastor Dave Riley. A huge thanks to Dave for his years of service to our youth.

Financial matters were discussed. The budget was voted on and approved as submitted. There were two Constitutional Amendments proposed.

Article I, section II was modified somewhat from what was published, then approved. Article II, sections 4-7 was essentially deferred for further study.

Finally, 5 people were recognized for being granted their minister's license. Travis Ramsey, currently pastoring the Gatesville, Texas church with his wife Kristen; Neal Bryant, who pastors the Blessed Hope church in Illinois with his wife Deborah; Daniel Smead, pastor of Eden Valley in Minnesota with his wife Carolyn; Rebekah Martin (wife of Dr. Joe Martin), who is very involved with the African mission and has a tremendous ministry there; and myself, Tom Colburn. I currently pastor the Blanchard Church of God in Michigan with my wife Ann. ■

(The minutes from the Conference Business Meetings and the approved budget are published in this issue.)

October is...

ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE Booster Month!

Atlanta Bible College has over 140 students enrolled for classes in the Fall 2004 semester. This is the largest attendance in the history of Oregon Bible College or Atlanta Bible College!

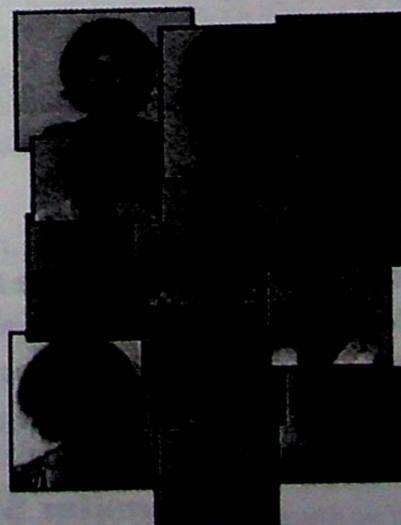
The work of ABC is very important to the future of our churches and the cause of Christ. As we look at our world, we see fields that are ready for harvest, but the laborers are few. There is an urgent need for more men and women to respond to the call of service and to be adequately prepared for what that service requires.

We urge you to join us in regular and earnest prayer that the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers. Prayers of faith will be effective in helping prospective workers hear the call to service and the call to preparation.

We sincerely ask for your financial support. ABC Boosters give sacrificially of the blessings God has given them to support the College needs. The growth

of our student body means that our financial needs grow also. With your help we can keep the cost of education as low as possible for those who attend our college.

The Faces of ABC



Tuition and fees cover only a portion of the costs of operation. Nearly half of the operating expenses is covered by contributions.

During this historic school year, we urge you to become an ABC Booster. Whatever gift you are able to give is deeply appreciated and will go to the furtherance of God's work.

Your help in these areas is valued and needed. We invite you to improve your ministry skills through on-campus courses, through distance-learning courses, or through courses delivered in your area. We can envision you in ministry and we want to help equip you. If there is any other way that you feel Atlanta Bible College can be of service, please let us know!

We thank you for your support and prayers!

For more information visit our website at www.atlantabiblecollege.com or send an email to: info@abc-coggc.org or call toll free: 800-347-4261.

Atlanta Bible College

ABC has Record Breaking Enrollment for Fall 2004

The fall semester at Atlanta Bible College began the week of August 16 with a class for new students called "Bible College Survival." Instructor Rebekah Martin helped prepare students for their academic experience at the Bible College.

Our Pre-semester briefing for all students was offered twice, on Friday evening August 20 and Saturday morning, August 21. Regular semester classes began on August 23. Block classes will be held in October and December. ABC also offers 6 Saturday classes during the semester. Each course meets for 4 Saturdays during the semester period.

A total of 143 students are currently registered with several more who are applying for Saturday and block classes that will occur later in the semester. This compares with last year's record attendance of 108.

The current student body consists of 46 returning ABC students; 33 new ABC

students; 19 returning Korean students; 35 new Korean students; and 10 Distance Learning Korean students.

In regard to the Korean distance learning program, Steve An just returned from Korea where he taught block classes to students in Seoul. They plan to continue their studies via distance learning. Our on-campus Korean Extension classes are held on Mondays beginning at 8:30 a.m. and continuing until 7:10 p.m. ABC regular semester courses are taught in the mornings Monday through Friday and in the evenings Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

We were very disappointed that only 2 of the 32 international students who applied for admission to ABC were able to secure visas. These developments have arisen as the US tries to deal with the war on terrorism. The United States Homeland Security Department, of which the Immigration and Naturalization Service is now a part, has erected many obstacles for

international students who wish to study in the United States. These students had arranged their own funding to attend the College, and had provided all the documents necessary, but were denied visas. Please continue to pray for this situation. These students still have a desire to attend ABC, and they will be visiting US Embassies this fall in an attempt to secure visas to attend in January 2005.

Many other prospective students, some of whom have already completed the application process, have asked us to defer their attendance until January 2005. Various obstacles, including finances, family problems, work situations, etc., have made it impossible for them to attend this fall. Continue to pray that these obstacles will be removed.

Our mission is to equip men and women for ministry. Our desire is to be faithful to that mission and to serve those who God sends our way. It has been exciting to meet so many students who have a passion for ministry and a desire to learn. ■

Great Job!

**CONGRATULATIONS
SPRING SEMESTER 2004
HONOR STUDENTS!**

*Keep up the
Good Work!*

High Honors (3.5 - 4.2 GPA)

Sean Finnegan	Kim Mayberry
Jasper Fletcher	Anne Mbeke
John Haughey	Kim Musch
Heesook Kim	Dustin Smith
Kab Soo Kim	Fleming Thompson
Soon Hi Kwen	

Honors (3.0 + GPA)

Soon Yim Choo
Shaun Fewell
Seong Kon Jeong
Mi Kyoung Park
Jin Sook Park
Jennifer Shaul

Turning Point Youth Ministries

Internal Combustion

By Jon Cheatwood
jonc@abc-coggc.org



Jon Cheatwood is an instructor at Atlanta Bible College and the founder of Turning Point Youth Ministries.

.....
"The absence of passion results in a grim pallor over our lives, the absence of highs and lows. When there is no passion, we live our lives in the smoky fog of sameness. Life loses its distinctions and we no longer see the nuances, the tiny differences. We no longer feel our feelings."¹

"That was the best band we've ever had! Thanks SO much for getting them!!"

"Nobody liked that band! They were the worst band we've ever had at FUEL!!"

Was that the reaction to the two guest artists we brought to FUEL this year? No, it was the reaction to *one* of our guest artists. Confused? I was at first, but then I started to think about what could cause this. The band was unusual, loud, and did not sound much like their recorded music. My conclusion? The band brought out passion. I didn't hear anyone saying, "Eh, they were OK." They made people react. That was interesting, because passion was a focus at FUEL 2004.

The week was planned around the theme of Internal Combustion, the thought being that we need a passion and a burning within us. We need a passion for God, and a passionate desire to serve Him. We need a deep desire to know Him, and that desire should get us out of our ruts and get us moving. It should lead us to grow, to know God, and minister for and with Him.

One of the laments I have heard from writers and speakers in recent years is that Americans have lost their passion. We have lost our boundless enthusiasm. We are becoming dull in our senses, our lives, and in our spirits. Unfortunately, the church is not at all immune to this problem. In fact, the problem seems even greater for us, since we are the ones with the most to be passionate about. Mike Yaconelli (with help from Robert F. Capon) put it like this:

"We are in a war between dullness and astonishment." The most critical issue facing Christians is not abortion, pornography, the disintegration of the family, moral absolutes, MTV, drugs, racism, sexuality, or school prayer. *The critical issue today is dullness.* We have lost our astonishment. The Good News is no longer good news, it is okay news. Christianity is no longer life *changing*, it is life *enhancing*. Jesus doesn't change people into wild-eyed radicals anymore. He changes them into 'nice people.'^{2,3}



Time for lunch!!!

Nice people. Is that all there is to the Christian walk? Becoming nice people? Behavior modification?

My limited (tiny, in fact) knowledge of psychology tells me that we may be able to get people to be *nice* through behavior modification. You can teach a dog to stay in the yard using an invis-

ble leash to shock the dog when it tries to leave the yard. Does that teach him to be a good dog? No, it just alters one behavior. One could try using electroshock on a human in order to get them to be nice, and you might get similar results. But have you changed the man, or just his actions?

It may be that when we start to look at Christianity as behavior modification, we cut a huge hole in our passion. Passion drains out as we focus on trying to be better people instead of chasing after God with all our heart. I want to be a better person, too, but that is not really what being a Christian is about. Our relationship with God fails when we are focused on side effects of Christianity rather than focusing on God Himself.

So it comes back to passion vs. dullness. Where passion sends us, dullness holds us down. Where passion makes us bold, excitable, anxious to hear and learn more, dullness keeps us plain, staid, and sitting on what we have already heard. Where passion overcomes our fears, dullness lets us stew in them.

Where do you want to be? Passionately seeking God with everything that you are, dancing in the presence of His love; or resting on your knowledge, your history, on your rear end? To quote Whoopi Goldberg in *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit*: "Get up off that thing and dance!" Choose passion. Choose God. Choose life more abundant.

1. Yaconelli, Michael. (2002). *Messy Spirituality* (p. 95). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Youth Specialties Books, published by Zondervan.

2. Capon, Robert Farrar. (1996). *The Astonished Heart* (p. 120). Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans.

3. Yaconelli, Michael. (1998). *Dangerous Wonder* (p. 23). Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress.

Missions

Traveling For the Gospel

(Continued from page 1)

tive and many photos (as is the Korean custom) were taken. Fortunately one staff member spoke some German and so I was able to break the otherwise difficult language barrier. After some interesting sightseeing with members of the college, Steve, Young and I returned to Seoul and spoke at the Sunday services of a church bearing the name in a bold sign, "Church of God (Abrahamic Faith)." The afternoon was filled with intensive teaching by Steve, and it was obvious that the congregation wanted to receive extended Bible study. They worked at this without a break for about 3 1/2 hours taking notes throughout. I took many addresses and promised to send those who knew some English our book on the Kingdom. We were able to fit in some fascinating sightseeing in the immaculately clean Seoul, negotiating the subway system with ease and witnessing an amazing prolonged chorus of so-called "tongues-speaking" at Yongi Cho's 800,000-member church.

We were treated to generous hospitality in Korean restaurants, where I learned to sit on the floor (though not to negotiate chopsticks) and do my best to select from the packed table foods which were not too strange to the western palate. Steve had kiddingly warned me that I would have to deal with octopus, which would probably be walking across the plate. Thankfully, no such thing appeared, at least not still alive. All in all, I would say that many Koreans are hungry for sound Bible understanding and are open to our efforts to supply this. Steve An has done a fine, diligent job of establishing contacts in Korea, building the Abrahamic faith there, and the fruit is being born equally among Koreans here in the USA.

I look forward to helping Steve with his Korean students on Mondays this semester.

What a marvelous variegated world God has provided for us to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom.

factor in seeing that no one thinks for himself. We were met at Cebu City, Cebu Island, one of the thousands of islands that compose the Philippines, by the excellent Peter and Harold Guzman and a friend and singer, Larry Cagas.



Steve An and Anthony Buzzard enjoying fellowship over a meal in Korea

And what about this for generosity: When Dr. Chung learned that I had no clean clothes (temporarily), he went straight into town and provided a shirt, tie, socks and pajamas. So losing one's suitcase for a time has its compensations.

On to the Philippines, via the rather amazing Singapore Airlines, with flight attendants in decorative long dresses. Here I was joined by Ray Faircloth of Somerset, UK, who within the past two years aligned himself solidly with the Abrahamic Faith after 35 years as a Jehovah's Witness. Ray brings a rich experience of Bible study to his present ministry and a compassionate heart for those trapped in various forms of "mind control" where hierarchy is the all-important

They had planned a full itinerary for the two weeks we spent together. This included a flight south to Mindanao, and an invitation to speak there in an Assemblies Church with a long afternoon session -which got off to a lively (understatement!) start when a lady on my right spoke out excitedly, with a note of threat in her voice: "Pastor, pastor, do you say that Jesus is God?" The implication was that if I did not repeat that definition I would be in bad trouble with her and with God...to be continued.

To read the rest of Anthony's exciting gospel-preaching adventure look in the next Progress Journal for the conclusion of this story.

Missions

Thailand Mission Trip Planned for November

By Tom Colburn
TColburn@abc-cogc.org

Tom Colburn is the pastor of Blanchard Church of God, located in Blanchard, MI., and an Atlanta Bible College graduate

We have our team for the November mission trip to Thailand. The team now includes **Lord's Harvest International** representatives David and Lynne Krogh from Atlanta Bible College. They will meet us in Bangkok and go with us to Udonthani where the orphanage and restaurant outreach are.

We've had numerous people express interest in joining us on this trip. We appreciate the enthusiasm and interest. We have added the Kroghs to bring us to 7 people and we are meeting another translator/friend in Thailand who will join our group. There is also the possibility of two other seasoned missionaries from the Church of God joining us for a couple days in Udon.

We feel it best not to make the group any larger for this first trip as the transportation there is limited in size and we want to stay together. However, if all goes well we will plan another trip next year. So we will be looking for interested people to join us on that trip.

We want to thank the numerous people and churches who have donated toward this trip. We welcome further donations as God moves you to do so. While we are still a bit short of our goal, God has blessed us with numerous generous donations.

Printed with this article is an excerpt from the English text of a Thai-language tract that we will place in

Thailand at various locations. It's very simple and basic because Theravada Buddhism doesn't generally contemplate God at all. This tract focuses on God. The second one will focus on Jesus. This tract is currently being translated and then will be printed.

Please consider helping us with this important new outreach into Thailand. **We encourage your continued prayer and financial support!**
Thank you and God bless!

Pastor Tom Colburn
Blanchard Church of God
Missionary Society

Please make checks payable to:
Blanchard Church of God – Missions
211 S. 4th Street, Blanchard, MI 49310

Who is God?

1-989-561-5021 ~
blanccog@power-net.net

An excerpt from the Thai Tract
(English Text)
*This will be printed in tract format in
the Thai language*

God doesn't do bad things. He doesn't cause our hurt and pain. He wants to help all people no matter what country we're from or what religion we are or whether we're rich or poor. He loves boys and girls, men and women, tall people and short people, heavy people or skinny people, good-looking or not. God loves everyone just the same because we are all His children.

God is our Father. He is our Heavenly creator and spiritual Father. He wants the very best for us. We can talk to Him by closing our eyes and praying. It's very easy to pray to God. Just talk to Him as if He was standing right beside you (because He is, even though you can't see Him).

Talk with Him respectfully as you would an old man, an important man, a man who loves you very much. Because God is very important and He does love you very much. Ask Him to give you wisdom to know what the right thing is to do. Ask Him to help you be happy and to help others be happy.

But try not to tell God how to make you happy. Happiness is something you feel, not something you get like a toy or a new motorcycle. Sometimes God will bless you by allowing you to receive nice things. But all the time God can make you feel peaceful and happy even if you have nothing at all.



Missions

Africa Mission Trip A Success!

By Joe and Rebekah Martin

Dr. Joe Martin is a professor at Atlanta Bible College and his wife, Rebekah Martin, is on the mission board of Lord's Harvest International.

After a "short" 28-hour trip (one leg 18 hours on one plane) we arrived back home Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m., healthy and safe from our trip to Africa. The five members of our team were Sean and Ruth Finnegan, Rufus Meyers, and Joe and Rebekah Martin. We preached at 15 churches in Malawi and Mozambique, usually having services that lasted about two hours each, morning and afternoon. At some of the churches we had just one long three-hour service.

Mozambique was a great blessing in that the people really turned out in numbers. One church we preached at had over 400 people, and they were sitting all over the ground! We preached four places in Mozambique; one in the north, two in the middle, and one in the south. All of these places are way off the beaten path, and it's amazing our vehicle was able to get to them. Our 18-passenger van sometimes got stuck in river bottom sand and we had to get out and push!

In Malawi, we started off with a two-day Pastor's Meeting for Conference One. Then we preached north of Blantyre, in Phalula, in 3 different churches. We preached in the southeast of Blantyre in the Thyolo district at 3 churches. Finally we preached two days in three churches in Conference Two. The people are extremely joyful.

We had a great time preaching about "Mulungu Wabwino" our Good God, the message of the Kingdom of God and Jesus as the coming King.

Except for minor coughs, etc. we remained in good health and ate decently. One of our favorite places to stop every 4 or 5 days was "Hungry

The last service we had was in Mulozza, Malawi, which is just at the Mozambique border. We made arrangements with the various groups to meet us there to pick up their Bibles to transport back to their churches. That worked out well. Pastor Namaona and his wife Gracie hosted all the visiting guests by preparing "nsima" (finely



Pastors' meeting for Conference One held in Bvumbwe, Malawi

Lion", a modified KFC where we got chicken and chips (French fries).

A major highlight of the trip was giving out Bibles. When we first went to the Bible Society in Blantyre, Malawi, they had NO Chichewa Bibles. They had been out since February. They said they were having them printed in China and should be available before we left. They were in the last week we were there. We bought 380 Chichewa Bibles and 10 English Bibles. We spent over \$1500 on Bibles.

ground white corn) which is the basic element of the Malawi diet.

God kept opening doors and parting waters in many places on the trip. We were blessed to rent a 2 bedroom flat, with Rufus sleeping in the dining room (in a bed!). It had a kitchen and living room where we were able to stay together in a secure place, pray and have devotions. On the road, we stayed in various motel type places... sometimes pretty primitive.

(Continued on page 11)

Missions

Malawi Starter Packs Are in the Works!

Malawi update on starter packs:
Every year people in our churches in Africa run out of food before the harvest for the new crop comes in. The first year we raised money for food, the famine was very critical, and you folks responded very well. They send their heartfelt thanks to you.

It is not feasible to continue this great expense year after year, and we believe that the people need to become self-sufficient. To assist the people in Malawi to become more self-sufficient (rather than us continue to buy maize for them each year) we plan to provide starter packs for each church family this year. These are 24 kg. (54 pounds) packages that include fertilizer, maize seeds, and soy or pigeon pea seeds, and cost ~\$9 (USD) each. With the increase in crops from using the fertilizer, each family should

have excess to sell, and they can then save this money for fertilizer for next year, and so continue on.

We are hoping that our congregations and individuals that donate would be willing to put in an extra \$1 for each pack to help with the cost of transporting them, making the total \$10 each.

RABS Processors, the company who provides the packages, will buy back at maximum price any excess crops the people have. They also provide instructions on how to use the fertilizer, since the people aren't used to using it.

The pastors report that we have approximately 84 churches in Malawi at this time. If each church averages 20 families, that would be 1,680 starter packs X \$10 = \$16,800 needed.

Unfortunately, this program is not available in Mozambique at this time. We are still doing research to see what we can do to help them become more self-sufficient and not go hungry. RABS cannot cross the border into another country, and we cannot transport the packages over the border, either. Our plan is for us to go into that country and buy fertilizer over there to take to the church people. The pastors report that there are ~47 of our churches in Mozambique at this time. This would be an additional cost of approximately \$6,000-\$8,000.

They start planting the first of October, so we will try to implement this by the end of September. We will also try to solicit funds for this from other sources.

Thank you for your prayers and support.
LHI Board

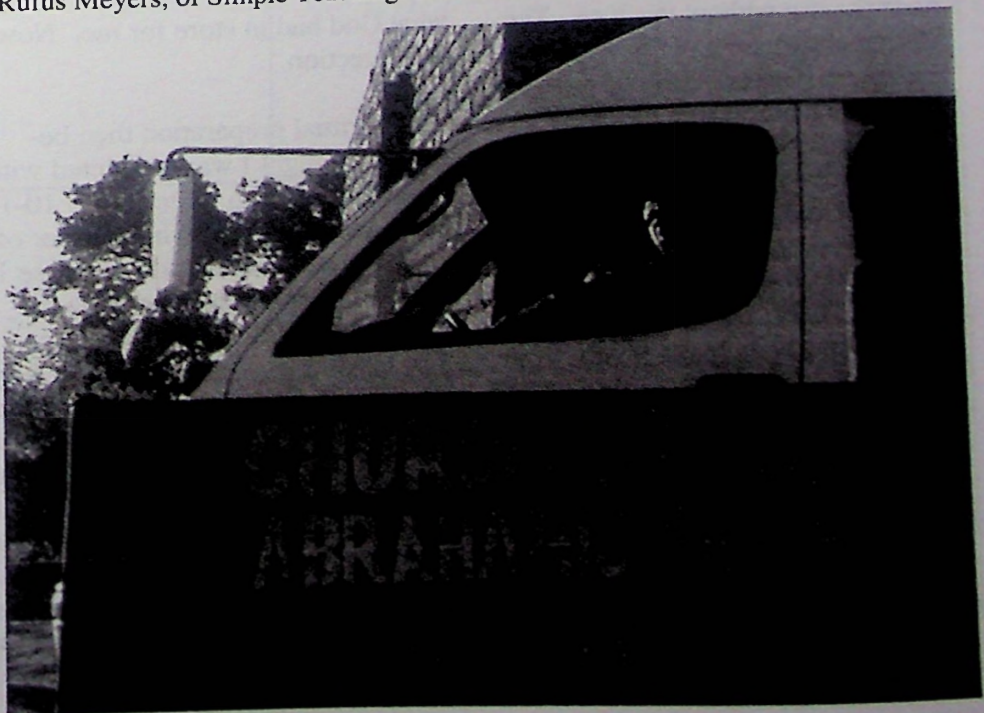
(continued from page 10)

Two tourist things we did were visiting Swaziland National Park where we saw three groups of elephants. We got there at daylight before the gate was officially opened. That, as any outdoorsman knows is the best time! We also took a boat cruise for one hour and saw about 50 hippos and some crocodiles. The other tourist stop was a night on Lake Malawi, very similar to the Sea of Galilee. It was a beautiful setting and great rest after days of long services. This is where Rufus traded most of his clothes for curios (souvenirs)!

Thank you for your prayers and ask that you continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Malawi and Mozambique. Pray that God will continue to open doors to new areas as well.

& Rebekah

Church of God Abrahamic Faith sign, located in Bvumbwe, Malawi, with Pastor Rufus Meyers, of Simple Teachings Bible Church, in the van.



Missions

A Labor of Love and a Mission of Peace in Mexico

by Judy Meyers

Judy Meyers is the Chairperson for the mission board of Lord's Harvest International

A very special thanks to all who supported the summer mission trips to Africa and Mexico with your prayers and financial giving. Both trips were successful and goals set were accomplished.

Roberto and Lupe Badillo asked that we express to you their sincere and heartfelt appreciation for the prayers and financial assistance given to them for Roberto's surgery and Lupe's recent infections. Funds to help them were made possible through the mission emergency fund.

Thirteen individuals were a part of the Mexico trip. Nine of this number traveled the distance in the Oregon Church of God van, pulling the church trailer. We thank the Oregon church for the use of the van and trailer. We could not have made the trip without this loan. The four other members of the team flew to Harlingen, Texas to meet up with the rest of the team. Team members were: Kayla Andrew from Oregon, IL; Rachel Carr from Tempe, AZ; Tom Clark from McDonough, GA; Kala Fertig from Jefferson, OH; Jay Laurent from Oregon, IL; Russ Magaw from Stillman Valley, IL; Cynthia McLeod from Los Angeles, CA; Dean Moore from Oregon, IL; Suzy Stevens from North Hampton, OH; Quentin Snook from Oregon, IL; Jennifer Tschaenn from Springfield, OH; John Tuttle from Oregon, IL and Judy Myers from Oregon, IL.

The following is a report on the trip from Cynthia McLeod: In January 2003, I read with interest the report

about the previous summer's trip to Mexico. I had recently retired from the U.S. Air Force. All those years I had been trained and prepared for going to war. I was reading of a mission of peace.

On further thought, I realized that my school district had prepared me for Mexico, this mission of peace. I had been required to study Spanish and had recently passed the fluency exam. I knew I was prepared academically. At the same time I had been wondering-



Roberto and Lupe Badillo

what God had in store for me. Now I had direction.

The spiritual preparation then began. One night I was convicted with the scripture from Ephesians 6:10-19, about putting on the whole armor of God. I dwelt particularly on verse 15, having truly shod my feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. The journey as a team began on July 28, 2004 at Harlingen, Texas, where the whole team came together. We started with an informal worship service at which each of us gave our testimony of why we had applied for this trip. It was very obvious we had all been led by the Holy Spirit to be there at that moment. This set the tone for the next 7 days.

Each evening thereafter the team regrouped for dinner, then devotions. It was this time that allowed us to focus on our ultimate mission and to learn more about each other. It also refocused us as necessary when we had schedule changes. The key word was flexibility.

To enter Mexico is to feel as if you have gone back into a previous century. From Brownsville to Matamoros is only one century. From Matamoros to Labor Vieja is at least one more. Roberto and Lupe Badillo have been in Labor Vieja for 30 some years. I am told their existence is proved from when teams from the Church of God began visiting in the late 1960's.

Although the Badillos appear to us-for example, water only at certain times of the day-they are extremely rich with the spirit of God. Lupe Badillo's first words to us were "te amo con el amor de Dios", "I love you with God's love."

For four days we had the privilege of presenting Vacation Bible School to approximately 50 children, teens, and young mothers. They were hungry for the word of God. We had a virtual trip around the world with them. Each individual received a passport which was stamped once for each session of VBS. Students made stops at the Egyptian Desert, South Pole, South American Jungle, Pacific Ocean, and Mount Everest. Crafts and snacks followed the theme for the day they were visiting. The humble surroundings, much of which Roberto built single-handedly, were transformed into these five areas of the globe.

Each day began with the team together for breakfast at the hotel in the town of Rio Verde. It was a short drive from

(Continued on page 20)

Finance

General Conference Atlanta Bible College	Approved Budget FY 2004-2005	Approved Budget FY 2005-2006
	CONTRIBUTIONS	
General Contributions	\$373,080	\$410,388
A.C. - Devises & Bequests	\$5,000	\$5,000
ABC Boosters	\$18,700	\$20,570
Subtotals	\$396,780	\$435,958
SALES		
Christian Education Materials	\$36,300	\$36,300
Books	\$42,000	\$50,400
Institution Herald	\$6,000	\$6,000
Here to Come Media Products	\$2,000	\$2,000
Theological Journals	\$1,870	\$2,057
Periodicals	\$0	\$0
Systematic Theology	\$0	\$0
Use of Assets	\$0	\$0
Subtotals	\$88,170	\$96,757
Atlanta Bible College		
Tuition	\$198,450	\$238,140
CCC Korean Extension Tuition	\$78,700	\$88,900
Logging	\$58,750	\$64,625
Smokers/Dryers	\$2,031	\$2,437
Utilities - ABC Plant	\$4,620	\$4,851
Other Fees/Rent	\$7,200	\$5,000
Gifts	\$12,000	\$13,000
Subtotals	\$361,751	\$416,953
MISCELLANEOUS		
WIDF Transfer in	\$0	\$0
Interest	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other (inc seminars/products)	\$30,000	\$30,000
Transferred In (Missions Support + CB)	\$30,000	\$18,000
Subtotals	\$61,000	\$49,000
Total Revenues	\$907,702	\$998,669

Expenses		
STAFF		
Salaries & Wages	\$472,161	\$495,7
F.I.C.A. Tax	\$5,500	\$5
Employee Benefits	\$101,515	\$118,5
Subtotals	\$579,176	\$620,2
SERVICES		
Assist. to Churches	\$37,900	\$37
Ministerial Assoc.	\$9,600	\$9
Youth Program	\$5,000	\$12
Subtotals	\$52,500	\$59
SALES EXPENSE		
Printing & Binding	\$30,000	\$35
Postage & Shipping	\$16,000	\$20
Media Production Expenses	\$0	
Book Store	\$18,000	\$22
Royalties	\$150	\$
Subtotals	\$64,150	\$77
ABC		
Clayton Rebate	\$2,000	\$2
Advertising--Recruitment	\$1,000	\$2
ABC Korean Extension Support	\$23,500	\$31
Special Speakers	\$0	
Library Periodicals	\$1,500	\$1
Library Books	\$0	\$1
Staff Period.,Books, Dues	\$400	\$
Staff Training	\$1,000	\$1
Program Development	\$0	
Subtotals	\$29,400	\$39
ADMINISTRATION		
Travel	\$25,000	\$27
Motor Vehicles	\$2,000	\$2
Office Supplies & Expense	\$12,000	\$14
Professional Services	\$10,000	\$11
Telephone	\$21,000	\$23
Insurance Non Plant	\$500	\$
Supplies & Expense	\$2,500	\$3
Repairs/Maint Non Plant	\$20,000	\$21
Subtotals	\$93,000	\$102
PLANT EXPENSES		
Utilities	\$28,000	\$23
Insurance - Property	\$14,000	\$15
Repairs/Maint/Plant	\$3,000	\$3
Furniture & Equip.	\$3,000	\$3
Supplies/Exp. Plant	\$6,000	\$6
Subtotals	\$54,000	\$60
Interest	\$28,000	\$23
Other	\$7,000	\$7
Subtotals	\$35,000	\$35
Total Expense	\$907,226	\$994
Net Gain (Loss)	\$476	\$4

Church of God General Conference Minutes

Cornerstone Bible Church
McDonough, GA

Monday, July 12, 2004

Chairman Mark Tschaenn called the first business session of the 84th annual summer conference to order. Pastor Jack Hearp opened with prayer.

The chairman welcomed the delegates to the conference, then delivered his opening message. He shared the progress we have made toward the 5-year goals expressed in our vision statement which was established in 2001. He stated that the achievement of these goals was not only the responsibility of the Board, but that all members had a part in realizing them. He challenged the incoming Board to continue and extend the vision for years 6 through 10 and beyond.

Nominations for Board of Directors: Dale Bliss and Hugh Harman had been nominated in the *Progress Journal*. Janet Stilson nominated Daniel Smead. Joe James moved that nominations be closed. Robert Coverstone seconded. Motion carried.

Chief Administrative Officer Tim Jones presented his annual report, retitulating the 5-year goals and citing the progress which has been made in each area.

Tim Jones presented the income budget report for 2003-2004, the proposed amended budget for 2004-2005, and the proposed budget for 2005-2006. He presented highlights of income and expenses for the past year, and gave some details on how we expect to achieve a cash-balanced budget for 2004-2005. He turned the meeting over to Gary Burnham, who explained the status of General Conference restricted funds. Tim and Gary answered several questions on the budget from the floor.

After a 20-minute recess, Joe Martin gave the Atlanta Bible College report. He read the list of 38 4-year graduates since 1992, when he first came on staff, and stated that 74% of those are in full-time ministry. He reported that enrollment for both fall and spring terms was 108. ABC has achieved I17/I20 status, which means we can accept international students. He stated that he had never seen such blessings from God in his 35 years in the Church of God.

Steve An reported on the Korean initiatives. He reported 45 full-time and 5 part-time students in the Korean Extension, and possibly 5 distance-learning students in Korea. He introduced several members of the staff at the Korean Extension, and outlined the course of study of students at the Extension. He awarded certificates to six members of his "Reserve Ministers Training Corps."

Rebekah Martin reported on activities in Malawi and Mozambique. The work has been divided into three conferences, two in Malawi and one in Mozambique. There are probably 50-plus churches in Conference 1 (Malawi), about 54 in Conference 2, and about 43 in Mozambique. In addition there is a small group holding home Bible studies in the city of Blantyre. She thanked all who responded to the appeal for famine relief; she would like to begin a program of supplying them seed, fertilizer, and starter packets this fall so they can plant their own food. She related the reasons we are no longer working with Margaret Sakala. They are working toward the goal of having a couple or family steeped in Church of God doctrine to live and work over there.

David Krogh reported on LHI activities. He briefly related the history of our work in Mexico. A team will leave in a few weeks to put on a Bible

School in Labor Vieja. He reported on work in Haiti under Lesly Bertrand, and Peru under Beder Ucanay. He read a letter addressed to the delegates from Tracy (Savage) Zhykovich. He reported on the work in India: S.S. Manoah is getting older and there will be a need for someone to take his place. We also have an ongoing work in the Philippines. A trip is planned to Thailand in the future to explore possibilities there.

Myra Montgomery reported on Christian Education activities. As of this summer there will be 12 different units of Kingdom Quest materials. There are also three units of Value Builders materials. She has been to 14 different states in the last three years conducting seminars. She thanked all those who assisted in the preparation of the Kingdom Quest and Value Builders lessons.

Jon Cheatwood reported on Turning Point Youth Ministries. They have conducted 4 youth ministry seminars in the last year. There are three or four scheduled for this fall and at least two more for spring 2005. They attended Youth Specialties National Youth Workers Seminars in Phoenix, Charlotte, and St. Louis. Two retreats are planned for 2005; one in Indiana and one in Georgia. He reported that Turning Point Youth Ministries is now online at TPYM.com. He hopes to get the QUEST program off the ground in the next 9 months. He expressed thanks to David Riley for his service on the Youth Advisory Committee. He recommended Rebecca Dauksas as his successor. He solicited prayer for the youth ministries.

Joe James nominated Rebecca Dauksas to the Youth Advisory Committee. Dale Brown moved to close nominations and a unanimous vote be cast for Rebecca Dauksas. Larry Mayberry

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

seconded. Motion carried.

The chairman presented the proposed changes to the Constitution. They will be discussed and voted on at tomorrow's session.

Robert Coverstone moved to remove the first tabled motion from last year's session from the table. Carolyn Smead seconded. The secretary read the motion: "Robert Coverstone moved that the delegates instruct the board of Directors of the Church of God General Conference to rescind the suspension of financial support to RRCC beginning in July 2003 and prorated over the fiscal year 2003-2004 in the amount of the proposed budget the Rock River Christian College Board approved in March 2003 in the amount of \$75,853, and \$42,870 in the year 2004-2005 until the budget is balanced. Jack Harper seconded." The motion to remove from the table lost 22 yes to 35 no.

Rob Helenburg moved to remove the second motion from the table. Robert Coverstone seconded. The secretary read the motion: "Jack Hearp moved that the board give Rock River Christian College assurance of support for continued operation. Jan Stilson seconded." Greg Demmitt asked for a ballot vote. The motion to remove from the table lost 25 yes to 46 no.

David Riley encouraged delegates to explore Cornerstone Church and thanked everyone for coming.

Dr. Joe Martin closed the session with prayer.

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Chairman Mark Tschaenn called the meeting to order and announced that the amount of the travel pool is \$253.

Craig Wagganer reported the deaths of

David Lampman and Cecil Railton, and asked delegates to gather in small groups for prayer, after which he closed in prayer.

The secretary read the minutes of the first business session.

The chairman reported that there were 52 church and conference delegates, 7 directors, and 25 pastors registered for a total of 84.

The election of two Directors was held. Dale Bliss and Hugh Harman were elected.

Neal Bryant moved to adopt the revision to Article I Section 2 of the Constitution. Joe Martin seconded. Discussion followed.

Greg Demmitt moved to amend the revision to provide six months advance notice instead of two. Rob Helenburg seconded. Motion to amend carried.

Joe James moved to insert the words "between June 1 and August 31" after "...at such time and place." Rebekah Martin seconded. Motion to amend carried. The original motion also carried.

Joyce Knapp moved to adopt the revision to Article II of the Constitution. Travis Ramsey seconded. Discussion followed. Michael Hoffman moved to amend by striking the changes to Sec. 4. Robert Coverstone seconded. Discussion followed. The motion to amend carried.

Chris Ramsey moved to refer the amendment to the Board of Directors for further review. David Cheatwood seconded. Motion carried.

Rob Helenburg moved to adopt the revised 2004-2005 budget as presented. Jerold Brewer seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

Marie Wood moved to adopt the proposed 2005-2006 budget. Rob Helenburg seconded. Motion carried. Other business: Brian Froelich asked about funding for the internship program, given the goal of 250 students. Gary Burnham and Tim Jones reported that more internship opportunities to be created, and the Board will have to investigate ways to fund the program. Other delegates spoke to the question.

Jason Turner moved to remove the motion which remained on the table from Monday's session from the table and recommended that it be defeated. Larry Bolhous seconded. The secretary read the original motion. The motion to remove from the table carried. The original motion was defeated.

Rob Helenburg moved to remove the second motion from the table. David Cheatwood seconded. The secretary read the original motion. The motion to remove from the table carried. The original motion was defeated.

Scott Ross moved to thank Mark Tschaenn and Keith Williams for service to the Board. The delegates stood and applauded.

The secretary read the minutes of the second business session. Several corrections were noted. Joe James moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Margie Wood seconded. Carried.

Scott Ross moved to adjourn with a vote of thanks to the Cornerstone Church for their hospitality. Joe Martin seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith L. Williams
Secretary

Church News

Baptisms

Georgia

Cornerstone (McDonough)-Brianna Riley (6/15/03) by David Riley; Allison Krinke, Jordan Barton (5/23/04) by Andy Cisneros; Randy Barton (6/13/04) by Andy Cisneros; Regina Bernheisel (6/27/04) by Rob Bernheisel; Hannah Emerick (8/1/04) by Andy Cisneros; Joey Emerick (8/15/04) by David Riley; Joe Emerick (8/15/04) by Andy Cisneros.

Indiana

Country Chapel - Glenn Creasy (6/6/04) by Pastor Ken Howe

North Salem - Eugene K. DeMien, Jr., Erin DeMien, Bryson Hiatt, Nathanael Hiatt (7/4/04) by Pastor Stanley Lawrence

Illinois

Oregon - Angie Snow (7/18/04) by Pastor Michael Hoffman

Louisiana

Happy Woods - Kailyn Fletcher (6/27/04) by her father, Pastor Jeff Fletcher

Michigan

New Beginnings - At Nature's Way Campground on the Lake near Six Lakes, over 200 people witnessed the following baptisms on June 13, 2004: Elaine Gasper by Pastor Dick Eldred and her friend, Pam Rose; Christina Hartington by Pastor Dick Eldred and her mother, Valerie Wilson; Joyce Anderson by Pastor Dick Eldred and her friend, Bob VanHerp; Elias Eldred by his parents, Craig and Vanessa Eldred; Matthew Snyder by Pastor Tim Eldred and his brother, Michael and his friend, Eric Allen; Eric Allen by Pastor Tim Eldred and his friends, Matthew and Michael Snyder; Michael Snyder by Pastor Tim Eldred and his brother, Matthew and his friend, Eric Allen; Michael Williams by Pastor Tim Eldred and his friend, Robert Cook; James Ewing by Pastor Tim Eldred and his brother, Eric Allen; Scott Gordon by Pastor Tim Eldred and his father-in-law, Jack Stickler; Kenneth House by Pastor Tim Eldred and his friend, Josh Hoppough; Mark Hunt by Pastor Tim Eldred and his friend, Arthur 'Jamie' Ballard; Arthur 'Jamie' Ballard by Pastor Tim Eldred and his friend, Mark Hunt

South Carolina

Bethel - Leroy Vinson (5/23/04) by Pastor Alan Cain

Guthrie Grove—Jim Stone (7/25/04) by Pastor Andy Cisneros

Virginia

Fort Valley - Chris Ingallinera (8/1/04) by Pastor Chris Seiders

Deaths

Michigan

Blanchard - Hesper (Hep) Kohler (3/28/04), long time member, by Pastor Chris Seiders; Edith Compson (5/24/04), long time member, by Pastor Tom Colburn

South Carolina

Bethel - Claude Keys (5/11/04); Jean Foster (6/10/04) by Pastor Alan Cain

Guthrie Grove - Willie Smith (8/3/04), long time faithful member, by Pastors Mike Montgomery and Wally Winner; Nellie Bryson (8/6/04), member, by Pastor Mike Montgomery

Jean Westlund Petcoff (1958-2004), daughter of Chaplain "Wes" Westlund, USN(Ret.) of Oak Harbor, WA died of cancer on May 28, 2004 at Burdett Tomen Memorial Hospital in Cape May, NJ. She was born in South Bend, IN. She started school in Oak Harbor, WA. She was a 1976 graduate of Lower Cape May Regional High School. Mrs. Petcoff was an Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police in Cape May for 20 years. She was a member of the Hobie Fleet #443 of Town Bank, NJ. Surviving are her husband, Joseph Petcoff; her father, Orville Westlund of Whidbey Island, WA and a brother, Mark Westlund of Port Townsend, WA.

A memorial service for Jean was held in North Cape May on Tuesday, June 1, 2004 at the Envoy Funeral Home. She was honored by the past and present Chiefs of Police and staff of the Cape May Police Department. The entrance to the City Hall of Cape May was draped in her honor.

Cecil Olivia (Baggarley) Railton (87) was born in Winchester, VA, on Feb. 23, 1917, to Thurman E. Baggarley and Flossie V. Updike. She believed in the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus, and was baptized into Christ on June 10, 1934.

She had been an active member of the Church of God, of

(Continued on page 18)

Pastor Wanted

Chapel Hill Church of God, Urbana, Ohio will be in need of a pastor October 1, 2004. We are searching for a part/time pastor to work with our dedicated members. For more detail and information please contact the Search Committee.

Shirley Wood
16093 Maple Ave.
Belle Center, Ohio 43310 Phone
937-842-2803
e. mail - sandwood@bright.net
Phone 937-842-2803

Al Morczek
5537 St. Rt. 229
Morengo, Ohio 43334
Phone 419-253-3987

Church News

Deaths continued

the Abrahamic Faith, ever since. Cecil graduated from John Handley High School, Winchester, in 1936. She met and fell in love with Austin Railton, at the annual Church of God General Conference. They were married March 9th, 1940. They had over 50 years of marriage before he preceded her in death, September 24th, 1990. In 1954 they moved to Oregon, Illinois, where Austin studied to be a pastor at Oregon Bible College. Upon graduation from college, Austin and Cecil served at numerous churches, Kokomo, IN, Chappell NE, South Bend, IN, Grand Rapids MI, New Port Richey FL, Harlingen, TX, and Bedford OH. The Pastorate in South Bend was at Hope Chapel Church of God from 1965-1971. She loved people and enjoyed the role of pastor's wife. Her son now pastors the same congregation which has relocated and is now known as Timberland Bible Church where she

was a member. Cecil had worked at various jobs over the years, the most recent being a greeter at Third Federal Bank, in Maple Heights OH. She moved to this area in 2001, to live with her son and daughter-in-law, due to declining health. She also lived for three months each of these years in Welland, Ontario, with her daughter and son-in-law.

Cecil will be missed by her daughter, Joyce (Steve) Bolhous, of Welland Ontario, Canada, and her son, John (Alice), of Granger, six grandchildren, Marcee (Jason) Turner, Beloit WI, Adam (Colleen) Bolhous, Welland Ontario, Aaron (Wanda) Bolhous, St. Catharines, Ontario, Jason (Marcia) Railton, Granger, Amy Brown, Osceola, Joshua (Nicole) Railton, South Bend, eleven great-grandchildren, Levi Turner, Jeremy, Danielle & Andrew Bolhous, Luke and Riley Bolhous, Moriah, Josiah and Makayla

Railton and Sabrina and Caleb Brock a brother, Wilfred (Jennie) Baggar of Front Royal, VA, sister-in-law. Mary Milne, Pelzer SC, and countless friends across the country.

Cecil died Monday evening, July 12 at SJRMC.

Marriages

Illinois

Oregon – Brian Froehlich and Harri Hoffman (7/3/04) by Pastors Michael Hoffman and Hollis Partlowe

South Carolina

Bethel – Lee Henderson and Sharon Brooks (5/15/04) by Pastor Alan C

Guthrie Grove – Jeffery Owens and Amanda Esuary (6/5/04) by Pastor Mike Montgomery

Retirement

Pastor Stanley L. and Hilda Lawrence of the North Salem Church of God in Plymouth have announced their retirement effective September 1, 2004, after 37 years in ministry.

Stan attended Oregon Bible College, Oregon, IL, and the Lawrences' began their pastoral work in 1955 at the Cool Spring Church of God in Browntown, Virginia. They have also worked in Waterloo, Iowa, Litchfield, Minnesota, and Plymouth, Indiana. Stan served as Youth Camp Director in Minnesota, as

well as President of both the Iowa and Indiana Conferences of the Church of God. Stan worked as a plumber for 35 years and drove school buses in 6 different states for 44 years.

Hilda's ministry has been with older adults. She served as a director of senior services in Meeker County, Minnesota and Cedar Falls, Iowa, and has been a director of the Bourbon Senior Site for 15 years. Over the years, the Lawrences' have been foster parents to sixteen children.

Married on August 25, 1951, Stan and Hilda have one son, Bernie, and grand-

daughters, Sarah and Holly Jo. They will be moving to the Port Orchard Washington area this fall to be near them.

An Open House was held in their honor Saturday, August 21st at the North Salem Church of God, 1326 1/2 Fourth Road, Plymouth, Indiana. Cards can be sent to the church.

On Pastor Stan's last Sunday, in addition to a set of video clips from various well-wishers, he was presented with honorary Bachelor of Theology degree from Atlanta Bible College.

Bequest Received

Mildred F. Schroeder, a long time faithful member of the Burr Oak, Indiana, Church of God, died September 26, 2003 at age 90. During her lifetime, she was a generous supporter of

the work of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference. She had a particular interest in students preparing for ministry and much of her giving was directed to scholarships for ABC students. In her will, she left a sizeable gift to be used for scholarships, and a smaller amount

for the general fund.

We are very grateful for Mildred's support during her lifetime and her decision to remember our work at the time of her death.

Prayer & Praise

September 2004

- 1 **Praise God for a great Bible School in Labor Vieja, Mexico last month.**
- 2 Pray for Pastor John and Gayle Guthrie and their work at East Oregon, Illinois.
- 3 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Cheryl Swartz and the congregation at Litchfield, Minnesota.**
- 4 Praise God for the growth of the Maple Grove congregation in Kokomo, Indiana.
- 5 **Praise God for a profitable short term mission trip last month to Malawi and Mozambique.**
- 6 Pray for Pastor Emory Macy and his work in Weiser, Idaho.
- 7 **Pray for healing for someone you know who is in need.**
- 8 Pray for Pastor David and Karen Swartz and the members of the Columbia Station, Ohio church as they bring the work to a conclusion after more than 40 years of service.
- 9 **Praise God for the gift of His Son.**
- 10 Praise God for His daily mercies.
- 11 **Pray for the outreach of Beder Ucanay in Lima, Peru.**
- 12 Praise God for the beauty of each season.
- 13 **Pray for the LHI Board as they meet in Oregon, Illinois today.**
- 14 Pray for spiritual renewal and growth for students preparing for ministry.
- 15 **Praise God for the prayer partners and financial supporters of the General Conference.**
- 16 Pray for your church family and for spiritual growth.
- 17 **Praise God for Tracy Savage Zhykhovich and her family and their ministries in Russia.**
- 18 Pray for a Youth Worker Training Seminar being held today in Omaha, Nebraska.
- 19 **Pray for mission work in the Philippine Islands.**
- 20 Pray for your family and your friends.
- 21 **Pray for ABC students as they prepare for ministry.**
- 22 Pray for all the faithful pastors and workers in Malawi.
- 23 **Pray for those who are seeking God's will for their lives.**
- 24 Pray for additional church workers in India.
- 25 **Pray for Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey and the Cool Spring Church in Virginia.**
- 26 Praise God for His Word which provides guidance for your life.
- 27 **Pray that you will let your light shine for Christ.**
- 28 Praise God for new believers in your church family.
- 29 **Pray for the faith to stand firm when temptation comes.**
- 30 Pray for the soon return of Christ and that you will remain faithful.

October 2004

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Richard and Jan Alcumbrack and the Southlawn Church in Wyoming, Michigan.**
- 2 Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and a new earth in His coming Kingdom.
- 3 **Pray for a personal hunger to know God and Jesus better.**
- 4 Pray for the Restitution Church in Eldorado, Illinois.
- 5 **Praise God for your church family and the strength that you receive through it.**
- 6 Pray for Pastor John Nelson and the Bolivar, Missouri Church.
- 7 **Pray for a church planting vision for Church of God members.**
- 8 Pray for the Board of Directors as they direct the work of the Conference.
- 9 **Praise God for retired Pastor Billie Kennedy and his wife Irene.**
- 10 Pray for Community Bible Fellowship in Culver, Indiana.
- 11 **Pray for Tim Jones, College/Conference CAO.**
- 12 Pray for Pastor Daniel and Carolyn Smead and the Eden Valley, Minnesota congregation.
- 13 **Pray for the financial needs of the Church of God General Conference.**
- 14 Praise God for new contacts who are seeking the truth around the world.
- 15 **Pray for Pastor Beder Ucanay as he works in Lima, Peru.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Chris and Jennifer Seiders and the Fort Valley, Virginia Church.
- 17 **Pray for the work that is being done in India to proclaim God's truth.**
- 18 Pray for retired Pastor Jim Mattison and his wife Martha as they coordinate mission work in Malawi.
- 19 **Pray for your pastor and his leadership.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor Jack Hearp as he retires from full time ministry.
- 21 **Praise God for those who are preparing for ministry.**
- 22 Ask God to help you love Him and His Son more.
- 23 **Pray for Pastor Steve Taylor and his work as Technology Coordinator for the College/Conference.**
- 24 Pray for retired Pastor Linford Moore.
- 25 **Pray for the Hedrick, Indiana Church, and Pastor Joe and Karla Astolfi.**
- 26 Pray for Pastor Dennis and Rachel Baldwin and the Grace Fellowship Church in Front Royal, Virginia.
- 27 **Pray for the youth of your local church.**
- 28 Pray for Pastor Tim and Shelly Spickler and their work with Winnebago New Life youth.
- 29 **Pray for Pastor Chuck and Gloria Currier and the Waterloo, Iowa Church.**
- 30 Praise God for His constant care.
- 31 **Pray for God to send workers into the fields that are ready for harvest.**

Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
P.O. Box 100,000
Morrow, GA 30260

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 10
TAYLORS, GA

Address Service Requested

PROGRESS JOURNAL is owned and published by Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260. Published bi-monthly. Ruth Finnegan, Publishing Specialist; Jill Taylor, Typesetter; Mary Krogh, Proofreader. Telephone 404-362-0052 or 800-347-4261; FAX 404-362-9307. E-mail Address: info@abc-coggc.org. Website: <http://www.abc-coggc.org>.

Take Advantage of These Exciting Opportunities!! SATURDAY, BLOCK, & DISTANCE LEARNING CLASSES

SATURDAY Classes (9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.):

- M183 (2 Sem. Hrs.) - Beginning Youth Ministry (Cheatwood) - Sept. 11, Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 4
- M121 (2 Sem. Hrs.) - Christian Education Principles (Montgomery) - Aug. 28, Sept. 18, Oct. 23
- M384 (2 Sem. Hrs.) - Small Groups (Krogh) - Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Nov. 6, Dec. 11
- G211 (2 Sem. Hrs.) - The Bible World Visualized (Huffer) - Aug. 28, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Nov. 20
- M341 (2 Sem. Hrs.) - Interpersonal Cross-Cultural Communication (Nyaronga) - Sept. 11, Oct. 30, Nov. 13, Dec. 4
- B351 (1 Sem. Hr.) - Christianity in a Post Modern World (Jones) - Oct. 9 and Nov. 6

BLOCK Classes:

- #1 - Aug. 16-20 - M110 (1 Sem. Hr.) Bible College Survival (Rebekah Martin) - M-F 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon or M-F 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
B441 (2 Sem Hrs.) Synoptic Gospels (Scott Deane) - M-F 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
- #2 - Oct. 16-23 - B271 (3 Sem Hrs.) Systematic Theology I (Dr. Alva Huffer) - Saturday, Oct. 16, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.;
M-F 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; and Saturday Oct. 23, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- M or B350 (2 Sem. Hrs.) Christ and Culture: Battling Worldviews (Dr. William Lawrence) 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
- #3 - Dec. 13-18 - G271 (3 Sem Hrs.) Church History I (Jim Graham) - 8 a.m.- noon and Saturday,
Dec. 18, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

DISTANCE LEARNING:

- B111 - O.T. Survey I (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin)--Self Directed Internet Study with full lecture notes & syllabus.
- B112 - O.T. Survey II (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin)--Self Directed Internet Study with full lecture notes & syllabus.
- B161 - Basic Bible Doctrine (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard)--Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation
- B222 - History and Major Prophets (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin)--Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation
- B224 - History and Minor Prophets (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin)--Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation
- B242 - Gospel of John (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Buzzard)--Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation
- B470 - Evangelical Theology (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Martin) - DVD/E-mail
- M242 - Evangelism and Missions (2 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) - Videos/Internet/E-mail Presentation
- G181 - Personal Finance (3 Sem. Hrs.) (Krogh) Video/Internet/E-mail Presentation

**Call 800-347-4261
To enroll or for
more information!**

(Continued from page 12)

there to Labor Vieja. VBS sessions began about 10:00 a.m. Around noon, lunch would appear. We had carried food with us to prepare at the village. Since much was done with crock pots, we were fortunate that the power only went out in the evenings. It was this time of day when we bonded as a team and with the Badillos. We sat in a covered breezeway which had formerly been their kitchen. That made it an appropriate place for socializing. I was in my element. My Spanish became more and more fluent and I had fun teaching to all those ages in one group. I particularly enjoyed those times I was called upon to translate. One time when asked to help, I thought I would be asked to stir a pot in the kitchen. Instead I was asked to interpret between two individuals. In this manner I got to know the people around me better than I might

have otherwise.

This visit was obviously a total team effort. A lot of the scenes effort went into it before anyone even left home. Once in the village, we helped each other where and whenever needed. We shared the song-leading, the craft-making, the food preparation, the clean-up, as well as the spiritual love.

I hope I conveyed to those people just a small portion of God's love. I know I helped them in their understanding of the Bible and its intent. What they probably don't realize is how much they helped me. I have never met more spirit-filled people than those in that small family compound in the village known as "Old Labor". For all of us on the trip it felt only like a labor of love. ■

2004-2005

CHURCH OF GOD DIRECTORY

ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE
CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE

5823 Trammell Road, PO Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260; 404-362-0052; 800-347-4261; Fax 404-362-9307;
E-mail info@abc-coggc.org; Web Site www.abc-coggc.org; www.atlantabiblecollege.com

ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE /GENERAL CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(term expiration in parentheses)

Chairperson: Pastor Michael Hoffman, 740 W Oregon Trail Rd, Oregon, IL 61061 Ph Off 815-732-6847 Res 815-732-2604 E-mail hoffon@aol.com (2007)

Vice Chairperson: Pastor Larry Mayberry, 7541 Burlingame SW, Byron Center, MI 49315 Ph Off 616-452-3119 Res 616-878-7118
Cell 616-915-8507 E-mail larrymayberry@juno.com (2005)

Secretary: Ms Andrea Anders, 301 North Ellis St, Salisbury, NC 28144 Ph Off 803-461-2150 Res 704-633-9690 E-mail
andrea.anders@earthlink.net (2006)

Treasurer: Pastor Dale Bliss, 2696 Wynterpointe Ct, Kokomo, IN 46901 Ph Off 765-455-9866 Res 765-868-8180 E-mail
dale_bliss@hotmail.com (2008)

Director: Mr Dale Brown, 21201 S Coleman Rd, Peculiar, MO 64078 Ph Res 816-380-3119 E-mail dalelbrown@aol.com (2005)

Director: Mr Hugh Harman, 629 W Plata, Mesa, AZ 85210 Ph Res 480-892-3291 E-mail hughbie2@aol.com (2008)

Director: Mr Joe James, 100 Buck Dr, Piedmont, SC 29673 Ph Res 864-269-2964 E-mail JJoeCarol@aol.com (2007)

Board Members (along with Tim Jones, Gary Burnham, Joe Martin, and David Riley) can be simultaneously contacted by E-mail at
boardofdirectors@abc-coggc.org

STAFF

Chief Administrative Officer/Atlanta Bible College President: Tim Jones Ph Res 678-565-6338 E-mail tjones@abc-coggc.org

Operations Manager: Gary Burnham E-mail gburnham@abc-coggc.org

Director of Ministry Services: David Riley E-mail driley@abc-coggc.org

Academic Dean: Dr Joe Martin E-mail jmartin@abc-coggc.org

Registrar and Financial Consultant: David Krogh, E-mail dkrogh@abc-coggc.org

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Coordinator – Steve An Ph Off 404-428-4591 E-mail pastoran@earthlink.net

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Assistant Coordinator – Sam An Ph Off 404-704-6017 E-mail sam@abc-coggc.org

Ministry Coordinators:

Missions: Judy Myers, Ph 815-732-2751 E-mail jmlhi@aol.com

Turning Point Youth Ministries: Jon Cheatwood, Ph Off 678-357-7693 Res 678-432-6898 E-mail jonc@abc-coggc.org

Customer Resource Coordinator: Marcy Cly E-mail marcy@abc-coggc.org

Executive Assistant: Robin Taylor E-mail rtaylor@abc-coggc.org

Office Manager: Jill Taylor E-mail jillt@abc-coggc.org

Apartment Directors:

Maintenance Department:

Atlanta Bible College Instructors: Anthony Buzzard, 175 West Lake Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214 Ph 770-964-1571 E-mail

anthonybuzzard@mindspring.com; Jon Cheatwood E-mail jonc@abc-coggc.org; Paul Cook; Scott Deane, 6979 W St Rt 55, Ludlow

Falls, OH 45339 Ph Off 937-676-5842 Res 937-698-4492 E-mail ScotDane@juno.com; Jim Graham, 2348 Sahuaro Dr, Phoenix, AZ

8:5028 Ph Off 480-265-4155 Res 480-493-7191 E-mail revjag@cox.net; Dr Alva Huffer, 215 Robinwood Ln, Pelzer, SC 29669 E-mail

allvaawa@yahoo.com; Tim Jones E-mail tjones@abc-coggc.org; David Krogh E-mail dkrogh@abc-coggc.org; Dr. William Lawrence,

32 E Marshall, Phoenix, AZ 85012 Ph 602-277-6323; Dr Joe Martin E-mail jmartin@abc-coggc.org; Rebekah Martin, 6790 Wendy

Jean Dr, Morrow, GA 30260 Ph 770-961-6746; Jogi Mauger E-mail jogim@netzero.net; Rufus Meyers, 11061 Knotty Pine Pl,

Hampton, GA 30228 Ph Res 770-210-2072 E-mail ministermeyers@hotmail.com; Myra Montgomery, 405 Guthrie Grove Church Rd,

Pelzer, SC 29669 Ph Res 864-947-7660 E-mail mymimont@charter.net; Steve Taylor E-mail staylor@abc-coggc.org; Bill Wachtel,

PO Box 929, Kettle Falls, WA 99141 Ph 509-738-2215 E-mail wwachtel@centurytel.net

Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Instructors: Steve An, Anthony Buzzard, Bong Jeong, Jea Lee, Mi Park

Publishing Staff

Editors: *A Journal from the Radical Reformation*: Anthony Buzzard and Kent Ross; Associate Editors: Scott Deane, Greg Deane and Jeffrey Fletcher
Editor: *The Restitution Herald/Progress Journal*: Jeffrey Fletcher, 4 Reed St, Pelzer, SC 29669 Ph Off 864-947-9555 Res 864-8479 E-mail revjeff@charter.net
Publishing Specialist: Ruth Finnegan E-mail rfinnegan@abc-coggc.org

LORD'S HARVEST INTERNATIONAL

Chairperson: Mrs Judy Myers, 6898 E Brick Rd, Oregon, IL 61061 Ph Res 815-732-2751 E-mail jmlhi@aol.com
Secretary: Mr David Krogh, Box 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260 Ph Off 404-362-0052 Res 770-603-7506 E-mail dkrogh@abc-coggc.org (2005)
Pastor Michael Hoffman, 740 W Oregon Trail Rd, Oregon, IL 61061 Ph Off 815-732-6847 Res 815-732-2604 E-mail hoffon@aol.com (2007)
Mrs Rebekah Martin, 6790 Wendy Jean Dr, Morrow, GA 30260 Ph 770-961-6746 rrebrn@yahoo.com (2006)
Pastor Warren Sorenson, 3006 E Hilldale Av, Simi Valley, CA 93063 Ph Off 805-522-5955 Res 805-527-8441 E-mail rwsorenson@dslextreme.com (2007)
Member Emeritus: Mrs Mardy Lawrence, 32 E Marshall, Phoenix, AZ 85012 Ph 602-277-6323

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mrs Myra Montgomery, 405 Guthrie Grove Church Rd, Pelzer, SC 29669 Ph 864-947-7660 E-mail mymimont@charter.net
Mrs Gayle Guthrie, 1426 S Krishill, Oregon, IL 61061 Ph-732-6569 E-mail gguthrie@oglecom.com (2007)
Mrs Carol Ring, 1259 N Forrest Dr, Metamora, IL 61548 Ph 309-383-4952 (2005)

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE/TURNING POINT YOUTH MINISTRIES

Chairperson/Youth Coordinator: Pastor Jon Cheatwood, 117 Hunters Chase, McDonough, GA 30253 Ph Off 678-357-7693 Res 432-6898 E-mail jonc@abc-coggc.org
Pastor Seth Ross, 4343 Middle Urbana Rd, Springfield, OH 45503 Ph Off 937-399-4222 Res 937-342-1485 E-mail soross@jun (2006)
Pastor Dale Bliss, 2696 Wynterpointe Ct, Kokomo, IN 46901 Ph Off 765-455-9866 Res 765-868-8180 E-mail dale_bliss@hotmail.com (2008)
Mrs Rebecca Dauksas, 250 Stoneybrook Rd, Pelzer, SC 29669 Ph 864-947-6692 E-mail rjdauksas@charter.net (2008)

MINISTERIAL RECOGNITION BOARD

Pastor David Riley, 530 N Oakland Cir, McDonough, GA 30253 Ph Off 404-362-0052 Res 770-914-7404 Fax 404-362-9307 E-mail driley@abc-coggc.org
Pastor David Cheatwood, 821 W Chase St, Macomb 61455 Ph Off 309-833-2835 Res 309-833-1959 E-mail dwcheatwood@hotmail.com (2005)
Pastor Greg Demmitt, 825 E Drake Dr, Tempe, AZ 85283 Ph Off 480-838-4240 Res 480-820-9885 E-mail demmitt@amug.org
Mr Steve Weaver, 5046 High Mill Ave NW, Massillon, OH 44646-9306 Res 330-833-3628 E-mail spweaver@ssnet.com (2005)

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

Moderator: Pastor Alan Cain, 4005 Willow Dale Rd, Springfield, OH 45504 Ph Off 937-964-1441 Res 937-964-8686 E-mail thecains@springnet.cc (2006)
Secretary: Pastor Seth Ross, 4343 Middle Urbana Rd, Springfield, OH 45503 Ph Off 937-399-4222 Res 937-342-1485 E-mail soross@juno.com (2007)
Treasurer: Pastor Dale Ramsey, 987 Browntown Rd, Browntown, VA 22610 Ph 540-636-4226 E-mail dcbest@rmaonline.net
Pastors' Pastor: Pastor Russ Magaw, 102 Splendor Ct, Stillman Valley IL 61084 Ph Off 815-732-6847 Res 815-645-8514 E-mail Rmstillmanv@wmconnect.com (2005)

PRISCILLA ASSOCIATION

Mrs Susan Cain, 4005 Willow Dale Rd, Springfield, OH 45504 Ph 937-964-8686 E-mail thecains@springnet.cc
Mrs Theresa Deane, 6979 W St Rte 55, Ludlow Falls, OH 45339 Ph 937-698-4492
Mrs Karen Fletcher, 4 Reed St, Pelzer, SC 29669 Ph 864-947-8479 E-mail revjeff@charter.net
Mrs Anne Riley, 530 N Oakland Cir, McDonough, GA 30253 Ph 770-914-7404

CHRISTIAN CONCILIATION BOARD

Chairperson: Mr Joe E James, 100 Buck Dr, Piedmont, SC 29673 Ph Off 864-963-3421 Res 864-269-2964 E-mail
JJoeCarol@aol.com (2009)
Pastor Michael Hoffman, 740 W Oregon Trail Rd, Oregon, IL 61061 Ph Off 815-732-6847 Res 815-732-2604 E-mail
hoffon@aol.com (2007)
Mrs Michele Millard, 14221 Seward St, Omaha, NE 68154 Ph Off 402-280-2733 Res 402-492-9082 E-mail mmillard@creighton.edu
(2005)

ATLANTA/OREGON BIBLE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

President: Pastor Robert Bernheisel, 130 Wayne St, Ponchatoula, LA 70454 E-mail bernhe@netscape.com (2005)
Vice President: Pastor Merry Peterson, 116½ N Miller, Wenatchee, WA 98801 Ph 509-665-9327 E-mail merrysparrow@juno.com
(2007)
Sec/Treas: Pastor Chuck Jones, 442 W La Verne Av, Pomona, CA 91767-2160 Ph Off 909-593-3411 Res 909-392-8599 E-mail
Carolsguy.chucksgal@verizon.net (2006)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINISTERS' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Chairperson: Pastor Daniel Smead, 513 Maple St, Bx 496, Eden Valley MN 55329 Ph Off 320-453-6375 Res 320-453-3040 E-mail
dsmead@meltel.net (2008)
Vice Chairman: Mr Bill Gaspar, 4895 Vine Hill Rd, Excelsior, MN 55331 Ph Off 952-541-1364 ext 218 Res 952-474-9535 E-mail
b_gaspar@yahoo.com (2006)
Sec/Treas: Mr David Krogh, Bx 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260 Ph 404-362-0052 Res 770-603-7506 E-mail dkrogh@ abc-coggc.org

DIRECTORS OF CHURCH OF GOD INVESTMENT FUND

Chairperson: To be appointed (2007)
Vice Chairperson: Mr Frank Johnson, 49462 850 Av, Hector, MN 55342 Ph 320-848-2842 (2006)
Sec/Treas: Mr David Krogh, Bx 100,000, Morrow, GA 30260 Ph Off 404-362-0052 Res 770-603-7506 E-mail dkrogh@
abc-coggc.org
Director: Mr Howard Shute, 200 Highway 20 W, Unit 408B, Ridgeville, ON Canada L0S 1M0 Ph 905-892-9342 (2005)
Director: Pastor Michael Hoffman, 740 W Oregon Trail Rd, Oregon, IL 61061 Ph Off 815-732-6847 Res 815-732-2604 E-mail
lhoffon@aol.com (2007)

TRUSTEES OF ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

President: Mr Roger Crocker, 304 Easley Hwy, Pelzer, SC 29669-1019 Ph 864-947-9099 (2006)
Vice President: Mr Robert Ballard, 104 Westchester Way, Easley, SC 29642 Ph 864-220-1624 E-mail rballardsc@charter.net
(2007)
Secretary: Ms Andrea Anders, 301 N Ellis Dr, Salisbury, NC 28144 Ph Off 803-461-2150 Res 704-633-9690 E-mail
andrea.anders@earthlink.net (2006)
Treasurer: Pastor Dale Bliss, 2696 Wynterpointe Ct, Kokomo, IN 46901 Ph Off 765-455-9866 Res 765-868-8180 E-mail
dale_bliss@hotmail.com (2008)
Director: Mr Larry Bolhous, 213 N Church St, Winnebago, IL 61088 Ph 815-335-2906 (2006)
Director: Mr Dale Brown, 21201 S Coleman Rd, Peculiar, MO 64078 Ph 816-380-3119 E-mail dalelbrown@aol.com (2005)
Director: Mr Hugh Harman, 629 W Plata, Mesa, AZ 85210 Ph 480-892-3291 E-mail hughbie2@aol.com (2008)

Director: Mr Jack Harper, 9615 Florence Height, Omaha, NE 68112 Ph 402-451-2202 E-mail jamarharp@peoplepc.com (2007)
Director: Mr Rob Helenburg, 12811 Madeley Ct, Fairfax, VA 22033 Ph 703-378-0190 E-mail wrobinh@att.net (2005)
Director: Pastor Michael Hoffman, 740 W Oregon Trail Rd, Oregon, IL 61061 Ph Off 815-732-6847 Res 815-732-2604 E-mail hoffon@aol.com (2007)
Director: Mr Joe James, 100 Buck Dr, Piedmont, SC 29673 Ph 864-269-2964 E-mail JJoeCarol@aol.com (2007)
Director: Pastor Larry Mayberry, 7541 Burlingame SW, Byron Center, MI 49315 Ph Off 616-452-3119 Res 616-878-7118 E-mail larrymayberry@juno.com (2005)
Director: To be appointed (2008)

WEBSITE OF RELATED ORGANIZATION

Anthony Buzzard – Restoration Fellowship: www.restorationfellowship.org E-mail anthonybuzzard@mindspring.com

ARIZONA

Tempe (Lakeshore Bible), 6415 S Lakeshore Dr, Tempe 85283 Website www.lakeshorebible.net
Greg Demmitt, Pastor, 825 E Drake, Tempe 85283 Ph Off 480-838-4240 Res 480-820-9885 Mobile 480-824-8311 E-mail demmitt@amug.org
Becky Bull, Sec, 1607 W Colt Rd, Chandler 85224 Ph 480-782-6444 E-mail beckybull@juno.com
Ron Sorenson, Treas, 2163 W Hawken Way, Chandler, AZ 85248 Ph 480-782-1800 E-mail sorensonrw@yahoo.com
Cathy White, Supt, 618 N 95th St, Mesa 85207 Ph 480-231-7641 E-mail cravwhite@msn.com
Karen Demmitt, Yth Ldr, 825 E Drake, Tempe 85283 Ph 480-820-9885 E-mail Karen@theDemmitts.net
Linda Mellgren, Miss Chair, 6637 S Stanley Pl, Tempe Ph 480-838-4938 E-mail dmellgren@netzero.net
Hugh Harman, Bd Chair, 629 W Plata, Mesa, 85210 Ph 480-892-3291 E-mail hughbie1@juno.com

ARKANSAS CONFERENCE

Pres: Ruby McCaslin, 512 Brady Mountain Rd, Royal 71968 Ph 501-760-1715 E-mail rubym@hsnp.com
Sec/Treas: Jeanette White, 10 Rubra Ct, Little Rock 72223-9136 Ph 501-821-2217 E-mail jdunn400@aol.com
BYF Dir: Jason Brown, 3700 Kersey Rd, Ratcliff 72952 Ph 479-667-1472 E-mail kennethjbrown7@yahoo.com

ARKANSAS CHURCHES

Cleveland, Box 36, Cleveland 72030

Mark Good, Pastor, 171 S Broadview, Greenbrier 72058 Ph Off & Res 501-679-5979 E-mail mwgood@cyberback.com
David Roberson, Sec/Supt, Bx 36, Cleveland 72030 Ph 501-669-2964 or 501-669-2629
Jerry Roberson, Supt, Bx 1, Cleveland 72030
L W Ring, Bd Chair, 28 Polk Ave, Center Ridge 72027

Magazine (Clark Chapel), 4618 Cox Valley Rd, Magazine 72943

Linda Bates, Sec/Treas, 17329 Hwy 41, Branch 72928 Ph 479-635-4851 E-mail blessed@cswnet.com
Gaylon Hice, Supt, 5601 Cox Valley Rd, Magazine 72943 Ph 479-635-8921
Velma Nichols, Sr Min Coord, 6887 Cox Valley Rd, Magazine 72943 Ph 479-635-2012
Jason Brown, Yth Ldr, 3700 Kersey Rd, Ratcliff 72951 Ph 479-667-1472 E-mail kennethjbrown7@yahoo.com

McGintytown, 509 Hwy 225 E, Greenbrier 72058 Ph 501-679-3008

Tom New, Pastor, 29 Sheila Dr, Greenbrier 72058 Ph Off & Fax 501-679-6170 Res 501-679-3037 E-mail tnew@cyberback.com
Frances Cardin, Sec, 124 Hwy 225 East, Greenbrier 72058 Ph 501-679-5282 E-mail fcardin@kcc.com
Larry Wood, Treas, 517 Valley Club, Little Rock 72212 Ph 501-224-0736
Craig New, Yth Ldr, 5 Redbird Ln, Greenbrier 72058 Ph 501-679-7391
Austine Freeman, Supt, 714 Hwy 225 E, Greenbrier 72058 Ph 501-679-3525
Mark Good, Bd Chair, 171 S Broadview, Greenbrier 72058 Ph 501-679-5979 E-mail mwgood@cyberback.com

Royal (Forest Hills), 107 Cricket Loop, Royal 71968

James Hill, Pastor, 113 Dera Ln, Royal 71968 Ph Off 501-767-3806 Res 501-767-2891
Pam Neighbors, Sec, 127 Cricket Loop, Royal 71968 Ph 501-767-1658

berry, Treas, 107 Cricket Loop, Royal 71968 Ph 501-767-4001
Forest, Dir Chr Ed, 1948 Old Bear Rd, Royal 71968 Ph 501-767-2023
wniczak, Yth Ldr, 508 Brady Mtn Rd, Royal 71968 Ph 501-767-8232

Rock (New Hope) (meet in cafeteria classroom at Southwest Hospital)
White, Sec, 10 Rubra Ct, Little Rock 72223-9136 Ph 501-821-2217 E-mail jdunn400@aol.com
White, Supt, 10 Rubra Ct, Little Rock 72223-9136 Ph 501-821-2217 E-mail jdunn400@aol.com

CALIFORNIA

ma (Church of the Open Bible), 440 W La Verne Av, Pomona 91767-2960 Ph 909-593-3411 E-mail
uck@openbiblepomona.org Website www.openbiblepomona.org
k Jones, Pastor, 442 W La Verne Av, Pomona, CA 91767-2160 Ph Off 909-593-3411 Res 909-392-8599 E-mail
rolsguy.chucksgal@verizon.net
ll Jones, Sec, 442 W La Verne Av, Pomona 91767-2160 Ph 909-392-8599
ko Suzuki, Treas, 310 Barryknoll St, Anaheim 92807 Ph 714-998-9046
hny Nassar, Supt, 1732 Golden Hills Road, La Verne 91750 Ph 909-720-1159 E-mail kathyangernassar@yahoo.com
urreen Steiner, Bd Chair, 400 Montezuma Way, West Covina 91791 Ph 626-339-3048 E-mail laureen_steiner@hotmail.com

mi Valley (Bible Church), 4343 Township, Simi Valley 93063 Ph 805-522-5955
arren Sorenson, Pastor, 3006 E Hilldale Av, Simi Valley 93063 Ph Off 805-522-5955 Res 805-527-8441 E-mail
rwsorenson@dslextreme.net
irginia Cloepfil, Sec, 3249 Greenville Dr, Simi Valley 93063 Ph 805-583-1880
ardys McKeown, Treas, 506 Concord, El Segundo 90245 Ph 310-322-5670
Cyndie Capozzi, Chr Ed Dir, 1503 Willowbrook Ln, Simi Valley 93065 Ph 805-526-3933

CANADA

Welland, ON (Freedom in Christ Ministries), 400 King Street, Welland, ON Canada Mailing address: 107 Commercial St,
Welland, ON, Canada L3B 5Z1 Ph 905-714-9527
Stephen Bolhous, Pastor, 107 Commercial St, Welland, ON, Canada L3B 5Z1 Ph 905-714-9527 E-mail sbolhous@cogeco.ca
George Peterson, Council Sec, RR 2, Welland, ON, Canada L3B 5N5 Ph 905-384-9470

CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Pres: Jerold Brewer, 2127 Blue Ridge Circle NE, Lenoir, NC 28645 Ph 828-754-8631
Vice Pres: Awone Rector, 3894 Seminole Ave, Anderson, SC 29626 Ph 864-225-2066 E-mail earrector@yahoo.com
Sec: Marie Wood, 347 Birch Circle Dr, Hudson, NC 28638 Ph 828-726-1133
Treas: Sonja Smith, 300 Mountain Springs Rd, Piedmont, SC 29673 Ph 864-545-6424 E-mail GRSmith50@msn.com
Yth Adv: Rebecca Dauksas, 250 Stoneybrook Rd, Pelzer, SC 29669 Ph 864-947-6692 E-mail rjdauksas@charter.net

CAROLINA CHURCHES — NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Hendersonville, NC (Anderson Chapel), Jack St, Hendersonville 28793 (no mailing address) -Website
www.geocities.com/anderson_chapel
Daniel W Fyfe, Pastor, 111 Rugby Forest Ln, Hendersonville 28791 Ph 828-692-0440
Linda Honeycutt, Sec, Rt 2, Bx 366, Hendersonville 28792
Frances Honeycutt, Treas, Rt 2, Box 366, Hendersonville 28792 Ph 828-685-3368
John Fyfe, Supt, 138 Leslie Way, Hendersonville 28792

Anderson, SC (Joy Fellowship), 492 Bessie Rd, Piedmont 29673 Ph 864-845-8038 Website www.Joyfellowship.cc
Wally Winner, Pastor, 1403 Beverdam Rd, Williamston, 29697 Ph Res 864-847-1973 E-mail wtwj@aol.com
Suzanne Winner, Sec, 1013 Welcome Rd, Williamston 29697 Ph 864-947-8093 E-mail suzannemattwinner@msn.com
Kim Perry, Treas, 116 Twin Oaks Ln, Williamston 29697 Ph 864-947-2699 E-mail aperrydise@mindspring.com

Lenoir, NC (Church of Resurrection Hope), 732 Stacey Place SW, Lenoir 28645 Ph 828-758-0099 Website
www.resurrectionhope.org

James D Ritch, Pastor, 2385 Walt Arney Rd, Lenoir 28645 Ph 828-728-2307 E-mail reshope@msn.com
Paul D Duncan, Sec/Treas, 1044 Cottrell Hill Rd, Lenoir 28645 Ph 828-758-5817 E-mail paulddunc@aol.com
Paul Holden, Supt, 1244 Delwood Dr SW, Lenoir 28645 Ph 828-754-6389
Ken and Marie Wood, Yth Ldrs, 347 Birch Circle Dr, Hudson 28638 Ph 828-726-1133
Timothy W Duncan, Bd Chair, 2024 Walt Arney Rd, Lenoir 28645 Ph 828-754-6949
Jerold Brewer, Miss Chair, 2127 Blue Ridge Cir NE, Lenoir 28645 Ph 828-754-8631

Pelzer, SC (Bethel), 420 Old Brickyard Rd, Pelzer 29669 Ph 864-947-9555 Website bethelcog.net
Jeffrey Fletcher, Pastor, 4 Reed St, Pelzer 29669 Ph Off 864-947-9555 Res 864-947-8479 E-mail revjeff@charter.net
Carol Sloan, Sec, 340 Hwy 17, Piedmont 29673 Ph 864-845-7468
Roger Crocker, Supt, 304 Easley Hwy, Pelzer 29669 Ph 864-947-9099
Bonnie Impson, Treas, 3902 W Georgia Rd, Pelzer 29669
Jon Lippert, Yth Ldr, 7060 Hwy 29-N, Pelzer 29669 Ph 864-947-1069 E-mail jonrev1978@wmconnect.com
Edith Gentry, Sr Min Coord, 3894 W Georgia Rd, Pelzer 29669 Ph 864-243-3982
Steve Riddle, Miss Chair, 332 Tranquil Spring Dr, Boiling Springs 29316 Ph 864-599-1909
Todd Impson, Bd Chair, 3902 W Georgia Rd, Pelzer 29669 Ph 864-243-2346

Pelzer, SC (Guthrie Grove), 403 Guthrie Grove Church Rd, Pelzer 29669-9092 Ph 864-947-9717 E-mail Guthriegrv@aol.com
Website www.Guthriegrove.org
Michael Montgomery, Pastor, 405 Guthrie Grove Church Rd, Pelzer 29669 Ph Off 864-947-9717 Res 864-947-7660 E-mail
mymimont@charter.net
Mary Milne, Pastor's Sec, 435 Old Brickyard Rd, Pelzer 29669 Ph 864-947-1387
Telva Elwell, Supt, 524 Moores Mill Rd, Pelzer 29669 Ph 864-947-6426
Craig Davenport, Bd Sec, 712 Hwy 17, Piedmont 29673 Ph 864-845-3135 E-mail davenportfamily@att.net
Joe James, Bd Chair, 100 Buck Dr, Piedmont 29673 Ph 864-269-2964 E-mail JJoeCarol@aol.com
Jennifer Durham, Treas, 105 Sawtooth Ct, Easley 29642 Ph 864-306-6229 E-mail DIMS95@aol.com
Rebecca Dauksas, Co Yth Ldr, 250 Stoneybrook Rd, Pelzer 29669 Ph 864-947-6692 E-mail rjdauksas@charter.net
Chris James, Co Yth Ldr, 104 Gray Log Turn, Piedmont 29673 Ph 864-220-2804 E-mail cjames104@charter.net
Mike Smith, Co Yth Ldr, 211 Fairfax Rd, Easley 29642 Ph 864-855-4181 E-mail mike.smith@palmettohealth.org

COLORADO

Pueblo (New Family Bible Fellowship - Abrahamic Faith), 257 E Don Dr, Pueblo West 81007
James H Davis, Elder, 257 E Don Dr, Pueblo West 81007 Ph 719-547-3076 E-mail harveyday@wmconnect.com

GEORGIA CHURCHES

Fayetteville (Restoration Church of God) Box 100,000 Morrow 30260
Anthony Buzzard, Elder, 175 West Lake Drive, Fayetteville 30214 Ph Off 404-362-0052 Res 770-964-1571 E-mail
anthonybuzzard@mindspring.com

Jonesboro (Simple Teachings Bible Church) 9456 S Main St, Suite E-7, Jonesboro 30236 Ph 770-472-3716 Website
www.simpleteachings.org
Rufus Meyers, Pastor/Evang Chair, 11061 Knotty Pine Pl, Hampton 30228 Ph Off 770-656-4708 Res 770-210-2072 E-mail
ministermeyers@hotmail.com
Linda Coleman, Sec, 11213 Weeping Willow Pl, Hampton 30228 Ph 770-603-8969
Jearlen Meyers, Treas, 11061 Knotty Pine Pl, Hampton 30228 Ph 770-210-2072 E-mail jearlen@hotmail.com
Selisha Grant, Supt, 3714 Brookwood Blvd, Rex, 30273 Ph 770-474-8611
Octavia Meyers, Yth Ldr, 11061 Knotty Pine Pl, Hampton 30228 Ph 770-210-2072 E-mail octavia54321@hotmail.com
Dorothy Rainey, Sr Min Coord, 9008 Cornell Dr, Jonesboro 30236 Ph 770-210-4335

McDonough (Cornerstone Bible Church), 180 Nail Dr, McDonough 30253 Ph 770-957-2070, 678-583-2277 E-mail
rotaycbc@bellsouth.net Website www.CornerstoneBibleChurch.net
Steve Taylor, Pastor, 5702 Colonnade Dr, Rex 30273 Ph Off 770-957-2070 Res 678-289-1903 E-mail

Andy Cisneros, Yth Pastor, 101 Royal Way, McDonough 30252 Ph Off 770-957-2070 Res 678-432-3580 E-mail andycbcyouth@bellsouth.net
David Krogh, Sec/Treas, 1992 Tiffany Ln, Jonesboro 30236 Ph 770-603-7506 E-mail dkrogh@abc-coggc.org
Doren Clark, Chr Ed Dir, 380 Royal St, McDonough 30253 Ph 770-898-9277 E-mail TACDLCLARK@aol.com
Jim and Denise Cramer, Co-Miss Chair, 116 W Jessica Ln, Hampton 30223 Ph 770-897-9179

Morrow (Korean American Community Church), 5823 Trammell Rd, Morrow 30260 Ph 678-553-4978/404-428-4591
Steve An, Pastor, 616 Waterford Landing, McDonough 30253 Ph Off 404-428-4591 Res 678-432-2687 E-mail pastoran@earthlink.net
Seong Kon Jeong, Sec/Treas, 1410 Waterford Landing, McDonough 30253 Ph 678-583-6219 E-mail comhouse@dreamwiz.com
David Lee, Men's Miss Chair, 901 Cameron Bridge Way, Alpharetta 30022 Ph 770-777-1689
Jung Ja Preston, Women's Miss Chair, 2940 Mandy Ct, Stockbridge 30281 Ph 770-473-9239
Sam An, Yth Ldr, 5826 Trammell Rd, Morrow 30260 Ph 404-518-7990

Morrow (New Friends Bible Church), 5823 Trammell Rd, Morrow 30260 Ph 404-608-1001 Website www.NewFriendsChurch.org
Kent Ross, Pastor, 6875 Fielder Way, Rex 30273-2416 Ph Res 770-960-9001 Cell 678-464-8321 E-mail kentross@aol.com
Joe Martin, Elder, 6790 Wendy Jean Ln, Morrow 30260 Ph Off 404-362-0052 Res 770-961-6746 E-mail jmartin@abc-coggc.org
Rebekah Martin, Sec/Miss Chair, 6790 Wendy Jean Ln, Morrow 30260 Ph Res 770-961-6746 Cell 770-317-5975 E-mail rrebm@yahoo.com
Phillip Williams, Min Wor, 2753 Caribou Ct, Morrow 30260 Ph 678-570-0224 E-mail MendingLives@att.net
Reggie Whibbey, Yth Ldr, 6875 Fielder Way, Rex 30273 Ph 678-360-8191 E-mail rwhibbey@yahoo.com

ILLINOIS (WISCONSIN) CONFERENCE

Chairman: Pastor Curtis Rowden, W Mt Vernon, PO Box 113, Metamora, IL 61548-0113 Ph 309-367-4376 E-mail wowden@mtco.com
Vice Chairman: Pastor David Cheatwood, 821 W Chase St, Macomb, IL 61455 Ph Off 309-833-2835 Res 833-1959 E-mail dwcheatwood@hotmail.com
Sec: Jenny Pulling, 317 E Frye Av, E Peoria 61603 Ph 309-685-2095
Treas: Carol Ring, 1259 N Forrest Dr, Metamora 61548 Ph 309-383-4952
Yth Dir: Pastor Tom Schmitt, 2760 N Deer Path Cir, Oregon 61061 Ph 815-734-4748 E-mail ttnod7@famvid.com

ILLINOIS (WISCONSIN) CHURCHES

Beloit, Wisconsin (Beloit New Life), 1146 Grant St, Beloit 53511 Ph 608-365-2652
Jason Turner, Pastor, 3217 E Hwy 67, Beloit 53511 Ph Off 608-365-2652 Res 608-363-8756 E-mail jetmat2@aol.com
Marcee Turner, Supt, 3217 E Hwy 67, Beloit 53511 Ph Off 608-365-2652 Res 608-363-8756 E-mail jetmat2@aol.com
Duane Campbell, Treas, 1322 Bluff St, Beloit 53511 Ph 608-365-9816 E-mail soup4643@ticon.net

Dixon, 221 W Morgan, Dixon 61021
Hollis Parlowe, Acting Pastor, 605 Webster St, Oregon 61061 Ph 815-732-3723
Debbie Grove, Sec/Treas, 606 S 4th, Oregon 61061 Ph 815-732-6367
Nancy Johnson, Supt, 328 W Chamberlin St, Dixon 61021 Ph 815-288-4961
Ellwyn Drew, Sr Min Coord, 906 Institute Blvd, Dixon 61021 Ph 815-284-3115

East Peoria (Community Church), 526 E Washington, East Peoria 61611 Ph 309-694-7675 E-mail epcog@mtco.com
Curtis Rowden, Pastor, 109 W Mt Vernon, PO Box 113, Metamora, IL 61548-0113 Ph Off 309-657-4856 Res 309-367-4376 E-mail wowden@mtco.com
Pat Alexander, Sec, 351 Old Germantown Rd, E Peoria 61611 Ph 309-383-4250
Carol Ring, Supt, 1259 N Forrest Dr, Metamora 61548 Ph 309-383-4952
Roy Alexander, Bd Chair, 351 Old Germantown Rd, E Peoria 61611 Ph 309-383-4250

Eldorado (Restitution), 270 Alexander Rd, Eldorado 62930
Brian Atra, Pastor, c/o 1410 Two Mile Rd, Eldorado 62930-9801
Earlis Medley, Co-Lay Ldr/Bd Chair/Supt, 1241 Cardinal Dr, Mt, IN 47520-9230 Ph 812-838-6437
Jack Wiggins, Co-Lay Ldr/Treas, 1410 Two Mile Rd, Eldorado 62930-9801 Ph 618-273-3676

Velma Wiggins, Sec, 1410 Two Mile Rd, Eldorado 62930-9801 Ph 618-273-3676 E-mail wigginsvy@hotmail.com
Valerie Brown, Yth Ldr, 98AA E Dewey Rd, Eldorado 62930 Ph 618-273-9200

Flagg Center (Community Church), Box 123, Rochelle 61068

Gordon Landry, Pastor/Bd Chair, 1010 S 5th St, Oregon 61061 Ph 815-732-7105 E-mail gglan@juno.com
Rick Eldred, Supt, 5695 Indian Trail Rd, Rochelle 61068 Ph 815-562-4699
Sherry Smith, Sec, 10936 E IL Rt 38, Rochelle 61068 Ph 815-562-3858
Dan Foster, Treas, Box 123, Rochelle 61068 Ph 815-562-3858

Macomb, 625 W Chase St, Macomb 61455 Ph 309-833-2835 Website www.macombchurchofgod.com

David Cheatwood, Pastor, 821 W Chase St, Macomb 61455 Ph Off 309-833-2835 Res 309-833-1959 E-mail
dwcheatwood@hotmail.com
Bonnie Gaddis, Sec, 7 Prairie Rd, Macomb 61455 Ph 309-837-4576
Maribeth Carle, Treas, 621 Lawndale Dr, Macomb 61455 Ph 309-837-5329
Becky Campbell, Supt, 635 S Randolph St, Macomb 61455 Ph 309-836-6050
Scott and Eva Jo Fisher, Yth Ldrs, 860 S McArthur St, Macomb 61455 Ph 309-833-2903
Rolla Hightower, Bd Chair, 827 W McDonough St, Macomb 61455 Ph 309-837-1234

Oregon, 860 W Oregon Trail Rd, Oregon 61061 Ph 815-732-6847

Michael Hoffman, Pastor, 740 W Oregon Trail Rd, Oregon 61061 Ph Off 815-732-6847 Res 815-732-2604 E-mail hoffon@aol.com
Russ Magaw, Assoc Pastor, 102 Splendor Ct, Stillman Valley 61084 Ph Off 815-732-6847 Res 815-645-8514 E-mail
rmstillmanv@wmconnect.com
Melba Masterman, Sec, 802 Grandstand Ct, Oregon 61061 Ph 815-732-7140
Aaron Bolhous, Treas, 212 N Swift, Winnebago 61088 Ph 815-335-2906
Jim and Joyce Callaway, Yth Ldrs, 606 S 10th St, Oregon 61061 Ph 815-732-2715
Mary Cheatwood, Miss Chair, 104 E Front St, Mt Morris 61054 Ph 815-734-7143
Tom Schmitt, Bd Chair, 2760 Deer Path Cir, Oregon 61061 Ph 815-734-4748
Nola Jones, Chr Ed Dir, 5283 Sandpiper Pl, Loves Park 61111 Ph 815-282-4304

Oregon (East Oregon Chapel), 107 N Daysville Rd, Oregon 61061 Ph 815-732-2960

John Guthrie, Pastor, 1426 S Krishill Rd, Oregon 61061 Ph Off 815-732-2960 Res 815-732-6569 E-mail jguthrie@oglecom.com
Jim Moyer, Treas, 103 Ina Dr, Davis 61019 Ph 815-865-5150
Gayle Guthrie, Supt/Co-Yth Ldr, 1426 S Krishill Rd, Oregon 61061 Ph 815-732-6569 E-mail gguthrie@oglecom.com
Al Musch, Co-Yth Ldr, 6125 Windsor Rd, Loves Park 61111 Ph 815-636-8237
Willard Little, Bd Chair, 602 S Blackhawk Dr, Byron 61010 Ph 815-234-4511

Ripley, Rt 3, Bx 88, Mt Sterling 62353 Ph 217-322-6161

Kristi Laning, Sec, RR 3, Bx 233A, Mt Sterling 62353 Ph 217-773-2723
Donna Matthews, Treas/Miss Chair, RR 2, Bx 175A, Rushville 62681 Ph 217-322-6517
Karen Laning, Supt, 54 East Lake Estates, Mt Sterling 62353 Ph 217-773-3197
Rob Laning, Bd Chair/Elder, 54 East Lake Estates, Mt Sterling 62353 Ph 217-773-3197

Rockford (Blessed Hope Bible), 3046 16th St, Rockford 61109 Ph 815-399-1541

Neal Bryant, Pastor, 6609 Samantha Ln, Rockford 61107 Ph Off 815-399-1541 Res 815-226-8624 E-mail neal_bryant1@yahoo.com
Rita Gillette, Sec, 776 Ivy Oaks Dr, Caledonia 61011 Ph 815-885-3924
Barbara Scott, Treas, 101 Muir Dr, Loves Park 61111 Ph 815-885-2899
Darlene Shaw, Co-Chr Ed Dir, 406 S Seward, Winnebago 61088-0154 Ph 815-335-2983 E-mail alanbshaw@yahoo.com
Cathy Cave, Co-Chr Ed Dir, 1231 10th Ave, Rockford, IL 61104 Ph 815-316-0733
Deborah Bryant, Yth Ldr, 6009 Samantha Ln, Rockford 61107 Ph 815-226-8624
David Hixson, Bd Chair, 4134 Crocus Ln, Rockford 61102 Ph 815-961-9863

Rockford (Family Bible Fellowship), 3015 Ridge Av, Rockford 61103 Ph 815-964-5683

Jeff Peterson, Pastor, 1708 Colorado Av, Rockford 61108 Ph 815-964-5683 Res 815-484-0284 E-mail pastorjeffp@prodigy.net
Roberta Ballard, Treas, 2028 Sauber Av, Rockford 61103 Ph 815-964-5211
Rose Peterson, Yth Ldr, 1708 Colorado Av, Rockford 61108 Ph 815-484-0284

Winnebago (New Life Bible Church), US Route 20 & Hoisington Rd, PO Box 7, Winnebago 61088 Website www.winnewlife.com

Gary Turner, Pastor/Sr Min Coord, 12848 Westbrook Pointe, Winnebago 61088 Ph Off 815-335-1405 Res 815-335-2941 E-mail
 pastorgt@cs.com
 Tim Spickler, Pastor of Admin, 302 E Cunningham, Winnebago 61088 Ph Off 815-335-1405 Res 815-335-3612 E-mail
 pastortim@winnewlife.com
 Dan Kennedy, Pastor of Worship, 422 S Elida St, Winnebago 61088 Ph Off 815-335-1405 Res 815-335-1638 E-mail
 dajakennedy@aol.com
 Jim Folk, Sec, 1002 Jessica Tr, Winnebago 61088 Ph 815-335-7528
 Kim Garst, Treas, 512 Dickerson Dr, Winnebago 61088 Ph 815-335-1323 E-mail garstboys2@aol.com
 Tim and Shelly Spickler, Yth Ldrs, 302 E Cunningham, Winnebago 61088 Ph 815-335-3612 E-mail Spickler@aeroinc.net

INDIANA CONFERENCE

Pres: Ken Howe, 8699 E County Rd 200 N, Michigantown 46057-9560 Ph 765-249-8173 E-mail cchap@geetel.net
 Vice Pres: Dan Knowlton, 211 Division St, LaPorte 46350 Ph 219-325-3767 E-mail danielknowlton@comcast.net
 Sec/Miss Contact: Myra Hamilton, 215 Oakwood Dr, Williamsport 47993 Ph 765-762-6395 E-mail mhamilton_msdcw@hotmail.com
 Treas: Andrew Hamilton, 211 Indianapolis Ave, Lebanon 46052 Ph 765-483-9097 E-mail hamiltons@iquest.net
 BYF Dir: Jason Railton, 52233 Cheryl Dr, Granger 46530 Ph 574-273-4956 E-mail tbcjason@juno.com

INDIANA CHURCHES

Burr Oak, 15101 SR 17, Burr Oak 46511 Ph 574-842-2258
 Debbie Overmyer, Sec, 4235 S 1150 E, Culver 46511 Ph 574-842-2292 E-mail dovermyer@culcom.net
 Michael Overmyer, Treas, 4235 S 1150 E, Culver 46511 Ph 574-842-2292
 Shelly Drang, Supt, 16682 Thorn Rd, Culver 46511 Ph 574-842-3689
 William L Overmyer, Bd Chair, 17407 Thorn Rd, Culver 46511 Ph 574-842-2562

Culver (Community Bible Fellowship)

Marilyn Kelly, Sec, 310 College St, Culver 46511 Ph 574-842-2431 E-mail nmkelly@culcom.net
 Betty Reinholt, Worship Ldr, 7142 W 700 N, Culver 46511 Ph 574-542-4560 E-mail reinland@pwrtrc.com

Hedrick, 942 S Adams St, Williamsport 47993 Ph 765-986-2280

Joe Astolfi, Pastor/Yth Ldr, 4326 Hillside Dr, Lafayette 47909 Ph 765-477-7350 E-mail joe4326@localline.com
 Myra Hamilton, Sec/Miss Chair/Supt Team, 215 Oakwood Dr, Williamsport 47993 Ph 765-762-6395 E-mail
 mhamilton_msdcw@hotmail.com

Karen Cheatwood, Supt Team, 307 Clinton, PO Box 114, W Lebanon 47991 Ph 765-893-8090

Kathy Kidd, Treas, 3384 S 175 W, Williamsport 47993 Ph 765-762-0143 E-mail hkkidd@localline.com

James Hamilton, Bd Chair, 215 Oakwood Dr, Williamsport 47993 Ph 765-762-6395 E-mail jhamilton_msdcw@hotmail.com

Kokomo (Maple Grove Community), 3113 West Boulevard, PO Box 6515, Kokomo 46904-6515 Ph 765-455-9866 Website
 www.mgcc-online.org

Dale Bliss, Pastor, 2696 Wynterpointe Ct, Kokomo 46901 Ph Off 765-455-9866 Res 765-868-8180 Cell 765-271-2435 E-mail
 dale_bliss@hotmail.com

Marsha Marsh, Trustee/Sec, 5512 Council Ring Blvd, Kokomo 46902 Ph 765-453-5764

Matthew Snyder, Trustee/Treas, 2825 S 337 E, Kokomo 46902 Ph 765-455-2905

Michigantown (Country Chapel), 8721 E County Rd 200 N, Michigantown 46057-9699 Ph 765-249-3020 E-mail cchap@geetel.net

Ken Howe, Pastor, 8699 E County Rd 200 N, Michigantown 46057-9500 Ph 765-249-3020 E-mail cchap@geetel.net

Pat Finney, Sec/Treas, 1501 E Walnut St, Frankfort 46041-2715 Ph 765-659-9365

Betty Good, Miss Chair, 1012 N Terrace Hills Ln, Frankfort 46041-8365 Ph 765-249-2377

Sandra Fewell, Yth Ldr, 908 S Buckeye St, Kokomo 46901 Ph 765-459-5634

North Salem, 13263 4th Rd, Plymouth 46563

Darrell Cardwell, Pastor, 13263 4th Rd, Plymouth 46563 Ph Off & Res 574-675-0847 E-mail dectlc@mchsi.com

Amnette Osborn, Sec, 20977 St Rd 10, Culver 46511 Ph 574-842-3795 E-mail osborns@skynet.net

Shirley Pearson, Supt, Bx 654, N Liberty 46554 Ph 574-656-8710 tpearson@skynet.net

Marjorie DeMien, Treas, 14474 Lincoln Hwy, Plymouth 46563 Ph 574-936-8191

Timothy Pearson, Bd Chair/Sr Min Coord/Ch Growth Chair, Bx 654, N Liberty 46554 Ph 574-656-8710 E-mail tpearson@skyline.com

South Bend (Timberland Bible Church), 16623 State Rd 23, South Bend 46635 Ph & Fax 574-277-8577 Website
www.timberlandbiblechurch.org

John Railton, Pastor, 52100 Woodsedge Dr, Granger 46530 Ph Off 574-277-8577 Res & Fax 574-277-3991 E-mail
John@TimberlandBibleChurch.org

Terri Lies, Sec, 50585 Tecumseh, Granger 46530 Ph 574-272-3952 E-mail tlteamom@aol.com

Lillian O'Neil, Treas, 55885 Guilford Pl, Mishawaka 46545 Ph 574-674-8128 E-mail LMOneil@juno.com

Maria Knowlton, Yth Ldr, 211 Division St, LaPorte 463500 Ph 219-325-3767 E-mail mariaknowlton@comcast.net

Erin Gould, Miss Chair, 12787 Darlene Ct, Granger 46530 Ph 574-272-0452

Alice Langel, Caregiver Chair, 19340 Wedgewood Dr, South Bend 46637 Ph 574-272-1870 E-mail alangel1@juno.com

IOWA CONFERENCE

Pres: Pastor Delbert Rankin, 1462 155th St, Ladora 52251 Ph 319-623-8096 E-mail dnraink@hotmail.com

Vice Pres: Orien Sealine, Rt 1 Bx 153, Stanhope 50246

Sec: Beebs Downing, 300 Norwood Ave, Waterloo 50703 Ph 319-232-6360 E-mail pud319300@yahoo.com

Treas: Sandra Bine, 1322 140th St, Belle Plaine 52208 Ph 319-642-3308

SS Dir: Nancy Rankin, 1462 155th St, Ladora 52251 Ph 319-623-8096 E-mail dnraink@hotmail.com

IOWA CHURCHES

Belle Plaine (Restitution), 10th Street at 2nd Avenue, Belle Plaine 52208 (mailing address: 1349 E Av, Belle Plaine 52208)

Delbert Rankin, Pastor, 1462 155th St, Ladora 52251 Ph 319-623-8096

Lori Murphy, Sec, 1477 Hickory Av, New Sharon 50207

Ken Cronin, Yth Ldr, 1349 E Av, Belle Plaine 52208 Ph 319-642-5204

Gladbrook (Park Hill)

Joyce Dahms, Sec, 601 Edgeland, Bx C, Gladbrook 50635 Ph 515-473-2490

Sandra Bine, Supt, Marengo 52301 Ph 319-642-3308

Koszta (Oaklawn) Church of God, 1321 212th Blvd, Marengo 52310 Ph 319-642-3520

Barbara Gensley, Sec, 1723 A Av, Victor 52347-8569 Ph 319-647-2244

Marilyn Miller, Treas/Miss Chair, 203 W Washington St, Marengo 52301 Ph 319-642-3920

Randy Eckel, Supt, 1303 212th Blvd, Belle Plaine 52208 Ph 319-444-3684

Rosetta Ealy, Yth Ldr, 125 Country Club Rd, Williamsburg 52361 Ph 319-668-1070

Robert Cronbaugh, Bd Chair, 1372 F Av, Marengo 52301 Ph 319-642-3919

Waterloo (Conger St), 1050 Conger St, Waterloo 50703

Chuck Currier, Pastor, 1054 Conger St, Waterloo 50703 Ph Off 319-233-8573 E-mail ccurrier4@mchsi.com

Linford Moore, Assoc Pastor, 3499 W 4th St, Waterloo 50701 Ph 319-233-6918

Linda McGowan, Sec, 2672 Logan Av, Waterloo 50703 Ph 319-234-1954

Gloria Currier, Supt/Yth Ldr, 1054 Conger St, Waterloo 50703 Ph 319-233-8573

Beebs Downing, Treas/Sr Min Coord, 300 Norwood Av, Waterloo 50703 Ph 319-232-6360

LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Pres: J E Fauntleroy, 43265 Anthon Ln, Hammond 70403 Ph 985-345-7134 E-mail jeflroy@charter.net

Vice Pres: Tab Lobell, PO Bx 625, Springfield 70462 Ph 225-294-2263 E-mail tlobell@i-55.com

Sec: Joy Sticker, 27446 Sticker Ln, Ponchatoula 70454 Ph 985-845-2239 E-mail GESTickerfarm@aol.com

Treas: Millard L Hutchinson Jr, 43302 Happywoods Rd, Hammond 70403 Ph 985-345-8832 E-mail mlhutchinson@i-55.com

LOUISIANA CHURCHES

Baton Rouge (Open Bible Fellowship), 666 Gloria Dr, Baton Rouge 70819-3431 Ph 225-273-4306

Michael Mattison, Pastor, 666 Gloria Dr, Baton Rouge 70819-3431 Ph 225-272-1973 E-mail michaeljmattison@hotmail.com

Maritza Madriz, Supt, 2857 Dena Lynn Av, Baton Rouge 70816 Ph 225-755-6393 E-mail madriz00@home.com
Sheryl Kovalcik, Sec, 944 Birmingham Dr, Baton Rouge 70819 Ph 225-272-1066
Michelle Griswold, Treas, 17622 Preston Av, Baton Rouge 70817-7014 Ph 225-752-3192
John Kovalcik, Bd Chair, 944 Birmingham Dr, Baton Rouge 70819 Ph 225-272-1066

Hammond (Happy Woods), 42418 S Range Rd, Hammond 70403 Ph 985-345-1889
Rob Bernheisel, Pastor, 130 Wayne St, Ponchatoula, 70454 Ph Off 985-345-1889 Res 985-386-6056 E-mail bernhe@netscape.com
Diana Dimaggio, Sec, PO Bx 2036, Ponchatoula 70454 Ph 985-370-0444 E-mail kashmirdreams@hotmail.com
Millard Hutchinson, Jr, Treas/Bd Chair, 43302 Happywoods Ext, Hammond 70403 Ph 985-345-8832 E-mail mlhutchinson@i-55.com
Sidney Egnew, Co-Yth Ldr, 23186 Blood River Rd, Springfield 70462 Ph 225-294-3126 E-mail egnew@i-55.com
Joy Sticker, Co-Yth Ldr, 27446 Sticker Rd, Ponchatoula 70454 Ph 985-845-2239 E-mail mrsticker@elmercandy.com
Angela Varnado, Dir Chr Ed, PO Bx 622, Springfield 70462 Ph 225-294-3768 E-mail brcx@bellsouth.net
Sylvia Bottolfs, Wor Coord, 43137 Happywoods Rd, Hammond 70403 Ph 985-542-1555 E-mail cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net
Charles Bottolfs, Evang & Outreach Chair, 43137 Happywoods Rd, Hammond 70403 Ph 985-542-1555 E-mail
cgbottolfs@bellsouth.net

Springfield (Blood River), 23595 Blood River Rd, Springfield 70462 Ph 225-294-3389
Betty Bauerle, Sec, 23564 Blood River Rd, Springfield 70462 Ph 225-294-6734 E-mail ebbauerle@i-55.com
Diane Richardson, Supt, 29278 Richardson Dr, Holden 70744 Ph 225-294-5532 E-mail edrjhr@yahoo.com
Melissa Richardson, Treas, 27700 Wall Rd, Springfield 70462 Ph 225-294-2688
Tab and Lynette Lobell, Yth Ldrs, Bx 625, Springfield 70462 Ph 225-294-2263
Rodney Childers, Bd Chair, 27464 Hwy 1037, Springfield 70462 Ph 225-294-5722

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

IPres: Steven Knapp, 100 Colrain SW, Wyoming 49548 Ph 616-245-2018 E-mail steve_knapp@spartanstores.com
Vice Pres: Roger Wood, 407 Thomas, Mt Pleasant 48858 Ph 989-772-0343 E-mail margiewood47@juno.com
Sec: Keith Williams, 3250 Vermont Av SW, Grandville 49418-1650 Ph Off 616-842-5430 Ext 112 Res 616-538-9181 E-mail
kdkwilliams@earthlink.net
TTreas: Lynn Berry, 9531 Judson Rd, Ravenna 49451 Ph 616-837-8863 E-mail lynn.berry@att.net
BYF Dir: Pastor Michael Cisler, 7212 Courtland Dr NE, Rockford 49341 Ph Off 616-866-9888 Res 616-866-7259 E-mail
mcisler@usxchange.net

MICHIGAN CHURCHES

Blanchard, 200 S 4th St, Blanchard 49310 Ph 989-561-5021
Amanda Musch, Yth Director, 503 Main St, Apt 2, Blanchard 49310 Ph Off 989-561-5021 Res 989-561-5258
Debbie Baldwin, Treas, 1337 One Mile Rd, Blanchard 49310 Ph 989-561-2303

Grand Rapids (Garden Park), 5615 Madison Av SE, Kentwood 49548 Ph 616-532-2400
Ray Hall, Pastor, 5631 Madison Av SE, Kentwood 49548 Ph Off 616-532-2400 Res 616-531-6151 E-mail
gardenparkchurch@juno.com
Beth Osborn, Sec, 2904 Woodglen NW, Grand Rapids 49504 Ph 616-735-1624 E-mail BOsborn1@BCBSM.com
Susan Hall, Supt, 5631 Madison Av SE, Kentwood 49548 Ph 616-531-6151 E-mail Halls@www.grps.k12.mi.us
Joyce Knapp, Treas, 10986 Shady Ln, Middleville 49333 Ph 269-795-7577
Richard McClain, Yth Ldr, 469 Empire SE, Kentwood 49508 Ph 616-281-2113 E-mail misterram@juno.com
Jan McClain, Miss Chair, 1738 Mapleview Av SE, Kentwood 49508 Ph 616-455-4943
Steven Knapp, Bd Chair, 100 Colrain SW, Wyoming 49548 Ph 616-245-2018 E-mail steve_knapp@spartanstores.com

Grand Rapids (Pennellwood), 3459 Reiser Av SW, Wyoming 49548 Ph 616-452-3119 Website
www.angelfire.com/mi2/pennellwoodcog
Larry Mayberry, Pastor, 7541 Burlingame SW, Byron Center 49315 Ph Off 616-452-3119 Res 616-878-7118 Fax 616-452-3110 (call
first) Cell 616-915-8507 E-mail larrymayberry@juno.com
Patricia Warner, Supt, 6277 Merino SE, Kentwood 49548 Ph 616-531-7643
Karen Mayberry, Co-Yth Ldr, 7541 Burlingame SW, Byron Center 49315 Ph 616-878-7118
Nancy Inverso, Co-Yth Ldr, 4592 12st St, Wayland 49348 Ph 616-792-0494 E-mail nancyji@aol.com
MacKie Williams, Miss Chair, 3830 Cook Ct SW, Wyoming 49519 Ph 616-531-5486

Keith Williams, Bd Chair, 3250 Vermont SW, Grandville 49418 Ph 616-538-9181 E-mail kdkwilliams@earthlink.net

Grand Rapids (Southlawn), 3880 Jefferson SE, Wyoming 49548-3271 Ph 616-534-9111

Richard Alcumbrack, Pastor/Yth Ldr, 7447 Burlingame SW, Byron Center 49315-9403 Ph Off 616-534-9111 Res 616-878-9669

Terrence Raper, Assoc Pastor, 3880 Jefferson SE, Wyoming 49542

Loraine Swanson, Sec, 123 32nd St, Wyoming 49548 Ph 616-452-8503

Elinor VandePol, Treas, 120 Manchester Rd SW, Wyoming 49548 Ph 616-452-7262

Lynn Berry, Bd Chair, 9531 Judson Rd, Ravenna 49451 Ph 616-837-8863

Michelle Bretschneider, Miss Chair, 4936 Florida Av, Wyoming 49548 Ph 616-531-0027

Rockford (North Kent Bible Church), 7210 Courtland Dr NE, Rockford 49341 Ph 616-866-9888

Michael Cisler, Pastor, 7212 Courtland Dr NE, Rockford 49341 Ph Off 616-866-9888 Res 616-866-7259 E-mail mcisler@usxchange.net

Tom Siderius, Sec, 6274 Woodward Dr NE, Belmont 49306 Ph 616-361-1288 E-mail sidtom@attbi.com

Jan Miesen, Treas, 10691 Shaner NE, Rockford 49341 Ph 616-866-3090 E-mail damiesensr@aol.com

Lena Abissi, Asst Treas, 2135 Lake Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Kathy Worst, Yth Ldr, 4847 Grand River Dr, Grand Rapids 49505 Ph 616-364-6428

Fred Van Assen, Bd Chair, 8298 Rockledge Way, Byron Center 49346 Ph 616-878-3542

Six Lakes (New Beginnings), 1154 W Fleck Rd, Six Lakes 48886

Tim Eldred, Pastor, PO Box 245, Edmore 48829 Ph 989-427-5059

Pam Rose, Min of Admin, 4697 Jefferson Rd, Lakeview 48850 Ph 989-365-9224

Jeffrey Finch, Treas, 4901 Costabella Av, Blanchard 49310 Ph 989-561-5539

Sue Finch, Min of Child Educ, 4901 Costabella Av, Blanchard 49310 Ph 989-561-5539

Luke Sawyer, Min of Yth Educ, 330 S 2nd St, Edmore 48829 Ph 989-427-0165

Richard Eldred, Min of Adult Educ, 512 Pine St, Blanchard 49310 Ph 989-561-5020

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

Pres: Gaye Wood, 310 E 10th St, Litchfield 55355 Ph 320-693-3917 E-mail gwood@andersonchemco.com

Sec: Margaret Swanson, 30313 Briorwood Rd, Paynesville 56362-9631 Ph 320-276-8745 E-mail mjswanon@tds.net

Treas: Bill Gaspar, 4895 Vine Hill Rd, Excelsior 55331 Ph 952-474-9535 E-mail b_gaspar@yahoo.com

Miss Chair: Russ Rankin, 12120 101st Av N, Maple Grove 55369 Ph 763-424-5076 E-mail rjrankin@cpinternet.com

MINNESOTA CHURCHES

Eden Valley, 553 Maple St, Bx 496, Eden Valley 55329 Ph 320-453-6375

Daniel Smead, Pastor, 513 Maple St, Bx 496, Eden Valley 55329 Ph Off 320-453-6375 Res 320-453-3040 E-mail dsmead@meltel.net

Bety Lou Coulter, Sec/Sr Min Coord, 16506 County Rd 162, Eden Valley 55329 Ph 320-453-7451

Dolores Sogge, Treas, 23591 150th St, Eden Valley 55329 Ph 320-453-7818

Renae Nordmann, Supt, 21195 Vails Lake Rd, Eden Valley 55329 Ph-320-453-5961 E-mail mnrord@meltel.net

Bob Johnson, Co-Bd Chair, 29247 Co Rd 181, Paynesville 56362 Ph 320-243-4303 E-mail lakekoronis@mchsi.com

Marvin Nordmann, Co-Bd Chair, 21195 Vails Lake Rd, Eden Valley 55329 Ph-320-453-5961 E-mail mnrord@meltel.net

Hector, c/o Larry Johnson, 83424 490th St, Hector 55342

Frances Johnson, Sec, 49462 850 Av, Hector 55342 Ph 320-848-2842 E-mail fjbj@hutchtel.net

Kathy Johnson, Supt, 83424 490th St, Hector 55342

House Light Ministries, 50585 171st Av, Verndale 56481

Jeff Moore, Pastor/Yth Ldr, 50585 171st Av, Verndale 56481 Ph 218-445-5792 E-mail houslite@wcta.net

Terri Moore, Sec/Treas/Ed Dir, 50585 171st Av, Verndale 56481 Ph 218-445-5792 E-mail houslite@wcta.net

Lisa Hoemberg, Miss Chair, PO Bx 32, Bertha 56437 Ph 218-924-2018 E-mail bzbeas@wcta.net

Hutchinson (New Hope in Christ), 1075 Sherwood St SE, Hutchinson 55350 (mailing address) Ph 320-234-3527 Website www.hutchinsoncog.com

Vivian E Kirkpatrick II, Pastor, 1075 Sherwood St SE, Hutchinson 55350 Ph 320-234-3527 Fax 320-587-7496 E-mail vekirkpatrick@mchsi.com

Anita Messner, Sec, 1116 Sherwood St SE, Hutchinson 55350 Ph 320-587-9375 E-mail messner@hutchtel.net
Dan Karl, Treas, 19199 651st Av, Buffalo Lake 55314 Ph 320-833-9900 E-mail karl@hutchel.net
Amanda Forcier, Chr Ed Dir, 20302 Rolling Acres Dr, Richmond 56368 Ph 320-453-3802 E-mail alforcier@msn.com
Andrea Moore, Yth Ldr, 625 School Rd N, Hutchinson 55350 Ph 320-587-8550
Jason Becker, Outreach Dir, 48994 196th St, Glencoe 55336 Ph 320-864-6976 E-mail jbbecker@hutchtel.net

Litchfield, 501 S Ramsey, Litchfield 55355 Ph 320-693-6391
Dale Swartz, Pastor, 216 E 5th St, Litchfield 55355 Ph Off & Fax 320-693-6391 Res 320-593-3775 E-mail dswartz@hutchtel.net
Gaye Wood, Sec, 310 E 10th St, Litchfield 55355 Ph 320-593-3917 E-mail gwood@andersonchemco.com
Mark Wood, Treas, 68915 233rd St, Dassel 55325 Ph 320-275-2251
Marty Wegner, Supt, 59351 300th St, Litchfield 55355 Ph 320-693-7110

Minneapolis (Family of God Fellowship), 10709 W River Rd, Brooklyn Park 55443-1234
Connie Shimek, Sec, 10709 W River Rd, Brooklyn Park 55443 Ph 763-421-8956
Jean O'Donnell, Treas/Sr Min Coord, 8401 Virginia Circle N, St Louis Park 55426 Ph 952-545-3148
Paul Shimek, Bd Chair/Miss Chair/Yth Ldr, 10709 W River Rd, Brooklyn Park 55443-1234 Ph 763-421-8956

Minneapolis (Pine Grove Bible Church), 4000 101st Av N, Brooklyn Park 55443 Ph 763-493-4158 Website
www.pinegrovebiblechurch.org E-mail pgbc@truepath.net
Sydney Kirkpatrick, Pastor, 13224 Van Buren St NE, Blaine 55434 Ph Off 763-493-4158 Res 763-755-1954
Connie Scott, Assoc Pastor, 10909 Vale St NW, Coon Rapids 55433 Ph 763-464-4830 E-mail connie928@aol.com
William Savage, Sec, 7018 Carey Lane, Maple Grove 55369 Ph 763-425-2608
Todd Blanchard, Treas, 9900 Regent Av N, Brooklyn Park 55443 Ph 763-315-4827
Amy Blanchard, Chr Ed Dir, 9900 Regent Av N, Brooklyn Park 55443 Ph 763-315-4827
Greg and Susan Landry, Yth Ldrs, 3911 10th Lane, Anoka 55303 Ph 763-208-3992
William J Gaspar, Bd Chair, 4895 Vine Hill Rd, Excelsior 55331 Ph 952-474-9535 E-mail b_gaspar@yahoo.com

St Cloud, 1940 4th Street N, St Cloud 56303 Ph 320-252-6243
Jeff Moore, Pastor, 50585 171st Av, Verndale 56481 Ph 218-445-5792 E-mail houslite@wcta.net
Michelle Maehren, Sec, 5747 411th St, Rice 56367 Ph 320-654-8360
Julie Maehren, Treas, 16931 207th Av, Eden Valley 55329 Ph 320-453-7022
Ilone Vierzba, Bd Chair/Yth Dir, 1334 11th Av N, St Cloud 56303-1710 Ph 320-253-0722

MISSOURI CONFERENCE

Pres: Scott Thibault, 105 Spruce, Raymore 64083 Ph 816-331-7707 E-mail stboul@comcast.net
1st Vice Pres: Harold Thomas, PO Box 188, Fredericktown 63645 Ph 573-783-2938 E-mail info@giffordlumber.com
2nd Vice Pres: Bill Thomas, 2421 Madison 529, Fredericktown 63645 Ph 573-783-3349
Lay Spkr Coord: Fred Gerullis, 304 Cannon Mines Rd, Cadet 63630 Ph 636-337-7425 E-mail f.gerullis@worldnet.att.net
Sec: David Fuller, 22920 S Staley Mound Rd, Pleasant Hill 64080 Ph 816-626-3786 E-mail djfkc@yahoo.com
Treas: George Kugler, 2316 W Alta, Springfield 65810 Ph 417-886-8609
Camp Dir: Pastor Jon Welch, 910 E Chestnut, Desloge 63601 Ph 573-431-1402 E-mail jtwelch@i1.net
Youth Dir: Sally Brooks, 502 Cannon Mines Rd, Cadet 63630 Ph 636-337-3845 E-mail rmsbrx@peoplepc.com
State Quizzing Dir: Pastor John Nelson, 2316 W Alta, Springfield 65810 Ph Off 417-326-8265 Res 417-886-8609 E-mail StQuizzingDirector@countrysidebiblechurch.org

MISSOURI CHURCHES

Bolivar (Open Bible), 914 S Albany, PO Bx 557, Bolivar 65613 Ph 417-326-8265
John Nelson, Pastor, 2316 W Alta, Springfield 65810 Ph Off 417-326-8265 Res 417-886-8609 E-mail jellybean130@juno.com
Dolores Kugler, Sec/Supt/Treas, 2316 W Alta, Springfield 65810 Ph 417-886-8609 E-mail dbrown15k@peoplepc.com
George Kugler, Elder, 2316 W Alta, Springfield 65810 Ph 417-886-8609 E-mail dbrown15K@peoplepc.com
Darrell Brown, Yth Ldr, Rt 2, Bx 2476, Hermitage 65668 Ph 417-745-2620

Farmington (Church of the Open Bible), 201 S Henry, Farmington 63640 Ph 573-756-0911
Donna Cooper, Sec, Bx 123, Farmington 63640-0123 Ph 573-756-4715 Fax 573-756-4741 E-mail tvfsemo@sbcglobal.net
Heidi Killian, Treas, 307 Smith, Farmington 63640 Ph 573-756-0312 E-mail hkillian@bluebuzz.com

Fredericktown, 401 Park Dr, Bx 654, Fredericktown 63645 Ph 573-783-2794
Jon T Welch, Pastor, 910 E Chestnut St, Desloge 63601 Ph 573-431-1402 E-mail jtwelch@i1.net
Elsie Cooper, Sec, 10026 Weber Ln, Potosi 63664 Ph 573-438-4990 E-mail hecemc@bluebuzz.com
Delores Cooper, Treas, 220 Williams, Fredericktown 63645 Ph 573-783-2105 E-mail delores3082@sbcglobal.net
René Welch, Supt, 910 E Chestnut St, Desloge 63601 Ph 573-431-1402 E-mail winniewelch@yahoo.com

Jordan, Rt 1, Cross Timbers 65634 (send mail to Greg Sundwall)
Greg Sundwall, Supt, Rt 1, Cross Timbers 65634 Ph 417-998-6622
Evelynn Sundwall, Sec/Treas, Rt 1, Bx 1530, Cross Timbers 65634 Ph 417-998-6622

Lockwood, Rt 2, Lockwood 65682
Abner Fyfe, 203 Long St, Jerico Springs 64756 Ph 417-398-2308
Jim & Marilyn Pirtle, Sec/Treas, PO Bx 73, Arcola 65603 E-mail pirtlem47@hotmail.com

Morse Mill, PO Bx 115, Morse Mill 63066
Wade Tierney, Pastor, 588 Bon Oak, Sullivan 63080 Ph 573-468-2745 E-mail SPRINK159@hotmail.com
Susan Falcone, Sec, PO Bx 173, Cedar Hill 63016 Ph 636-274-9888 E-mail susan_falcone@unigroupinc.com
Jodie Dunn, Supt, Bx 32, Morse Mill 63066 Ph 636-274-7177 E-mail dunn783@aol.com
Bill Dunn, Treas, Bx 32, Morse Mill 63066 Ph 636-274-7177 E-mail dunn783@aol.com
Piccola Crader, Miss Chair, 7 El Sahara, Cedar Hill 63016 Ph 636-274-2617
Fred Gerullis, CGC*, 304 Cannon Mines Rd, Cadet 63630 Ph 636-337-7425 E-mail f.gerullis@worldnet.att.net

Peculiar (Countryside Bible Church), 21705 S State Rd, Peculiar 64078 (Mailing Address 500 S Aspen Dr, Raymore 64083) Ph 816-779-4445
Don R Ward, Pastor, 500 S Aspen, Raymore 64083 Ph Res 816-331-0014 Fax 816-331-0256 E-mail drwraymore@comcast.net
Doris Elkins, Sec, 411 S Washington, Raymore 64083 Ph 816-331-6648
Ben Williams, Supt, 305 W Calico Dr, Raymore 64083 Ph 816-331-0091
Robin Simpson, Treas/Miss Chair, 304 Sandra Ln, Belton 64012 Ph 816-331-7117 E-mail SAARJ304@SBCGlobal.net
John Smead, Bd Chair, 247 NE 85, Warrensburg 64093 Ph 660-747-8571

Springfield, Rt 4, Bx 186 or 2755 E Stanford, Springfield 65804
Micah Gilmore, Sec/Supt, 5704E Big Bear Ln, Rogersville 65742 Ph 417-753-2936
Susan Waggener, Treas, 3389 S Hwy 125, Rogersville 65742 Ph 417-753-2307

NEBRASKA

Omaha (Jaynes St Community), 7534 Jaynes St, Omaha 68134 Ph 402-571-2537
Scott Ross, Pastor/Miss Chair, 7606 Jaynes St, Omaha 68134 Ph Off 402-571-2537 Res 402-571-7221 E-mail ruhnross@aol.com
Christy Ross, Pastor/CGC*, 6111 N 109th St, Omaha 68164-1500 Ph Off 402-571-2537 Res 402-492-8608 E-mail cjwibel@aol.com
Nancy Ellis, Sec, 2641 N 98th, Omaha 68134 Ph 402-393-1441
Lisa Anderson, Supt, 5510 N 75th St, Omaha 68134 Ph 402-573-6439
Robert Kmiecik, Treas, 7702 Jaynes St, Omaha 68134 Ph 402-571-7490
Jeff and Christy Wibel, Yth Ldrs, 6111 N 109th St, Omaha 68164 Ph 402-492-8608
Jonathan Ross, Bd Chair, 8310 Wyoming St, Omaha 68122-1497 Ph 402-573-8074 E-mail jonjulee@aol.com
Dale Sperry, Sr Min Coord, 1375 N 72nd St, Omaha 68112 Ph 402-571-3544

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

Pres: Jim Snyder, 1020 Race Dr, Troy 45373 Ph 937-335-2836
Vice Pres: David Hixson, 7599 Lauver Rd, Pleasant Hill, 45359 Ph 937-676-3674 E-mail Bucboy14@aol.com
Sec: Brenda Kobelka, 929 West Av, Elyria, 44035 Ph 440-323-9159 E-mail bskobelka@alltel.net
Treas: Vickie Brewer, 5600 Monroe Concord Rd, West Milton, 45383 Ph 937-698-6777 E-mail mrmopar6489@woh.rr.com
Yth Dir: John Huston, 23 Lee Cir, West Milton, 45383 Ph 937-698-4950

**NORTHEAST CONFERENCE CHURCHES
— OHIO, ONTARIO**

- Bedford, OH (Church of the Open Bible)**, 689 Adams St, Bedford 44146 Ph 440-232-3970 Website openbible.homestead.com
Rex Cain, Pastor/Sr Min Coord, 730 Washington St, Bedford 44146 Ph Off & Res 440-232-3970 E-mail rex Cain@juno.com
Kathleen Kostyo, Sec, 9029 Gettysburg Dr, Twinsburg 44087 Ph 330-487-1848
Doris Schuld, Treas, 1572 Bradford Dr, Macedonia 44056-1412 Ph 330-467-5238 E-mail freds chuld@hotmail.com
Mary Ellen Jones, Supt, 7475 Country Ln, Chagrin Falls 44022 Ph 440-543-4736
Rex and Sharon Cain, Yth Ldrs, 730 Washington St, Bedford 44146 Ph 440-232-3970
Pamela Weaver, Miss Chair, 5046 High Mill Av NW, Massillon 44646 Ph 330-833-3628
Mark Cain, Bd Chair, 1220 Orchard Park Dr, Rocky River 44116 Ph 440-356-3152
James Frederick, CGC*, 1995 Eloise Cir NE, Hartville 44632 Ph 330-877-9963
- Cleveland, OH (Golden Rule)**, 5339 Strawberry Ln, Willoughby 44094 Ph 440-951-3176 Website grcog.homestead.com
Richard G Phillis, Pastor/Sec, 5339 Strawberry Ln, Willoughby 44094 Ph 440-951-3176 E-mail rickybabe450@m.s.n.com
Vicki Waddell, Treas, 13420 Merl Av, Lakewood 44107 Ph 216-228-6569 E-mail vdw306@aol.com
- Columbia Station, OH (Columbia Christian Fellowship)**, 38494 Misty Meadow Tr, N Ridgeville 44039 Ph 440-327-6816
David Swartz, Pastor, 38494 Misty Meadow Tr, N Ridgeville 44039 Ph Off 216-252-7300 Ext 1914 Res 440-327-6816 Fax 216-252-6597 E-mail daveswartz@aol.com
- Fonthill, ON (Glad Tidings Church)**, 1 Pancake Ln, Bx 293, Fonthill, ON Canada L0S 1E0 Ph 905-892-5122 Website fonthill.homestead.com
Michael Brown, Pastor, 9 Pancake Ln, Fonthill, ON Canada L0S 1E2 Ph Off & Fax 905-892-5122 Res 905-892-3802 E-mail matthew6.33@cogeco.ca
Ruth Johnson, Sec, 107 Classic Av, Welland, ON Canada L3B 1P6 Ph 905-735-7927
Elaine Shute, Treas, 50 Elm Dr E, Suite 1002, Mississauga, ON, Canada L5A 3X2 Ph 905-848-0712 E-mail eshute@sympatico.ca
Diane Brown, Chr Ed Dir, 9 Pancake Ln, Fonthill, ON Canada L0S 1E2 Ph 905-892-3802 E-mail matthew6.33@cogeco.ca
Gerry & Eleanor Cook, Yth Ldrs, RR 3, Wainfleet, ON Canada L0S 1V0 Ph 905-899-1594
Reuben McArthur, Outreach Chair, 73 Centennial Dr, Welland, ON, Canada L3C 2M5 Ph 905-734-6770 E-mail rmcarthur@sympatico.ca
Howard Shute, Bd Chair, 200 Hwy 20 W, Unit 408B, RR#1, Ridgeville, ON Canada L0S 1M0 Ph 905-892-9342
- Lawrenceville, OH**, 4444 St Paris Pike, Springfield 45504 Ph 937-964-1441 E-mail lwrncvlcog@springnet.cc
Alan Cain, Pastor, 4005 Willow Dale Rd, Springfield 45504 Ph Off 937-964-1441 Res 937-964-8686 E-mail thecains@springnet.cc
Alberta Stevens, Sec, 76 S Main, PO Bx 137, North Hampton 45349 Ph 937-964-1104
June Doughman, Treas, 3662 Ballentine Pike, Springfield 45502 Ph 937-964-1463
Jill Hedges, Yth Ldr, 4017 St Paris Pike, Springfield 45504 Ph 937-390-0813
Leslie McDermott, Chr Ed Dir, 1831 Hillside Av, Springfield 45503 Ph 937-325-0223 E-mail leslie_circle@hotmail.com
- Pleasant Hill, OH**, N Main St, Bx 1, Pleasant Hill 45359 Ph 937-676-5842
Scott Deane, Pastor, 6979 W St Rt 55, Ludlow Falls 45339 Ph Off & Res 937-698-4492 E-mail pleasanthillcog@aol.com
Monica Stine, Sec, 9275 W St Rt 571, Laura 45337 Ph 937-947-1400
Pegge Stine, Treas, 3183 S Elleman Rd, Ludlow Falls 45339 Ph 937-698-4087
Dan Stine, Supt, 542 S Plum St, Troy 45373 Ph 937-332-3759
Tom Moore, Yth Ldr, 3852 Jaysville-St John's Rd, Greenville 45331 Ph 937-548-4095
Shirley Vance, Miss Chair, 4359 Kiser Lake Rd, St Paris 43072 Ph 937-362-3319
Daryl Moore, Bd Chair/Sr Min Coord, 7362 Alternate 49-E, Arcanum 45304 Ph 937-692-6142
- Springfield, OH (North Hills)**, 2950 Moorefield Rd, Springfield 45502 Ph 937-399-4222 Website www.northhillschurch.org
Seth Ross, Pastor, 4343 Middle Urbana Rd, Springfield 45503 Ph Off 937-399-4222 Res 937-342-1485 E-mail soross@juno.com
Renee Pierce, Sec, 3130 Baker Rd, Springfield 45504 Ph 937-390-7581 E-mail srpierce@voyager.net
Beth Williams, Treas, 4555 Upper Valley Pike, Springfield 45502 Ph 937-969-8425 E-mail bewillia@health-partners.org
Cheryl Dickerson, Bd Chair/Chr Ed Dir, 4533 Upper Valley Pike, Springfield 45502 Ph 937-969-8292 E-mail

cheryl_dickerson@hotmail.com

Reese Turton, Wor Ldr, 1521 Uplands Dr S, Springfield 45506 Ph 937-323-3005 E-mail viewpnt@glasscity.net

Tipp City, OH (Brush Creek), 6370 S Kessler-Frederick Rd, Tipp City 45371

Faye Pearson, Sec, 6625 S Troy-Frederick Rd, Tipp City 45371 Ph 937-667-3265

Wayne Brewer, Treas, 5600 Monroe-Concord Rd, West Milton 45383 Ph 937-698-6777 E-mail mrmopar6489@woh.rr.com

Allen Smith, Supt, 217 Market St, West Milton 45383 Ph 937-698-4366

Vickie Brewer, Yth Ldr/Sr Min Coord, 5600 Monroe Concord Rd, West Milton 45383 Ph 937-698-6777

Richard K Smith, Miss Chair, 7100 S Kessler-Frederick Rd, West Milton 45383 Ph 937-698-6393

Jim Moore, Bd Chair, 5380 Weaver-Ft Jefferson Rd, Greenville, 45331 Ph 937-548-7135

Troy, OH (Troy View), 1879 Staunton Rd E, Troy 45373 Ph 937-335-2914 Website www.troyview.org

Steve Zimbelman, Pastor, 250 Wisteria Dr, Troy 45373 Ph Off 937-335-2914 Res 937-335-2754 E-mail stevezimb@yahoo.com

Genie Scott, Sec, 1960 Staunton Rd E, Troy 45373 Ph 937-335-1139 E-mail rdscott27@aol.com

Walt Pemberton, Treas, 6605 East Casstown-Clark Rd, Casstown 45312 Ph 937-335-4109 E-mail wpemberton@erinet.com

Bruce Burnside, Supt, 598 Market St, Troy 45373 Ph 937-339-6297

Melanie Grote, Yth Ldr, 19205 Co Rd 25A, Troy 45373

Trudy Robinson, Miss Chair, 1409 Waco St, Troy 45373 Ph 937-339-5952

Rusty Kaffenbarger, Bd Chair, PO Bx 77, Christiansburg 45389 Ph 937-857-9320

Betty Newnam, Sr Min Coord, 926 Clay St, Troy 45373 Ph 937-335-6806

Urbana, OH (Chapel Hill Church), 1155 N Ludlow Rd, Urbana 43078 Ph Off 937-653-4211

Kelly Krebehenne, Sec, 258 N Main St, St Paris, OH 43072

Sandy Duckwall, Co-Treas/Sr Min Coord, 4040 Ryland Dr, Springfield 45503 Ph 937-399-8353

Shirley Wood, Co-Treas/Yth Dir, 16093 Maple Av, Belle Center 43310 Ph 937-842-2803 E-mail dewood@bright.net

Annelie Krebehenne, Supt, 258 N Main St, St Paris, OH 43072

Nancy Bumgarner, Miss Chair, 4307 Swisher Rd, Urbana 43078 Ph 937-652-4075

Don Wood, Elder/Bd Chair, 16093 Maple Av, Belle Center 43310 Ph 937-842-2803 E-mail dewood@bright.net

TENNESSEE

Nashville, meeting at 7043 Old Clarksville Pike, Joelton 37080

Roger T Mattus, Head Elder, 7043 Old Clarksville Pike, Joelton 37080 Ph 615-477-8485

Jeffrey Mattus, Assoc Pastor, 174 Rural Academy Ln, Brush Creek 38547 Ph 615-683-6492 E-mail mattus@dtccom.net

Kathryn A Mattus, Sec/Treas, 174 Rural Academy Ln, Brush Creek 38547 Ph 615-683-6492 E-mail mattus@dtccom.net

TEXAS

Gatesville, 338 State School Rd, Gatesville 76528 Website www.htcomp.net/cogfoa, Webmaster, Bobby Sanders E-mail kb5czh@htcomp.net

Travis Ramsey, Pastor, 803 Waco St, Gatesville 76528 Ph Off 254-865-5067 Res 254-404-8939 E-mail travnkris@hotmail.com

Cherie Weiss, Sec, 9209 W Middle Bosque, Valley Mills 76689 E-mail cweiss89@compuserve.com

Tracy Carothers, Treas, 1182 FM 1829, Gatesville 76528 E-mail bjctlc@n-link.com

Suzanne Henson, Wor Ldr, 405 Straws Mill Rd, Gatesville 76528-2839 E-mail Lodi1326@earthlink.net

Kathy Smith, Bd Chair/Chr Ed Dir, Bx 27, Gatesville 76528 Ph 254-865-7907 E-mail rrtmailmom@aol.com

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

Vice Pres: Steve Adams, 2560 Boyer Rd, Fort Valley 22652 Ph 540-933-6282 E-mail fvadams@shentel.net

Sec: Rob Helenburg, 12811 Madeley Ct, Fairfax 22033 Ph 703-378-0190 E-mail wrobinh@att.net

Treas: Dorothy Boyer, 11261 Fort Valley Rd, Fort Valley 22652 Ph 540-933-6883 E-mail doroboy@shentel.net

Yth Dir: Chris Seiders, 845 Ramsey Rd, Fort Valley 22652 Ph 540-933-6140 E-mail chrisjen@shentel.net

VIRGINIA CHURCHES

Browntown (Cool Spring), Browntown 22610

Dale Ramsey, Pastor, 987 Browntown Rd, Browntown 22610 Ph 540-636-4226 E-mail dcbest@lynxconnect.com
Jennifer Berry, Sec, 4780 Bentonville-Browntown Rd, Bentonville 22610 E-mail jenniferberry@shentel.net
Jennifer Orndorff, Supt, 1304 Baron Pl, Front Royal 22630 Ph 540-636-1195
Robert Coverstone, Treas, 13172 Fort Valley Rd, Fort Valley 22652 Ph 540-933-6271
Flo Coverstone, Bd Chair, 13172 Fort Valley Rd, Fort Valley 22652 Ph 540-933-6271
Keith Rogers, Miss Chair, 1673 W Strasburg Rd, Front Royal 22630 Ph 540-631-0323 E-mail rogerskd@adelphia.net

Fort Valley, PO Bx 123, Fort Valley 22652 Ph 540-933-6704

Chris Seiders, Pastor, 845 Ramsey Rd, Fort Valley 22652 Ph Off 540-933-6704 Res 540-933-6140 E-mail chrisjen@shentel.net
Jay Ramsey, Elder, 12089 Ft Valley Rd, Fort Valley 22652 Ph 540-933-6284 E-mail ramfam@shentel.net
Steve Adams, Elder, 2560 Boyer Rd, Fort Valley 22652 Ph 540-933-6282 E-mail fvadams@shentel.net
Karen Adams, Sec, 2560 Boyer Rd, Fort Valley 22652 Ph 540-933-6282 E-mail fvadams@shentel.net
Louise Ramsey, Supt, 12089 Fort Valley Rd, Fort Valley 22652 Ph 540-933-6284 E-mail ramfam@shentel.net
Gary Ramsey, Bd Chair/Treas, 11545 Fort Valley Rd, Fort Valley 22652 Ph 540-933-6293 E-mail yesmar@shentel.net

Front Royal (Grace Fellowship Church), Front Royal 22630 Ph 540-635-8843

Dennis Baldwin, Pastor, 1137 Kesler Rd, Front Royal 22630 Ph Off 540-671-1945 Res 540-635-1466 E-mail gracetou@Q-express.net
Fay Carroll, Sec, 614 Mount View, Front Royal 22630 Ph 540-635-6174
Tammy Sharp, Treas, 1224 S Fork Dr, Front Royal 22630 Ph 540-622-5102
Ellie Seiders, Supt, 840 W 14th St, Front Royal 22630
Jeff Magalis, Bd Chair, 106 Ridgeway Rd, Front Royal 22630 Ph 540-635-3353

Herndon (Fair Oaks Community Church of God), 3309 W Ox Rd, Herndon 22071 Ph 703-758-9397 (Sunday only) E-mail

jcpknc@home.com Website <http://fairoaks1.homestead.com>
Carolyn P Kohn, Bd Chair, 7711 Ivymount Terrace, Potomac, MD 20854 Ph 301-983-9130 E-mail jcpk@comcast.net
Carolyn M Chapman, Sec/Worship Service Coord, 6046 Finchingfield Rd, Warrenton 20187 Ph 540-347-3934
Nedra Helenburg, Treas, 12811 Madeley Ct, Fairfax 22033 Ph 703-378-0190
Rob Helenburg, Deacon/Miss Chair, 12811 Madeley Ct, Fairfax 22033 Ph 703-378-0190 E-mail wrobinh@worldnet.att.net

WASHINGTON

Bible Faith Church of God, (meeting in homes, contact Secretary for address, etc.)

Sherry Wiltsey, Sec/Treas, 34250 166th Way SE, Auburn 98092 Ph 253-931-3875 E-mail plwsew@qwest.net

Cashmere, Pioneer Av at Evergreen Dr, Cashmere 98815

James Rankin, Pastor, 4350 Mission Creek Rd, Cashmere 98815 Ph 509-782-2266
April Boyce, Sec, Bx 343, Peshastin 98847

Wenatchee, 1835 Western Av, Wenatchee 98801 Ph 509-662-3865

Kirby Davis, Co-Pastor, 1816 Mulberry Ln, Wenatchee 98801 Ph 509-663-1025
Merry Peterson, Co-Pastor/Yth Ldr, 116½ N Miller, Wenatchee 98801 Ph Off 509-662-3865 Res 509-665-9327 E-mail
Merrysparrow@juno.com

Mary Davis, Sec, 1814 Mulberry Ln, Wenatchee 98801 Ph 509-662-2447
Nancy Vadnais, Treas, 693 Highline Dr, E Wenatchee 98801 Ph 509-884-4467
Aaron Davis, Supt, 506 Surry Rd, Wenatchee 98801 Ph 509-662-7275

WISCONSIN

For Beloit New Life Church, see Illinois (Wisconsin) Conference

CHURCH OF GOD MINISTERS

The following have been ordained or granted ministerial recognition by the Church of God General Conference until September 2005.

Spouse's name appears in parentheses.

- An, Steve (Young), 616 Waterford Landing, McDonough, GA 30253 Ph Off 404-362-0052 Res 678-432-2687 E-mail pastoran@earthlink.net
- Astolfi, C Joseph (Karla), 4326 Hillside Dr, Lafayette, IN 47909-3424 Ph 765-477-7350 E-mail joe4326@localline.com
- Baldwin, Dennis J (Rachel), 1137 Kesler Rd, Front Royal, VA 22630 Ph Off 540-671-1945 Res 635-1466 E-mail gracetou@Q-express.net
- Bliss, Dale T (Julie), 2696 Wynterpointe Ct, Kokomo, IN 46901 Ph Off 765-455-9866 Res 868-8180 Cell 765-271-2435 E-mail dale_bliss@hotmail.com
- Bolhous, Stephen (Joyce), 107 Commercial St, Welland, ON, Canada L3B 5Z1 Ph 905-714-9527 E-mail sbolhous@cogeco.ca
- Brown, Michael (Diane), 9 Pancake Ln, Fonthill, ON L0S 1E2 Ph Off 905-892-5122 Res 892-3802 E-mail matthew6.33@cogeco.ca
- Bryant, Neal (Debbie), 6609 Samantha Ln, Rockford, IL 61107 Ph Off 815-399-1541 Res 226-8624 E-mail neal_bryant1@yahoo.com
- Burnett, Francis E, 203 S 3rd St, Apt 108, Oregon, IL 61061 Ph 815-732-1546
- Burnham, Gary (Lori), 285 Royal St, McDonough, GA 30252, Ph Off 404-362-0052 Res 770-898-0048 E-mail gburnham@abc-coggc.org
- Cain, Alan (Susan), 4005 Willow Dale Rd, Springfield, OH 45504 Ph Off 937-964-1441 Res 964-8686 E-mail thecains@springfieldohio.com
- Cain, Rex F (Sharon), 730 Washington St, Bedford, OH 44146-3652 Ph Off & Res 440-232-3970 E-mail rexcairn@juno.com
- Cardwell, Darrell (Tara), 13263 4th Rd, Plymouth, IN 46563 Ph Off & Res 574-675-0847 E-mail dectlc@mchsi.com
- Cheatwood, David W (Wanda), 821 W Chase St, Macomb, IL 61455 Ph Off 309-833-2835 Res 833-1959 E-mail dwcheatwood@hotmail.com
- Cheatwood, Jon (Sarah), 117 Hunters Chase, McDonough, GA 30253 Ph Off 678-357-7693 Res 678-432-6898 Fax 404-362-9337 mail jonc@abc-coggc.org
- Cisler, Michael (Melinda), 7212 Courtland Dr NE, Rockford, MI 49341 Ph Off 616-866-9888 Res 866-7259 E-mail mcisler@usxchange.net
- Deane, Scott A (Theresa), 6979 W St Rt 55, Ludlow Falls, OH 45339 Ph Off & Res 937-698-4492 E-mail pleasanthillcog@aol.com
- Demmitt, Greg (Karen), 825 E Drake, Tempe, AZ 85283 Ph 480-838-4240 Res 820-9885 Cell 480-824-8311 E-mail demmitt@amug.org
- Driskill, J Leon (Deloris), 132 Jay St, East Peoria, IL 61611 Ph 309-694-4535
- Fewell, Steven R (Deborah), 425 Blue Heron Dr, Pulaski, WI 54162 Ph Off 920-494-0225 Res 822-1221 E-mail srfdfg@netnet.net
- Fletcher, J Jeffrey (Karen), 4 Reed St, Pelzer, SC 29669 Ph Off 864-947-9555 Res 947-8479 E-mail Revjeff@charter.net
- Fyfe, Daniel W (Charlotte), 111 Rugby Forest Ln, Hendersonville, NC 28791 Ph 828-692-0440
- Gallagher, Michael (Julie), 109 S Main St, PO Box 206, Christiansburg, OH 45389 Ph Off 937-508-1211 Res 857-9658 E-mail mgallagher777@earthlink.net
- Goit, Edward H, Sr (Viola), 130 18th Av, N Tonawanda, NY 14120-2703 Ph 716-693-6184
- Good, Mark, 171 S Broadview, Greenbrier, AR 72058 Ph 501-679-5979 E-mail mwgood@cyberback.com
- Hall, Ray (Susan), 5631 Madison Av SE, Kentwood, MI 49548-5910 Ph Off 616-532-2400 Res 531-6151 E-mail gardenparkchurch@juno.com
- Hearp, John, 1542 Briarwood Terrace, Springfield, OH 45504-1508 Ph 937-399-7589 E-mail johnhearp@juno.com
- Hill, James (Linda), 113 Dera Ln, Royal, AR 71968-9480 Ph 501-767-2891
- Hoffman, Michael (Linda), 740 W Oregon Trail Rd, Oregon, IL 61061 Ph Off 815-732-6847 Res 732-2604 E-mail hoffon@aol.com
- Jeong, Bong-Ki (Soon Ya), #430-19 GALHYAN-Dong, Umpyung-Goo, Seoul, Korea
- Kennedy, Billie (Irene), 23544 Blood River Rd, Springfield, LA 70462 Ph 225-294-6879 E-mail pilgrim@i-55.com

Kennedy, Dan (Amy), 422 S Elida St, Winnebago, IL 61088 Ph Off 815-335-1405 Res 335-1638 Fax 239-9335 E-mail
dajakennedy@aol.com

Kim, Kab Soo (Soon Yim), 5790 Trammell Rd, Morrow, GA 30260 Ph 404-366-9368

Kim, Soo Young (Jin Sook), 5788 Trammell Rd, Morrow, GA 30260 Ph 404-429-1877

Kirkpatrick, Vivian E, II (Paula), 1075 Sherwood St SE, Hutchinson, MN 55350 Ph Off 320-234-3527 Fax 587-7496 E-mail
vekirkpatrick@mchsi.com

Krogh, David (Lynne), 1992 Tiffany Ln, Jonesboro, GA 30236 Ph Off 404-362-0052 Res 770-603-7506 Fax 404-362-9307 E-mail
dkrogh@abc-coggc.org

Lawrence, Stanley L (Hilda), 1721 Fircrest Dr SE, Apt 208, Port Orchard, WA 98366 Ph 360-871-3224

Lee, Jea Hun (Eun Woo), 207 Yorktown Rd, Clarksville, TN 37042

Macy, Emory, 738 E Main, Weiser, ID 83672 Ph 208-549-3104

Magaw, Russell (Joyce), 102 Splendor Ct, Stillman Valley IL 61084 Ph Off 815-732-6847 Res 645-8514 E-mail
rmstillmanv@wmconnect.com

Martin, Joe (Rebekah), 6790 Wendy Jean Dr, Morrow, GA 30260-7000 Ph Off 404-362-0052 Res 770-961-6746 E-mail
jmartin@abc-coggc.org

Martin, Rebekah (Joe), 6790 Wendy Jean Dr, Morrow, GA 30260 Ph 770-961-6746 rrebrn@yahoo.com

Mattison, Jim (Martha), 250 Stoneybrook, Pelzer, SC 29669 Ph 864-947-6692 E-mail jim_matt@charter.net

Mayberry, Larry W (Karen), 7541 Burlingame SW, Byron Center, MI 49315 Ph Off 616-452-3119 Res 878-7118 Fax 452-3110 Cell
915-8507 E-mail larrymayberry@juno.com

Meyers, Rufus (Jerri), 11061 Knotty Pine Pl, Hampton, GA 30228 Ph Off 770-656-4708 Res 210-2072 E-mail
ministtermeyers@hotmail.com

Millard, Michele (Scott), 14221 Seward St, Omaha, NE 68154 Ph Off 402-280-2461 Res 404-492-9082 E-mail
mmillard@creighton.edu

Montgomery, Michael (Myra), 405 Guthrie Grove Church Rd, Pelzer SC 29669 Ph Off 864-947-9717 Res 947-7660 E-mail
mymimont@charter.net

Moore, Jeff (Terri), 50585 171st Ave, Verndale, MN 56481 Ph 218-445-5792 E-mail houslite@wcta.net

Moore, Linford W, 3499 W 4th St, Waterloo, IA 50701 Ph 319-233-6918

Nelson, John, 2316 W Alta St, Springfield, MO 65810 Ph Off 417-326-8265 Res 886-8609 E-mail jellybean130@juno.com

New, Thomas M (Debbie), 29 Sheila Dr, Greenbrier, AR 72058 Ph Off & Fax 501-679-6170 Res 679-3037 E-mail
tnew@cyberback.com

Partlowe, Hollis (Hilda), 605 Webster St, Oregon, IL 61061 Ph 815-732-3723

Peterson, Merry, 116 1/2 N Miller, Wenatchee, WA 98801 Ph Off 509-662-3865 Res 665-9327 E-mail Merrysparrow@juno.com

Railton, John A (Alice), 52100 Woodsedge Dr, Granger, IN 46530 Ph Off & Fax 574-277-8577 Res 277-3991 E-mail
John@TimberlandBibleChurch.org

Ramsey, Dale (Connie), 987 Browntown Rd, Browntown, VA 22610 Ph 540-636-4226 E-mail dcbest@lynxconnect.com

Ramsey, Travis (Kristen), 803 Waco St, Gatesville, TX 76528 Ph Off 254-865-5067 Res 404-8939 E-mail travnkris@hotmail.com

Riley, David (Anne), 530 N Oakland Cir, McDonough, GA 30253 Ph Off 404-362-0052 Res 770-914-7404 Fax 404-362-9307 E-mail
driley@abc-coggc.org

Ritch, James D (Rebecca), 2385 Walt Arney Rd, Lenoir, NC 28645 Ph 828-728-2307 E-mail reshope@msn.com

Ross, Kent (Cheryl), 6875 Fielder Way, Rex, GA 30273-2416 Ph Off 678-464-8321 Res 770-960-9001 E-mail kentross@aol.com

Ross, Scott (Gayle), 7606 Jaynes St, Omaha, NE 68134-2342 Ph Off 402-571-2537 Res 571-7221 E-mail ruhnross@aol.com

Ross, Seth (Stacey), 4343 Middle Urbana Rd, Springfield, OH 45503 Ph Off 937-399-4222 Res 342-1485 E-mail soross@juno.com

Rowden, Curtis (Anita), 109 W Mt Vernon, PO Box 113, Metamora, IL 61548-0113 Ph Off 657-4856 Res 367-4376 E-mail
wowden@mtco.com

Scott, Connie S, 10909 Vale St NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433 Ph Off 763-493-4158 Res 464-4830 E-mail connie928@aol.com

Seiders, Chris (Jennifer), 845 Ramsey Rd, Fort Valley, VA 22652 Ph 540-933-6704 Res 933-6140 E-mail chrisjen@shentel.net

Shmead, Daniel (Carolyn), 513 Maple St, Bx 496, Eden Valley 55329 Ph Off 320-453-6375 Res 320-453-3040 E-mail
dsmead@meltel.net

Sorenson, R Warren (Irene), 3006 Hilldale Av, Simi Valley, CA 93063 Ph Off 805-522-5955 Res 527-8441 E-mail
rwsorenson@dslextreme.com

Spickler, Tim (Shelly), 302 E Cunningham, Winnebago, IL 61088 Ph Off 815-335-1405 Res 335-3612 E-mail
pastortim@winnewlife.com

Swartz, Dale H (Cheryl), 216 E 5th St, Litchfield, MN 55355-1704 Ph Off & Fax 320-693-6391 Res 593-3775 E-mail
dswartz@hutchtel.net

Swartz, David A (Karen), 38494 Misty Meadow Tr, N Ridgeville, OH 44039 Ph Off 216-252-7300 Ext 1914 Res 440-327-6816
E-mail daveswartz@aol.com

Taylor, Steven (Jill), 5702 Colonnade Dr, Rex, GA 30273 Ph 404-362-0052 Res 678-289-1903 E-mail staylor@abc-coggc.org
Tschaenn, Mark (Terri), 922 Prairie Depot, Indianapolis, IN 46241 Ph Res 317-246-1252 E-mail marktschaenn@aol.com

Ward, Donald (Joyce), 500 S Aspen, Raymore, MO 64083 Ph Off 816-761-9551 Res 331-0014 Fax 761-8472 E-mail
drwraymore@comcast.net

Welch, Jon T (René), 910 E Chestnut, Desloge, MO 63601 Ph Off 573-783-2794 Res 431-1402 E-mail jtwelch@i1.net

Westlund, Chaplain O A, Ret, 2611 N Busby Rd, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 Ph 360-675-3463

Winner, Wally (Peggy), 1403 Beaverdam Rd, Williamston, SC 29697 Ph Off 864-845-8038 Res 847-1973 E-mail wtwj@aol.com

Wolfe, Vernis (Iris), 30440 Tamjulon Rd, Albany, LA 70711 Ph-567-1837 E-mail vwolfe@i-55.com

Zimbelman, Steve (Patricia), 250 Wisteria Dr, Troy, OH 45373-9316 Ph Off 937-335-2914 Res 335-2754 E-mail
stevezimb@yahoo.com