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Dear Brethren and Friends,

The Living Jesus Christ, once again, has been sorting out His people. We hope this is the last “shake-up” before the major events of end-time prophecy begin to occur with increasing frequency! And as these events begin to develop momentum, many people will undoubtedly join our ranks—some being deeply converted, some simply to “save” their own hides.

Describing this soon-coming time, Daniel was inspired to write, “And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time” (Dan. 11:33-35). As God’s Work through us continues, there will be many people who will come among us for the right reasons. And perhaps others will come among us for the wrong reasons. But we should sincerely try to serve them all. We have nothing to hide. And we have much to give to every human being who is interested in the Truth.

Brethren, it is obvious that the vast majority in the Living Church of God truly desire to do a significant Work. We understand that our calling involves far more than just serving and “saving” ourselves. As we contemplate the GREAT TRIBULATION we must never forget this powerful instruction from our Creator, “If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, ‘Surely we did not know this,’ does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?” (Prov. 24:10-12).

Also, let us never forget the END-time admonishment of Daniel to God’s faithful people, “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever” (Dan. 12:3). To turn many people to righteousness certainly implies doing an END-time evangelistic Work. It involves going outside the Church—going to the world and being used as instruments in God’s hands to TURN many people to the ways of God!

Certainly we should all have a zeal for “feeding the flock.” For Jesus told Peter three times, “Feed My sheep” (John 21:15-17). Both in encour-

aging and strengthening our brethren, and in obeying Jesus' command, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel" (Mark 16:15), we should follow the Apostle Paul's example of sacrificial zeal. For Paul wrote, "For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means SAVE some" (1 Cor. 9:19, 22).

Each of us can play a vital role in reaching out to the world and in helping, encouraging and building up one another in the Church. We can adapt our approaches and our personalities to help all of those whom God is calling at this time—primarily the "poor of this world to be rich in faith" (James 2:5). We can drive ourselves in Christ's service to get out His Message. We can carefully use our time and our talents and our resources and put them to maximum use in helping others achieve the Kingdom of God. All of us can discipline ourselves in every way to be better "tools" in God's hands that many, many others may be "saved." Yes, it is GOD who does the calling and who does the "saving." But He works through human instruments, "Just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved" (1 Cor. 10:33).

Anyone who tells you that there is not a great Work yet to be done is REALLY "out of touch" with the entire message of the New Testament! For from Matthew to Revelation, we are instructed, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). Then, "He who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations" (Rev. 2:26). And what are Jesus' "works?" Notice carefully John 4:34-36, "Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, "There are still four months and then comes the harvest"? Behold, I say to you, "Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.'"

All of us who have a true "Philadelphia spirit" will realize that we MUST reach out to the world as much as we can. If we do this, we WILL receive "wages"—a magnificent ETERNAL REWARD in the Kingdom of God!

Some are saying that because we are in the Laodicean Era of the Church the "open door" to preach the Gospel is now CLOSED. But the scores of new people attending church and the dozens of people baptized as the result of the telecasts certainly prove otherwise! If we're going to compare apples with apples, perhaps we should research how many "brand new" people were baptized after the first five-and-one-half years of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's work. As I have related, when I graduated from Ambassador College in 1952—fully 18-1/2 years AFTER the Work began—we had fewer than 200 people attending church! So as Mr. Armstrong explained, "It takes TIME to build a listening or viewing audience." It took years and sometimes decades for many people to respond to Mr. Armstrong's

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# How LOYAL Are You?

## Editorial

by Roderick C. Meredith

One of the most vital characteristics of a true Christian is loyalty. Even in the secular realm, loyalty is a highly valued trait of character, yet one that is often abused. How loyal are you to God? To your husband or wife? To your nation? To your employer or boss? Obviously, God tells us that if there is a direct conflict, “we ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

But unless this kind of spiritual conflict exists, God wants us all to learn to be loyal. *Webster’s New World Dictionary* defines loyalty, in part, as “faithfulness” or “faithful adherence to a person, government, cause, duty, etc.” God’s Word tells us, “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct” (Heb. 13:7). And the Apostle Paul was also inspired to write, “Follow me just as I follow Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1, KJV).

Certainly if a religious leader becomes an out-and-out heretic as many of us witnessed in the Church of God several years ago, then a faithful Christian should obey GOD rather than such an apostate leader. However, once you have proved to yourself that God is using a man to faithfully preach His Word and do His Work, then you should follow that man as long as he continues to do the Work and preach the Truth. Anything less than that is DISLOYALTY.

Some may say, “What if the leader has problems?” What if he seemingly makes certain administrative mistakes or errors in judgment? “Should we continue to follow him?”

A good analogy to help us understand this question would be to consider a wife whose husband makes many mistakes. He is faithful to her, but is perhaps weak in leadership, in decision-making and in other areas. Should she leave him? Should she subtly undermine and subvert his authority within the family? Should she try to “overthrow” him as head of the house?

The answer is obvious. What does God’s inspired Word say? “Wives, submit to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything” (Eph. 5:22-24).

It should be clear that God wants all of us to learn and to practice LOYALTY in the home and family, within the Church of God and certainly toward God Himself! Proverbs 24:21-22 tells us, “My son, fear the Lord and the king; do not associate with those given to change; for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring?” If we associate with those “given to change”—those people who are grumbling and murmuring against the head of the company or the human leader of the Church—God is NOT pleased! He says that “calamity” will come suddenly.

Of course, there are always going to be excuses or “reasons” to try to undermine or overthrow any leader

in the minds of some. Except for Jesus Christ, no man on earth has ever been or is now perfect. Even King David, the “man after God’s own heart” was far from perfect as we all know. If you had lived back then and seen David’s humanity—his over-eagerness to go to war, his lust for another man’s wife and his subsequent murder of her husband and the attempted “cover-up” until directly confronted by Nathan the prophet—would you have remained LOYAL to King David or not?

“But David lived back in Old Testament times,” you may say, “and he made the kind of blatant mistakes no New Testament Christian should ever make!” That is only partially true, as many genuine Christians can testify from their own experiences.

Consider the example of the Apostle Paul, the man God used to raise up many churches and write more books in the New Testament than any other person. Surely he didn’t leave himself open to this kind of criticism! Really? Paul himself tells us, “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells, for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice” (Rom. 7:18-19). We also find that Paul had a number of critics who thought he didn’t look very impressive and felt he was a poor preacher: “For his letters’, they say, ‘are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible” (2 Cor. 10:10).

So if you can only be loyal to a virtually “perfect” person you will

*continues on page 13*

# Church Government and Church Priorities

There has been much confusion in recent months surrounding the proper Biblical guidelines for Church governance, and on the importance of the Great Commission in the Church's setting of priorities. The Living Church of God was formed as a result of conflicting perspectives on these issues. The article below was excerpted from a letter written by the Church's Treasurer, Fred Dattolo.

## Conflict on How the Church Should be Governed

Those who have read all of the papers recently mailed to the ministry and membership in an attempt to rebut Dr. Meredith's letter to the membership will notice that these papers repeatedly imply that the "government" booklet is the only document that the Church should use in formulating its position on government. For example, it is stated that "the Government booklet is VERY CLEAR as how the NT Church functioned, and as how, then, GCG would function" (*letter to the Council of Elders, May 11, 1998*). There are several problems with this conclusion. First, the booklet had a specific purpose. Note how Dr. Meredith himself explains it:

"This booklet is NOT intended to be a thorough discussion of all the details and ramifications of church government. Please understand that. Rather, it is intended to help honest and courageous Christians know what they should do when the controlling leadership positions in their church organization become hijacked or corrupted by evil men whose agenda is to turn that church from the Truth" (*When Should You Follow Church Government? October 1995, p.2*).

In other words, as Dr. Meredith stated on several occasions, his intent was to show the brethren that when the leader of God's Church quits preaching the Truth, the brethren are not obliged to remain in the corporate organization. Therefore, the emphasis of the booklet supports the purpose for which he wrote it. Even so, contrary to what certain individuals would have us believe, Dr. Meredith did not say that Peter was not a leader among equals! Although he did not emphasize it as much as he could have with dozens of scriptures, he nevertheless states:

"You do find that Peter took the lead among the original twelve apostles and was acknowledged...as the main speaker and leader...Peter was entrusted with the administrative supervision of preaching Christ's Gospel

to the 'circumcision'" (*ibid. p.12*). Let us now use an analogy to explain this further.

What is the purpose of the booklet on tithing? Is it to explain everything there is to know about tithing or simply to introduce newcomers to the concept? What if one takes the same approach to the tithing booklet that is taken to the government booklet? One would then have to insist that the tithing booklet be the only document the Church use in formulating its position on tithing. Furthermore, one could assume that the author does not believe in second or third tithe since these concepts are not mentioned in his booklet! This is absurd, of course. Why do some insist on applying the same logic to the government booklet? It does not make sense. Just as the Church has published articles that expand the tithing booklet, it has likewise published articles that expand the government booklet. Examples include the article by Dr. Meredith, *What is the Biblical Form of Church Government?* (GCN, Sept/Oct 1995) and the article written by me, *An Open Letter in Defense of Global* (GCN, July/Aug 1996). These articles amplify and add to the narrowly defined purpose of the booklet!

There is another problem with such a conclusion. The Church has consistently stated that it follows the teachings of Mr. Armstrong. To accept a narrow interpretation of the booklet alone—while ignoring other articles and sermons—is contradictory to what Mr. Armstrong clearly taught. Reading material written by Mr. Armstrong is shocking and eye opening by comparison because it shows how far those holding this opinion have strayed from the Truth about government we all learned under God's end-time apostle! [Please refer to selected excerpts from a 1979 article by Mr. Armstrong, presented at the end of this article]

There is yet one more problem in respect to the narrow use of the government booklet. Such use seems to elevate it, incomplete as it is, higher than the Scripture. Notice this comment in a letter to the Council of Elders,

dated May 11, 1998. It states “Fred Dattolo’s letter, with all respect, should not be given a position of overriding the clear statements of [the booklet]”. This letter contained a compilation of key scriptures showing that Peter was indeed chief, or first among equals, as well as quotes by Mr. Armstrong on the subject—all summarily dismissed in one sentence.

For months, many waited for someone to address the scriptures brought out in that letter. Dr. Meredith did so in a sermon on government given at headquarters on November 7. Some in the congregation felt it was the most **balanced** sermon on government they had ever heard. Some expected the study papers by Church leaders to shed some light on these scriptures too, but they were for the most part ignored. One paper does indirectly refer to one of these scriptures. Notice this statement: “Some think it proper to call Peter ‘first among equals.’ The Bible never uses this terminology...” (A *CANDID A-N-A-L-Y-L-Y-S-I-S* [sic] of R.C.M.’s Paper Entitled: “*THE CORRECT APPLICATION OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT?*” page 10). Is this a true statement according to the scriptures?

In Matthew 10:2, the apostle Matthew states this: “Now the names of the twelve apostles [all equal in rank] are these: **first**, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother...”. Does the word “first” [Greek “protos”] merely imply chronological order? No! The Gospel of John shows that the apostle Andrew was called before his brother Peter (John 1:35-41). Andrew was the one who told Peter he had found the Messiah, so Andrew was “first” *in that sense*. What could it mean then? Notice how the Greek word “protos” is used in the following passages:

Matthew 20:27— “And whoever desires to be **first** (KJV: “chief”) among you, let him be your slave.”

Matthew 22:38— “This is the **first** and great commandment.”

Luke 15:22— “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the **best** robe’...”

Acts 16:12— “and from there to Philippi, which is the **foremost** city of that part...”

Acts 28:7— “Now in that region there was an estate of the **leading** citizen...”

I Timothy 1:15— “...that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am **chief**.”

Revelation 2:4— “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your **first** love.”

Obviously, these passages speak about much more than simply being first on a list! When one considers all the scriptures pertaining to Peter, it is easy to conclude that Peter was, as Mr. Armstrong put it, the **CHIEF** apostle. This agrees with what Matthew stated. In other words, Peter was “first among equals”!

A balanced study of this topic would have included many basic scriptures that were ignored. For example,

when does Christ change a man’s name and what significance does it have? He changed Abram’s name to Abraham, Jacob’s name to Israel and Simon’s name to Peter—meaning “a stone” (John 1:42). Christ was the Rock! Do we just overlook that fact or do we accept that Peter (the stone) had authority under Christ (the

Rock)? What significance is there in the fact that only Peter received the “keys” of the kingdom (Matthew 16:19)? What do other scriptures tell us about “keys”?

What significance do we place on the fact that Christ used Peter **first**, to “open up salvation to the Gentiles” as Mr. Armstrong often put it, even though that was Paul’s commission? When this was mentioned to an evangelist several months ago in his office, he replied “that is not correct” and referred me to Acts 8:14, citing that both Peter and John were first sent to the Gentiles. This is not exactly what that scripture says. Referring to Peter alone, Acts 15:7 states: “Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.”

Now, look at Acts 15. Was Peter just a figurehead, merely a coordinator, or did he have real authority over

**“What caused God to withdraw His blessing and power?”**

**...Following different leaders, speaking different things, watering down the sacred and precious truths of Christ!”**

**-Herbert W. Armstrong, WN, Feb. 19, 1979**

the other apostles, as long as they were together in Jerusalem? Mr. Armstrong said that “this crucial crux chapter [Acts 15] has been misunderstood, twisted and distorted” (WN, Feb. 19, 1979, page 4). He also stated that “the Jerusalem conference showed that PETER was predominant over even Paul” (*ibid.* page 2). In Acts 15, we find that there was “**much dispute**”, “**long discussion**” or a “**keen controversy**” as different translations render verse 7. When a decision finally had to be made, this evangelist assumed that there was “consensus”. The Bible does not say that!

After all the debating and listening to all sides, Peter rose up to settle the dispute. Notice after he spoke that “**all the multitude kept silent**”, “**there was no further discussion**”, that “**this silenced the entire assembly**” as different translations render verse 12.

As Mr. Armstrong put it, “the other apostles and ministers were all in confusion, arguing and disputing. But CHRIST silenced them by speaking through His CHOSEN chief apostle, Peter” (*ibid.* page 4). Peter had spoken and that settled the matter. Paul and Barnabas went on to give “the NEWS of what God had [done] through their ministry. They were NOT giving their input to the disputed question—the question had been SETTLED—by PETER” (*ibid.* page 2). As pastor of the Jerusalem Church, “James merely CONFIRMED Peter’s decision, making it official” (*ibid.* page 2). Then we see the ministry rally around the decision because they supported Peter’s role as their leader. You must read the article to get the in-depth analysis of Mr. Armstrong’s interpretation of Acts 15. In light of all the scriptures pertaining to Peter, these novel interpretations of Acts 15 do not make sense—Mr. Armstrong’s interpretation of Acts 15 fits with the totality of Scripture. The Bible shows there was support for the decision but it does not say there was a consensus.

## Conflict Regarding the Church’s Mission

The proper form of Church government is only one of the issues of conflict that resulted in the establishment of the Living Church of God. The other is the focus that the Church should have in accomplishing its Work. It may be

helpful to consider the document “Strategic Plan, presented to the Global Church of God’s Council of Elders, September 8, 1998”. Notice these quotes:

“SUBSTANTIALLY ALL FEEL...when we are focused properly, God will bless the Work...”

“The consensus is that available resources, money and people, should be focused at this time, on building and strengthening Headquarters and the Ministry.”

“Thus ‘the feeding of the flock’ would become our highest priority, for a time” (emphasis ours). This recom-

mendation was made in spite of the fact that “feeding of the flock” had risen to 55 percent of the Church’s annual budget while “preaching the Gospel” had dropped to 34 percent and “administration” had remained constant at 11 percent.

“PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL: During this time of reaching out to our brethren,

we might continue devoting funds to the ‘preaching of the gospel’ in the areas of public access TV in the U.S.” Conspicuously omitted from consideration was WGN.

“OVERALL STATEMENT OF CONCLUSION: Commit the resources that God provides toward the people that God has provided; nurture and strengthen the ‘flock’ that God is providing—to prepare them for His soon Coming. This was the assignment left by God’s Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, at the time of His death.” However, notice Mr. Armstrong’s last words to all the membership, which directly contradict this statement. In his member letter of January 10, 1986—just six days before his death—he states:

“Continue to sacrifice through 1986 to finish the commission God has given His Church”. What did he mean “the” commission? His final words to the membership were these: “Each of you must commit yourself to support God’s Work, to fast and pray. God’s Work must push ahead this coming year as never before. [What did he mean by “God’s Work”?]. God is opening new doors in television and in [magazine] distribution. Help us walk through them. Praise and thank God, and pray for His Work. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for your prayers and for me personally.”

As you know, Mr. Armstrong referred to the proclaiming of the Gospel as the GREAT commission. Notice Luke 4:42-43. The crowd sought to keep Jesus as their

**"To accept a narrow interpretation of the [government] booklet alone—while ignoring other articles and sermons—is contradictory to what Mr. Armstrong clearly taught... those holding this opinion have strayed from the Truth about government we all learned under God’s end-time apostle!"**

Shepherd, for themselves. However, he clearly stated “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, **because for this purpose I have been sent.**” The New Testament pattern was to proclaim the Gospel first and then to feed the sheep. Mr. Armstrong followed the same pattern. Dr. Meredith, in founding the Global Church of God, had the same vision. There is no scriptural basis indicating we should make “feeding the flock” our top priority! We know that Dr. Meredith would not agree with that and it became a point of contention.

### Conclusion

Many who have met with Dr. Meredith, in formal meetings or in informal settings, can confirm that he is not the

person portrayed by some of those opposing his Biblical vision of the Work of the Church.

Between 1993 and 1996, when Dr. Meredith was effectively leading the Global Church of God, there was incredible growth. Even in 1996, the income went up about 20 percent over the year before. Only in the last couple of years did the growth slow to only about 5 percent. WHAT HAPPENED? Notice what Mr. Armstrong wrote in the *Worldwide News*, Feb. 19, 1979:

“WHAT CAUSED GOD TO WITHDRAW HIS BLESSING AND POWER? ...Following different leaders, speaking different things, watering down the sacred and precious truths of Christ...Once such division starts among ministers it is a difficult matter to correct.” You be the judge of whether those words apply today! □

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## Excerpts from an article written by Herbert W. Armstrong, *Worldwide News*, February 19, 1978

“Until about 1969 we in God’s Church *did* all “speak the same thing.” BY 1978 many of the ministers were speaking *different* things! God had withdrawn from us His blessing and power... WHAT CAUSED GOD TO WITHDRAW HIS BLESSING AND POWER?”

“Now *HOW* did God put His doctrines and teachings into His Church in A.D. 31? — before many in the Church turned to another gospel. And *HOW* did the living Christ put God’s doctrines and teachings into His Church TODAY... Only by His chosen apostles.”

“Our teaching and doctrines **MUST COME FROM GOD!** Through **CHRIST!** And through His apostle!... God has always, in dealing with humans, worked through **ONE MAN** at a time — one who believed God!”

“They do not believe God is the **SAME** today and will act the same — **IN HIS OWN TIME!**... God has always worked through one man, primarily, at a time.”

“In founding God’s Church, Jesus worked primarily through one man, Peter, even though He originally chose His 12 disciples. Few have ever noticed how Peter was the real leader.”

“Acts 15: Here is the crux chapter, not generally understood... The Jerusalem conference showed that **PETER** was preeminent over even Paul, although Paul was the **ONE MAN** God worked through primarily in the ministry to gentiles... This crucial crux chapter has been misunderstood, twisted and distorted. I have tried to take space to **MAKE IT CLEAR** in this article.”

“As long as this Church believed and spoke **THE SAME THING** Christ put in it through His apostle, **HE BLESSED IT...**”

# THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING FOCUSED

By Douglas S. Winnail

**O**ne of the most sobering aspects of human existence is that important lessons of history go unheeded or are soon forgotten. As a result, mistakes of the past are repeated again and again by individuals who fail to learn from history. The story of God's Church is no exception. In this article we will examine an important warning the Eternal God inspired and recorded in His Word that has clear application for us today.

## Remarkable Parallels

The history of the Church of God is outlined (in prophetic form) in the 2nd and 3rd chapters of the Book of Revelation. As we approach the end of this age the people of God have grown more concerned about the messages recorded for the Philadelphian and Laodicean eras of the Church—and rightly so! However, it is instructive to notice a number of remarkable similarities between conditions in the Church at the end of the age and the circumstances that existed in the Church during the first century—the Ephesian era.

The Ephesian era represents the Church started by Jesus Christ and the Apostles. Jesus' ministry began in the second decade of the first century (the late 20s). The New Testament Church actually began in the 30s (see Acts 2). The book of Acts covers events in the 30s, 40s and 50s. Paul's epistles were written in the mid-50s and early 60s. These were times of rapid growth in

the early Church. The books of I, II, III John and Revelation were probably written in the 90s. These books indicate that within 60 years of its founding by Jesus Christ and the Apostles, serious problems and divisions had arisen in the Church. The Bible explains why these problems developed, and records lessons that are for our admonition today (I Cor. 10:11).

The modern era of the Church of God appears to have begun in the late 1920s with the call of Herbert Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong started the Radio Church of God in the 1930s. The 50s, 60s and early 70s were periods of rapid growth for the Church of God. However, beginning in the 1970s, problems and divisions were becoming apparent. By the 1990s, after the death of Mr. Armstrong, serious splits and factions developed. Within 60 years of the founding of the modern era, devastating divisions engulfed the Church—just like in the first century! The question is—what can we learn from the lessons of history that God has recorded in His Word? What can we glean from the admonitions given to the Ephesian Church? How can we avoid the mistakes of the past?

## The Warning to Ephesus

The Church at Ephesus, depicting the churches of the first century founded by the Apostles trained by Jesus Christ, is praised for its works, patience, labor and perseverance for the truth of God. They

are also commended for being able to discern true apostles from deceiving impostors (Rev. 2:2-3; see also how Peter handled the encounter with a teacher named Simon in Samaria in Acts 8:9-23). The Scriptures, however, record a sobering admonition to the churches of the Ephesian era! God plainly states, "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen: repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent" (Rev. 2:4-5).

The lesson of the Ephesian era churches is that they lost their original focus! As time went on they drifted away from their founding mission and purpose. They apparently forgot why they had been called out of the world and into the Church. As a result they began to splinter into factions and to follow different leaders with different ideas (I Cor. 1:10-17). In order for us to be able to learn important lessons from the experience of the first century church, we must clearly understand what they lost sight of. We must get a clear focus on the mission and purpose that Jesus Christ outlined for the Church—that they drifted away from!

## The Basic Commission

Today many people have different ideas of why the church was founded and what it is supposed to be doing. However, Jesus Christ gave specific

instructions to his first disciples. The night before He was crucified, Jesus told His disciples “If you love Me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Love of God is equated with following His instructions. After His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus told his disciples to go to all nations “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:20). But just what commands did Jesus give to the disciples He used to raise up the New Testament Church? What was their focus to be? What were they commissioned to do?

Notice the beginning of Christ’s ministry. Jesus told His disciples “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19). He urged them to think bigger than just themselves, and He set an example for them to follow. Jesus was busy preaching the gospel of the coming kingdom of God and attending to the needs of people (Matt. 4:23). When He sent the twelve out on their initial training mission He commissioned them to preach this same gospel of the Kingdom and to heal the sick (Matt. 10:7-8). Jesus also indicated that His disciples would not complete this mission before He returned (Matt. 10:23). Bible prophecy states that this gospel of the kingdom of God would be preached to all the world at the end of the age as a witness (Matt. 24:14). This has been the focus of the Church of God for the last 50-60 years. We have been united in that focus for over half a century.

However, some today feel this job—of preaching the gospel of the coming kingdom of God to the world—has been accomplished. Their focus has turned inward—on getting themselves and the Church ready for Christ to return—instead of sharing the exciting hope of the kingdom with mankind. Today, for some, the gospel has become merely a gospel of “good works”—which Jesus himself said was a misunderstanding of His original instructions (Matt.7:21-23). In

this sense many have begun to drift away from what has been—for nearly a half century—their first love!

A second important purpose given to the Church by Jesus Christ was to warn this world of the sobering and climactic events that will precede His second coming. Entire chapters of three gospels are devoted to this theme—Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21.

Paul, Peter and John emphasize the same warning (II Thes. 2, II Tim. 3, II Pet. 3, and the entire book of Revelation). Jesus repeatedly urged disciples who would be alive at the end of the age to WATCH world events (Matt. 24:36-44; 25:13; Mark 13:32-37). For people to remain alert and watchful, someone needs to function as a WATCHMAN. This is the message of chapters 3 and 33 of Ezekiel. This, too, has been an important function of the Church of God for the last half century! It has been a mission that has united us. However, there are some who feel this is not our job and is no longer necessary. This is another aspect of the “first love” that has been forgotten—a focus that has been lost!

Jesus gave another vital commission to His disciples. He told them to “feed my sheep” (John 21: 15-19). That feeding involves teaching those who are called out of this world about the mission of the Church and how to live by every word of God so they can learn to live according to the rules that will govern every aspect of life in the coming kingdom of God. The Church is to be busy preparing individuals to function as the leaders—kings and priests—in God’s coming kingdom. Such individuals must come to understand the real causes and solutions to the problems facing mankind—not just participate in church social occasions. They must develop the capability to function as part of an effective world-ruling government under Jesus Christ—instead of resisting and resenting godly authority. They must

be of the same mind, able to work together as a smoothly functioning team—instead of being preoccupied with “doing their own thing.”

Sadly, some today seem to feel that having their own minister, their own song books, their own church building or preaching their own ideas is evidence that the flock is being fed. Jesus Christ, however, was moved by His compassion for the plight of mankind (Matt. 23:37) and He urged His true disciples to be willing to sacrifice their personal wishes, ideas and comforts in order to finish the job—of conveying the hope of the gospel to a dying world (Luke 9:58-62). For most of us, learning the Truth of God was not just to feed ourselves. We learned that “to whom much is given, from him much will be required” (Luke 12:48). We felt deeply that our responsibility was to be part of a work that involved sharing the good news we had come to understand and to warn this world of the coming judgment of God. This has been our historical focus!

For decades, through the 30’s, 40’s and 50’s, Mr. Armstrong was the only minister many people ever knew or heard—over radio or TV—yet many people were fed and many people grew spiritually. Today, we have ministers, tapes and videos, magazines and newsletters for feeding the flock as well as preaching the gospel of the coming kingdom of God and for warning the world. To accomplish the fundamental missions of the Church and follow the instructions of Jesus Christ, decisions must be made about the allocation of resources. Not everyone would make those decisions the same way. That is where leadership and respect for leadership comes in. It is the job of those in leadership positions to keep the Church focused on the basic commission Jesus gave to the Church—preaching the gospel of the kingdom to the world, warning the world of coming cataclysmic events, and feeding the flock. All three aspects are important.

We cannot pick and choose from among the three. When some decide to focus on one aspect of the commission and others focus on other aspects divisions arise. This is a fundamental lesson from both the Bible and history.

## Early Zeal

Jesus Christ, as the founder of the Church, set the initial example. He was focused on doing the work He was given to do. He stated to His disciples “my food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish the work” (John 4:34-36). He told His disciples there was plenty of work to do, and that it needed to be done while there was opportunity to do it (John 9:4)! The early disciples followed the example of their Master. The Church began with a sense of unity and common purpose (Acts 2:1, 40-46). They asked God for boldness and guidance as the Church began to grow (Acts 4:29-31). Even in the face of persecution that scattered the Church they “went everywhere preaching the word” that Jesus had given to them (Acts 8:1-4). In the early chapters we find Philip preaching “the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 8:12). In the last chapter of the same book we find the apostle Paul preaching the same gospel of the kingdom of God and teaching about Jesus Christ (Acts 28:23, 31). They continued preaching what they had been commanded by their Master in spite of persecution and threats of physical harm. The initial picture of the first century Church is one of a highly motivated, sharply focused and unified group of believers. They were excited about their calling and their commission. They enthusiastically embraced their “first love.”

## Problems Arise

This ideal situation, however, did not last long. On his last visit to

Ephesus (in 56 or 57 AD) the apostle Paul warned the assembled elders that “after my departure savage wolves (false teachers) will come in among you, not sparing the flock” and that “from among your own selves men will rise up, speaking perverse (misleading) things, to draw away the disciples after themselves” (Acts 20:29-31). Paul had to deal with divisive factions that developed around personalities (I Cor. 1:10-13), with different ideas about what constituted the gospel (Gal. 1:6-9), with different ideas about Jesus Christ and even different spirits that were influencing congregations (II Cor. 11:1-4). Paul clearly labeled those who promoted such divisive ideas as agents of the Devil—in spite of the fact they claimed to be ministers of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 11:12-15).

Nearly every one of the epistles deals with issues that erupted to trouble and divide the early New Testament Church. False teachers and misleading doctrinal ideas seemed to pop up everywhere. Paul warns Timothy that “the time will come when they [people in the Church] will not endure sound doctrine” but having itching ears would flock to false teachers and would “turn their ears away from the truth” to believe fables instead (II Tim. 4:1-5). Paul reminds Titus that a true elder must be found “holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught” (Titus 1:7-9). Peter warned that false teachers would “secretly bring in destructive heresies” and would use “deceptive words” to exploit people and lead them astray (II Pet. 2:1-3). He describes these false teachers as presumptuous, self-willed and despisers of those in authority (II Pet. 2:10).

Near the end of the first century John states that “many deceivers have gone out into the world” (II John :7) and he describes one situation where “Diotrephes, who loves to have the

preeminence” was actually putting true believers out of the congregation he presided over (III John: 9-10). Jude admonishes his audience to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once and for all delivered to the saints” because certain individuals had subtly and deliberately twisted and perverted the instructions and truth that Jesus gave to the original Apostles. The gospel Jesus proclaimed about the coming kingdom of God was altered to become a gospel about Jesus’ person and about love and good works. Instead of looking forward to reigning with Christ on earth converts were told about the glories of going to heaven. In place of the hope of becoming part of God’s family, God was increasingly described as a closed Trinity. Instead of focusing on preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, the Church was divided by arguments over the nature of God.

At the close of the first century the picture of the Ephesian era of the Church—the Church founded by Christ and the Apostles—is of a church that is increasingly divided and struggling with a growing list of false or perverted doctrines promoted by misguided teachers. It is a Church that has lost its unity, its sense of mission and its original focus. This is the context in which John is given the admonition regarding the Ephesian era of the church (Rev. 2:1-7). God reveals that the problems of the early first century Church were due to the fact they had lost their focus! They had drifted off course. They had ceased to follow Christ’s clear example and His specific instructions. This is a sobering indictment, but it is the lesson that God chose to record in the Scriptures about the first century Church. The lesson is preserved in the Bible for those who “have ears to hear!”

## Staying Focused

*continues on page 13*

# Letters of Support and Encouragement

Hundreds of letters, cards and e-mail messages have arrived since the mailing of Dr. Meredith's first letter—to a limited number of brethren—stating the need to “start again” after the actions of the Board of Directors in the Global Church of God.

The general theme in almost every letter is that Dr. Meredith “is the human leader” chosen by God to carry on the Work started through Herbert W. Armstrong. That they indeed heard the “shepherd's voice” through Dr. Meredith. The support is overwhelming in favor of Dr. Meredith's decision to start anew. Many have acknowledged the nearly 50 years of faithful service and the many trials endured by Dr. Meredith because of his steadfast faithfulness, and find that the Work being done through him is of God. Another interesting theme that ran throughout many of the comments was the parallel to Korah's rebellion! A few comments, reflecting members' individual perspectives, are found below:

**From the Tacoma-Seattle, Washington area:**

“There are approximately 55-60 here who are solidly behind you, fully convicted that this is the Church of God and the Work of God, and that God's leadership through Dr. Meredith is a given. We're anxious to do what is needed to stay together and beseech God for His spiritual direction for the Church.”

**From Dickson, TN:**

“It boggles my mind to think that men... I have respected and trusted in the past would do what they have done. But such an action as they have taken can only be likened to Korah's rebellion against Moses. It is unethical, ungodly, and they will have no support from me or my family.”

**From Albion, New York:**

“It seems to me there's nothing new in this latest ‘REBELLION,’ only the names have changed.... It's all about government—who has the authority and who wants the authority. This is open rebellion, pure and simple.”

**From Walker, LA:**

“Ironically, this month (Nov., '98) I received my tithe check back from Global because I had forgotten to sign the check. Coincidence? Maybe, maybe not.”

**From Oakhurst, CA:**

“Well, here we go again. Hang on to the Truth, it's going to be another bumpy ride.”

**From the San Antonio, Texas area:**

“It is exciting to see God work! The Church has just undergone another cleansing.... Satan hates this Work and he will do whatever he can to stop it. I am thankful God has provided a faithful and strong leader to work through. This would be such a serious trial had you not been at the helm Mr. Armstrong left to you.”

**From Overton, TX:**

“I am writing you to let you know my disapproval of the actions taken by the Board in removing you from leading the Church. I find this to be an act of rebellion against the very one God used to raise up this Work and I do mean Work, and also against God.”

**From Switzerland, Florida:**

“It has been no mystery to us who God is doing His Work through.... God is not a god of chaos and confusion.... We hung onto our tithes and offerings when we became aware of the crisis and are now sending them to you.”

“My immediate family, along with ten other members, left Worldwide. Without missing one Sabbath, we went to Global. It was obvious that you were teaching and practicing the proper form of Church government and of course teaching the plain truth as God has revealed to His people.”

**From Richardson, Texas:**

“We believe wholeheartedly, Mr. Meredith, that God has placed you in a spiritual office of powerful, commanding LEADERSHIP in His Church, and anyone choosing to assault that office will need more than bylaws in his defense, because it will be the mighty GOD OF ALL CREATION and His Son the KING of kings to Whom they will have to answer!”

**From Merrill, Wisconsin:**

“We would have gone to one or another group if we didn’t believe that God has set up government from the top down. Also after very intense independent and group Bible study of Acts 15, everyone, including the three people doing continuing research, find it very hard to come up with government by committee.”

**From Roseville, CA:**

“I was just baptized on November 23; five days later on Sabbath I heard that you and others had left Global. I had not yet read your letter and I did not know what was going on.... As I drove home I prayed and realized the truth.... I want to tell you that before I had seen the *World Ahead* telecast I had never heard anyone preach with such boldness and truth.... I

know that I was baptized at a stressful time, when GCG has just split, but it makes me know all the more that I was not baptized into GCG or any other denomination, but into Jesus Christ.”

**From Austin, Texas:**

“Wonder how these men will feel when they gather around their “board” table with no support, no money and...no one???”

## AND FROM AROUND THE WORLD *come an array of comments and support:*

**From New Zealand:**

“Would God oust a loyal, zealous, long-serving leader of His Work in this way? RIDICULOUS!.... We hope and pray that those suffering ‘fuzzy logic’ at this time will come to their senses and see that this is not God’s Spirit leading them.”

**From Wales:**

“...the basic question would appear to be the issue of governance of God’s Church. As I firmly believe that God deals with His people through an established leader and not through a Board of Directors or ‘group rule’ or ‘committee rule’ then I would deem this recent action of some to be against God’s Word and also disrespectful and without honour.”

**From Northern Ireland:**

“It is with grateful thanks and encouragement that I and my family have received a copy of your emergency letter. Your

words are like strengthening links in the whole armour which God has given us.”

**From England:**

“...you have our full support! We know without a doubt that you are God’s anointed.”

**From South Africa:**

“It was with shock and disgust that we heard today of the un-Christian way you have been treated by your ‘fellow’ Board members. You are very special in God’s eyes because once again you have been allowed to suffer wrongfully.... What frightens me is that Satan’s power is so grossly underestimated!”

**From Kenya:**

“We were all horrified to learn that a few disgruntled, rebellious, ambitious elements at the Church Headquarters in San Diego have ‘thrown’ you out of the Church!.... As the true anointed leader of God’s Church,

and since we know how to separate truth from error, we are fully behind you.”

**From Barbados:**

Let me here state that since you remain committed to the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom to the entire world and that you remain faithful in not changing Christ’s teachings to suit your fancy and you have had no discrediting sinful activities, I am therefore duty bound to remain supportive of your efforts and I offer you my encouragement to continue to do God’s will after all these years of faithful service.”

**From the Philippines:**

“I have been informed about what happened in Headquarters and also about the rebellious attitude of false brethren around you.... God knows who are His people, and God’s people know who is their God, they hear God’s voice and they follow Him.

**Staying Focused** *(Continued From page 10)***Modern Applications**

So what can we learn as we compare our present situation to the conditions that developed in the Ephesian era of the Church of God? How can we avoid making the same mistakes? The most important lesson is that we must maintain the same focus that Jesus Christ emphasized through His example and His instructions to the disciples. Our goal, as it has been for over fifty years, must be to preach the gospel of the coming kingdom of God to this world and to function as a watchman to warn this world of the dramatic events that will mark the imminent return of the Savior of mankind. This commission requires a coordinated team effort. It cannot be done effectively by uncoordinated, piecemeal attempts of isolated individuals. That is why Jesus Christ founded a Church. The churches of the Ephesian era got into trouble when they lost this fundamental focus—leaving their first love—as they began following individuals who pointed congregations in different directions. Such individuals must be clearly labeled as false teachers who cause divisions—in spite of their “good intentions”.

For years we have emphasized the importance of “proving all things” and “holding fast to what is good” (I Thes. 5:21). In order to avoid getting caught up in reasonable-sounding yet misleading ideas, we must know what the Bible clearly teaches. This requires regular, personal study of the Scriptures (II Tim. 2:14-16). Christians in the early Church had to do this (Acts 17:11; Rev. 2:2). We must do the same today to avoid being led off in reasonable but wrong directions. We must remember Paul’s admonition to Titus to hold onto what we have been taught (Titus 1:9) in spite of the fact that well-meaning critics may

assert that we are stuck in the past and are unwilling to change. Here, again, it is an issue of staying focused!

We must also learn to think about bigger issues than just our own personal needs and desires. Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth to save mankind, to establish a world-ruling government that will address and solve global problems. He needs individuals who have learned to think about more than local church issues and individual concerns. We have been called to prepare to rule the world with Jesus Christ—that should be our focus—not to just play church! Future members of the family and government of God must be able to respect those God has put in positions of authority and work smoothly together to get jobs accomplished (I Thes. 5:12-13). Personal preferences and agendas cannot be allowed to disrupt and redirect the commission Jesus gave to His Church. We must stay focused on the mission that Christ commanded His disciples to accomplish.

Finally, we cannot afford to become lukewarm regarding the commission we have been given. Christ’s commandments matter! His instructions are not issues for debate and discussion. To entertain such an approach only fosters discord and division. The focus then becomes fuzzy and blurred. People begin drifting away. The sense of mission dissipates and the mission falters. That is what happened to the Church in the first century. That is the clear lesson of both Scripture and history. Brethren, we cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the early Church. We must remain focused. We must follow the clear example and the plain instructions of Jesus Christ. That is how we can avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. That is how we will gain the crown and the reward that God promises to His faithful servants (Rev. 3:10-12). That is the importance of staying focused! □

**Editorial** *(Continued From page 3)*

end up NEVER being fully loyal to anyone! Yet it is obvious that God wants to build within all of us the vital trait of LOYALTY.

Herbert W. Armstrong often cited a reflection on loyalty written many years ago by the American philosopher and author Elbert Hubbard—a reflection we can meditate on and use in our daily lives: “If you work for a man, in heaven’s name WORK for him. If he pays you wages which supply you bread and butter, work for him, speak well of him, stand by him, and

stand by the institution he represents. If put to a pinch, an ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness. If you must vilify, condemn and eternally disparage—resign your position, and when you’re outside, damn to your heart’s content.” As we learn to practice the trait of loyalty—toward our nation, our boss, our spouse and the human leader of God’s Church whom we have seen by the “fruits” that God is using—we will be letting God build within us an absolutely VITAL character trait that will serve us for all eternity! For God does NOT want any

potential Satans to “sneak” into His Kingdom. Through our practice of loyalty now, we will be demonstrating to God that we can be “counted on” to stand with God for all time—even when the whisperings and accusations of Satan become intense.

By showing God in this life that we are LOYAL, even in the midst of political intrigues and plotting, we will be demonstrating to Him that we really do have a genuine awe and Godly fear of our Creator and that we will trust HIM to correctly lead His Church and His Kingdom—now and forever. □

**Dear Brethren** *(Continued From page 2)*

messages—even though he was on seven nights a week at excellent times on many radio stations across the entire nation. But he was patient—as we should be—and God used him to do a very powerful work over a period of some 52 years.

Near the end of this age—and near the end of our work—I’m sure that things will speed up as people begin to realize the urgency of the times in which we are living. As rapidly occurring prophetic events impact one another, people will be moved to action. And if all of us try with all of our hearts to walk evermore closely with Christ, and if we PRAY FERVENTLY for the spiritual “gifts,” God may well grant us the immediate responses to our prayers for healing, for the discernment of spirits and for the casting out of unclean spirits that He did in Apostolic times.

But we do need to yield ourselves to God and to have the FAITH God requires for these miracles. We need to immerse ourselves more fully into the study of God’s Word and to build an atmosphere of absolute FAITH and TRUST in God and in His promises. And we need to realize that it is NOT “far fetched” that we should receive the spiritual gifts as I have described. For not only were the original 12 apostles given these gifts, but the “70 others” Jesus sent out were ALSO given these same gifts (Luke 10:1-17). Jesus gave 70 young men these powers at a time even before the Holy Spirit was given! What about us?

In speaking of the 12 apostles, Mark writes, “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying SIGNS” (Mark 16:20). With all the religious confusion in our modern society, it would seem even more necessary for God to grant His true servants the powerful “tools” of evangelism today—the “gifts” of His Spirit to do the Work and to let people know that GOD is behind His true servants even now.

So let us take heart. Let us realize that—building on the fine foundation the Living Christ laid through Herbert W. Armstrong—we can and we should go forward in the Work of God. Scripture after scripture tells us that this is our calling—our very PURPOSE in life. This calling helps all of us to be involved in “something greater than ourselves.” And by humbling ourselves and giving of ourselves, by cooperating and working together as a “team” within the framework of God’s Government in the Church, we can prepare ourselves to work together for all eternity in the Kingdom of God.

WHO says the “Work is over”?

Even as he was near death’s door, God’s Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, wrote the following:

Continue to sacrifice through 1986 to finish the commission God has given His Church. THE GREATEST WORK LIES YET AHEAD. Christ confirmed that in John 4:35 (KJV), “Say not ye, ‘There are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest?’ Behold, I say unto you, ‘Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.’” Never before in the history of the Church has it been possible to reap so great a harvest. It has only been made possible through modern technology, beginning with the printing press, radio, television, and rapid mass transit and mass communication. (*Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong, Vol. 2, p. 644; Emphasis ours*).

With the help and guidance of God’s Holy Spirit, we shall continue to go through the “doors” which the Living Christ opens. We shall preach the Gospel on radio and on television. We shall publish the Gospel by means of letters, articles, booklets and a Bible correspondence course. And we shall use the growing power of the Internet to get Christ’s Message to millions who might not otherwise receive it—in our western nations and even behind the “bamboo curtain” into China and to many other nations also who have not heretofore been able to hear the Truth.

Through God’s help and His guidance, we shall “do the Work until we drop.”

Then, in God’s time and through His mercy, we can truly look forward to Christ’s words, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matt. 25:21).



# LCG Is On The Air!

The Living Church of God began airing its *Tomorrow's World* telecast on January 31, 1999, on cable superstation WGN, at 6AM EST. More than 40 million potential viewers of WGN, plus millions more watching on Canada's VISION cable network, are again able to hear the True Gospel preached by Presiding Evangelist Roderick C. Meredith and Evangelist Richard F. Ames, only a few weeks after they were last seen on their previous telecast.

Although the presenters have not changed, many other aspects of the telecast are unlike what came before. Church Treasurer Fred Dattolo observes that the new program will cost the Church less than did the previous telecast, yet the quality will be far superior.



The new telecasts are being prepared with the assistance of Richard Quincer, who in years past worked under Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong on *The World Tomorrow*. Mr. Quincer has gone on to a career of professional television production work, but his Church experience has already proven invaluable. "He knows exactly what we want," reflected Dr. Meredith.

Viewers will notice a new set that conveys the feel of a study, with bookcases and oil paintings behind the presenters, who can still walk about the set as before. Scriptures and quotations are being presented on screen in a larger and easier-to-read typeface than before.

Mr. Ames taped two programs in December for airing on January 31 and February 7. After these, Dr. Meredith will on February 14 and 21 present

a two-part series on marriage.

Dr. Meredith's programs offer viewers a new booklet, *Build A Joyous Marriage!* which is currently in production. Mr. Ames' first programs offer audiotapes on *The Day of the Lord*.

Mr. Mario Hernandez has also begun taping new Spanish-language programs using the same facilities.

—compiled from staff reports

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## Obituaries

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•Evangelist Colin Adair, a minister in God's Church since 1966, died on November 15 after a short illness. After graduating from the Bricket Wood campus of Ambassador College, Mr. Adair served as Regional Director of the Work in the Philippines, Canada, and the Caribbean. Since 1995 he had directed the international Work for the Global Church of God. Mr. Adair was buried in his native Belfast, Northern Ireland, at a service conducted by Mr. Robert Devine. Loved and respected as a friend to all, Mr. Adair is survived by his wife Margaret, and by his son Andrew. Cards and letters may be sent to them c/o Global Church of God, 16935 W. Bernardo Drive, Suite 111, San Diego, CA 92127.

•Eric Shawn Burson, 20, the son of David and Patti Burson, died on December 29, 1998. The Bursons serve full-time in the Living Church of God in the Lansing, MI, area. Eric is also survived by his sister, Heather, and his brother, Doug. Services were conducted by Rand Millich on January 1, and attended by many friends and family. Cards and letters of condolence and encouragement may be mailed to Mr. and Mrs. David Burson, 3449 Wirt Road, Mason, MI 48854-9320

•Mrs. Lavelle Hartman of Nyssa, Oregon died on Monday, January 4. She had been battling bone cancer for

some time. She and her husband, Byron, hosted the video group in Nyssa, Oregon. The Hartmans are long-time members who were baptized in 1958. The funeral service was held on Friday, January 8. Cards and letters of condolence may be mailed to Mr. Byron Hartman, 674 Overstreet Rd., Nyssa, OR 97913-5542

•Margaret (Margie) Kiepke died peacefully at home on Sabbath, November 28, after a long bout with cancer. She was 46. She is survived by her husband, Les, her two children, Steve and Katie, her mother, Mrs. Wilma Taylor, and other relatives. Her courage and faith in the face of serious illness were an inspiration to all who knew her. The Kiepkers live in Big Sandy, Texas. Mr. John Ogwyn conducted her funeral. Mr. Kiepke, the children, and Mrs. Taylor all attend the Gladewater, TX congregation of the Living Church of God. They wish to express appreciation for all of the prayers as well as cards and phone calls during their long trial.

•Robin Hulme, wife of Evangelist David Hulme, died peacefully on January 15, surrounded by her family and friends, after a long bout with cancer. Mrs. Hulme set an inspiring and encouraging example of Christian maturity, faith and endurance. Cards may be sent to: David Hulme and family, P.O. Box 150, Monrovia, CA 91017.

## **BAPTISMS**

The Calgary congregation grew by two on December 16th as Mr. Laurie Nyhus baptized two men at the Port - O - Call Hotel. It was a very encouraging event as Jeff Pitman and Duane Wilks were added to the body of Jesus Christ, especially since they came in contact with us through our Web site! Congratulations to Jeff and Duane and welcome to the Church of God.

## **Kansas City Church / Social**

Warm weather, great food and a good time had by all were the scene in Kansas City on the Sabbath of December 12, 1998. Even though the typical attendance is around 200 people each Sabbath, 234 people were counted and enjoyed a sermon by Mr. Gerald Weston, pastor of the Kansas City church. Following this spiritual meal was a potluck with plenty of food to feed all the physically hungry people. Even though many of the conversations dealt with the current church crisis, many people expressed their gratitude and support for Dr. Meredith and those who are maintaining the course as prescribed in the Bible.

As the adults continued to fellowship with each other, the very successful teen speech club (Leaders of Tomorrow) had a meeting and activity afterwards on the same night. This club has been in existence for a number of years in Kansas City, and has served the youth well in public speaking opportunities and responsibilities. Kansas City has been blessed with a fairly large group of teens and this club has been a good tool in bridging the gap from teenage years to young adulthood. Kansas City was one of, if not the largest, of the churches in our former association and very well could be so in the Living Church of God. Even though Missouri has a reputation as the "Show Me" state (Missouri's motto), the Kansas City church is proving that it is time to keep on doing what we have all proven in the past that we must do... God's work!

## **SPOKESMAN and LEADERSHIP CLUBS**

We were happy to have our first meeting of the Metro-Manila Spokesman Club of the 98-99 season, on November 29, with 18 present, plus guests. The Church's elders also are conducting Leadership Training classes around the Philippines. Elders Felipe Casing (South and East Mindanao) and Eleno Cabahit (Davao City) held the second meeting of the area's Leadership Training Class on December 19th, with nine enthusiastic men in attendance. Also, the minister in Northwest Mindanao, Tex Benitez, holds LTC classes during the Spring and Fall Holy Days for the scattered brethren of six groups in Northwest Mindanao.

### **CANADIAN POT-LUCK**

December 26th was a special weekend in Regina, Saskatchewan when services were held and then a pot-luck and social took place. Mr. Nyhus gave the sermon on "A Question of Trust" and then a fine meal was served. After the meal, games of cards, floor hockey and volleyball were engaged in. Everyone had a ball!

## **PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS**

We're excited to be working on our own Children's Bible Lessons in the Philippines. Volunteers in Metro-Manila are working on the text and illustrations. We are hoping to have the first monthly lesson of two levels (Ages 5-6, Ages 9-10) completed before January 1. These lessons will be handed out and the first evaluation will take place after services the last Sabbath of January.

## PHILIPPINES NEWSLETTER COMING

The January-March edition of *Around the Islands* will be prepared soon. This is the third edition of our quarterly newsletter, which features articles from our members and ministers, and updates of local events and activities. Our last edition (Oct-Dec) featured the Feast of Tabernacles in our four sites around the Philippines.

### *Birth Announcements*

- Congratulations to new parents Pam and Bart Nelson of Pocahtantas, IL. They had been attending the Belleville, IL Church and hopefully there will soon be a group / church in their area again. Pam and Bart's third son was born on December 11th and weighed 8 pounds, 15 oz. His name is Bradley Dane.
- Nelson and Lotty Niras of Tanna Island, Vanuatu are happy to announce the birth of their second son, Nelson, on 17 December, 1998. Both he and his mother are well and Nelson weighed 3.6 kgs at birth. The Nirases are now the joyful parents of two sons and three daughters.

## Announcements from LCG HQ

- Sermon transcripts for the deaf will be on hold for a while as we continue to reorganize. However, if you are deaf or have an impairment please send your request in writing to the attention of Bonnie Miller at Headquarters.
- Literature on tape for the blind, sight-impaired and those unable to attend services will be available as time allows. If you have not received these materials and have previously been on the mailing list of our former association, please let us know.
- If you have not been receiving your own copy of the letters from Dr. Meredith then you are not on the mailing list. Please send your name and address to Headquarters so you may be placed on the mailing list.

## Teens Enjoy Winter Campout

From December 24 through 27, many Church of God teens from throughout the South camped at Fountainebleau State Park, north of New Orleans. Rain, ice, and cold didn't prevent fifty teens from enjoying a variety of activities.

After dividing into teams, on the first morning of the camp the teens enjoyed a variety of activities, including flag football, frisbee golf, and an adventure hike. Leaving the outdoor sports in the afternoon, each team polished computer skills, learned how to wire an electrical outlet, had hands-on practice changing a flat tire, and even produced a

music video. That afternoon, Russel Sonnier and Errol Pitre grilled a tasty barbecue for the group, followed by a Bible Study and bonfire.

An "etiquette brunch" was prepared for Sabbath morning. David Ogwyn shared finer points of courtesy and etiquette with the teens. Sabbath services followed. J.R. Wells, from Baton Rouge, gave the sermonette to the group. Gene Hilgenberg, an elder from Joplin, Missouri, exhorted during his sermon for the young people to remain zealous for God's truth.

On Saturday evening, the teens performed for each other during a talent show, then all joined in a

dance until "lights-out".

Basketball, volleyball and a Louisiana-style Jambalaya lunch completed the weekend on Sunday. Brian Brecheen, from Baton Rouge said, "We really appreciate the hosts' hard work. We need to have more opportunities to get together like this."

Ray and Kathryn Joffrion managed the camp logistics and organized the meals. Ray commented, "The weekend went great! The teens were energetic but willing to cooperate and play by the rules."

A big thank-you went to all the staff for their work which made the campout a success.

# Local Church Listings

## UNITED STATES

|               |    |                          |                  |    |                          |                   |
|---------------|----|--------------------------|------------------|----|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Anchorage     | AK | Video Group              | Des Moines       | IA | <b>Gerald Weston</b>     | .....816-228-2035 |
| Homer         | AL | Video Group              | Boise            | ID | Byron Hartman            | .....541-372-2210 |
| Birmingham    | AL | Carl Ponder              | Pocatello        | ID | Mark Mendiola            | .....208-238-0403 |
| Florence      | AL | <b>Bob League</b>        | Chicago          | IL | <b>Gary Ehman</b>        | .....715-524-2218 |
| Huntsville    | AL | <b>Bob League</b>        | Peoria           | IL | Irv Woelfle              | .....309-266-3638 |
| Montgomery    | AL | Carl Ponder              | Indianapolis     | IN | <b>Lambert Greer</b>     | .....502-228-5917 |
| Fayetteville  | AR | <b>Karl Beyersdorfer</b> | Plymouth         | IN | Video Group              |                   |
| Little Rock   | AR | <b>John Ogwyn</b>        | Terre Haute      | IN | Virgil Thompson          | .....812-442-1303 |
|               |    | Davy Crockett            | Coffeyville      | KS | Video Group              |                   |
| Russellville  | AR | <b>John Ogwyn</b>        | Utica            | KS | Video Group              |                   |
| Wickes        | AR | Video Group              | Wichita          | KS | Video Group              |                   |
| Phoenix       | AZ | <b>Doug Winnail</b>      | Berea            | KY | Video Group              |                   |
|               |    | Jim Nork                 | Louisville       | KY | <b>Lambert Greer</b>     | .....502-228-5917 |
|               |    | Gerald Shoquist          | Alexandria       | LA | <b>Jon McNair</b>        | .....504-654-6797 |
|               |    | Gary Stein               | Baton Rouge      | LA | <b>Jon McNair</b>        | .....504-654-6797 |
|               |    | Howard Stein             | Lafayette        | LA | <b>Jon McNair</b>        | .....504-654-6797 |
| Tucson        | AZ | <b>Doug Winnail</b>      | Monroe           | LA | <b>Jon McNair</b>        | .....870-863-8512 |
|               |    | Phil Steagall            |                  |    | Don Wood                 | .....504-654-6797 |
| Camp Verde    | AZ | Bob McCann               | New Orleans      | LA | <b>Jon McNair</b>        | .....504-654-6797 |
| Arroyo Grande | CA | Video Group              | Shreveport       | LA | John Harbison            | .....903-796-0790 |
| Eureka        | CA | <b>Don Haney</b>         | Boston           | MA | Jim Arnaldo              | .....508-393-6209 |
|               |    | Michael Norris           | Salisbury        | MD | Video Group              |                   |
| Fresno        | CA | Gaylyn Bonjour           | Bangor           | ME | Jim Arnaldo              | .....508-393-6209 |
| Garden Grove  | CA | <b>Dibar Apartian</b>    | Detroit          | MI | <b>Dave Burson</b>       | .....517-699-4971 |
|               |    | Rodger Bardo             | Kalamazoo        | MI | <b>Dave Burson</b>       | .....517-699-4971 |
| Los Angeles   | CA | <b>Jeff Fall</b>         | Lansing          | MI | Video Group              |                   |
|               |    | <b>Hadden Pace</b>       | Marquette        | MI | John Blanchard           | .....906-586-6834 |
| Novato        | CA | Ron Wheeler              | Saulte St. Marie | MI | John Blanchard           | .....906-586-6834 |
| Palm Springs  | CA | Don Turk                 | Minneapolis      | MN | <b>Paul Shumway</b>      | .....651-407-3636 |
| Redding       | CA | <b>Don Haney</b>         | Columbia         | MO | William Oswald           | .....573-657-4637 |
| Sacramento    | CA | <b>Don Haney</b>         |                  |    | Rod Reynolds             | .....816-827-1320 |
| San Diego     | CA | <b>Roderick Meredith</b> | Joplin           | MO | <b>Karl Beyersdorfer</b> | .....417-623-8888 |
| San Jose      | CA | Church with Host         | Kansas City      | MO | Gene Hilgenberg          | .....417-455-2057 |
| Sonora        | CA | Video Group              |                  |    | <b>Gerald Weston</b>     | .....816-228-2035 |
| Denver        | CO | Church with Host         | Rolla            | MO | James Wells              | .....816-358-9606 |
| Fort Collins  | CO | Video Group              | Springfield      | MO | Rod Reynolds             | .....816-827-1320 |
| Franktown     | CO | Video Group              | St. Joseph       | MO | Video Group              |                   |
| Hartford      | CT | Video Group              | St. Louis        | MO | John Turner              | .....816-387-9213 |
| Washington    | DC | Ray Clore, II            | Amory            | MS | William Oswald           | .....573-657-4637 |
| Boca Raton    | FL | <b>Ben Faulkner</b>      | Greenwood        | MS | Evo Walker               | .....601-773-6137 |
|               |    | Dexter Wakefield         |                  |    | <b>Daniel Hall</b>       | .....334-626-0585 |
| Jacksonville  | FL | <b>Randy Kobernat</b>    | Jackson          | MS | Jim Burson               | .....601-262-7233 |
| Live Oak      | FL | <b>Randy Kobernat</b>    | Laurel           | MS | Video Group              |                   |
| Miami         | FL | <b>Ben Faulkner</b>      | Ocean Springs    | MS | <b>Daniel Hall</b>       | .....334-626-0585 |
| Ocala         | FL | <b>Ben Faulkner</b>      | Great Falls      | MT | <b>Daniel Hall</b>       | .....334-626-0585 |
| Pensacola     | FL | <b>Daniel Hall</b>       | Hamilton         | MT | Arnold Lalum             | .....406-265-4072 |
|               |    | Tony Smith               | Helena           | MT | Church with Host         |                   |
|               |    | John Burquist            | Kalispell        | MT | Dana Glatz               | .....406-442-0136 |
| Tallahassee   | FL | <b>Randy Kobernat</b>    | Bozeman          | MT | Video Group              |                   |
| Tampa         | FL | <b>Ben Faulkner</b>      | Asheboro         | NC | Video Group              |                   |
|               |    | Ron Peterson             | Asheville        | NC | George Webb              | .....336-993-5714 |
| Atlanta       | GA | <b>Rand Millich</b>      | Charlotte        | NC | <b>Martin Fannin</b>     | .....423-675-2304 |
|               |    | Jack Lowe                | Raleigh          | NC | John DuBry               | .....828-874-5164 |
| Blairsville   | GA | <b>Martin Fannin</b>     | Bismark          | ND | William Dobbins          | .....919-832-7296 |
| Macon         | GA | <b>Randy Kobernat</b>    | Omaha            | NE | Arlan Weight             | .....701-255-2897 |
| Pearl City    | HI | Harold Way               | Hammonton        | NJ | <b>Gerald Weston</b>     | .....816-228-2035 |
|               |    |                          |                  |    | <b>Don Contardi</b>      | .....973-379-7184 |
|               |    |                          |                  |    | Dennis Chornomaz         | .....609-653-0425 |

|                |    |  |
|----------------|----|--|
| Morristown     | NJ | <b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 973-379-7184<br>Carl Klink ..... 793-379-2640                                  |
| Albuquerque    | NM | Video Group  |
| Des Moines     | NM | Video Group  |
| Reno           | NV | <b>Don Haney</b> ..... 541-855-9872  |
| Brooklyn       | NY | <b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 973-379-7184<br>Roger Allgeyer ..... 516-271-8785                              |
| Buffalo        | NY | <b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508   |
| Corning        | NY | <b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508<br>Shawn McMillin ..... 717-547-1501                              |
| Long Island    | NY | <b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 973-379-7184<br>Roger Allgeyer ..... 516-271-8785                              |
| Rochester      | NY | <b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 973-379-7184<br>Ron Lilie ..... 716-473-4722                                   |
| Akron          | OH | <b>Lambert Greer</b> ..... 502-228-5917<br>Walter Warrington ..... 330-325-7700                          |
| Cambridge      | OH | Video Group  |
| Cincinnati     | OH | <b>Lambert Greer</b> ..... 502-228-5917  |
| Columbus       | OH | <b>Lambert Greer</b> ..... 502-228-5917<br><b>Charles Knowlton</b> ..... 614-964-0437                    |
| Dayton         | OH | Video Group  |
| Toledo         | OH | Video Group  |
| Zanesville     | OH | Video Group  |
| Oklahoma City  | OK | <b>John Ogwyn</b> ..... 903-986-8117<br>Ray Reynolds ..... 405-672-6965                                  |
| Tulsa          | OK | <b>Karl Beyersdorfer</b> ..... 417-623-8888  |
| Eugene         | OR | <b>Don Haney</b> ..... 541-855-9872  |
| Medford        | OR | <b>Don Haney</b> ..... 541-855-9872<br>Fred Wittlake ..... 541-855-6950                                  |
| Portland       | OR | <b>Don Haney</b> ..... 541-855-9872  |
| Mt. Pocono     | PA | <b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 973-379-7184   |
| Philadelphia   | PA | <b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 973-379-7184<br>Dennis Chornomaz ..... 609-653-0425                            |
| Pittsburg      | PA | Video Group  |
| Anderson       | SC | Ronnie Poole ..... 864-968-9112<br>Buddy Wrenn ..... 864-576-9460  |
| Asheboro       | SC | Video Group  |
| Walterboro     | SC | Lehman Lyons, Sr. .... 843-549-2985<br>Frank Frye ..... 803-245-4752                                     |
| Rapid City     | SD | Video Group  |
| Chattanooga    | TN | <b>Bob League</b> ..... 706-695-3954<br>Ron Laughland ..... 615-851-7329                                 |
| Crossville     | TN | <b>Bob League</b> ..... 706-695-3954   |
| Knoxville      | TN | <b>Martin Fannin</b> ..... 423-675-2304<br>John Shelton ..... 423-523-9332                               |
| Memphis        | TN | <b>John Ogwyn</b> ..... 903-986-8117<br>Davy Crockett ..... 501-868-9860                                 |
| Nashville      | TN | <b>Bob League</b> ..... 706-695-3954<br>Ron Laughland ..... 615-851-7329                                 |
| Abilene        | TX | Video Group  |
| Amarillo       | TX | Video Group  |
| Austin         | TX | <b>Keith Walden</b> ..... 512-244-5478<br>Randy Gregory ..... 512-244-1863                               |
| Corpus Christi | TX | <b>Keith Walden</b> ..... 512-244-5478<br>Bob Parker ..... 512-387-9192<br>C.B. Short ..... 512-853-2460 |
| Dallas         | TX | <b>John Ogwyn</b> ..... 903-986-8117<br>Charles Haughee ..... 903-887-8994                               |
| El Paso        | TX | Video Group  |
| Gladewater     | TX | <b>John Ogwyn</b> ..... 903-986-8117<br><b>Lynn Torrance</b> ..... 903-636-5218                          |
| Houston        | TX | <b>Keith Walden</b> ..... 512-244-5478<br>Ron McGowen ..... 281-331-8930                                 |
| Lufkin         | TX | Larry Solomon ..... 409-559-1145   |
| Midland        | TX | Video Group  |

|                 |    |   |
|-----------------|----|---|
| Pampa           | TX | Video Group   |
| San Antonio     | TX | <b>Keith Walden</b> ..... 512-244-5478<br>Conway Slaughter, Jr. .... 830-560-1928                                 |
| Temple          | TX | Video Group   |
| Salt Lake City  | UT | Video Group   |
| Gladespring     | VA | Charles Lauderback ..... 423-283-0394   |
| Winchester      | VA | <b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 973-379-7184<br>Gerald Dulaney ..... 540-662-3696                                       |
| Williamsburg    | VA | <b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 973-379-7184<br>Ray Clore, II ..... 703-591-4787<br>Michael McDaniel ..... 804-526-5948 |
| Everett         | WA | <b>Gary Ullerick</b> ..... 253-922-6917   |
| Lake Stevens    | WA | Video Group   |
| Pasco           | WA | Video Group   |
| Quincy          | WA | Video Group   |
| Richland        | WA | Video Group   |
| Seattle/Tacoma  | WA | Terry Graves ..... 253-474-5807   |
| Spokane         | WA | Video Group   |
| Tonasket        | WA | Eldon Davis ..... 509-486-4240  |
| Green Bay       | WI | <b>Gary Ehman</b> ..... 715-524-2218  |
| Merrill         | WI | <b>Gary Ehman</b> ..... 715-524-2218  |
| Milwaukee       | WI | <b>Gary Ehman</b> ..... 715-524-2218  |
| Wisconsin Dells | WI | <b>Gary Ehman</b> ..... 715-524-2218  |
| Bluefield       | WV | <b>Val Burgett</b> ..... 540-726-8020<br>Clyde Wolford ..... 540-326-3051   |
| Logan           | WV | <b>Val Burgett</b> ..... 540-726-8020   |
| Ripley          | WV | Edward Lee ..... 304-372-3047   |
| Craigsville     | WV | <b>Val Burgett</b> ..... 540-726-8020   |
| Buffalo         | WY | Video Group   |
| Casper          | WY | Video Group   |
| Cheyenne        | WY | Video Group   |
| Hulett          | WY | Video Group   |
| Rawlins         | WY | <b>Ben Whitfield</b> ..... 307-324-7931   |
| Wheatland       | WY | Video Group   |

**INTERNATIONAL**

**AUSTRALIA**

|           |     |                                       |
|-----------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| Canberra  | ACT | <b>Bruce Tyler</b> ..... 02-6231-8166 |
| Newcastle | NSW | Video Group                           |
| Brisbane  | QLD | Church with Host                      |
| Perth     | WA  | Ken MacLeod ..... 08-9457-7624        |

**BARBADOS**

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Christ Church | Video Group |
|---------------|-------------|

**BELIZE**

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| Belmopan | Video Group |
|----------|-------------|

**CANADA**

|                          |      |   |
|--------------------------|------|---|
| Calgary                  | AB   | Video Group   |
| Edmonton                 | AB   | <b>Laurie Nyhus</b> ..... 403-484-7633<br>Stuart Wachowicz ..... 403-466-1815 |
| Kelowna                  | B.C. | Video Group ..... 250-491-0024  |
| Fredericton              | NB   | Video Group   |
| Sussex                   | NB   | Jim Arnaldo ..... 508-393-6209  |
| St. John's               | NF   | <b>Frank Best</b> ..... 709-782-3733  |
| Woodstock/<br>Springdale | NF   | Video Group   |
| Winnipeg                 | MB   | <b>Laurie Nyhus</b> ..... 403-484-7633  |
| Halifax/<br>Dartmouth    | NS   | Video Group   |
| Bracebridge              | ON   | Garry Lucas ..... 705-726-0628  |
| Guelph                   | ON   | <b>Charles Bryce</b> ..... 905-276-9729                                       |
| Kingston                 | ON   | <b>Charles Bryce</b> ..... 905-276-9729                                       |
| Ottawa                   | ON   | <b>Charles Bryce</b> ..... 905-276-9729                                       |
| Peterborough             | ON   | Jon Pippy ..... 905-821-0237  |
| Toronto                  | ON   | Jon Pippy ..... 905-821-0237  |

Montreal PQ Jacques Secours . . . . .306-873-4864  
 Regina SK Eng Monson . . . . .306-545-5250  
 Saskatoon SK Video Group  
 Yorkton SK Video Group

**CHILE**  
 Santiago Video Group

**COLOMBIA**  
 Santa fe de Bogota **Eduardo Hernandez**

**COSTA RICA**  
 Santa Ana Video Group

**FRANCE**  
 Paris Video Group

**GERMANY**  
 Karlsruhe Video Group

**GUATEMALA**  
 Coatepeque Video Group

**GUYANA**  
 Aishalton Video Group

Awarewaunau Church with Host  
 Georgetown Fitzroy Greeman

Lethem Video Group

**IRELAND**  
 Dublin Brian Bedlow . . . . .353-55-25170

**KENYA**  
 Nairobi Ernest Owino

**MALAYSIA**  
 Bahau Church with Host  
 Kuala Lumpur Church with Host

**MARTINIQUE**  
 Fort de France Church with Host

**MEXICO**  
 Guadalajara Video Group

Mexico City Video Group  
 San Luis Potosi Video Group

**MYANMAR**  
 Ka Lay Myo **Thomas Tial Hoe**  
 Sa Khan Gyi **Saw Lay Beh**

**NEW ZEALAND**  
 Auckland Kinnear Penman . . . . .09-435-3592

Palmerston North Video Group

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**  
 Maprik Video Group

Wewak Video Group

**PHILIPPINES**  
 Baguio City Video Group  
 Bogabongan Video Group  
 Cavite **Rod McNair** . . . . .011-63-2-813-6538

Gorgonia De Guia  
 Columbio Video Group

Compostela Video Group  
 Davao City Eleno Cabahit  
 Felipe Casing . . . . .082-297-0200

Don Carlos Video Group  
 Iligan City Eustiquio Benitez

Koronadal Proper Video Group  
 Leyte Video Group

Maranding Video Group  
 Mauswagon Video Group

Napunturon Video Group  
 Quezon City **Rod McNair** . . . . .011-63-2-813-6538

Sindangan Gorgonio De Guia  
 Video Group

**PUERTO RICO**  
 San Juan **Ben Faulkner** . . . . .813-684-1423  
 Raul Colon . . . . .787-739-5708

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
 Bloemfontein Video Group

Cape Town **Syd Hull** . . . . .011-27-11-664-6036  
 Pieter Van der Byl . . . . .27-21-785-1418

Johannesburg **Syd Hull** . . . . .11-664-6036  
 Klerksdorp **Syd Hull** . . . . .11-664-6036

Kroonstad Video Group  
 Nelspruit Video Group

Pietermaritzburg Video Group  
 Van Wyksdorp Video Group

**SPAIN**  
 Canaria Video Group

**SRI LANKA**  
 Colombo Video Group

**THAILAND**  
 Tha Song Yang Video Group

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**  
 San Fernando Video Group

St. Augustine Video Group

**UNITED KINGDOM**  
 Derby CI Tom Mahon . . . . .011-44-121-525-8636

London ENG Bob Farrell . . . . .011-44-181-995-4131

Belfast NI Video Group  
 Dublin Video Group

Glasgow SCO Robert Storrier . . . . .011-44-1698-263-977

Bristol Video Group

**VANUATU**  
 Efate Video Group

Malekula Video Group  
 Tanna Video Group

**VENEZUELA**  
 Caracas Video Group