

# Living Church News

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## In This Issue

**Are We  
Disobeying  
Our Creator?** ..... 3

**Ministerial  
Conferences:  
Church Vision  
Outlined** ..... 7

**Are You A  
Peacemaker?** ..... 9

**How Did We  
Get The  
New Testament?** ..... 12

**Report  
From The  
Treasurer** ..... 16

**Local  
Church News** ..... 18

**1999 Festival  
Updates** ..... 21

**Local  
Church Listings** ..... 22

## What is Servant Leadership?

One of the vital themes I have emphasized over the last several years is Servant Leadership. It is a concept and a practice that I hope we can continue to implement in the Living Church of God.

“But,” some continue to ask, “what is *Servant Leadership*? And how can we practice it?”

In all human history, the best example of Servant Leadership is that of Jesus Christ. He had been with the Father from eternity. He had awesome glory, power and majesty. As the “Word” or Spokesman for the Father, it was His voice that said: “Let there be LIGHT” (Genesis 1:3). At the very throne of God, He was surrounded by indescribable beauty and majesty. Over 100 million angels were there, worshipping and praising Him and the Father (Revelation 5:11–12).

Yet, since the Word and the Father had decided to bring millions of human beings into Their Family, this great Being was willing to “empty” Himself—as the Greek word is correctly translated in Philippians 2:7. He took the “form of a SERVANT.” Then, “being found in appearance as a man, He HUMBLED Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (v. 8).

As the second Person in the God Family, from eternity, He had been best able to serve us by acting for the Father in *creating* us, *guiding* our ancestors in ancient Israel as the Spokesman and “Rock” of Israel (1 Corinthians 10:4) and in inspiring the Old Testament prophets to teach and warn the people and to write the Hebrew Bible. But the Levitical system of the Old Testament NEVER fully reconciled rebellious humanity to God. It *never* made possible the giving of the Holy Spirit. It *never* made possible the needed CHANGE in our very nature.

So what did this great Being DO—this Logos or Spokesman for God and the One who had been with the Father from eternity? Did He argue and complain and say: “I am NOT going down to the earth and let those puny human beings persecute Me, curse Me and finally beat and crucify Me! No way! That’s not fair and I won’t put up with it!”

Can you imagine your Savior talking like that?

No, of course not. The One who became Jesus now saw that the best way He could SERVE these potential sons of God was to *give up all of His divine glory* and DIE! *So He did just that.* He willingly “emptied” Himself of the transcendent glory, power and majesty which He had shared sitting

at the Father's right hand. And He allowed Himself to be placed within the human flesh, not only to die for us, but to set us an EXAMPLE of *the way* humans ought to live, to act and to interact with one another.

In the human flesh, Jesus "gave" of Himself all day long. He lovingly and patiently taught, He healed, He blessed, He encouraged, He SERVED. When Jesus knelt down and washed the feet of His disciples at the last Passover, they may have been puzzled over the meaning of this act but were *certainly not shocked*. For Jesus must have been helping them constantly in physical as well as spiritual matters throughout His ministry.

Jesus had very clearly taught His disciples: "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your SERVANT. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to SERVE, and to GIVE His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26–28).

Dear brethren, if you, each of you, see that you can better SERVE your brethren, and the people in the world whom we must "witness" to, and God Himself by taking a certain action—*then you should take that action*. You should constantly be thinking of better ways to give, to help, to serve—REGARDLESS of any title or immediate reward that may come your way. THIS is Servant Leadership!

Some can serve the most by playing or singing special music. Some can serve best by performing the physical duties of ushering, passing out song books, serving in the hall kitchen or parking lot, etc. Others may truly serve more by simply being a loving and encouraging friend to other members in visiting with them before and after services, writing or calling them when they are home sick and other things of this nature. *All of us* can serve by fervent, heartfelt PRAYER for our brethren, for the Church at large and for the Work we have all been called to perform.

Remember the Apostle Paul's inspiring account of Epaphras who *served* in this way: "Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis" (Colossians 4:12–13).

In *all* these things, however, the emphasis must be on serving—NOT on pleasing the self or exalting the self or seeking a bigger "position." A loving father may actually best "serve" his feisty little son by giving him a few whacks on the behind! For God says in Proverbs 13:24: "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly."

A loving minister—IF he is doing it to serve—may best express Servant Leadership at times by CORRECTING the brethren over some continuing sin or problem. This may NOT always be "politically correct," but it will be carrying out Servant Leadership if done in that spirit and if it is truly necessary! After all, God the Father, no doubt the greatest SERVANT in the entire Universe

**Servant Leadership** *continues on page 17*

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# Are We DISOBEYING Our Creator?

## Editorial

By Roderick C. Meredith

**A**s we approach the turn of the Millennium, God is obviously positioning the Living Church of God to do a powerful Work. Prophetic events are occurring with increasing frequency. Christ is coming soon. And we are among the very few people on earth to grasp the true significance of all these things.

Yet, the Work of God is not going forward nearly as fast as it seemingly should. We are now able to be on only two commercial TV stations in North America. WHY?

Part of the answer is that many of God's people are NOT fully obeying a fundamental and extremely important law of God. Therefore, the Creator's blessing cannot be fully given to these people or to the Church until this blatant *sin* is rectified.

### What Is This Sin?

The book of Malachi is a prophetic book that helps bridge the gap between the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. In Malachi 3:1, God says: "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the LORD, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in

whom you delight. Behold, He is coming." Here, the Logos or "Word" of the Old Testament predicts both His first and second coming. For He describes (v. 4) how the "offerings" of His people will again become acceptable. This certainly did NOT take place at Christ's first coming. Instead, His own people actually *crucified* Him!

So, in this *dual* prophecy, Christ has now shifted to describe His *Second Coming* and shows how He will be a "swift witness" against sorcerers, adulterers, etc., who do these things. He indicates they commit these sins, "because they do *not* FEAR ME" (v. 5). Then, in this prophetic passage bridging both Old and New Testaments, the One who became Jesus Christ says: "For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances" (vv. 6-7). At this juncture, the Living Christ challenges His people: "RETURN to Me, and I will return to you. But you said, 'In what way shall we return?'" (v. 7)

Yes, *how can* many of God's people who have grown lukewarm truly "return" to their Creator and receive His full measure of blessing? God answers, "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this

whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it" (vv. 8-10).

In the confusion that has followed the breakup of the Worldwide Church of God, it is perhaps understandable that some have become very lax in tithing. They *have* been confused in many ways. And some have heard or read all kinds of ideas or "reasonings" trying to get around the clear biblical teachings and examples in the Bible regarding tithing.

But God commands me as His minister: "Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1). It is my responsibility to WARN God's people about this violation of His law. For it is not only slowing the progress of the Work of God, it is profoundly hurting the spiritual life of those non-tithers. It is *severely damaging* their personal relationship with GOD!

For note again—in His own words—the way GOD looks at this matter: "Will a man ROB GOD? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In TITHES and OFFERINGS" (Malachi 3:8). Does that sound like some "minor issue" in the mind of God? Remember also God's very

clear concern about the *lack of OFFERINGS* as well as the duty to pay a full *TITHE* to our Creator! The point is that if you have an income, you *CAN* afford to tithe because—in *this very passage*—God promises to *BLESS* those who obey Him in this vital matter.

### The **EXAMPLE** of Abraham

Long before the Old Covenant was even proposed, God guided Abraham to tithe. In the New Testament book of Romans, Abraham is referred to as the “father of the faithful” (Romans 4:11, 16). In fact, Abraham’s very example of acting on *FAITH* is set forth in this chapter as the “key” to Abraham’s righteousness! The very *promise* that Abraham would be “heir of the world” was *NOT* through the law, but through the righteousness of *FAITH*” (v. 13). So Abraham’s shining *EXAMPLE* of *acting on faith* is here set forth as *THE WAY* to eternal life and to an *eternal* inheritance of this earth!

One of the primary examples of that “saving” faith of Abraham is given in Genesis 14. After telling the story of Abraham’s rescue of Lot and the return of *ALL* his possessions, we read: “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And he gave him a *TITHE* of all” (vv. 18–20).

Here God is described as “the Possessor of heaven and earth.” For *EVERYTHING* belongs to God. He made it. He made us. He gives us our lives and He gives us every breath of air we breathe. Melchizedek described God in this way and then

indicated that it was *GOD* who delivered Abraham’s enemies into his hand.

So Abraham, who obviously “walked with God”—actually *conversed* with the One who became Jesus Christ and *knew* God and God’s will in a profound way—gave God a *TENTH* of everything he recovered. That was the inspired *EXAMPLE* of Abraham.

Later, we read of the patriarch Jacob vowing to God: “And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a *TENTH* to You” (Genesis 28:22). So the principle of paying God a *TITHE* was well understood by the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Actually tithing is not only a principle, it is one of God’s “statutes” just as surely as the Holy Days and the law of clean and unclean meats! And God tells us that our spiritual father, Abraham, was blessed, “because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My *STATUTES*, and My laws” (Genesis 26:5).

### Old Covenant Tithing

When the Old Covenant was introduced, God—for *that time*—directed that the tithe be given to the Levitical priests for the “work” they were doing in and around God’s Tabernacle or Temple. In His instruction to the Levites, God commanded, “And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the *LORD’S*. It is holy to the *LORD*. If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the *LORD*” (Leviticus 27:30–32).

In Numbers 18:20–21, God instructed: “Then the *LORD* said to

Aaron: ‘You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel. Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting.’”

Since the Levites were not allowed to own property or hold regular jobs, they were given the tithes of the people of Israel “for the *WORK* which they performed.” Today, very few indeed of God’s pastors and evangelists have the time for secular jobs. With a truly globe-girdling *Work* to perform via the electronic media, publishing and a worldwide network of congregations and video groups, there is *NO WAY* for our key ministerial personnel to make the telecasts and radio programs, write and edit the articles and booklets, counsel and coordinate the ministry and brethren all around the world and still be able to hold down a secular job!

### A **CHANGE** in the Tithing Law

Just as God transferred the tithes to the Levitical priesthood in the Old Testament, so He transferred them back to the priesthood of Melchizedek in the New Testament. The book of Hebrews makes this clear. After describing how Abraham gave Melchizedek a “tenth” of the spoils, God describes how Melchizedek “remains a priest continually” (Hebrews 7:1–3). Obviously, as we have proved elsewhere, Melchizedek was the One who became Jesus Christ. Then God describes how the priests had a “commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law” (v. 5). He proceeds to show how even Levi “paid tithes” through

Abraham to Melchizedek—clearly the greater priesthood (v. 9).

Finally, the inspired author of Hebrews tells us: “Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law” (vv. 11–12).

are instructed as to faith, and as to the fear of God. None of these were abolished by Christ, but only that part which regarded the ancient priesthood.” Jesus Himself had said, “Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota,

say that God’s priesthood is now ABOLISHED? *Of course not!* It says, rather that the priesthood of Melchizedek has been reinstated *in place of* the Levitical priesthood. And does it say that the law of tithing has been ABOLISHED? Again, *of course not!* It has merely been *changed* as the priesthood was changed or “transferred” so that the tithes are once again paid to the priesthood of Melchizedek or nowadays the ministry of Jesus Christ!

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your HEART will be also” (Matthew 6:19-20).*

Brethren, the term “law” in either the Greek or Hebrew language is similar to its use in English. It can mean *civil law*, *natural law* (like the law of gravity), or a *spiritual law*. It all depends upon the *context* of the subject under discussion. In this passage in Hebrews 7, both the *priesthood* AND the law of *tithing* are under discussion.

As the respected *Interpreters Bible Commentary* states:

When the priesthood is changed, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. What could this mean? That the whole law was set aside? Then why is the argument based on the priesthood of Melchizedek, relying as it had to on Genesis 14:17–20? As Calvin observed, in the law we find “many remarkable sentences by which we

not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished” (Matthew 5:17–18). If the whole law were abolished, why should such pains be taken to establish the validity of Christ’s priesthood? (Vol. 11, p. 667)

Notice, brethren, the rather tortured logic that this and other Protestant commentaries employ in this passage. On the one hand they are loathe to admit that *any part* of God’s LAW is still binding. On the other hand, they have great difficulty with the very clear words of Christ and especially the Apostles James and John about the continuing validity of God’s laws (James 2:10–12; 1 John 2:3–4).

So let’s go back to the *context* of Hebrews 7:11–12. Again, *both* the priesthood and the law of tithing are being discussed. Does this passage

For the Greek word used in both places in Hebrews 7:12 is *metathesis*, which does NOT mean to “do away with,” but to “transfer.” W.E. Vine, in *Expositor’s Dictionary of Biblical Words*, expresses it this way: “*Metathesis*, a transposition, or a transference from one place to another” (pg., 95). For in Hebrews 11:5, speaking of Enoch, this *same* Greek word is rendered “translation.” Was righteous Enoch “translated” or “transferred” to a place of safety? Or was Enoch ABOLISHED?

Obviously, God’s tithing law was NOT abolished. The right to receive tithes was simply *transferred* from the Aaronic priesthood to the ministry of Jesus Christ!

### **Further New Testament Instruction**

The direct teachings of Jesus Christ have NOT been done away! In spite of long-winded arguments and “reasonings” of deceived men, it is very difficult to get around Jesus’ direct statement regarding tithing.

Jesus was teaching the multitudes and His disciples in the 23rd chapter of Matthew. He warned them not to follow the wrong example of the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23:1–4). In this context Jesus corrected these misguided religious leaders: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin,

and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone” (v. 23).

These self-righteous hypocrites were very zealous about tithing on every little plant and herb in their gardens. But they grossly neglected the loving application of *justice, mercy and faith*. “These,” Jesus said, “you ought to have done WITHOUT leaving the others (conscientious TITHING) undone.”

*How clear!*

The Son of God commanded NOT to forsake carefully paying our tithes to God! And Jesus NEVER rescinded this very clear instruction. And nobody ELSE had better try to rescind it either! For this inspired instruction about Christian living is certainly no less important than the biblical prophecies. Yet, Christ tells us plainly in Revelation 22:18–19: “If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

This Living Christ inspired the Apostle Paul to write: “Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:14). So it should be very clear that God does want His faithful ministers to be supported—NOT by begging or whining over television, from the pulpit or anywhere else for “gifts” from the brethren—but by the TITHES which *all* humans owe their Creator who gives them life and breath!

As Herbert W. Armstrong wrote years ago, a true Christian cannot afford not to tithe. For this very rebellion will cost him—at the very least—the BLESSINGS from God he could have experienced by faithfully

tithing to his Creator. For tithing is not only a matter of obedience, but an act of WORSHIP—of loving acknowledgement of our God as the great GIVER of “every good and every perfect gift” (James 1:17).

And God “loves” a cheerful giver. As the Apostle Paul was inspired to instruct us: “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, have an abundance for every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:6–8).

Note that God appreciates a generous and “wholehearted” approach from His people in the matter of giving offerings—special offerings or otherwise. And, as verse 8 makes clear, God is able to BLESS His people immeasurably if they respond generously and lovingly in supporting His Work.

As we approach the end of this age, we *all* need to think very carefully about *how zealous* we are to reach out to the world with the Message of the soon-coming Kingdom of God—and with the Ezekiel “warning message” to the modern-day peoples of the House of Israel. Again, think carefully about how God looks at *you* in the light of Proverbs 24:10–12: “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?”

Are *you*, personally, deeply and emotionally involved in the CRUSADE to get Christ’s warning mes-

sage to our peoples before it is too late? Are *you* paying your full tithe to the Work of God—the place where God is most fully preaching His Message, where He is sending out the Ezekiel warning and where His servants are feeding and strengthening the flock with real spiritual meat?

To the *degree* that God has blessed you financially, are *you* giving truly generous offerings even above your tithes? Is your “heart” really in the Work of God? Remember Jesus Christ’s powerful admonition: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your HEART will be also” (Matthew 6:19–21).

With God’s help, it is time for many of His people to simply “get over” their grieving over the past and their confusion and discouragement and move forward toward the Kingdom of God. It is time for them to “return” to God with *all* of their hearts!

And *how* should they “return”? God Himself commands: “Return to Me, and I will return to you. But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’ Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ in TITHES and OFFERINGS” (Malachi 3:7–8). In verse 6, God had said, “for I am the LORD, I do NOT change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” So God’s law of tithing certainly continues. Will *you* obey God in FAITH and trust your faithful Creator to bless and guide you in the perilous years ahead? May God lead and inspire *all* of you who are faithful to respond to His Word and to receive His full blessing in your lives—now and forever. □

# Ministerial Conferences: Church Vision Outlined

By Gary F. Ehman

“God can use us to do a very powerful work, if we yield ourselves to God and try to cultivate a Book of Acts mentality.”

—Dr. Roderick C. Meredith

**T**he ministry of the Living Church of God has been shown its mission as it heads into the twenty-first century: lead the churches in restoring Apostolic Christianity.

In both of his keynote addresses—to ministers attending the western ministerial conference in San Diego, California and the eastern conference in Louisville, Mississippi—Dr. Roderick Meredith extensively outlined this concept, linking it to preaching the gospel and feeding the flock.

Dr. Meredith encouraged the ministry to focus on one of the main keys that will help people outside the Living Church of God understand the scriptural and historical origins of the beliefs it has received in this modern era.

Quoting from 1 Timothy 3:14–15, Ephesians 2:19 and 1 Thessalonians 2:14, Dr. Meredith said: “We get these ideas from the Jerusalem Church of God, the original apostolic Church of God. We are restoring apostolic Christianity.”

Dr. Meredith hoped this could be a theme to help people know why the church preaches what it preaches, countering claims that Herbert W. Armstrong got the church’s doctrines from a variety of other church organizations.

“We didn’t just grab some from over here or over there. It comes right out of the Bible and we have to prove it primarily from the Bible as we always have,” he said.

“God can use us to do a very powerful work, if we yield ourselves to God and try to cultivate a Book of Acts mentality.”

Looking at persecutions and troubles in the years ahead, Dr. Meredith reflected: “We’ve got to be willing to be put into jail. We’ve got to be willing to die. We’ve got to be willing to lay down our lives for Jesus Christ,” linking today’s ministry to those who established the original church in Jerusalem.

The ministers were encouraged to have an attitude of love and support for one another, and to show they are laying down their lives for the brethren and that they are going to build the Church of God at the end of the age just before Christ’s return.

Evangelist Carl McNair, Director of Church Administration, introduced a new management paradigm based on delegation of line authority. Ministers were given draft copies of the new ministerial policies and procedures for review and input.

Looking at past problems of too few ministers and too large church areas, Mr. McNair said there is a growing need for teamwork—for pastors to be creative and maximize the resources available.

“We have to learn teamwork. Work is what it’s all about. Work is what we’re engaged in. We have a job to do and there is more than enough for all,” he said. “We must support one another. We are not in competition. We cooperate. The recent

crisis was precipitated by ‘me’-thinking, not ‘we’-thinking,” said Mr. McNair.

Given the current number of full time ministers, the church must look to the larger number of unpaid elders, making some of them assistant pastors. Mr. McNair said area and regional pastors will decide who will be designated as assistant pastors.

“There is need for a firmer line of authority. We are going to be delegating line authority to area pastors and elders according to the ability to serve. With it will be accountability,” he said.

He cautioned pastors to always consider that the unpaid men “have a life” besides their service to the church. The church should not place an elder in an area where his family or job is jeopardized.

“As we delegate, we must draw a circle around the man, not draw the circle and put the man into it,” he said.

A large part of the conferences was concerned with providing the ministry an update of the progress the church and work have been making over the past seven months.

Dr. Meredith told the more than 150 ministers, wives and HQ personnel attending: “We have made wonderful progress. We’re building on two foundations: the foundation Christ laid through Mr. Armstrong and the foundation we all helped lay in the Global Church of God as well.”

Since the Living Church of God started, it has been able to get back, almost immediately, WGN and Vision network in Canada with responses that are far greater in number than for TV programs aired in our former association.

According to a report by Evangelist Richard Ames, Director of Media Operations, the telecast was off the air for only six weeks. He also noted that the church has retained 65 of the 71 public access channels it was on previously. Typically the response has approached or exceeded 1,000 per program.

Radio programs continue in South Africa and the Caribbean. TV and radio programs are back on in Australasia. Audio tracks of the TV program are being resumed on Radio Manx, and the Spanish work has expanded with TV programs in the United States and radio in Mexico.

In addition, three booklets—*Build a JOYOUS Marriage, Should You Be Baptized?* and *What’s Ahead For America and Britain?*—have been produced. The *Living Church News* and the *Tomorrow’s World* magazine are being mailed out regularly to the brethren and general public.

A report by Mr. William Bowmer, Executive Editor in the Media Department, outlined the growing importance of the Internet as a vital tool in preaching the gospel around the world.

Mr. Bowmer addressed the need for caution as members develop church-related websites. He said that member efforts are appreciated deeply, and must always be conducted according to applicable laws, especially regarding copyright. Mr. Bowmer discussed the current state of the Church web site and outlined future plans for it [Editor’s note: see the article on page 19 for further information about the Church web site].

Ministers from the International areas attended the western conference. Evangelist Dibar Apartian, Europe; Mr. Bruce Tyler, Australia; Mr. Charles Bryce, Canada; Mr. Jonathan McNair, Caribbean; Mr. Rod McNair, Philippines; Mr. Sidney Hull, South Africa and Mr. Mario Hernandez, Spanish areas, all presented reports.

Mr. Fred Dattolo, Church Treasurer, provided background on the Church’s accounting system. Mr. Tom Turner presented two reports, one on risk management, the other an overview of the bylaws and canons of the church.

Ordinations were conducted at both sites, raising two elders to pastor rank and ordaining four new elders. In San Diego, three men from the International area were ordained as elders: Mr. Dayrell Tanner, Mr. Rajan Moses and Mr. Michael Gill, all serving in the Australasian region. In Louisville, Mr. Martin Fannin and Mr. David Burson were elevated to pastors. Mr. Evo Walker was ordained as an elder.

In concluding conference remarks, Dr. Meredith said these 1999 conferences provided the greatest degree of love and unity he had ever experienced at such gatherings. He encouraged the ministry to take that back to the brethren.

“Teach them to build the mind of Christ, to totally submit and adore and worship God and Christ,” he said in closing the 1999 conference. □



Dr. Meredith talks with ministers at the Eastern Conference in Louisville, Mississippi.



# Are You a Peacemaker?

By Douglas S. Winnail

**T**he world is becoming an increasingly dangerous place. Acts of hatred and violence occur every day in homes and communities. Terrorism and the effects of ethnic strife and war are constant topics in the media. The *bad* news is that it is all going to get worse before it gets better—but it will get better! However, there are *vital lessons* God's people need to be learning as we witness what is happening to human society.

Do we really grasp the great significance of the ever-mounting violence around the world? Do we understand *why* it is occurring and *where* it is all leading? Just what is the *cause* of this worldwide wave of violence? Why is peace so difficult to achieve? Is there *a way* to real peace on earth and goodwill among all peoples? How will that kind of peace be attained? But even more importantly, what can we do *as individual Christians* to prepare for a meaningful role in the process of restoring peace to this troubled world?

The surging wave of hatred and violence and humankind's inability to bring about lasting peace are *prophetically significant*! When Jesus was asked what signs would announce His imminent return to the earth He listed: escalating wars and rumors of wars, ethnic strife,

hatred and killing (Matthew 24:3–10). The famines and pestilences He mentioned are often the result of destruction and dislocation caused by war and violence. The Apostle Paul was inspired to write “In the last days perilous [difficult, terrible] times will come” (2 Timothy 3:1–4). He describes people living at that time as unloving [callous, inhuman, without natural affection], unforgiving [irreconcilable], slanderers [troublemakers], brutal [fierce] and treacherous. These terms are increasingly applicable to the times we live in.

The Bible clearly indicates that as the end of this age approaches, the world will be influenced by the powerful, evil spirit of Satan (2 Thessalonians 2:1–12; Revelation 12:7–12). One of the proverbial “Four Horsemen” of the Apocalypse, that will ride just before Christ returns, has a red horse. This rider will “*take peace from the earth*” as people *kill* one another (Revelation 6:4). The beast that figures so prominently in end-time prophecies is a ferocious *war-making* creature (Revelation 13:1–7). The armies of the world will gather at Armageddon (Revelation 16:12–16) and then move to the vicinity of Jerusalem where they will actually *make war* with the returning Jesus Christ (Revelation 17:12–14). This will

result in a disaster of incredible proportions—with blood running to a depth of a horse's bridle (Revelation 14:14–20).

This is where the escalating wave of hatred and violence will lead. Man's attempt to rule himself will end in a series of violently bloody convulsions precipitated by the actions of deceived and misguided human beings. It will be horrible—worse than anything the world has ever seen (Matthew 24:21–22).

## Promise of Peace

However, there is also *good news—exciting news—which is THE GOSPEL!* Jesus Christ will return with great power to reign on this earth (Revelation 11:15–18). He will come as the Prince of Peace to set up a government that will bring everlasting peace to this earth (Isaiah 9:6–7). He will reward His saints with positions of rulership in that world-ruling government (Revelation 5:10). Individuals given this incredible opportunity will have *learned* how to become peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). They will understand the real cause of strife and war. They will be able to point the true way to peace. They will lead the peoples of this world, sickened and exhausted by hatred and war, into a new era of peace—the kingdom of God set up by Christ

and his saints on this earth. Let's examine just how this will be done. Let's notice lessons we can *learn* now to prepare for this exciting challenge.

### Cause of Strife

The Apostle James observed that wars, fights, arguments and conflicts arise from human *lusts* and *desires* that run contrary to biblical instructions that define appropriate behavior (James 4:1–6). James' inspired advice is to *get rid* of pride, vanity, jealousy, and humble ourselves,

frustrating situation is also revealed in the Scriptures. God clearly states, “*the way of peace they have not known*” (Isaiah 59:8; Romans 3:17). Despite mankind's remarkable achievements, the real cause of war and strife and the true way to lasting peace have not been found. This is the sobering lesson of human history!

Historians Will and Ariel Durant have observed that in the last 3,400 years, only 270 have seen no war. That's about 8 percent. In other words, about 92 percent of that time human beings have been fighting

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*“the way of peace they have not known” (Isaiah 59:8; Romans 3:17). Despite mankind's remarkable achievements, the real cause of war and strife and the true way to lasting peace have not been found.*

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submitting voluntarily to God's instructions because this will begin to eliminate the real causes of strife and contention—placing us on the path to real and lasting peace (James 4:1–12). It is interesting that Victor Hugo, a French poet in the 1800s, drew a similar conclusion when he wrote, “Peace is the deliberate adjustment of my life to the will of God.” He had learned a valuable lesson.

God inspired the prophets of ancient Israel to warn that misguided leaders would continually talk about peace but not be able to achieve peace (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11; Ezekiel 13:10). Bible prophecy indicates that man's futile search for peace will continue to the very end of this age when “the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly” at their inability to put an end to strife and war (Isaiah 33:7). The reason for this

each other somewhere on this earth. When we examine the philosophy of influential individuals we find some of the reasons for this continuing problem. George Washington, reflecting the common wisdom of his day said, “to be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace”—however, he fought several wars in his lifetime. We follow that same philosophy today, and we are still fighting. Mao Tse Tung once remarked “war can only be abolished through war—to get rid of the gun you must take up the gun.” In spite of giving guns to hundreds of thousands, he never found the way to peace. Adolf Hitler asserted “mankind has grown strong through struggles—it will only perish through eternal peace.” Hitler, however, died in the struggle he initiated and destroyed his nation and much of Europe in the process.

These human ideas have only spawned more war. They have failed to achieve lasting peace.

Other, more perceptive individuals have sensed there is a better way. Former President Ronald Reagan stated “lasting peace *cannot* be secured through the strength of arms alone.” General Douglas MacArthur concluded: “In war we have had our last chance—if we are to save the flesh, it must be *of the spirit*.” In other words, to eliminate war and achieve peace, we must change the way we think and the way we go about the process. Max Lerner asserted “the way to prevent war is to bend every effort *to prevent* it—not prepare for it.” The constitution of UNESCO, an agency of the United Nations, contains this interesting statement “Since wars begin *in the minds* of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.” The question we need to ask is: “How can this be done?” How will Jesus Christ and the saints bring lasting peace to a hate-filled, war-torn planet? What can we do to prepare to help?

### The Way to Peace

The Bible indicates that saints who rule under Jesus Christ will function as kings and priests (Revelation 5:10). They will provide both civil and religious leadership. They will set domestic policy as well as promote basic values that influence individual behavior. They will function as teachers and educators guiding society in a specific direction. Speaking of this time Isaiah prophesied “Your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you saying, *This is the way, walk in it*” (Isaiah 30:20–21). Isaiah also reveals that when Christ sets up His government in Jerusalem (in

the latter days) that all the nations of the earth will look to that city for guidance and direction for solving their problems. He states that “out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:2–4). As a result of this re-educational program the nations of the world “shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, *neither shall they learn war any more*” (Ibid). In the coming kingdom of God nations will be *taught* the way to achieve peace.

But just how will this be accomplished? How will we change the thinking of the entire world? What aspects of God’s law will we need to understand and emphasize?

The fundamental principles of God’s law that will be promulgated from Jerusalem will be the Ten Commandments. Jesus taught “if you want to want to enter into life [eternal life in the kingdom of God—see Matthew 19:23] *keep the commandments*” (Matthew 19:16–19). The sixth commandment prohibits killing—murder (Exodus 20:13). Mankind will have to be taught to respect the value of human life. This means that forms of entertainment (movies, video games, etc.) that feature violence and killing will simply not be produced or be made available. Military academies will be closed. Military organizations will be disbanded. Defense contractors who manufacture armaments will have to find other products to make. This will involve a major restructuring of human society. Human energies will have to be *guided* into constructive—not destructive—directions. Have you ever given any thought to how you would do this if you are given the opportunity? It will be a challenge. However, this will just be the beginning.

Jesus said he did not come to do away with the law, but to *fulfill* it (Matthew 5:17). The word *fulfill* (*pleroo* in Greek) means to complete, perfect, to cram full. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would come to “*magnify* the law [explain additional applications] and make it honorable [glorious]” (Isaiah 42:21). Jesus explained to His disciples that while the *letter* of the law prohibited killing and murder, the *spiritual intent* of that same commandment prohibits harboring hatred, animosity or contempt toward another human being (Matthew 5:21–22). The spirit of the law reveals that many commonly held attitudes are simply wrong—because they lead us in the wrong direction and produce bad fruit. These attitudes violate the law of God and thus are termed sins (1 John 3:4). Sins must be repented of, eliminated and replaced by more positive behaviors in order to bring peace to this world. This, too, will take time—and concentrated effort by firm, yet patient, understanding and experienced teachers.

### Principles of Peace

The Bible is literally filled with principles that *amplify* the spiritual intent of the sixth commandment. Those same principles also show us *how to apply* another fundamental teaching of Scripture—the admonition to love our neighbor (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39; John 15:17). Jesus taught that we should learn to settle differences quickly instead of letting them smolder unresolved (Matthew 5:25). We must be willing to give in instead of fighting for our own way (5:38–42). We need to learn to love even our enemies instead of hate them (5:43–48). The Apostle Paul emphasized we should “live peaceably with all men,” show kindness, trust God and resist the temptation to seek revenge or get

even (Romans 12:9–21). He taught we must get rid of anger and resentment lest it cause us to sin (Ephesians 4:25–31). James, the brother of Jesus Christ wrote, “be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God” (James 1:19–20). These are all practical principles of godly behavior that can be *learned* and *taught*. These are peacemaking skills that leaders in tomorrow’s world will need.

The peace-promoting principles of the New Testament have their counterparts in the Old Testament. This is not surprising since the teachings of Jesus Christ were based upon, and were amplifications of, the Hebrew Scriptures. Dozens of proverbs illustrate this fact. One thousand years before Christ, Solomon wrote, “hatred stirs up strife, but *love* covers [forgives, overlooks] all sins” (Proverbs 10:12). He penned “a *soft answer* turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1). He advised that *patience* and *gentleness* can break down a bone-like resistance (25:15), but that malicious and hurtful words stir up anger (25:23–24). Additional proverbs reveal that by eliminating gossip and slander, strife ceases (26:20), but that contentious, argumentative people generate strife (26:21). Again, we are talking about godly behaviors that can be *learned* and *taught*.

On a more fundamental level, Solomon was inspired to record that the *root cause* of strife and contention is *pride*, but that wise people learn not succumb to this temptation (Proverbs 13:10). The tragic lesson of history is that pride leads to destruction (Proverbs 16:18).

The Word of God reveals the real *causes* of both war and peace. The

### Are You A Peacemaker?

*continues on page 17*

# How Did We Get The New Testament?

By John H. Ogwyn

**W**here did we get our New Testament? Who decided which books were holy and deserved to be part of the Bible? The Catholic Church claims that early church councils put the New Testament together, but is that really the way it happened?

Many of the commentators argue and dispute about who actually wrote the various books of the New Testament. Is there a way of really knowing? The standard argument of the so-called higher critics is that the early Apostles were poor, uneducated peasants and were probably not even literate. They contend that men such as Peter, John and James could certainly not have written the books that bear their names. They argue that the written gospels were compiled from oral tradition many decades after the events and therefore cannot be considered very reliable.

One other matter: from time to time we hear of “lost books of the Bible.” There are ancient books that claim to be the “lost gospels” of men such as Peter or Thomas. Is there a way to be sure that we have ALL the books that are legitimate scripture in our current copies of the New Testament?

What about it? Does the record of the Bible together with secular history provide significant evidence about the origin of the New Testament? How did it come to be

written—and can we prove that what we have in our possession is truly authoritative?

## The Men Who Wrote the New Testament

What about the men who are purported to be the authors of the New Testament? Who were they? What were their credentials? What evidence is there that they were the genuine authors?

First, let's look at the author of more New Testament books than any other. With fourteen books ascribed to him, the Apostle Paul is certainly credited with a major role in producing our New Testament. In what way was this man uniquely qualified to write such a large portion of the New Testament? After all, it is the books attributed to Paul that provide the most detailed explanation of the process of salvation. They expound subjects such as justification, sanctification, law and grace, and the old and new covenants.

What do we know of the background and training of Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles? According to Acts 22:3 he had been a student of Rabbi Gamaliel, the foremost Jewish teacher of his day. In addition, we are told that Paul grew up in Tarsus, a major city on a Roman trade route. His father was a well-to-do purveyor of tents to the merchant caravans that traversed that well-traveled route.



We know that Paul's father was well off financially for two reasons. Firstly, he had Roman citizenship and that was a rare commodity in his day and came at a high price. Secondly, he was able to send his young son to Jerusalem to study with the foremost Jewish scholar of the day. Again, that was something that would have been out of the reach of most.

Young Saul, whose Roman name was Paul, would have grown up not only learning his father's trade of tent making, but would have developed fluency in Greek because this was the major language of commerce in his area. Paul's address on Mars Hill in Athens shows that he was conversant with the Greek poets and could quote them at will. Paul was well educated from both a Greek and a Jewish perspective. He was clearly capable of writing any book that has been ascribed to him. Because of his scholarly background, there was no one who was more qualified to explain the intricacies of the Old Testament, such as we find in Hebrews, or the theological principles of salvation found in Romans and Galatians.

What of other purported New Testament writers? While Paul came from a privileged and scholarly background, what of men such as Peter, John, and James the brother of Jesus? Surely, many modern critics reason, they would have lacked the education to have written the books attributed to them.

Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, along with James and John the sons of Zebedee, were professional fishermen. What is it possible to know about them simply from their occupation? For one thing, we learn that they owned their own boats and that they had employees (Mark 1:20). As we shall see, they were successful businessmen at the time that they forsook all to follow Jesus of Nazareth.

An article in the June 1999 issue of *Bible Review* magazine raises an important question. The idea that the Apostles were rude, uneducated men "...is a linchpin of the skepticism of those who attack the general reliability of the gospel traditions. Such ignorant, laboring men, the argument goes, could not be expected to remember or report accurately...so little or no confidence can be placed in what they relate about Jesus' words and deeds" (pp. 23–24).

What kind of men were these fishermen that Jesus called to become fishers of men? To begin with, let's understand a little about the status of fishermen in the ancient world. Fish was one of the most important staple foods of the Mediterranean world. In fact, the availability of fresh fish wasn't enough to meet demand in the Roman Empire, pushing up the price considerably. The salting, drying, and pickling of fish to ship inland was a major

industry. In short, the marketing of fish was a lucrative business and provided a very good income to those so engaged.

Peter and Andrew came from the city of Bethsaida (John 1:44) which was in the territory of Herod Philip, who had inherited the territory northeast of the Sea of Galilee from his father, Herod the Great. Bethsaida was one of thirteen harbors located on the Sea of Galilee. However, the place where most of the catch from the Sea of Galilee was processed for shipment was the town of Taricheae, known as Magdala in Aramaic. This created a problem for residents of Bethsaida since Taricheae was in the territory of Philip's half-brother, Herod Antipas. The

*Does the record of the Bible together with secular history provide significant evidence about the origin of the New Testament? How did it come to be written—and can we prove that what we have in our possession is truly authoritative?*

first village across the Jordan River on Antipas' side of the border, Capernaum, had a toll collector and a small garrison. Antipas collected a hefty tax on the fish and other products brought in from his brother's realm.

This explains why Peter moved across the Sea of Galilee and obtained a home in Capernaum. In this way he wasn't subject to the tax that Antipas imposed on non-resident fish-sellers. Archaeologists believe that they have excavated the home of Peter in Capernaum and describe it as larger than average and the home of a prosperous family (see "Has the House Where Jesus Stayed in Capernaum Been Found?" *Biblical Archaeology Review*, Nov/Dec 1982). Successful businessmen in this area had to be fluent in Greek as well as Aramaic. In fact, the names Andrew and Philip (the close friend introduced to Jesus by Peter and his brother) are of Greek origin. This attests to their families' comfort and familiarity with the surrounding Greek world.

Peter and John would have grown up speaking Greek as well as Aramaic. They came from prosperous, middle class Jewish backgrounds. They were astute enough businessmen to move their home for tax benefits. With ships and employees they clearly knew how to plan and organize. Though despised by the religious professionals in Jerusalem because of their Galilean accented speech and

their lack of formal training in the recognized rabbinical schools of the day, they were anything but ignorant and uneducated men. Christ clearly picked men who had the kind of background and training that prepared them for the important responsibilities that He had in mind for them.

What about James and Jude, the brothers of Jesus? Each is credited with the authorship of one of the books of the New Testament. James served as the Apostle who presided over the headquarters church at Jerusalem for decades. Did these men have the kind of background that would have enabled them to write the books attributed to them?

James and Jude grew up in the household of Joseph and Mary in Nazareth. Their father was a carpenter and they would no doubt have been brought up with training and experience in that profession. What was entailed in being a carpenter in Nazareth?

Though Nazareth was a small village of about 400 people, it was located only three miles from Sepphoris, the Roman capital of Galilee. Sepphoris was destroyed in 4BC, following riots that ensued after the death of Herod the Great. The following year Herod Antipas began the rebuilding of the city. This proved to be a vast project that lasted throughout the lifetime of Jesus. A theater, a royal palace, and numerous public buildings were constructed. A beautiful, sophisticated city of 30,000, second only to Jerusalem, developed. It was home to Jews, Greeks, Arabs, and Romans.

The more that scholars have learned about Sepphoris in recent years, the more that it has changed their view of the environment in which Jesus and his brothers grew up. "In short, Jesus lived in a Galilean culture much more urban and sophisticated than previously believed... The construction of an influential Roman capital city so near Jesus' home in Nazareth redefines the carpenter's occupation in central Galilee" (BAR, May/June 1992, p. 55). Jesus, along with His younger brothers, James and Jude, grew up in a culture where Greek was commonly spoken along with Aramaic. They were in the building trade at a time and place when new construction was booming and skilled craftsmen were prospering. Clearly, James and Jude weren't illiterate peasants. They were very capable of writing the books attributed to them.

Other New Testament writers, such as Matthew and Luke, were obviously educated men. Matthew was a Roman civil servant, a tax collector, which indicates that he was educated in Greek as well as Aramaic. Luke was a physician by training and experience, which again presupposes a good education. The other New Testament author, John Mark, was a travelling companion first of

Paul and Barnabas and later of Peter. We know that his uncle, Barnabas, was a wealthy Levite from Cyprus (Acts 4:36–37). In addition, Mark's mother, Mary, owned a large home in Jerusalem that was big enough to accommodate meetings of a large number of the disciples (Acts 12:12). This again points to the fact of Mark having had access to a good education.

Clearly, every one of the men named as authors of the New Testament books had a background of exposure to the Greek world and the Greek language. They had the educational and social background to write the material that has been attributed to them.

## Putting the New Testament Together

The Jews of Jesus' day venerated their sacred writings, which we know as the Old Testament, and studied them from childhood. Josephus, a first-century priest and historian who was contemporary with the writers of the New Testament, records the Jewish perspective on the scriptures: "For we have not an innumerable multitude of books among us, disagreeing from and contradicting one another [as the Greeks have,] but only twenty-two books... which are justly believed to be divine..." (*Against Apion*, I, 8). Josephus stated that the Jewish scriptures had been compiled in their final form in the days of King Artaxerxes, who reigned in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah.

The fact that there were twenty-two books of Hebrew scriptures was given great significance by the Jews. This is because this corresponded to the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. An illustration is found in Psalm 119. In the King James translation, as well as many others, each section of eight verses in this Psalm is preceded with a character of the Hebrew alphabet. In Hebrew the first eight verses all begin with the letter "a" (*aleph*), the next eight verses all begin with the letter "b" (*beth*), and so on. The idea was that when all of the letters had been used up, the subject was thoroughly covered and nothing more remained to be said. This was the concept with the Hebrew scriptures. God's revelation in the Hebrew language was deemed complete. After all, the entire alphabet was "used up."

The twenty-two books as counted by the Jews correspond to the books of our Old Testament, normally counted as thirty-nine books in modern translations. The number differs because of the different way the books were counted. The twelve Minor Prophets, for instance, were kept on one scroll in Hebrew and were counted as simply one book, not twelve separate ones. There are several other combinations as well.

But while the Hebrew scriptures were complete, God's revelation to mankind wasn't finished! In the aftermath of

Jesus' resurrection, accounts of His life and ministry were written. Letters to fledgling congregations were written. As the decades passed, those who were first-hand witnesses of what Jesus Christ said and did began to pass from the scene. False teachers arose who were teaching "a different gospel" (2 Corinthians 11:3). They also wrote letters, often signing the name of one of the Apostles. (2 Thessalonians 2:2). In such confusion, how was an accurate account of Christ's teachings and the teachings of His apostles to be preserved for future generations of disciples?

Peter addresses this issue in the last letter that he wrote: 2 Peter. Written shortly prior to his execution by the Romans, and shortly after Paul's death, Peter puts things in perspective. Referring to his soon-approaching death in verse 14, Peter states: "Moreover I will be care-

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*Clearly the Bible was complete and stamped as God's book. If any book is added or removed the entire pattern is disturbed. Christ called and trained capable, qualified men as His Apostles. The early Apostles, who produced the New Testament, along with the prophets who produced the Old Testament, provided a solid foundation for the Church that Jesus built (Ephesians 2:20).*

ful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease" (2 Peter 1:15). Clearly the only way that he could ensure a permanent record of the things that he had taught was to leave behind writings officially designated as holy scripture!

Beginning in verse 16, Peter abruptly switches from using the first person singular to using "we," the first person plural. Who was the "we" that Peter referred to in verses 16 through 19? He defines the "we" in verse 18 when he refers to them having witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus in the Mount. This event is detailed in Matthew 17:1–13 where we learn that only Peter, James, and John accompanied Jesus to the mount and were first-hand witnesses of this event. James the brother of John was the first of the Apostles to be martyred (Acts 12:1–2) and had been dead for decades at the time Peter was writing 2 Peter. Therefore, the "we" being referred to by Peter could only refer to him and John.

He goes on to explain in verse 19 that "we"—he and John—were the only ones who possessed the "sure word of prophecy." In other words, Peter was pointing out to his readers that he and John were the ones designated by Christ to leave behind an authoritative record that would guide the Christian community in generations to come, long after the deaths of the original disciples.

In 2 Peter 3:15–16 he refers to Paul's writings in a way that indicates they were complete, mentioning "all" his letters. He also refers to people distorting them as they did "the other scriptures." Peter defines Paul's letters as scripture on a par with the Old Testament and intimates that Paul was no longer alive to respond to those who sought to twist his meaning.

There are twenty-seven books in the New Testament, five of which are attributed to the Apostle John and believed to have been written approximately three decades after the death of Peter. This would indicate that Peter, prior to his death, put together a canon of twenty-two books, exactly corresponding in number to the Jewish way of reckoning the books of the Old Testament. When John added his five books—a gospel, three epistles, and Revelation—there were then twenty-seven in all. The twenty-two books of the Hebrew scriptures, added to the twenty-seven books of the Greek scriptures, make forty-nine in all—seven times seven, God's number of completion and perfection!

Clearly the Bible was complete and stamped as God's book. If any book is added or removed the entire pattern is disturbed. Christ called and trained capable, qualified men as His Apostles. The early Apostles, who produced the New Testament, along with the prophets who produced the Old Testament, provided a solid foundation for the Church that Jesus built (Ephesians 2:20).

Christ ensured that the Church that He established would not be left to human tradition or vague, unreliable recollection as its source of guidance. He left us with a written record of His message and of the actions and teachings of His Apostles. This message was accurately preserved in the manuscripts copied in the Greek world for centuries. After the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453, Greek scholars fled to Western Europe, particularly Switzerland, bringing a treasure trove of ancient manuscripts. These manuscripts provided the basis of what is called the *Textus Receptus*, from which both the King James and New King James versions were translated.

The living Christ has guided and orchestrated events to ensure a faithful witness of the Good News that He came proclaiming almost 2,000 years ago. Our New Testament is truly the legacy of the early Church, faithfully preserved for us today! □

# Report From The Treasurer

By Fred Dattolo

**L**ast time I wrote, our year-to-date mail income was holding steady at about 77 percent of last year's. Since then, the spring Holy Day offerings were better than expected—we received slightly more than 80 percent of last year's amount! Thanks to your generous offerings, our total year-to-date mail income now stands at 78 percent of a year ago. Last time, I also mentioned that tithe of second tithe is requested in order to pay the common costs of the annual festivals—costs borne by the Church rather than by each of us individually. Examples include festival halls in which to meet, expenses for flowers and equipment rented at each of the Feast sites, ministerial travel, including the need to send about seven men overseas in order to spiritually feed our international brethren so they too can enjoy the Feast.

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*We are excited about the potential for God's Work in the future. We continue to put into place programs, systems, procedures and policies that will lay the foundation to prepare us for a greater Work.*

Also needed is cash assistance for those needy members who would not otherwise be able to attend the Feast, both in the United States and in many international areas.

So far, the response has been good. We have collected about \$80,000 in tithe of second tithe. To give you an idea of what is needed, cash assistance alone, for our members to keep the Feast, was over \$70,000 last year, including what was sent to our international members. This year, the need appears to be even greater. All the other festival expenses, of course, will also need to be paid mostly before the Feast. If you have not done so,

and you are able, please consider offsetting the Church's Feast costs with your tithe of second tithe. Thank you!

On another topic, our headquarters staff—22 full-time and 4 part-time employees and three regular volunteers—is working in unity with the same purpose and goals and supporting Dr. Meredith with fewer resources than we are accustomed to, but with a wholehearted attitude! That is one reason why we can and are doing more with less. We are excited about the potential for God's Work in the future. We continue to put into place programs, systems, procedures and policies that will lay the foundation to prepare us for a greater Work.

To that end, we have recently hired Aaron Eagle, a former Worldwide Church of God employee. In the last several years, Mr. Eagle has worked in Michigan as an Information Analyst where he was trained to develop forecasting tools enabling General Motors to manipulate, analyze and consolidate data in more efficient and consistent ways throughout the whole organization. With Mr. Eagle's training and experience, we will be able to coordinate the development of the master file database and integrate our member and co-worker file with our donor file, our subscriber file (respondents to the telecast) and our financial vendor file, all into one relational database. In addition, Mr. Eagle will be assisting Mr. Carl McNair and Mr. Dibar Apartian in Church Administration.

Our physical resources—whether they are human, financial or property and equipment resources—are very limited. Yet we know that our spiritual resources are unlimited! There is no doubt that God will finish His Work. I'm sure that you are as excited and eager to get on with it as we are! We pray that God will give us more of the resources we need to get the job done, and we also pray that He will guide us to do the best we can with what He provides. We certainly appreciate all of you whom God is using. Thank you very much for your unwavering steadfastness to His Truth and His Work! □



**Are You A Peacemaker?***(Continued From page 11)*

laws and principles that God inspired in Scripture identify human attitudes and behaviors that lead to strife and contention, as well as those that *promote* peace and harmony and *prevent* strife. It is a sad fact of history that mankind has either not understood or has chosen to ignore these powerful biblical principles. Our challenge as Christians is to *learn* how to *apply* these inspired principles—now in

our lifetime. When we consider the escalating wave of hatred and violence that is threatening to engulf our world, perhaps we can begin to understand why we are admonished to “*seek* peace, and *pursue* it” (Psalm 34:14), and why we are told that “great peace have those who *love Your law*” (Psalm 119:165).

We can *prepare now* for important responsibilities in the coming Kingdom of God. Learn the lessons of history. Study the Scriptures about peace. Notice what God says leads to

strife and contention. Make a list of proverbs that relate to these subjects. Think about how you can apply these principles to the situations in your own life and to problems in our society. If we build on the foundation that God has provided, we can develop the skills of a peacemaker. As we gain experience using these skills we will be able to work with Jesus Christ to restore to this earth a goal that has inspired yet eluded mankind—*eternal, everlasting peace*. Set a goal of becoming a peacemaker! □

**Servant Leadership** *(Continued From page 2)*

“spans” all of us from time to time. “For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives” (Hebrews 12:6).

But all of us—ministers and layman alike—must constantly *humble the self* through God’s Spirit, and try to be sure that we are genuinely motivated by a spirit of SERVICE in whatever we do. If we have to take a lower position for a time—as even the Son of God did—in *order to better serve*, let us graciously do this and THANK GOD for the opportunity. If we are NEVER rewarded with some big position or title within God’s Church, we still may be WAY AHEAD of those folks who are always pushing for position, power and prestige!

For the great CREATOR of us all has this to say: “For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and HUMBLE SPIRIT, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. For I will not contend forever, nor will I always be angry; for the spirit would fail before Me, and the souls which I have made’” (Isaiah 57:15–16).

God is watching and God is “testing” the attitudes of every one of us! He wants to know IF we are truly learning the lessons of Servant Leadership. Are we *willing* to take the “lowest seat” if that works out better and helps us serve more? Are we constantly thinking about how we can best use our talents, our time and our resources to better SERVE others and to prepare for the Kingdom of God?

John, the beloved Apostle, tells us: “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16). Let each of us in the Living Church of God learn to “lay down our lives” for one another in all of our thoughts, our prayers and our actions. Let us be truly be motivated by a spirit of giving, helping, serving and encouraging one another. Then, without doubt, we will be granted entrance into our Father’s everlasting Kingdom which will be totally based on that spirit of LOVE, kindness, patience, service and profound JOY.



## Summer Dance Highlights Manila Ministerial Conference

May 29 was a special Sabbath day for the Metro-Manila congregations. Six Philippine ministers, who were in town for a ministerial conference, attended a combined service and an evening summer dance at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

At sunset, a potluck dinner was served. Then, at 7:00 p.m., the dance began. There were also song and dance numbers that added to the entertainment. Even some of the ministers sang in the local dialects to the delight of the brethren. At the end of the dance, some couples were awarded best in swing, tango, boogie and waltz.

The occasion was a success and gave the brethren a chance to meet and visit longer with the ministers, who were here for the 2-day conference. The ministerial meetings, held on May 27 and 28, were led by Regional Director Rod McNair, at his Makati residence. Ministers attending were Messrs. Gorgonio de Guia (Manila), Eleno Cabahit (Davao), Felipe Casing (Davao), Tex Benitez (Maranding), Encardio Benitez (San Fernando) and Elias Flores (Maramag).

## Anniversary

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Vern Raby of Fenelon Falls, Ontario, Canada, who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 12, 1999. They were married in 1934 in Minden, Ontario. Mr. & Mrs. Raby used to listen to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong many years ago, and after hearing the voice of Dr. Meredith on the telecast they sought baptism—which was carried out on December 23, 1996.

## Birth Announcements

Norman and Sally Crouch of Brisbane, Australia are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter Elyse Olivia, born on May 25 at 3:00 a.m. and weighing 8lb 1oz. A baby sister for Emma and Andrew, and granddaughter for Dayrell and Jeanette Tanner also of the Brisbane church. We are thankful to God for this wonderful blessing.

He's finally here and they couldn't be happier! James and Aimee Hart of the San Diego California congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their son Justin Roy Hart, born on April 6 at 9:32 p.m. weighing 4lb 12oz; measuring 18 1/4 inches. Justin has 3 older sisters, Britni, Jaimee and Katie.

## Rolla Brethren Enjoy Float Trip

The Rolla, Missouri float trip was held June 13, 1999 on the scenic Jack's Fork River. The emphasis of the trip was on family fun, with special regard to youth involvement. The weekend of June 12-13 was hectic; reservations for camping and canoe rentals were confirmed the day before and all that was left to do was to enjoy! The Rolla congregation was prepared for extra seating and refresh-

ments. After a sermon by Mr. Bill Oswald, the fellowship was even more lively than usual. The enthusiasm lasted throughout the whole weekend. Saturday night the teens enjoyed the company of their friends, a pool party and camping. Mr. Bill Oswald and Mr. Darwin Kisse provided music for everyone to enjoy. Sunday was a perfect day for floating. After breakfast, the canoes hit the

water and a day of adventure began. It soon became apparent which teens were experienced canoers and which ones were always sideways! Canoers of all skill levels had smiles throughout the day as they splashed, swam, and occasionally dunked each other on their way to the take out point. Thanks to the 30 adventurous people who made this trip so fun!

—Written by Jay Collins, age 17

# Updates to Official Church Web Sites

In little more than five months since its inception, the [www.livingcog.org](http://www.livingcog.org) web site has received more than half a million “hits.” More than 50,000 user sessions have been conducted, and more than 15,000 unique visitors have come to the site on one or more occasions.

New features have recently been added to the two official Living Church of God web sites, in an attempt to serve more fully the needs of the brethren and the viewers of our *Tomorrow's World* telecast.

The *Tomorrow's World* web site, reachable at URL: <http://www.tomorrowworld.org>, contains a complete archive of *Tomorrow's World* telecasts, in RealVideo and RealAudio formats. A Television Log section keeps viewers up to date regarding the day and time the program airs in various television markets. Media Department staff at Headquarters are working with volunteers in the field to add to the site a “Literature Request” area, from which viewers will be able to see online the *Tomorrow's World* magazine in several electronic formats, and to request subscriptions to the print version of the magazine.

Booklets will also be made available from the site in electronic format, along with an order form for those who wish to receive print copies. When the Correspondence Course is released later this year, it too will be available online. The Living Church of God web site, reachable at URL: <http://www.livingcog.org>, will also add a “Literature Request” area in the near future.

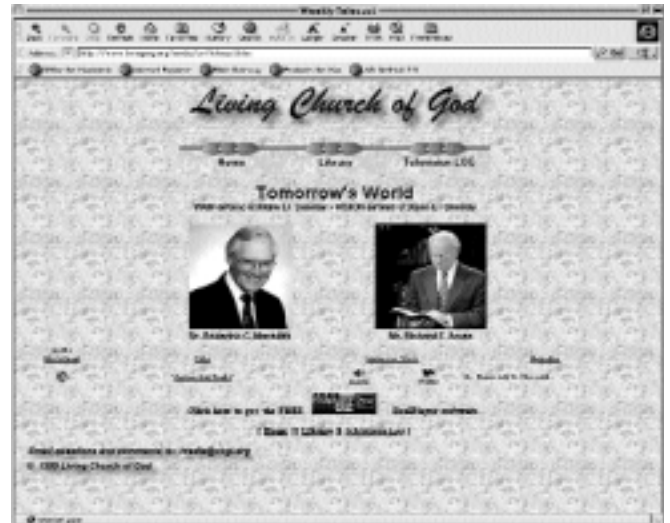
The Living Church of God web site has also undergone some revisions recently. Links on the home page now connect visitors directly to pages containing weekly sermons, telecasts, and commentaries (brief 2–5 minute audio pieces).

These commentaries are among the most popular features on the site; they give senior HQ ministers a novel way to share with the brethren their perspectives on current events. Recent topics have included: “New Superpower on the Rise” and “Natural Disasters—Why?” by Dr. Meredith, “Columbine Tragedy—Why?” by Mr. Ames, and “Father's Day” by Mr. McNair.

At least one new full-length sermon is added to the site each week. Most sermons are made available in RealAudio format; Holy Day sermons are also available in RealVideo so that brethren can view them online.

Recent sermons available on the site include: “False Prophets Predicted” and “A Turning Point” by Dr. Meredith; “A Spiritual Gauge” by Mr. McNair and “Peace of Mind” by Mr. Apartian.

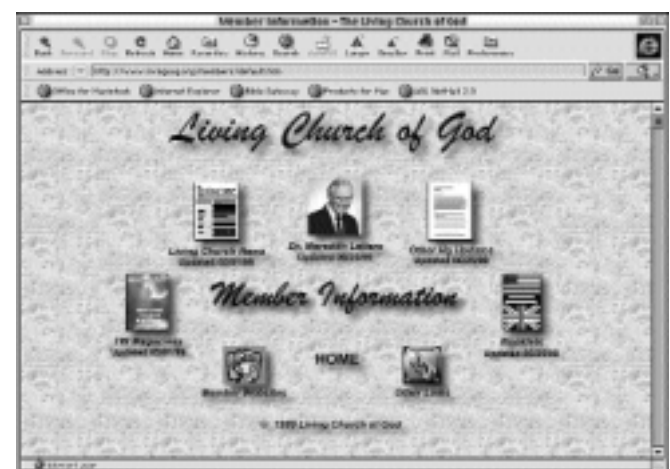
For brethren who do not have access to the telecast, the web site makes the *Tomorrow's World* program available for online



URL: <http://www.tomorrowworld.org/>



URL: <http://www.livingcog.org/>



URL: <http://www.livingcog.org/members/>

viewing. With the first season of taping completed, each of its 22 programs can be found on the web site; the current week's program is featured, while others can be seen in the site's Library area.

Because some material is not appropriate for visitors who do not have a Church of God background, a "Member" area has been added. This member area contains electronic copies of the *Living Church News*, Dr. Meredith's member and co-worker letters, and other updates from Headquarters departments, such as the weekly Church Administration update, in addition to online copies of the booklets and the *Tomorrow's World* magazine. Living Church of God members, or anyone with a Church of God background, may type in the words *member* and *galatians220* to enter the member area.

**User ID: *member***  
**Password: *galatians220***

Please do not share this information with people who do not have a Church of God background, but if you are in contact with members of other Church of God fellowships, please feel free to share the user ID and password with them, so they may see how the Living Church of God is striving to carry out the Great Commission.

## Newly Ordained



Ordained at the Eastern Ministerial Conference were: Martin Fannin, Pastor (Tennessee); Dave Burson, Pastor (Michigan); Evo Walker, Elder (Mississippi).

## Joplin Church Holds Annual Family Weekend

The Living Church of God congregation in Joplin, Missouri held its annual family weekend on May 29th and 30th. Instead of a more formal prom-type dance, this year's dance was less formal and included an overnight lock-in and picnic on the following day. Mr. Gerald Weston, pastor from the Kansas, MO church, spoke to approximately 95 brethren from the four-state area. After a short break, a Bible Study was held followed by a fabulous potluck dinner.

After the Sabbath everyone enjoyed a family dance and Mrs. Gerald Weston taught the "Crocodile Rock" to the teens and the young-at-

heart. A lock-in was held at the church after the dance with movies and popcorn. The next morning everyone woke up to hot biscuits and gravy, pancakes and eggs. On Sunday afternoon the brethren went to a nearby park for picnic and games. The children participated in sack races, water balloon and egg tosses and other games. The adults joined in as well. Mr. Karl Beyersdorfer, pastor of the Joplin, MO church showed his talents in the water balloon toss! A softball game finished out the weekend of fun and fellowship. A great time was had by all.

—Written by Ruth and Bryan Beal

# 1999 Festival Updates

## Trinidad Feast Site

The approximately 45 brethren of the two video groups in Trinidad invite you to share the Feast of Tabernacles with them on the peaceful island of Tobago. The Feast site is the Golf View Apartments, which overlook an 18-hole championship golf course and is less than a 10-minute walk from three beautiful, uncrowded beaches. Tobago is a quiet, tourist-oriented tropical island, where activities include sightseeing, hiking, swimming, scuba diving, snorkeling, golfing or just lazing on the beach.

Accommodations range in cost from \$20 per person single and \$50 for up to 6 people at the Golf View Apartments, to \$35 single and \$60 triple at the Old Grange Inn next door. A five-star hotel, the Mt. Irvine Bay Hotel, is a few minutes' walk away. Please direct your inquiries and reservation requests through Mr. Ramsumair Sookram at (868) 645-6858, or send him email at: rsookram@chem.uwi.tt

## Change in Mexico Feast Site

The location of the Feast of Tabernacles in Mexico has been changed to Metepec, a city located near Puebla, approximately one hour and forty-five minutes west of Mexico City. English translation will be provided for services.

Metepec offers a mild climate, and beautiful scenery; it is surrounded by mountains with a cascade nearby. Visitors can catch trout at a nearby fish hatchery and have them prepared for dinner. The location also offers bike riding, plenty of swimming pools, basketball courts, soccer fields, playgrounds for children, and a gymnasium.

Sites of interest in the area include: the historic city of Puebla, the ancient pyramids, and a variety of old handicraft factories. Good shopping is available, at very reasonable prices. The meeting hall, hotel and restaurants are all in the same complex; there is no need to rent a car. Those who make plans to be at the Mexico City International Airport before 1 p.m. on Friday, September 24 will be transported to the Feast site.

The hotel prices are: \$24 per day for a room with two beds, \$34 per day for a room with four beds, or \$64 per day for a kitchen cottage that can accommodate seven.

If you are interested in attending the Feast in Metepec, Mexico, please phone Mr. Mario Hernandez at (858) 673-7470, or reach him by email at [mhernandez@cogl.org](mailto:mhernandez@cogl.org).

## Gatlinburg Correction

The phone number for the River Terrace Convention Center was incorrectly listed in the last *Living Church News*. The correct number is (800) 251-2040.

## Jackson Hole Housing

Site coordinator Mr. Ben Whitfield has found a rental agency with what he believes are lower prices than some other alternatives in the Jackson Hole area. Rendezvous Mountain Resort Rentals can be reached on the Web at <http://www.rmrentals.com> or by toll-free phone call at (888) 739-2565 (ask for Ken).

## Feast Site in Barbados

The Feast in Barbados will be observed at the Caribbee Hotel, Hastings, Christ Church. There is room for seven families to transfer from other areas. Registrations will be accepted in the order received. Lodging will be provided at the Palm Garden Hotel. One bedroom kitchenette apartments will accommodate up to 3 people; two bedroom kitchenette apartments will accommodate up to 4 people. Rooms will cost approximately \$20 per person per night; buffet meals will run between \$9 and \$15. For further information phone Mr. Clyde Skeete at (246) 432-9436.

## New Site Coordinator for Cranbrook, British Columbia

Please direct all future inquiries about the Cranbrook, British Columbia site to Mr. Eng Monson at (306) 545-5250; you can also reach him at [esm@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:esm@sk.sympatico.ca) via email.

# Local Church Listings

## UNITED STATES

Anchorage AK Gary Ullerick ..... 253-922-6917  
 Homer AK Video Group  
 Wasilla AK Video Group  
 Birmingham AL **Rand Millich** ..... 706-227-6895  
 Carl Ponder ..... 334-285-3265  
**Bob League** ..... 615-641-3778  
 Florence AL **Bob League** ..... 615-641-3778  
 Huntsville AL **Rand Millich** ..... 706-227-6895  
 Montgomery AL Carl Ponder ..... 334-285-3265  
 El Dorado AR **Jon McNair** ..... 504-654-6797  
 Fayetteville AR **Karl Beyersdorfer** ..... 417-623-8888  
 Harrison AR Video Group  
 Little Rock AR **John Ogwyn** ..... 903-986-8117  
 Davy Crockett ..... 501-868-8760  
 Russellville AR **John Ogwyn** ..... 903-986-8117  
 Mena AR Video Group  
 Phoenix AZ **Doug Winnail** ..... 602-572-8747  
 Jim Nork ..... 602-978-5537  
 Gerald Shoquist ..... 602-561-9143  
 Gary Stein ..... 602-975-0897  
 Howard Stein ..... 602-546-3773  
 Tucson AZ **Doug Winnail** ..... 602-572-8747  
 Phil Steagall ..... 520-744-6453  
 Camp Verde AZ **Doug Winnail** ..... 602-572-8747  
 Bob McCann ..... 520-567-0230  
 Arroyo Grande CA Video Group  
 Eureka CA **Don Haney** ..... 541-855-9872  
 Michael Norris ..... 707-445-1335  
 Fresno CA Gaylyn Bonjour ..... 559-346-1064  
 Garden Grove CA **Dibar Apartian** ..... 858-676-0886  
 Rodger Bardo ..... 714-270-4663  
 Los Angeles CA **Jeff Fall** ..... 626-914-1474  
**Hadden Pace** ..... 626-447-4476  
 Don Turk ..... 619-325-3356  
 Palm Springs CA **Don Haney** ..... 541-855-9872  
 Redding CA **Jeff Fall** ..... 626-914-1474  
 Sacramento CA **Roderick Meredith** ..... 858-673-7470  
 San Diego CA Video Group  
 San Jose CA Video Group  
 Sonora CA Video Group  
 Denver CO Glen Marshall ..... 970-669-5192  
 Franktown CO Robert Stahl ..... 303-688-1562  
 Hartford CT Jim Arnaldo ..... 508-393-6209  
 Washington DC **Ken Frank** ..... 540-786-8015  
 Ray Clore, II ..... 703-591-4787  
 Boca Raton FL **Ben Faulkner** ..... 813-684-1423  
 Dexter Wakefield ..... 407-627-2471  
 Jacksonville FL **Randy Kobernat** ..... 850-894-9909  
 Live Oak FL **Randy Kobernat** ..... 850-894-9909  
 Miami FL **Ben Faulkner** ..... 813-684-1423  
 Ocala FL **Ben Faulkner** ..... 813-684-1423  
 Pensacola FL **Daniel Hall** ..... 334-626-0585  
 Tony Smith ..... 850-438-0785  
 John Burquist ..... 334-661-9086  
 Tallahassee FL **Randy Kobernat** ..... 850-894-9909  
 Tampa FL **Ben Faulkner** ..... 813-684-1423  
 Ron Peterson ..... 941-858-4090  
 Atlanta GA **Rand Millich** ..... 770-935-8273  
 Jack Lowe ..... 770-474-8101  
 Blairsville GA **Martin Fannin** ..... 423-675-2304  
 Macon GA **Randy Kobernat** ..... 850-894-9909

Pearl City HI  
 Des Moines IA  
 Boise ID  
 Pocatello ID  
 Chicago IL  
 Peoria IL  
 Fort Wayne IN  
 Indianapolis IN  
 Plymouth IN  
 Terre Haute IN  
 Coffeyville KS  
 Utica KS  
 Wichita KS  
 Berea KY  
 Louisville KY  
 Alexandria LA  
 Baton Rouge LA  
 Lafayette LA  
 Monroe LA  
 New Orleans LA  
 Shreveport LA  
 Boston MA  
 Salisbury MD  
 Bangor ME  
 Detroit MI  
 Kalamazoo MI  
 Lansing MI  
 Marquette MI  
 Saulte St. Marie MI  
 Minneapolis MN  
 Columbia MO  
 Joplin MO  
 Kansas City MO  
 Rolla MO  
 St. Joseph MO  
 Amory MS  
 Greenwood MS  
 Jackson MS  
 Laurel MS  
 Ocean Springs MS  
 Great Falls MT  
 Hamilton MT  
 Helena MT  
 Kalispell MT  
 Bozeman MT  
 Asheboro NC  
 Asheville NC  
 Charlotte NC  
 Raleigh NC  
 Bismarck ND  
 Omaha NE  
 Hammonton NJ

Harold Way ..... 808-455-2761  
**Gerald Weston** ..... 816-228-2035  
 Byron Hartman ..... 541-372-2210  
 Mark Mendiola ..... 208-238-0403  
**Paul Shumway** ..... 651-407-3636  
**Gary Ehman** ..... 715-524-2218  
**Paul Shumway** ..... 651-407-3636  
 Irv Woelfle ..... 309-266-3638  
**David Burson** ..... 517-699-4971  
**Lambert Greer** ..... 502-228-5917  
**David Burson** ..... 517-699-4971  
 Virgil Thompson ..... 812-442-1303  
 Video Group  
 Video Group  
 Video Group  
 Video Group  
**Lambert Greer** ..... 502-228-5917  
**Jon McNair** ..... 504-654-6797  
**Jon McNair** ..... 504-654-6797  
**Jon McNair** ..... 504-654-6797  
**Jon McNair** ..... 504-654-6797  
 Don Wood ..... 870-863-8512  
**Jon McNair** ..... 504-654-6797  
 John Harbison ..... 903-796-0790  
 Jim Arnaldo ..... 508-393-6209  
 Video Group  
 Jim Arnaldo ..... 508-393-6209  
**David Burson** ..... 517-699-4971  
**David Burson** ..... 517-699-4971  
**David Burson** ..... 517-699-4971  
 John Blanchard ..... 906-586-6834  
 John Blanchard ..... 906-586-6834  
**Paul Shumway** ..... 651-407-3636  
 William Oswald ..... 816-228-2035  
 Rod Reynolds ..... 816-827-1320  
**Karl Beyersdorfer** ..... 417-623-8888  
 Gene Hilgenberg ..... 417-455-2057  
**Gerald Weston** ..... 816-228-2035  
 James Wells ..... 816-358-9606  
 Rod Reynolds ..... 816-827-1320  
 John Turner ..... 816-387-9213  
 Evo Walker ..... 601-773-6137  
**Daniel Hall** ..... 334-626-0585  
 Jim Burson ..... 601-262-7233  
 Video Group  
**Daniel Hall** ..... 334-626-0585  
**Daniel Hall** ..... 334-626-0585  
 Arnold Lalum ..... 406-265-4072  
 Virgil Thompson ..... 812-442-1303  
 Dana Glatz ..... 406-442-0136  
 Video Group  
 Video Group  
**Ken Frank** ..... 540-786-8015  
 George Webb ..... 336-993-5714  
**Martin Fannin** ..... 423-675-2304  
 John DuBry ..... 828-874-5164  
 William Dobbins ..... 919-832-7296  
**Paul Shumway** ..... 651-407-3636  
 Arlan Weight ..... 701-255-2897  
**Gerald Weston** ..... 816-228-2035  
**Don Contardi** ..... 716-638-7508  
 Dennis Chornomaz ..... 609-653-0425

Morristown	NJ	<b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508 Carl Klink ..... 793-379-2640
Albuquerque	NM	Video Group
Des Moines	NM	Video Group
Battle Mountain	NV	<b>Don Haney</b> ..... 541-855-9872
Reno	NV	<b>Don Haney</b> ..... 541-855-9872
Brooklyn	NY	<b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508 Roger Allgeyer ..... 516-271-8785
Buffalo	NY	<b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508
Corning	NY	<b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508 Shawn McMillin ..... 717-547-1501
Long Island	NY	<b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508 Roger Allgeyer ..... 516-271-8785
Rochester	NY	<b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508 Ron Lillie ..... 716-473-4722
Akron	OH	<b>Lambert Greer</b> ..... 502-228-5917 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 <b>Charles Knowlton</b> ..... 614-964-0437
Dayton	OH	Video Group
Oklahoma City	OK	<b>John Ogwyn</b> ..... 903-986-8117 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 Fred Wittlake ..... 541-855-6950
Portland	OR	<b>Don Haney</b> ..... 541-855-9872 Gary Ullerick ..... 253-922-6917
Philadelphia	PA	<b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508 Dennis Chornomaz ..... 609-653-0425
East Stroudsburg	PA	<b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508 Dennis Chornomaz ..... 609-653-0425
Anderson	SC	<b>Rand Millich</b> ..... 706-227-6895 Ronnie Poole ..... 864-968-9112 Buddy Wrenn ..... 864-576-9460
Walterboro	SC	Lehman Lyons, Sr. .... 843-549-2985 Frank Frye ..... 803-245-4752
Rapid City	SD	Don Hilmer ..... 605-754-6731
Chattanooga	TN	<b>Bob League</b> ..... 615-641-3778
Crossville	TN	<b>Bob League</b> ..... 615-641-3778
Knoxville	TN	<b>Martin Fannin</b> ..... 423-675-2304 John Shelton ..... 423-523-9332
Memphis	TN	<b>John Ogwyn</b> ..... 903-986-8117 Davy Crockett ..... 501-868-9860
Nashville	TN	<b>Bob League</b> ..... 615-641-3778
Abilene	TX	Video Group
Amarillo	TX	Video Group
Austin	TX	<b>Keith Walden</b> ..... 512-244-5478 <b>Randy Gregory</b> ..... 512-244-1863
Corpus Christi	TX	<b>Keith Walden</b> ..... 512-244-5478 Bob Parker ..... 512-387-9192 C.B. Short ..... 512-853-2460
Dallas	TX	<b>John Ogwyn</b> ..... 903-986-8117 Charles Haughee ..... 903-887-8994
El Paso	TX	Video Group
Gladewater	TX	<b>John Ogwyn</b> ..... 903-986-8117 <b>Lynn Torrance</b> ..... 903-636-5218
Houston	TX	Ron McGowen ..... 281-331-8930
Lufkin	TX	Larry Solomon ..... 409-559-1145
Midland	TX	Video Group
San Antonio	TX	<b>Keith Walden</b> ..... 512-244-5478 Conway Slaughter, Jr. .... 830-560-1928
Temple	TX	Video Group
Salt Lake City	UT	Ted Bukowski ..... 801-543-2240
Gladespring	VA	Charles Lauderback ..... 423-283-0394
Winchester	VA	<b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508 Gerald Dulaney ..... 540-662-3696
Williamsburg	VA	<b>Don Contardi</b> ..... 716-638-7508

Pasco	WA	Ray Clore, II ..... 703-591-4787
Richland	WA	Michael McDaniel ..... 804-526-5948
Seattle/Tacoma	WA	Video Group
		Dean Greer ..... 509-466-0908
		<b>Don Haney</b> ..... 541-855-9872
		Terry Graves ..... 253-474-5807
		Gary Ullerick ..... 253-922-6917
Spokane	WA	<b>Don Haney</b> ..... 541-855-9872 Dean Greer ..... 509-466-0908
Tonasket	WA	<b>Don Haney</b> ..... 541-855-9872 Eldon Davis ..... 509-486-4240
Green Bay	WI	<b>Paul Shumway</b> ..... 651-407-3636
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