

# Living Church News

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## In This Issue

The Importance of FAITH .....	3
The Fall Festivals—Season of Hope and Glory .....	4
How Do You Build Real Faith? .....	7
Rejoicing at The Feast .....	11
Report From the Treasurer .....	14
Living Youth Camp—A Successful Beginning! .....	18
Local Church News .....	20
Local Church Listings .....	22

## Prepare Spiritually and Physically for Y2K!

Dear Brethren and Friends,

The Feast is almost upon us! My wife and I are looking forward to seeing at least a couple thousand of you brethren at Gatlinburg and Panama City. All of our brethren here are getting “Feast fever.”

As I recently reported to you, we had an outstanding Council of Elders conference recently with tremendous enthusiasm and unity. The men now on the Council have been “sifted” through worldly churches at first, then Worldwide, then Global and now have come to Living because of their absolute dedication to *do the Work!* That is very encouraging to me—and I’m sure to you also. Also, from all reports, the Living Church as a whole appears to be extremely unified because of these same factors.

We’re looking forward to the new autumn television season with optimism. Mr. Richard Ames and I made three new television programs just yesterday and we’re hoping to be able to add some new stations during the next several months. Please *pray fervently* that God will make this possible. And I pray that all of God’s people will try to give as generously as possible during the coming Holy Days so that God’s Work may go forward with increasing power.

During our Council of Elders meetings, I asked our ministry for *their advice* as to whether we should give all of you a WARNING about the coming “Y2K problem”—along with some fundamental suggestions as to how to prepare for this event. Brethren, I know that there have been many conflicting reports in the media about the year-2000 problem. But virtually *all* responsible authorities agree that there WILL be a number of difficulties in most areas of the world—lasting anywhere from a few days to a few months. So it is prudent for all of us to take some basic precautions and do some preparing for this event.

Mr. William Bowmer—our executive editor—is one of our “computer experts” here at our human headquarters. He has helped me put together the following information, which I hope you will find helpful. I would advise ALL of you to consider implementing some of these preparations as you see fit, as we really *do not know* the extent of the

difficulties which will be posed by Y2K computer failures all around the world, which may affect such areas as banking, grocery shopping, transportation and electricity.

The Y2K problem has come about because, in the days of the earliest computers, memory was scarce and expensive. Programmers took shortcuts whenever possible to save space. Instead of using a four-digit code for year dates, a two-digit entry was used. Yet even with the advent of cheap, vast memory space for computer programs, the practice has not entirely gone away, as programmers out of laziness or thoughtlessness — or the expectation that nobody would still be using their program in the year 2000 — continued to use this shortcut.

The problem is not confined to what most of us would think of as computers. The two-digit year was used in the programming of what are called “embedded chips” — small computers that control processes in equipment ranging from cars, to elevators, to building ventilation systems, to municipal utility systems.

When January 1, 2000 comes, programs that were written with two-digit year codes will not distinguish between the years 2000 and 1900. If the program includes time-sensitive calculations or comparisons, results are unpredictable. No one knows what problems may occur, how widespread they may be, or how long they will last. The good news, for those living in the U.S., is that federal, state, and local governments; banks and other financial institutions; retail businesses, and every other group affected by this problem have been working to resolve it, and a great deal of progress has been made.

What kinds of disruptions could occur because of Y2K? The United States government has studied the situation: both the President’s Council on Y2K Conversion and a special Senate committee led by Senator Robert Bennett (R-UT), have focused their attention on defining the scope of the Y2K problem. The Senate hearings focused on the following eight areas:

- Utilities and the national power grid
- International banking and finance
- Health care
- Transportation
- Telecommunications
- Pension and mutual funds
- Emergency planning
- General business

The potential effect of the Y2K problem on any of these areas is unknown, and the situation continues to change as government and private industry take actions to reduce the problem. Experts who spoke at the Senate hearings expressed their belief that localized disruptions may occur. For example, in some areas, electrical power may be unavailable for some time. Manufacturing and production industries may be disrupted. Roads may be closed or in

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# The Importance of FAITH

## Editorial

By Roderick C. Meredith

Over and over, we have been emphasizing the vital need to build an “atmosphere of faith” in the Living Church of God. Scores of our brethren need to be healed. Hundreds of our brethren are no doubt going through trials and tests even as I write this. And we are now entering the “last days” when—as the Apostle Paul wrote—“*perilous times will come*” (2 Timothy 3:1).

Remember that even the children of Israel suffered the first two of the ten plagues on Egypt. If this pattern repeats itself, God’s people today will certainly be *humbled* and *SHAKEN* by the coming horrifying weather upsets, the earthquakes, the famines, the disease epidemics and persecution—even though we may be spared the final all out onslaught during the Great Tribulation (Revelation 3:10). We will all *need extra faith* and *COURAGE* to make it through the next decade or two in good shape spiritually.

But, even now, our busy daily lives and the “cares of this world” eat away constantly at the roots of our faith in God. The television set is left on *far too long* even in the homes of many church families. The *REALITY* of God and Christ and Their Plan is blurred by this constant feeding on violence, sex and “make believe.” And many of us allow our businesses, our jobs,

our housework and other “normal” activities to eat up so much time and energy that we don’t have enough time left each day to genuinely *SEEK* God in earnest Bible study and fervent prayer.

The true God of the Bible is certainly *UNREAL* to the professing Christians of this world. As the *Los Angeles Times* (July 27, 1999) recently reported:

Both cultural icon and spiritual touchstone, the Bible is revered by three major world faiths with billions of believers. But in a paradox to tax the wisdom of Solomon, it is widely unread.

According to one religious research firm, two-thirds of Americans don’t regularly read the Bible or know the names of the four Gospels. More than half of Americans surveyed can’t name even five of the Ten Commandments. And the majority say they find the Good Book irrelevant.

Yet, dear brethren, we are the people of God. We are the ones who should be ready to “stand in the gap” and give our peoples a heartfelt *WARNING* of the coming Holocaust and to *teach them God’s ways* as they respond to Christ’s Message. But we will have neither the knowledge or the faith to do this unless we genuinely *study* our Bibles *FAR MORE* than this world’s churchgoers.

Please remember the Apostle Paul’s inspired teaching, “So then *FAITH* comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). We in the Living Church of God must constantly “feed” on the Word of God—and so, in effect, “feed” on Jesus Christ. As Jesus said, “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who *FEEDS* on Me will live because of Me” (John 6:56–57). Do we in the Living Church of God want to see more and more of our brethren miraculously *healed*? Do we want to see demons *cast out*? Do we want to see God’s direct *POWER* miraculously manifested through His Church today? Then let us constantly *TAKE TIME* to “feed” on Jesus Christ by earnestly, prayerfully *studying* His inspired Word. In fact, it is good to say a short prayer just before studying the Bible—asking God for *understanding*, for true *knowledge* and for increasing *FAITH*.

Remember that even Jesus Christ Himself could NOT do many mighty works among friends and relatives in the area of His own home town. “Now He did not do many mighty works there because of *THEIR unbelief*” (Matthew 13:58). Let us therefore build a powerful “atmosphere of faith” within God’s true Church so that Mark 16:20 will someday be said of us as well as Jesus’ original disciples: “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying *SIGNS*.” □

# ***The Fall Festivals—***

# Season of Hope and Glory

By John H. Ogwyn

**T**he promises of tomorrow's world offer a very dramatic contrast with the reality of today's. While today's world is rent with pain and sorrow, tomorrow's world is characterized by hope and glory. As we approach the fall festivals, our focus is lifted from what the Bible terms "this present evil world" (Galatians 1:4) to the world that is to come. How real is that world to us? How clearly do we understand the fulfilled hope and the glory that lie just around the bend, in tomorrow's world?

Almost two millennia ago Jesus Christ took three of his disciples with Him up into a high mountain. Shortly after arriving at the top, the disciples noticed something strange. Jesus of Nazareth, the friend and teacher with whom they had already spent countless hours, began to emit a strange glow. In the moments that followed, His skin and clothing shone with an increasingly powerful white light until finally His face shone like the very sun itself. During this time two other men appeared by His side, also emitting a brilliant glow. As the disciples stood watching, absolutely overwhelmed by the awesome sight they were beholding, Jesus and the other two men began to converse. It became apparent to the disciples that these two men were none other than Moses and Elijah (cf. Matthew 17:1–8)!

Jesus had told His disciples about a week earlier that there were some of them who, during their lifetime, would see the coming Kingdom of God (Matthew 16:28; 17:1). What they didn't realize when He spoke those words was *how* that promise would be fulfilled. Three of the twelve were selected by Christ to be transported through time as it were and, in vision, to experience a brief glimpse of the glorious Kingdom to come. While they were standing there watching Christ visit with Moses and Elijah, suddenly a powerful voice boomed from Heaven, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I

am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matthew 17:5). Shortly afterward the vision faded and the disciples found themselves back in the mundane world of their own day. Christ told them to tell no one of the vision that they had seen until after His resurrection.

Decades later, in the closing months of his life, the Apostle Peter thought back on that glorious event. He had written to the young church about the problems, persecution, and suffering that would have to be faced and endured, but he kept coming back to the theme of hope. Every problem and every difficulty fades and pales when compared to the glorious hope that lies ahead. Peter spoke of hope and glory. Those few brief moments when he saw the future were indelibly burned into his mind (cf. 2 Peter 1:16–19).

What about us? How clear is the reality of our hope and how vivid is our concept of the glory that we anticipate? The answer to those questions will to a large extent determine the way in which we face the trials and adversities in the immediate months and years ahead. Because apart from the normal problems of life that we face day by day, there is coming a time of judgment that will plunge the world into the most colossal time of trouble ever seen. How will we be able to go through the times ahead?

Each of the three festival seasons God gave to His people emphasizes one of the three phases of salvation. The early spring season of Passover and Unleavened Bread puts a focus on how we can be moved from a state of guilt and condemnation to one of innocence. This is the justification phase of salvation. Pentecost, the second festival season, puts a focus on our being sanctified, made a holy people through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God. The fall festivals, the third season in God's Holy Day plan, anticipate the culmination of our

salvation—the time when we will be born into the Kingdom of God as glorified Sons of God. Let's look more closely at the meaning conveyed by this festival season in which we now find ourselves.

### Trumpets—a Rendezvous with Judgment

Many centuries ago, before the days of electric sirens or 911, there was an emergency alarm system in ancient Israel. It was the shrill blast of the *shofar*, or ram's horn that would carry over the fields, alerting one and all to the approach of danger. When God gave His festivals to the Church in the Wilderness, He stipulated that the first day of the seventh month should be observed as "a memorial of blowing of trumpets" (Leviticus 23:24).

It remained for the New Testament to amplify the meaning of this blowing of trumpets in a way never made entirely clear in the Old. From Revelation 8 we learn that there are seven heavenly trumpets to be sounded at the end of this age. They are blasts of alarm that warn of the step-by-step phases of God's impending judgment. The final seventh trumpet blast signals the inauguration of the Kingdom of God on this earth and the time of the first resurrection, the resurrection of the saints to glory (1 Corinthians 15:52).

In Revelation 6 the Apostle John records a vision in which he saw a series of events that will set the stage for the return of the Messiah and the establishment of the Kingdom of God. Earlier he had seen a scroll containing God's revelation for the end time, which was sealed with seven seals. The only one who was authorized to open the seals was Jesus Christ, the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5). He opened the seals one by one and John saw vision after vision.

As John later recorded this experience, his mind must have gone back to a time over sixty years earlier when Jesus of Nazareth had sat down in a secluded spot on the Mount of Olives. John and the other disciples had gathered round Him with burning questions on their minds. "Tell us," they had asked, "what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" (cf. Matthew 24:1–3). In response to the questions of His disciples, Jesus began to summarize the events that would characterize the times leading up to His return and the establishment of the Kingdom of which He so frequently spoke. Now, decades later, John saw in vivid pictures the events he had heard Jesus describe on the Mount of Olives. False prophets, wars, famines, and pestilence—each pictured by a rider on one of four successive horses—were followed by visions that revealed future tribulation and martyrdom, and then great terrifying heavenly signs.

Following the heavenly signs of the sixth seal and prior to the trumpet plagues of the seventh seal, one other event occurs. This is the sealing of the 144,000 recorded in Revelation 7. Clearly this is a **yet future event** whose purpose is to insure that God's servants are protected from the wrath of God (v. 3). This wrath will be poured out upon a disobedient and rebellious world. It will be signaled in its progressive phases by the seven angelic trumpets that are to be blown. These seven seals collectively constitute the seventh seal.

The future time of God's judgment upon His creation is pictured by the Holy Day that is a memorial of the blowing of trumpets. It points us to the future time when the God of Heaven will step into history and hold human beings accountable. The psalmist exhorts us in the interim not to be fretful and anxious because of evil-

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*The promises of tomorrow's world offer a very dramatic contrast with the reality of today's. While today's world is rent with pain and sorrow, tomorrow's world is characterized by hope and glory.*

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doers, but we should realize that the wicked will be cut off while the righteous will flourish forever (Psalm 37). This isn't a description of today's world where it often seems that those who are corrupt are "getting by with it." Rather, it points us to the future, to the time pictured by the ancient festival that memorializes the blowing of trumpets. **There is a day of reckoning and accountability that is coming.** Whatever we might see around us in this present world must never cause us to lose sight of that vital fact. It puts everything else into perspective.

The culmination of the Day of the Lord, during which the seven heavenly trumpets are blown, is the blast of the seventh and final trump. This begins the climax of God's plan. It marks the time when human beings, made of matter but formed in the image of the Great God, are changed from flesh to spirit. It is the time when they will break forth into the same radiant, shining glory with which three of the disciples saw Jesus, Moses, and Elijah shine forth in the vision on the mount.

The Great God, who has called us to share in His virtue and His glory (2 Peter 1:3), reminds us of this every

fall. The Feast of Trumpets, which begins the sequence of the four fall festivals, points us toward the events that will forever change the future of our world. There are three Holy Days in the year, which precede Trumpets and three that follow. The Feast of Trumpets, picturing events that lead up to and include the return of Jesus Christ, represents **the pivot point** of all of history!

### The Day of Atonement

Nine days after the Feast of Trumpets comes the Day of Atonement. Differing from all of the other festivals catalogued in Leviticus 23, this Holy Day is a fast day. In ancient Israel, it was characterized by solemn ceremonies involving two goats. It was the one day of the year on

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*Spreading out from Jerusalem to the most remote spots of the globe will come the knowledge of God and the ensuing peace and prosperity, which will flow from God's blessing. At this future time the veil that shrouds the understanding of people the world over will finally be removed (Isaiah 25:7)*

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which the High Priest was permitted to enter the inner sanctuary, the Holy of Holies. Also, it was the day upon which, every fiftieth year, the trumpet that proclaimed the Jubilee was sounded. How do all of these ceremonies carried out by the Levitical priesthood tie in with God's plan and the events of the end time?

Leviticus 16 informs us that lots were cast over two goats brought before the High Priest. One was chosen for the Eternal and the other was for Azazel. The Hebrew term, *azazel*, is rendered "scapegoat" in the King James and in a number of other English versions. The term scapegoat is simply an older English form, which means "the goat that escaped." In modern usage, scapegoat came to mean, "one made to bear the blame for others." Yet, Satan the devil, symbolized by the goat that escaped, is deserving of his judgement and will be blamed.

The goat chosen for the Eternal was sacrificed and its blood taken into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled before the Mercy Seat. The High Priest laid his hands on the head of the other goat, "the goat that escaped," confessed over it all the sins of Israel, and then sent it away by the hands of a capable man into the wilderness.

The significance of this ceremony is made clear when we read Revelation 20. After the return of Jesus Christ at the seventh trump, there is one crucial event that must occur before the rest of the plan unfolds. That event is described in the opening verses of Revelation 20, where we learn that a mighty angel will be dispatched to take Satan the Devil and bind him in the great abyss for a thousand years. No longer allowed to deceive the nations, Satan will be restrained from interfering as God works with the minds of human beings.

In Genesis 3 we learn that our first parents listened to Satan and disobeyed their Creator. The result was that they were expelled from God's presence and were faced with a world filled with sorrow and requiring much hard effort in order simply to survive. While Christ's sacrifice paid the penalty for the sins of all of mankind, symbolized by the blood sprinkled before the Mercy Seat, God's justice demands that the originator of sin will ultimately have to take responsibility for his actions. Satan must be dealt with before the Millennium can begin.

Significantly, the Day of Atonement rather than the Feast of Trumpets was the starting point for the Jubilee (Leviticus 25:9–10). Why? The Jubilee was a pattern that God established for ancient Israel to give the nation a fresh start. It was a time when the land was given rest and reverted back to its original owners. It was a time when slaves were freed and families were given a chance to start over, no longer encumbered by the debts and poor economic decisions of a previous generation.

After Christ's return, we're told that the great trumpet will sound forth and the enslaved Israelites languishing in the concentration camps of the future will be set free (Isaiah 27:13). They will be brought back to the land of Israel and given the opportunity for a fresh start. Christ's return will set in motion the fulfillment of what the Jubilee pictured. However there can only be real freedom when the enslaver of mankind is put away.

As we fast and seek to draw near to God on the Day of Atonement, we are demonstrating to God what is really important to us. We are consciously rejecting the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16) to which our first parents yielded at Satan's urging. After all, Genesis 3:6 shows that Eve recognized the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil as

The Fall Festivals *continues on page 17*

# How Do You Build Real Faith?

By Douglas S. Winnail

**F**aith in God is listed as one of the fundamental teachings of Scripture (Hebrews 6:1–2). In fact, Christians are told that “without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Hebrews 11:6). However, Jesus Christ, looking ahead to the end of this present age—our time today—raised a sobering question to His disciples. He asked, “*when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?*” (Luke 18:8).

Since the Bible records the question, it might be good for each of us to consider how it applies to our own personal situation. As we will see, the Scriptures indicate that *real faith* will be in *short supply* as we approach the end of this age. The parable of the ten virgins reveals that five were unprepared for Christ’s return because they lacked certain qualities (Matthew 25:1–13). They were not invited into the kingdom of God as a result, and they missed out on an incredible reward. In the light of these scriptures, perhaps we can see why Dr. Meredith has repeatedly emphasized the need to build an atmosphere of faith within the Church of God. To build real faith we need to understand some vital aspects of faith.

## What is Real Faith?

Faith has been attacked and ridiculed for centuries. Mark Twain remarked “faith is believing in what

ain’t so.” Atheist H. L. Mencken asserted, “faith is an *illogical* belief in the occurrence of the *improbable*.” Karl Marx termed faith in religion “...the opium of the people.” One prominent American businessman has stated that religious faith “is for losers.” Many misconceptions also exist today about real faith. One dictionary definition states that faith is “a firm belief in something for which there is *no proof*”—which, as we will see is just the opposite of the truth.

The word *faith* comes from a Latin word *fidere*, which means to trust, believe, or have faith. Faith has been defined as an “unquestioning belief” in God, religion, an idea, a person or organization. Faith generally means having a strong conviction, deep trust, reliance upon, or loyalty to something. Your faith can also refer to a religion or system of beliefs. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word for faith is *emuwn* which means to trust, or have faith. In the New Testament the Greek word for faith is *pistis*, which means to trust, believe, have faith or rely upon. But do these words mean we must have faith in or rely upon something or someone for which there is no proof? Do we just decide to believe without asking any questions? Hardly!

The biblical definition of real faith is found in the book of Hebrews. The Scriptures plainly state that “faith is the *substance* of things hoped for, and the *evidence* of

things not [yet] seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Substance means assurance, realization, something like a title or deed to a house or piece of property. Evidence entails proof. The author of Hebrews states “By faith we understand that the worlds were formed by the word [command] of God, so that the things that are seen [the creation] were not made of things that are visible” (Hebrews 11:3). Many scientists today are coming to realize the universe could not have evolved by accident. The prerequisites for life are so many and so tightly defined that the universe had to be planned to sustain life from the very beginning. The proof of God is definitely there for those with eyes to see! *Real faith* rests on *solid proof*—not just feelings, conjecture or wishful thinking. The modern notion that faith doesn’t rest on proof actually *undermines* the real faith that Scripture talks about.

Faith is also described in the Bible as a fruit or quality imparted by God’s Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:9; Galatians 5:22). The Holy Spirit is given to those who repent (Acts 2:38) and who make the effort to obey the laws of God (Acts 5:32). We will grow in faith as we exercise faith—as we trust God—and actually follow His instructions. As our faithfulness to God increases we will become more staunch, firm, determined, resolute in our belief in God. Martin Luther’s definition, “...faith

is a living unshakable confidence,” is a paraphrase of the Apostle Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 15:58.

### The Foundation of Real Faith

Today we are tempted to put our faith in many things. However, not all are that dependable. Some are actually dangerous. Some people trust in God, others in money, friends, self, political leaders, or military power. Still others trust in science, other experts, astrology or fortune-tellers. The American philosopher, Eric Hoffer, has stated

*Jesus Christ, looking ahead to the end of this present age—our time today—raised a sobering question to His disciples. He asked, “when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).*

somewhat cynically, “Faith in a holy cause is a *substitute* for the lost faith in ourselves.” He comments further that, “...where there is the technical skill to move mountains, there is *no need* for faith.” While there is a certain physical truth in what he says, he is actually mocking an example used by Jesus Christ (Matthew 17:20).

Our choice today of where to place our faith is almost endless. However, the Bible offers *specific warnings* about where *not* to place our faith. Nearly 3000 years ago Solomon wrote, “He who trusts in his own heart is a *fool*” (Proverbs 28:26). The Bible warns repeatedly about trusting in other gods beside the true God (Exodus 20:1–6). We are told when David numbered the fighting men of Israel—trusting in his own military strength—he sinned and did a very foolish thing (2 Samuel 24:1–11).

Jeremiah warned about trusting in the lying words of false teachers (Jeremiah 7:4). Jesus cautioned about trusting in money and wealth (Matthew 19:21–23).

In terms of positive instruction the Scriptures urge us to “*trust in the LORD* with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5–7). This is why it is important to prove and know that God really does exist. We must also learn to trust in *God’s Word*—the Bible (Psalm 119:142,160; John 17:17). This involves studying, proving and learning to live by

every word of God. We must not only develop faith *in* Jesus Christ—that He was the Son of God who came to die for our sins—but also develop the faith *of* Jesus who trusted and obeyed His Father’s instruction to the point of saying “...not My will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42). We must also develop real faith in Christ’s *message* about the coming kingdom of God (Mark 1:14–15). This means coming to understand what the kingdom of God is all about and our potential role in that kingdom. As that message becomes more real to us, our faith will grow.

A true Christian called by God will also want to find the true Church of God—the descendants of the church founded by Jesus Christ and the Apostles. Paul urged the Gentile churches in Thessalonica to follow the parent “churches of God”

in Judea (1 Thessalonians 2:14). That Church exists today (Matthew 16:18). It continues to teach the same gospel and same way of life as the first century Church of God. You can identify God’s true Church by comparing the doctrines it teaches with the Scriptures. The truth of God does not change (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8) over the centuries. With this positive identification you can put faith in the fact that you have found God’s true Church.

The Bible warns repeatedly about trusting or following false teachers who claim to be ministers of Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:15–20; 24:4,5,11; 2 Corinthians 11:1–14). Yet the Scriptures also urge Christians to follow and respect the ministry (1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13). You cannot put your faith and trust in the ministry unless you know they are teaching the truth. This will involve listening carefully on your part and comparing what you hear with what you clearly read in the Scriptures (Isaiah 8:20; 1 John 2:4). The apostle Paul commends the Bereans for doing this very thing (Acts 17:10–12). This is why Paul was inspired to write, “Test [prove, carefully examine] all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). When we do this we build a *firm foundation* for faith.

### Why Do We Need Faith?

Although critics may scoff at the need for faith in God and His Word, the Bible reveals a dimension of knowledge that is clearly missing in our modern secular world.

From the Scriptures we learn that we have all sinned (Romans 3:23). As a result of knowingly or unknowingly breaking the laws of God (the biblical definition of sin—1 John 3:4) we are subject to a penalty of death for all eternity. However, by putting our faith in the fact that Jesus gave His life as a



sacrifice for our sins we can be forgiven of our sins. This is what it means to be *justified by faith* (Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:16). In order to put your faith in Jesus Christ you need to prove that He really did exist, that He was who the Scriptures say He was, that He really did die and that He was resurrected. Knowing that you know the real facts builds faith.

A Christian must also live by faith (Galatians 3:11). This means changing your life so that you begin to live by every word of God (Deuteronomy 8:2–3; Matthew 4:4). You will start keeping the Sabbath and the Holy Days, to obey God (Leviticus 23) and to follow the example of Jesus and the early church (Luke 4:16; Acts 17:1–2; John 7:1–10; 1 Corinthians 5:7–8). As you step out on faith and begin to observe these commanded assemblies with other true Christians you will begin to understand God's plan of salvation for mankind and the true purpose of life.

Your faith and practice of these biblical concepts will actually begin to set you apart from the rest of society—you will be different. This is what is meant when the Bible says you will be sanctified [set apart for holy use] by faith (Acts 20:32; 26:18).

The Bible reveals we are healed by faith (James 5:14–15), we will be saved by faith (Ephesians 2:8) and rewarded according to our faith (Hebrews 11:6). Healing involves trusting God for what only He can do. Salvation will include receiving eternal life and becoming part of God's family when Christ returns to judge mankind (1 Corinthians 15; Romans 8:14–17). The reward for those who grow and overcome will be to rule as priests and kings with Jesus Christ in the coming kingdom of God (Daniel 7:27; Revelation 2:26; 3:11–12; 5:10; 11:15–18). When you have proven to yourself what the Scriptures actually promise, your faith will grow!

## Lack of Faith Today

Believe it or not, the lack of faith in our modern world was *prophesied* nearly 2,000 years ago. The apostle Peter was inspired to predict, "...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'where is the promise of His coming?'" (2 Peter 3:3–4). Peter states that people will deliberately ignore such things as prophecy and the facts of recorded history (2 Peter 3:5–13). The apostle Paul predicted that people would be deceived and depart from the faith (1 Timothy 4:1), deny and discard the faith (1 Timothy 5:8), and that the faith of some would be overthrown by misleading ideas and arguments of false teachers (2 Timothy 2:18; 3:8). Paul indicates these activities, which flourished in the first century, would also prevail in the last days (2 Timothy 3:1–9). But how did Paul know this would happen? How could God inspire such accurate prophecies?

The Bible reveals that the tendency to doubt is a proclivity of human nature. Peter doubted even when Jesus invited him to walk on water (Matthew 14:31). Jesus chided His own disciples for their lack of faith that He had actually been resurrected (Luke 24:38). Thomas doubted until he actually saw certain evidence (John 20:24–29). We aren't any different from the disciples. We, too, will doubt until we prove something otherwise. This is why proving what you believe is so important. With proof there is no room for doubt!

We are also told in Scripture that Satan will plant doubts to undermine real faith in God. He did this with Adam and Eve by suggesting that God wasn't telling them the whole truth (Genesis 3:1–4). Satan tried to undermine Jesus Christ's faith in God by misquoting the Scriptures (Matthew 4:1–11). Peter

warned that practice would continue and would undermine the faith and confidence of some (2 Peter 3:14–18). That practice still continues today—so we must be careful! Paul also relates that the carnal human mind, influenced by Satan, actually *resents* trusting in God and *resists* following the instructions that God has revealed in His word (Romans 8:5–9). This is a battle we all have to fight—just like Paul had to fight it (Romans 7:14–25). As we trust and obey God, resisting and overcoming this negative tendency, we will grow in faith.

One of the biggest reasons for the lack of faith today is that doubt and skepticism about religious faith permeates our culture. God is allowing us to reap what has been sown down through the centuries of Western civilization (Jeremiah 2:8,19; Hosea 4:9). Doubts about God are a prime example. Euripides, a Greek poet of the 5th century BC wrote, "Do we, holding the gods exist, *deceive ourselves* with unsubstantial dreams and lies, while random careless chance and change alone control the world?" Thomas Jefferson advised people to "question with boldness even the existence of God." Jefferson felt God would prefer reason to blind faith based only on fear, which he appears to assume the Bible advocates (but, as we have seen, it does not). Our sad state of affairs is summarized by the statement, "O Lord, if there is a Lord, save my soul, if I have a soul."

Although 95 percent of Americans believe in God, many wonder if the miracles in the Bible actually occurred. Some have been told the Second Coming of Christ may be only a figurative or symbolic event—that it will not really happen. Many theologians today openly teach that it is no longer necessary to keep the Sabbath or the Holy Days—in spite of the commandments, the

example of Christ and the apostles and the clear facts of early church history. These are among the many reasons why real faith is in short supply today—as Jesus Christ indicated it would be!

### Building Real Faith

The challenge facing each of us as Christians is, *how* do we build real faith? What is involved? This is nothing new and is not limited to our present age. Even in the first century as Christ was beginning His church, "...the apostles said to the Lord, '*Increase our faith*'" (Luke 17:5). They knew they needed more faith and they asked for guidance. Peter later writes that we must give diligent effort to increase and add to our faith (2 Peter 11:5–11). But what must we do? Consider the following 7 steps.

(1) *Ask God* for more faith. Jesus instructed His disciples to ask, seek and to knock (Matthew 7:7–12). James offers the same advice (James 1:5). This is why the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. We can do the same. Pray earnestly about this.

(2) *Prove* what you believe. Follow Paul's admonition (1 Thessalonians 5:21) and prove that God exists, that the Bible is His inspired word, where the true Church is and who are God's true ministers. Prove what the Bible actually says, and hold fast to what you prove to be the truth.

(3) *Study* what the Bible reveals about faith. Read and meditate on the examples of faith described in Hebrews 11. Read the original accounts in the Old Testament. Determine

what lessons you can draw from these accounts. Learn and grow.

(4) *Stir up* God's Spirit. Faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit. God gives His Spirit to those who repent and obey Him. Pray, study, meditate and fast regularly. Nourish and use God's Spirit. Doubts will disappear as our faith grows (2 Timothy 1:6–7).

(5) *Live by faith*. Put into practice what you read in the Scriptures. Trust God and His Word. If the Bible says to do it, then do it—don't argue with the Scriptures. The American writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson stated, "We live by faith or we do not live at all. Either we venture or we vegetate. If we venture, we do so by faith simply because we cannot know the end of anything at its beginning. We risk marriage or we stay single. We prepare for a profession by faith or we give up before we start. By faith we move mountains of opposition or we are stopped by mole hills."

(6) *Endure trials* that will arise as you strive to live by every word of God. Enduring and overcoming the trials will help us build both faith and patience (James 1:2–4). It has been said, "If we desire to increase faith we must consent to its testing." Remember that God has promised to get us through the trials (1 Corinthians 10:13) and the trials He allows are for our ultimate good (Romans 8:28).

(7) *Don't compromise or deny the true Faith*. The Bible warns repeatedly about false teachers who will undermine and overthrow the faith of others by pro-

moting misleading doctrines and ideas. We are also told many will depart from or discard the true faith. However, the Scriptures clearly state there is one faith and one body [church], and it is the job of the ministry to promote the unity of the faith (Ephesians 4:4–6, 12–13). The role of the church is to maintain true doctrines (1 Timothy 3:15–16, see also Acts 15). This is why it is so important to know where God's true Church is today and what the Bible actually says. The Scriptures are not to be interpreted as each individual sees fit in his or her own mind (2 Peter 1:20). This only leads to confusion, which damages and destroys faith. As we approach the end of this age and Satan increases his attacks on true believers, we will have to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once and for all delivered to the saints" (Jude :3).

Faith is important to God. Faithfulness is as important in our physical life as it is for our eternal life. As the apostle Paul saw the end of his life approaching he concluded, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, *I have kept the faith*" (2 Timothy 4:7–8). He knew—he had faith and total confidence—his reward awaited him. The God of this universe has big things in store for all mankind—especially for those He is calling to be His firstfruits—those who learn now to trust Him. Let's make a diligent effort to grow in faith. Let's hold on faithfully to the Truth God has revealed to His Church. Let's strive to build an atmosphere of faith in the Living Church of God—so when Jesus Christ returns He will find *real faith* in those He has called. □

# Rejoicing at the Feast

By Gary F. Ehman

**M**ost professing Christians do not know how to worship God. We see this in the contradictory beliefs and practices of the more than 450 cults and fellowships of Christianity that reveal a confusion rivaling the aftermath of the Tower of Babel.

Yet most of Christianity is united in opposing God's most basic instructions. Nowhere is this better demonstrated than in God's commandments to keep His Sabbaths and Holy Days. Most Christians ignore Christ's own example, and say that these are not part of Christian worship but are obsolete Old Covenant physical rituals imposed on the Jews by Moses.

Such professing Christians overlook God's direct statement that these days are not Jewish or Moses': they are His Sabbaths and Holy Days. "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, THESE ARE MY FEASTS' (Leviticus 23:1-2).

Despite this clear statement, modern Christianity charges that God's Holy Days are "Jewish" and a heavy burden—a burden "nailed to the cross" by Christ's death.

## True Worship Not a Burden

This article will not prove that Christians must keep the Holy Days. Instead, this article will answer the charge that the Holy Days are a heavy burden imposed by God. Real Christians—who study, know and understand scripture—have already proved that their submission to God and Christ includes keeping these days. But even some who keep the Holy Days are confused about their responsibilities, and sometimes consider these days a "burden."

*Webster's Dictionary* defines "burden" as "that which is carried, a load." It often implies difficulty, obligation or trouble in carrying the load.

But God's direct command to mankind in regard to His Holy Days, or feasts, reveals a far different point of view, which can be seen by examination of the Feast of Tabernacles. "Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh

month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day *there shall be* a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest. And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall REJOICE before the LORD your God for seven days" (Leviticus 23:39-40).

The operative word is rejoice! The Hebrew word *samach* is revealing, translated variously as glad, joy, joyful, merry, throughout the Old Testament.

*Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament and New Testament Words* explains: "*Samach* usually refers to a spontaneous emotion or extreme happiness which is expressed

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*King David knew that there was much to be gained in rejoicing before God at all times, but especially during times such as the Feast. The Book of Psalms beautifully describes this worship. "Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!"*

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in some visible and/or external manner. It does not normally represent an abiding state of well being or feeling. This emotion arises at festivals, circumcision feasts, wedding feasts, harvest feasts, the overthrow of one's enemies, and other such events." Hardly burdensome.

God designed His feasts as religious and social highlights in a person's life—breaks from the normal work and worship routines. "And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and

the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates” (Deuteronomy 16:14).

### Feast is a Centerpiece

Man simply does not want to believe what God says. Man sees the Old Testament God as someone who always commanded, always was stern, wreaking havoc and retribution on mankind because of His harsh laws and burdensome observances.

What they fail to see is that God is a happy, generous God, who is looking forward with great anticipation toward the spiritual growth of His family through this

*Members of God's church have made the big jump, the transition, from Satan's way to God's way. They do it through His spirit and by actually fulfilling the physical as well as the spiritual meaning of the Sabbath and Holy Days.*

process of worship. They do not understand that His creation—when living obedient, productive lives—is a delight to Him. “Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the LORD, But *the* blameless in their ways are His delight” (Proverbs 11:20).

God has especially provided the Feast of Tabernacles as the centerpiece for man to learn how joyous it is to worship Him. “And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always” (Deuteronomy 14:23).

By instituting a “second tithe” earmarked only for Feast expenses, God ensured that His people would have a rich experience far different from the rest of the year. “And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice (*samach*), you and your household” (vv. 24–26).

Nearly all of the physical and emotional senses God created in man will be stimulated by the experience of keeping the Feast. Most religious scholars refuse to acknowledge it, but true worship is an incredible gift God has given to us.

### God is a Rejoicing God

The true worship of God, that which stresses obedience to His commands, causes rejoicing to both God and man. “And you will again obey the voice of the LORD and do all His commandments which I command you today. The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good...” What most overlook is how God feels about it when man does obey. “...for the LORD will again rejoice (*suws* or *siys*, exult) over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, *and* if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deuteronomy 30:8–10).

King David understood that God wanted him to rejoice in the abundance He provided. “Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice (*samach*) who seek the LORD” (1 Chronicles 16:8–10).

King David knew that there was much to be gained in rejoicing before God at all times, but especially during times such as the Feast. The Book of Psalms beautifully describes this worship. “Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; *It is* He *who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, *And* His truth endures to all generations” (Psalm 100:1–5).

We should rejoice at this gift of worshiping our merciful God! Jesus compared our relationship with Him to the physical relationship between a generous father and his children. “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him” (Matthew 7:11).

Christ used the words “good things.” Good in the Greek means beneficial. The gifts God gives are beneficial to Christians. THEY PROVIDE A BENEFIT! Sadly a world

on the verge of self-destruction disbelieves God, throwing out the blessings that come from observing His Holy Days.

Christians benefit greatly from true worship as pictured by the Sabbath and Holy Days. Doing it God's way, not rejecting His plan for worship, allows them to rejoice in His love, things of beauty, that which is joyful, the pleasure of our senses, prosperity and wealth. This does not picture a God who thrives on burdening His creation. "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, *From* doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy *day* of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking *your own* words, Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken" (Isaiah 58:13–14).

Members of God's church have made the big jump, the transition, from Satan's way to God's way. They do it through His spirit and by actually fulfilling the physical as well as the spiritual meaning of the Sabbath and Holy Days. They understand God's motives because they comprehend His plan and how it is pictured by Sabbath and Holy Day observance.

Christians can truly understand what Paul felt about worshipping God. Being justified by faith, having peace with God and access to Him because of Christ, true worshippers can "...rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1–2).

The "hope and glory" pictured by the Holy Days—God's plan of salvation—extends BEYOND the church, encompassing the entirety of the world. Paul used the word rejoice (*kauchaomai*), which has a connotation of boasting, in a good and joyful sense.

### A Need to Remain Focused

Human beings, even in God's Church, tend to see the negative. In the face of persecution for keeping God's commandments, the feeling of "woe is me" can overwhelm the feeling of rejoicing.

Whatever true Christians suffer to obey God today, it is nothing compared to that which the early church faced. "And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us! But Peter and the *other* Apostles answered and said: 'We ought to obey God rather than men'" (Acts 5:27–29).

That was a costly answer in physical terms for these men, but their attitude in the face of persecution for true

worship, should be inspiring to all who claim to follow Christ. Before being freed, the Apostles were beaten and commanded not to speak about Jesus. "So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name" (v. 41).

The word rejoicing (*chairo*) used here, means glad or calmly cheerful with a feeling of being well off. Even when persecuted, Christians should not feel doom and gloom. The Apostle Peter, one of those beaten in the above Jerusalem incident, spoke from experience. "But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you* are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled" (1 Peter 3:14).

God did not create man to be miserable and sad. He rejoices in His plan of salvation for mankind. This means He rejoices in His creation, His people. That is why He has created feast days to celebrate—SO MAN CAN REJOICE WITH HIM! The feasts are days full of meaning and promise, which picture salvation and hope and glory for all of mankind—HIS ENTIRE CREATION!

### An Awesome Destiny

Christians have an awesome destiny and NOTHING should get in the way of rejoicing about it! Those who obey God will receive great promises to be fulfilled in a most spectacular way. "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints" (Revelation 19:6–8).

This is the end result of doing it God's way. The Greek word "rejoice" used here is: *agalliao*, to exult, rejoice exceedingly, be exceeding glad. But more importantly, God is saying this event comes as the result of the "righteous acts of the saints" or "righteousness" in the KJV (v. 8). God inspired the Greek word *dikaionoma*, meaning what has been established, and ordained by law, an ordinance—a portion of which, involves keeping the feasts.

In view of this awesome end result for the saints, why would a Christian NOT want to keep—and rejoice at—the Feast, and rejoice in being a member of the church God is using to proclaim the coming kingdom pictured by these Holy Days?

God shows those who care to study His word with an open and submissive mind, there is no burden in His Sabbaths or Holy Day feasts, just an incredible rejoicing in the physical today, continuing on to tomorrow's world.

As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians at Philippi "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). □

# Report From The Treasurer

By Fred Dattolo

**D** Meredith recently mentioned that I have been smiling more lately. Fellow office employees have told me that when the Treasurer smiles they are happy too, because they know that God is blessing the Church and Work. Well, there are indeed reasons for me to be happy in my work! I hope you will be happy too.

Just a couple months ago, our year-to-date income was stable at about 78 percent of last year. As of this writing in late August, we are fast approaching a year-to-date income of 80 percent. Brethren, in order to pull the year-to-date figure up that fast, the current level of income must of course, be even higher, and so it is. For example, August income is running about 88 percent of August a year ago! This, not because of any singularly large donations and not because of major fluctuations in second or third tithe, compared to last year. Rather, we are seeing steady growth.

For example, notice the following pattern. In May, 36 heads of households contributed to the Living Church of God for the first time. In June, it was 45 heads of households and in July it was 42 heads of households that contributed to Living for the first time. In August, we have about 30 more. Obviously, this can have a cumulative, compounding effect on the income, especially if those individuals are tithing. In

any case, when June's regular mail income broke the record set in March, we were delighted that July's income broke the record set in June! Now in August, the income will break the record again by a considerable margin—about \$35,000 more than July!

Now let's look at another encouraging statistic. We have defined co-workers as those who have donated at least twice within the last six months. At the end of June, we had 64 co-workers who had donated at least twice between January and June. As of this writing, near the end of August, we have 189 co-workers who have donated at least twice between March and August! This may include members from other fellowships of God's Church who have not been identified as members yet, but either way we are definitely growing at a substantial pace!

Another good indicator of real growth is to compare the first tithe account in an earlier non-Holy Day month to the first tithe account in the current month. March is a good "benchmark" month because it is far enough removed from year-end fluctuations, is a full month and marks the end of the first quarter of the year. Also, it so happens that the weekdays in March are configured like the weekdays in August, which makes for an even more accurate comparison. As of this writing—a few days from the end of August—the first tithe account

in August is running about 10 percent higher than the first tithe account in March! This clearly shows how much support for Living has grown since the first quarter of this year.

On other matters, we have put together a preliminary budget for year 2000 that still has to be refined with certain details. However, we can tell you that we plan to increase dramatically the circulation of *Tomorrow's World* magazine, publish and distribute 12 lessons of the Bible Correspondence Course, produce more booklets, and purchase some mail processing and media equipment. How many television stations we add will depend on how much more the income grows, but we certainly plan to add stations as well. Also, we have done something we have not been able to do in recent years—start a small reserve account to be used only for emergencies and unforeseen contingencies. That is also growing—slowly, but surely.

The "wish list" for even more things we would like in next year's budget (especially in the area of preaching the Gospel) would require a 20 percent increase in income. Although we have budgeted income at current levels, we think a 20 percent increase is possible. Let's all pray that God would make it a reality!

Thank you very much for your dedication to God's Work—and let us all keep smiling! □

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*Prepare (Continued From page 2)*

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gridlock if traffic signals are disrupted. Electronic credit card transactions may not be processed. Telephone systems may not work.

How should we prepare? Should we simply close our eyes to the problem and refuse to face reality? Of course not! We should follow the counsel of Proverbs 22:3, "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished." We should certainly trust in God, but we should not rely on Him to shield us from the consequences of our own deliberate negligence (cf. Matthew 4:7). If we know how to prepare for a disaster, and we can do so while obeying God's commandments, God expects us to do this to the best of our ability.

In many respects, planning for Y2K is no different from planning for any other potential disaster. If you live in an area affected by earthquakes, you will find that many of the steps recommended below are effective as earthquake preparedness. If you live in a region where hurricanes or tornadoes strike, your preparation for these disasters is substantially similar to what you will need to do in advance of Y2K.

The following is provided for informational purposes only. The Living Church of God does not warrant the accuracy nor does it in any way endorse these suggestions. It is advisable to consult with qualified experts as to implementation of any changes you may wish to make.

**Check your appliances.** Some of your appliances may contain embedded chips that control their operation. Many of these embedded chips do not use the year information stored in them, but if they do, and their programming does not recognize the year 2000, problems may occur. Equipment that could potentially be affected includes: home security systems, electronic locks, garage door openers, automatic sprinklers, programmable thermostats, appliances and consumer electronics. Many if not most items built in the last few years should be free of problems, but if you rely on any piece of equipment for your family's health, safety or security you may find it prudent to contact the manufacturer to verify in advance that it will be problem-free. If an appliance is directly connected to your home's electrical system, as are many smoke detectors, see if it has battery backup.

**Decide how many weeks of supplies you will need.** Most experts encourage people to keep two or three weeks of supplies in storage in case of ANY disaster, not just Y2K. Some organizations routinely urge their members to store enough supplies for six months or even a year. We should be mindful neither to fall into the ditch of paralysis or the ditch of paranoia at events yet to come. Remember that while we must be prepared for any natural disaster, the time will come when God's people face an end-time disaster that no amount of stored food will avert. Plan, but don't panic.

**Stock extra food.** When the electricity goes out, you can and should use up the food in your refrigerator first, as long as it has not spoiled, before you deplete your reserve of non-perishable foods. But you NEED to make sure that your emergency reserve consists of non-perishable foods that do NOT require refrigeration. Remember that you will need to eat a nutritionally balanced diet during the emergency, so store a variety of foods. If you have pets, remember that they, too, will need to eat — don't leave them out of your preparations!

**Keep a supply of water.** A common recommendation is that you store in advance a gallon per person per day.

**Consider your need for medications.** If you take any prescription or non-prescription medications, have an ample supply on hand if possible, along with any medical supplies that you may require.

**Stock extra household supplies.** Make sure you have an ample stock of batteries for your radios, flashlights, and other appliances. Don't forget such basics as toilet paper. Rather than dirtying dishes, pots and pans with no dishwasher available and limited water supplies, you may wish to store some paper plates or even aluminum foil.

**Keep cash on hand.** If the electricity goes out at your ATM, it won't be able to dispense cash. If your local grocer or retailer is open in a blackout, you may not be able to use your credit cards. Plan to keep some cash and/or traveler's checks in a safe place — and do NOT count on being able to make a convenient withdrawal in late December, as many others will then be making their own preparations at the last minute. Instead, withdraw a small extra amount every time you get cash, so that you are ready weeks in advance if possible.

**Prepare your automobile.** Make sure that your car's gas tank is topped off before January 1. Especially if you work outside the home, think about carrying in your car a small set of emergency supplies to help you if you

are stranded while away from home. If you wear dress shoes at the office, keep a pair of walking shoes in the car so that you can be comfortable if you need to leave your car behind and walk a long distance.

**Plan your communications.** If you plan to use your home phone, make sure that you have at least one instrument that does not require an electrically-powered base unit. If you own a cellular phone, take steps to ensure that it can be charged; an automobile adapter can allow you to keep your phone charged and usable even if the electricity is off in your neighborhood.

**Stay warm.** Make sure that you have enough blankets, clothes, etc., to stay comfortable even if your heating goes off.

**Consider alternate cooking devices.** If your oven and other devices that rely on your home's electricity fail, you will need some way to cook the non-perishable food that you have stored. Remember to be careful in the storage and the use of the fuel for any such devices. Do NOT plan to use your cooking device as an alternate heating source — this could be VERY dangerous!

**Generators should be used with care.** If you plan to use a portable generator, many safety experts recommend that you NOT connect it to your home's electrical system, suggesting instead that you connect it directly to the items you wish to power. Make certain that you do not endanger your home or your family by using a generator outside its manufacturer's specifications (e.g. indoors or in a poorly-ventilated area).

**Keep or obtain key records.** Make sure that you have accurate statements from your bank or any other financial institutions with which you do business. Keep copies of bills you have paid, along with documentation that you have done so, in case your records are lost and you are asked to pay again. If you rely on your local pharmacy's computer-based records for your prescriptions, you may want to ask your doctor to write you an additional prescription as a safeguard.

**Stay informed.** If possible, have a battery-powered radio or television available so that you can learn what to do as a potential crisis unfolds.

**Really study your Bible, and pray.** If we neglect this last point, the previous ones will not be sufficient. Much conflicting advice is circulating about Y2K. Ask for God's protection and mercy not only for your family, but also for *God's people everywhere*. Some unscrupulous people are even taking advantage of others' fears in order to gain notoriety or profit. Unless we seek godly wisdom, we are likely to be misled, or even to be taken advantage of.

If we keep ourselves spiritually and physically prepared, we have little to fear, and we will be able to say, with Samuel, "They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support" (2 Samuel 22:19). Remember! With the "millennium bug" behind you, your physical preparations will still be there to help you through future events including civil unrest or weather-related disasters, which WILL occur! And your *spiritual* preparation will help you to be ready for the REAL Millennium, soon to come. God speed that day!



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## REMINDER TO FEASTGOERS:

Please remember to bring your Holy Day offering envelopes with you to the Feast. It would also be a good idea to carry your PIN number in your Bible. Using your PIN number when you make a contribution enables the processing time to be about five times faster! Thank you very much.



## The Fall Festivals (Continued From page 6)

good for food (lust of the flesh), pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and something to be desired to make one wise (pride of life). By our fasting we are reversing in our own lives the process that began with our first parents in the Garden.

### The Feast of Tabernacles

The highlight of the year for most church families has long been the Feast of Tabernacles. It reminds us of that part of God's plan when the Kingdom of God will hold sway over all of the earth, and the earth will be as filled with the knowledge of God as the sea is filled with water (Isaiah 11:9).

From Revelation 20 we learn that after Satan has been shut away so that he can no longer influence and deceive the nations, there will begin the one thousand-year reign of Christ and the saints. Many prophecies in the Old Testament anticipate that glorious time when the saints of the Most High will possess the Kingdom (Daniel 7:22), a time when a King shall reign in righteousness and Princes will rule under Him, executing right judgment (Isaiah 32:1). It will be a time of physical healing for sick and hurting people (Isaiah 35:5–6) as well as a time of rejuvenation for the environment itself (vv. 1–2, 7).

Immediately prior to Christ's return, global catastrophes will overwhelm the entire planet. Water all over the earth, for instance, will become like congealed blood and all fish and sea life will die (Revelation 16:3–4). The earth will be a planet in its very death throes. At the crucial moment, however, the living Christ will return in power and glory. Immediately after that return, a stream of living water will break forth from under the ground and begin flowing into the Mediterranean as well as the [formerly] Dead Sea. Water all over the world will become miraculously pure as a result of this flow and dead sea creatures will have life miraculously restored (Ezekiel 47:1, 8–9). This healing water is in itself symbolic of the outflowing of the Spirit of God who will bring life and healing to a desperate world. This astounding event will set the stage for the entire Millennium.

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures this glorious time when Christ and His saints will administer God's government over the whole earth. Spreading out from Jerusalem to the most remote spots of the globe will come the knowledge of God and the ensuing peace and prosperity, which will flow, from God's blessing. At this future time the veil that shrouds the understanding of people the world over will finally be removed (Isaiah

25:7). As we celebrate this time of rejoicing and abundance, we should always be reminded of that time when God will make a "feast of fat things" to the whole world (v. 6).

### The Last Great Day

The final Holy Day of the fall festival season was the one least understood by the Jews. It was simply called the "eighth day" or later the "great day of the feast." Clearly, from the instructions given to ancient Israel, this final eighth day, coming right on the heels of the seven day Feast of Tabernacles, is a separate festival with a separate meaning. From the instructions given regarding the Levitical sacrifices in Numbers 29, we can see that this day is distinct from the preceding festival. It is linked with the Feast of Tabernacles, yet distinct. This is much in the same way that Passover is connected with, yet separate and distinct from, the seven day Unleavened Bread Festival that immediately follows it.

Revelation 20, which most clearly explains the significance of the fall festivals, helps us to understand the meaning of this day as well. We learn that after the one thousand year reign concludes, Satan is turned loose for a short time. He and those who have elected to follow him and rebel against God are dealt with and then a remarkable event occurs. All of the dead, small and great, are raised from their graves and restored to physical life. The books of the Bible are opened up to their understanding for the first time and they are then judged based on what they do with that new knowledge. Isaiah 65:20 hints that this period of judgment will be carried out over a time of one hundred years. At the end of the period of judgment, those who have embraced God's salvation will enter the Kingdom of God while those who have rejected it will be burned up forever.

God's great plan so far supersedes any ideas and dreams of human beings that there is no comparison. This fall festival season focuses our attention on the climax of God's plan for dealing with mankind. As we look around us at the pain, sorrow, and desperation that grip so many in this present world, let's be recharged by setting our eyes on the hope and glory this season anticipates. Jesus Christ came bringing the GOOD NEWS of the Kingdom of God. We are part of the Work that God has raised up to take that same message to a hurting and dying world.

As we see the end time events of which Christ and the prophets of old spoke, let's lift up our heads knowing that our salvation draws near (Luke 21:28). **The season of hope and glory is drawing nigh!** The fulfillment of the fall festivals and all that they mean is just around the corner. □

# Youth Camp Youth Camp Youth Camp

## LIVING YOUTH CAMP –

# A SUCCESSFUL BEGINNING!

This summer, campers from the United States, Canada, and Mexico converged at Northwoods Christian Camp near the small community of Pickford, Michigan, for two weeks of fellowship and adventure. Northwoods is a campers' paradise with unlimited opportunities. It is situated in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, surrounded by the Great Lakes of Superior, Huron, and Michigan. Fifteen minutes to the south are the harbor towns of Cedarville and Hessel, boat-launching sites for 36 closely-grouped islands in Lake Huron known as Les Cheneaux Islands.

Camp started Wednesday morning, August 28, with orientation. Camp Director Gerald Weston explained some of the traditions and guiding principles behind Living Youth Camp. "LYC is a highly structured program with little free time," he said. "All things are to be done decently, in order, without confusion, and in peace. No one is to be left out."

Campers were given guidelines to help them more fully enjoy the camping experience and be safe while experiencing it. "We have three big rules here at camp: don't hurt others, don't hurt yourself, and don't hurt things," Mr. Weston said. "The world constantly lowers standards — here at LYC we work to lift standards. Look sharp, feel sharp, be sharp," he concluded.

Following the explanation of traditions and expectations, nine counselors and staff members put on skits to further demonstrate our traditions and practices. In "Camp Bad Manners" Choke it Down Chuck, better known as Jonathan Bryce, took the leading role in demonstrating how not to conduct one's self during meal time. This was followed by a skit showing traditional "Lunch Time at LYC" where good manners are the rule. At "Camp Free Time" Brandon and Rachelle Fall (broth-

er and sister) acted out two campers in love, Michelle Hyun discovered what it is like to be left out of the clique, and Jonathan Bryce paid the price in a hand slapping game with Toni Morelli. This, of course, was in contrast with "LYC Fellowship Time" where no one is left out, hand slapping games and games of keep away with your neighbor's hat are not carried on, and pairing off with public displays of affection is not among our traditions.

This year a new pair of skits contrasted "Camp Cool", where everyone engages in competition to "out-cool" one another, with LYC, where a dress code is enforced that helps to take the spotlight and concentration away from the self-focusing it on caring and serving the other person.

Camp classes began immediately following orientation, with each dorm participating in a full day of fun and fundamentals. Formal classes were conducted in

archery, canoeing, dance, flag football, challenge course, volleyball, and wilderness skills. A new and enormously popular class was added this year called "fitness for life." Mrs. Christie McNair and her able staff led campers in stretching, running, lifting weights, and aerobic routines to music.

Daily classes in the scriptures and in God's way of life were a part of the LYC curriculum. Each activity day, every dorm went to a Christian Living class conducted by one of the six ministers who participated in the camp this year. In addition, a three-part series of classes on teen life added to the more formal part of the educational experience. Subjects covered included masculinity and femininity, what to look for in a marriage partner, the three resurrections, your future, and your relationship with God.

Mr. Paul Shumway provided a prayer rock for everyone with the following instructions: "Put it on your pillow in the morning so that when you lay down at night



# Youth Camp Youth Camp Youth Camp



and hit your head on it, you will remember to pray. At night, put it on the floor so that when you bump into it with your foot while getting out of bed, you will remember to pray,” Mr. Shumway advised.

Campus Improvement (CI) was another activity. This was a very rewarding class that gave campers the opportunity to invest in the camp facilities. Campers removed brush, moved rocks, and helped build a new deck on the lodge. The deck had been deteriorating over many years to the point that it could no longer be used. Mr. John Blanchard, an elder in the church and a licensed building contractor in Michigan, supervised the demolition of the old deck and the construction of a new one — something that the Northwoods facility has wanted to do for several years. With a bit of know how and a chain saw, the old deck came crashing down in a record 13 minutes! Over the next several days CI crews cleaned up the debris and helped with the construction of the new deck.

A highlight for the camp was the five-day visit by Presiding Evangelist, Dr. Roderick C. Meredith, and his wife, Sheryl. After resting from the long trip, they set out the following day to observe and participate in a variety of classes. Dr. Meredith surprised the campers by taking part in the “trust fall” where you voluntarily fall off a platform backwards into the arms of fellow campers. Meanwhile, Mrs. Meredith worked at coordinating hands and feet at a “fitness for life” aerobics class. Both Merediths enjoyed walks on the nature trail and viewing the numerous deer and their fawns that wander freely and fearlessly through the camp. They even met Hercules, a fawn that lives in and around the home of Paul and Betty Raynard, the site managers, who took the deer in when it was abandoned.

On Friday evening, Dr. Meredith conducted the Bible study and asked the question, “What Would Jesus Do?” He explained that we could only know the answer to that question if we study the Bible. God has given us His word to teach us His will and His will is very different from what most people in this world today think that it is. On the Sabbath, Dr. Meredith asked and answered the question, “Where is God’s True Church Today?” He showed that there is a difference in what various churches teach and that God’s true church would be teaching the full message of scripture, would be doing a powerful work, would be feeding the flock, and would believe and practice the government of God.

Another highlight of camp was the overnight canoe trip. Campers put in at the harbor in Hessel, paddled past Marquette, LaSalle, Hill and No. 8 Islands and arrived five hours later at Government Island. There they spent the night and returned to Cedarville the next morning. The beauty of Les Cheneaux Islands, the clear blue waters that surround them, and the village harbors filled with sailboats and yachts made this an adventure that campers will remember for years to come.

The end of camp was marked by a banquet that featured grilled steaks and baked potatoes, short addresses by the camp director and Dr. Meredith, fellowship time, and a dance. Within 45 minutes of the last dance, 55



campers and staff were on a bus heading for the airport. Remaining staff members relaxed in the dining hall, snacking on freshly baked hot bread with butter and honey. Before retiring, everyone went outside to view a display of the northern lights. Although the display was minimal, this was the first chance most campers and staff had to view this unusual phenomenon. It was a fitting end to a wonderful camp experience. □

## Evangelists Ordained



“We are recognizing many long years of dedication and loyal service to God’s church,” Presiding Evangelist Roderick Meredith said, prior to raising Mr. Charles Bryce and Mr. John Ogwyn to the office of Evangelist.

The ordinations came as part of the four-day Council of Elders meeting at the Church’s San Diego headquarters on August 18 during a noon luncheon. Joining Dr. Meredith in laying hands on the two men were Evangelists Mr. Richard Ames, Mr. Dibar Apartian and Mr. Carl McNair.

Dr. Meredith felt both men were eminently qualified to be ordained to the positions. He said the ordinations show that the work is growing. “I think the brethren will be encouraged that these men were made Evangelists,” he said.

Mr. Bryce is currently Regional Director for Canada and the northeastern United States and has been a minister for the past 35 years, serving in many leadership roles.

“Someone who is in charge of a major area of the Work, especially if it involves the ministry, would be an Evangelist. Mr. Bryce has been doing that job and doing it very well. He is an outstanding leader, very dedicated, an outstanding preacher and has a great deal of wisdom and dedication. Because of his responsibilities and what Christ has been doing through him, we felt it

proper to ordain him,” Dr. Meredith said.

Mr. Ogwyn, with 28 years in the ministry, is currently Regional Director for the southern United States, one of the church’s largest regions. He writes extensively for the Work’s publications.

“He is one of the hardest working and most capable men we have, but also one of the most outstanding speakers in the Church of God in any fellowship. The booklets and correspondence courses and special articles he writes certainly are evangelizing and he’s doing the work of an Evangelist, so we ordained him,” Dr. Meredith said.

Dr. Meredith, commenting on the Council of Elders meeting said, “The warmth and enthusiasm, the obvious love and unity of all participants made it one of the best conferences we have attended in years!”

## 50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne (Doc) Krueger of the Wasilla, Alaska congregation celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Lake Lucile. The Krueger family, Wayne and Gloria and their 10 children and 22 grandchildren, were all in attendance, with old friends and brethren of the Living Church there to wish them well. Wayne and Gloria Krueger in 1964 were among the first couples baptized in Alaska.

## Baptism

The Calgary congregation of the Living Church of God rejoiced with Ed Gontar on the Sabbath of July 17, 1999 and welcomed him as a new member of the Body of Jesus Christ. Mr. Gontar was baptized that morning by Mr. Stuart Wachowicz at a local hotel.

# A Mustard Seed Beginning

*(Editor's note: The following two letters and pictures from Ernest J.A. Owino Living Church of God elder in Nairobi, Kenya were recently received by Evangelist Dibar Apartian who oversees the International sector of Church Administration. The letters, along with the pictures, reveal a mustard seed beginning of God's work on the African continent.)*

May 17, 1999

Warm greetings to you all from Nairobi! I am very grateful for all the help and love that you have shown us in every way. This attitude, indeed, is from God Almighty.

Mr. Apartian, please herein find a number of photos which certainly give you a hint of our activities in Kenya. I normally travel to Ndhiwa (600 kms away) to meet our brethren there at least once a month. I also try to travel to Sultan Hamud (150 kms away) on occasion to meet our small group there. The regular attendance of our group in Ndhiwa is averaging 50 while at Sultan Hamud it is averaging 7.

Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your love and help. I gratefully received the help sent towards my wife's hospitalization.

Regards,  
E.J.A. Owino



August 2, 1999

Greetings again from Nairobi! I have just come back from a very spiritually profitable trip in Western Kenya. Though I had to walk on foot for 10 kms (because of lack of public transport on a number of interior roads in the country) the visit was very helpful—indeed uplifting—to both myself and the “new” people I had gone to acquaint myself with. I traveled overnight and arrived here this morning.

During the Sabbath of July 31, I gave a sermonette on what it means to be “BORN AGAIN” and a sermon on “THE KINGDOM OF GOD—What Does it Mean?”

We now have a group of 15 in a region called Oyugis. These people were originally affiliated with [another Church of God] group. They were frequently visited by [a COG pastor] from South Africa. Thankfully, they were able to see where “the whole counsel of God” is being expounded! I will send their names and addresses shortly to you.

There's potential for growth. Also enclosed please find part of the group at Ndhiwa (photographed) which I took on the Sabbath of July 21. All our groups on the countryside are economically not-well-to-do peasant farmers, but a people who love and treasure the truth of Almighty God, which we uphold and teach.



Thank you!  
E.J.A. Owino

# Local Church Listings

## UNITED STATES

Anchorage	AK	Gary Ullerick	253-922-6917	Pearl City	HI	Harold Way	808-455-2761
Homer	AK	Video Group		Des Moines	IA	Gerald Weston	816-228-2035
Wasilla	AK	Video Group		Boise	ID	Byron Hartman	541-372-2210
Birmingham	AL	Rand Millich	706-227-6895	Pocatello	ID	Mark Mendiola	208-238-0403
		Carl Ponder	334-285-3265	Chicago	IL	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
Florence	AL	Bob League	615-641-3778	Peoria	IL	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
Huntsville	AL	Bob League	615-641-3778			Irv Woelfle	309-266-3638
Montgomery	AL	Rand Millich	706-227-6895	Fort Wayne	IN	David Burson	517-699-4971
		Carl Ponder	334-285-3265	Indianapolis	IN	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917
El Dorado	AR	Jon McNair	504-654-6797	Plymouth	IN	David Burson	517-699-4971
Fayetteville	AR	Karl Beyersdorfer	417-623-8888	Terre Haute	IN	Virgil Thompson	812-442-1303
Harrison	AR	Video Group		Coffeyville	KS	Video Group	
Little Rock	AR	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117	Utica	KS	Video Group	
		Davy Crockett	501-868-8760	Wichita	KS	Video Group	
Russellville	AR	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117	Berea	KY	Video Group	
Mena	AR	Video Group		Louisville	KY	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917
Phoenix	AZ	Doug Winnail	602-572-8747	Alexandria	LA	Jon McNair	504-654-6797
		Jim Nork	602-978-5537	Baton Rouge	LA	Jon McNair	504-654-6797
		Gerald Shoquist	602-561-9143	Lafayette	LA	Jon McNair	504-654-6797
		Gary Stein	602-975-0897	Monroe	LA	Jon McNair	504-654-6797
		Howard Stein	602-546-3773			Don Wood	870-863-8512
Tucson	AZ	Doug Winnail	602-572-8747	New Orleans	LA	Jon McNair	504-654-6797
		Phil Steagall	520-744-6453	Shreveport	LA	John Harbison	903-796-0790
Camp Verde	AZ	Doug Winnail	602-572-8747	Boston	MA	Jim Arnaldo	508-393-6209
		Bob McCann	520-567-0230	Salisbury	MD	Kenneth Frank	540-786-8015
Arroyo Grande	CA	Video Group				Barry Frank	410-632-3257
Eureka	CA	Don Haney	541-855-9872	Bangor	ME	Jim Arnaldo	508-393-6209
		Michael Norris	707-445-1335	Detroit	MI	David Burson	517-699-4971
Fresno	CA	Gaylyn Bonjour	559-346-1064	Kalamazoo	MI	David Burson	517-699-4971
Garden Grove	CA	Dibar Apartian	858-676-0886	Lansing	MI	David Burson	517-699-4971
		Rodger Bardo	714-270-4663	Marquette	MI	John Blanchard	906-586-6834
Los Angeles	CA	Jeff Fall	626-914-1474	Saulte St. Marie	MI	John Blanchard	906-586-6834
		Hadden Pace	626-447-4476	Minneapolis	MN	Paul Shumway	651-407-3636
		Don Turk	760-325-3356	Columbia	MO	William Oswald	816-228-2035
Palm Springs	CA	Don Haney	541-855-9872			Rod Reynolds	816-827-1320
Redding	CA	Jeff Fall	626-914-1474	Joplin	MO	Karl Beyersdorfer	417-623-8888
Sacramento	CA	Roderick Meredith	858-673-7470			Gene Hilgenberg	417-455-2057
San Diego	CA	Video Group		Kansas City	MO	Gerald Weston	816-228-2035
San Jose	CA	Video Group				James Wells	816-358-9606
Sonora	CA	Video Group		Rolla	MO	Rod Reynolds	816-827-1320
Denver	CO	Glen Marshall	970-669-5192	St. Joseph	MO	John Turner	816-387-9213
Franktown	CO	Robert Stahl	303-688-1562	Amory	MS	Evo Walker	601-773-6137
Hartford	CT	Jim Arnaldo	508-393-6209	Greenwood	MS	Daniel Hall	334-626-0585
Washington	DC	Kenneth Frank	540-786-8015			Jim Burson	601-262-7233
		Ray Clore, II	703-591-4787	Jackson	MS	Video Group	
Boca Raton	FL	Ben Faulkner	813-684-1423	Laurel	MS	Daniel Hall	334-626-0585
		Dexter Wakefield	407-627-2471	Ocean Springs	MS	Daniel Hall	334-626-0585
Jacksonville	FL	Randy Kobernat	850-894-9909	Great Falls	MT	Arnold Lalum	406-265-4072
Live Oak	FL	Randy Kobernat	850-894-9909	Hamilton	MT	Virgil Thompson	812-442-1303
Miami	FL	Ben Faulkner	813-684-1423	Helena	MT	Dana Glatz	406-442-0136
Ocala	FL	Ben Faulkner	813-684-1423	Kalispell	MT	Video Group	
Pensacola	FL	Daniel Hall	334-626-0585	Bozeman	MT	Video Group	
		Tony Smith	850-438-0785	Asheboro	NC	Kenneth Frank	540-786-8015
		John Burquist	334-661-9086			George Webb	336-993-5714
Tallahassee	FL	Randy Kobernat	850-894-9909	Asheville	NC	Martin Fannin	423-675-2304
Tampa	FL	Ben Faulkner	813-684-1423	Charlotte	NC	John DuBry	828-874-5164
		Ron Peterson	941-858-4090	Raleigh	NC	Kenneth Frank	540-786-8015
Atlanta	GA	Rand Millich	770-935-8273			William Dobbins	919-832-7296
		Jack Lowe	770-474-8101	Bismarck	ND	Paul Shumway	651-407-3636
Blairsville	GA	Martin Fannin	423-675-2304			Arlan Weight	701-255-2897
Macon	GA	Randy Kobernat	850-894-9909	Omaha	NE	Gerald Weston	816-228-2035
				Hammonton	NJ	Don Contardi	716-638-7508

Morristown	NJ	Dennis Chornomaz	609-653-0425
		Don Contardi	716-638-7508
		Carl Klink	793-973-2640
Albuquerque	NM	Video Group	
Des Moines	NM	Video Group	
Battle Mountain	NV	Don Haney	541-855-9872
Reno	NV	Don Haney	541-855-9872
Brooklyn	NY	Don Contardi	716-638-7508
		Roger Allgeyer	516-271-8785
Buffalo	NY	Don Contardi	716-638-7508
Corning	NY	Don Contardi	716-638-7508
		Shawn McMillin	717-547-1501
Long Island	NY	Don Contardi	716-638-7508
		Roger Allgeyer	516-271-8785
Rochester	NY	Don Contardi	716-638-7508
		Ron Lilie	716-473-4722
Akron	OH	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917
		Walter Warrington	330-325-7700
Cambridge	OH	Video Group	
Cincinnati	OH	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917
Columbus	OH	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917
		Charles Knowlton	614-964-0437
Dayton	OH	Video Group	
Oklahoma City	OK	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117
		Ray Reynolds	405-672-6965
Tulsa	OK	Karl Beyersdorfer	417-623-8888
Eugene	OR	Don Haney	541-855-9872
Medford	OR	Don Haney	541-855-9872
		Fred Wittlake	541-855-6950
Portland	OR	Don Haney	541-855-9872
		Gary Ullerick	253-922-6917
Philadelphia	PA	Don Contardi	716-638-7508
		Dennis Chornomaz	609-653-0425
East Stroudsburg	PA	Don Contardi	716-638-7508
		Dennis Chornomaz	609-653-0425
Anderson	SC	Rand Millich	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	Bob League	615-641-3778
Crossville	TN	Bob League	615-641-3778
Knoxville	TN	Martin Fannin	423-675-2304
		John Shelton	423-523-9332
Memphis	TN	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117
		Davy Crockett	501-868-9860
Nashville	TN	Bob League	615-641-3778
Abilene	TX	Video Group	
Amarillo	TX	Video Group	
Austin	TX	Keith Walden	512-244-5478
		Randy Gregory	512-244-1863
Corpus Christi	TX	Keith Walden	512-244-5478
		Bob Parker	361-387-9192
		C.B. Short	361-853-2460
Dallas	TX	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117
		Charles Haughee	903-887-8994
El Paso	TX	Video Group	
Gladewater	TX	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117
		Lynn Torrance	903-636-5218
Houston	TX	Ron McGowen	281-331-8930
Lufkin	TX	Larry Solomon	409-559-1145
Midland	TX	Video Group	
San Antonio	TX	Keith Walden	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	Kenneth Frank	540-786-8015
		Gerald Dulaney	540-662-3696

Williamsburg	VA	Kenneth Frank	540-786-8015
Pasco	WA	Video Group	
Richland	WA	Dean Greer	509-466-0908
Seattle/Tacoma	WA	Don Haney	541-855-9872
		Terry Graves	253-474-5807
		Gary Ullerick	253-922-6917
Spokane	WA	Don Haney	541-855-9872
		Dean Greer	509-466-0908
Tonasket	WA	Don Haney	541-855-9872
		Eldon Davis	509-486-4240
Green Bay	WI	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
Merrill	WI	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
Milwaukee	WI	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
		Glen Gilchrist	414-251-4374
Wisconsin Dells	WI	Paul Shumway	651-407-3636
Bluefield	WV	Val Burgett	540-726-8020
		Robert Croyle	304-487-1489
Craigsville	WV	Val Burgett	540-726-8020
Logan	WV	Val Burgett	540-726-8020
Ripley	WV	Edward Lee	304-372-3047
Buffalo	WY	Jim Dunlap	307-684-2824
Casper	WY	Jim Hamby	307-235-3920
Cheyenne	WY	Ray Fertig, Sr.	307-638-7575
Hulett	WY	Tim Moore	307-878-4459
Kemmerer	WY	Jim Adrianos	307-877-4934
Laramie	WY	Scott Winnail	307-742-7165
Rawlins	WY	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
Saratoga	WY	Eugene Api	307-326-8038
Wheatland	WY	Terry Brant	307-322-3234

INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIA

Canberra	ACT	Bruce Tyler	02-6231-8166
Brisbane	QLD	Dayrell Tanner	07-3806-0833
Perth	WA	Ken MacLeod	08-9457-7624
New Castle	NSW	Video Group	
Adelaide	SA	Video Group	
Mackay	QLD	Video Group	

BARBADOS

Christ Church		Clyde Skeets	246-432-9436
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BELIZE

Belmopan		Video Group	
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CANADA

Calgary	AB	Stuart Wachowicz	780-466-1815
Edmonton	AB	Stuart Wachowicz	780-466-1815
Kelowna	BC	Eldon Davis	509-486-4240
		Barry Walker	250-491-0024
Vancouver	BC	Norm Aitchison	604-275-3205
Winnipeg	MB	Eng Monson	306-545-5250
Fredericton	NB	Jim Arnaldo	508-393-6209
Sussex	NB	Jim Arnaldo	508-393-6209
		Frank Freeze	506-485-2180
St. John's	NF	Frank Best	905-845-7922

Woodstock/

Springdale	NF	Frank Best	905-845-7922
Halifax	NS	Jim Arnaldo	508-393-6209
Bracebridge	ON	Garry Lucas	705-726-0628
Guelph	ON	Frank Best	905-845-7922
		Garry Lucas	705-726-0628
Kingston	ON	Frank Best	905-845-7922
Ottawa	ON	Frank Best	905-845-7922
Peterborough	ON	Frank Best	905-845-7922
		Winston Grosse	705-737-0772
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		Bruce Bird . . . . .	306-873-4864				
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Tonasket	WA	Eldon Davis . . . . .	509-486-4240	Don Carlos, Bukidnon		Eleno Cabahit	
CHILE				Iligan City, Lanao del Norte		Video Group	
Santiago		Video Group		Koronadal Proper		Eustiquio Benitez	
COLOMBIA				Lilo-an		Video Group	
Santa fe de Bogota		Eduardo Hernandez		Makilala		Video Group	
COSTA RICA				Maranding		Video Group	
Santa Ana		Video Group		Mauswagon		Video Group	
FRANCE				Monkayo		Video Group	
Paris		Video Group		Nabunturan		Felipe Casing . . . . .	63-082-297-0200
GERMANY				Quezon City		Rod McNair . . . . .	63-2-813-6538
Karlsruhe		Video Group		San Fernando		Gorgonio de Guia	
GUATEMALA						Encardio Benitez	
Coatepeque		Video Group		San Nicolas		Elias Flores	
GUYANA				PUERTO RICO		Video Group	
Aishalton		Video Group		San Juan		Ben Faulkner . . . . .	813-684-1423
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Lethem		Video Group		SOUTH AFRICA			
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Nairobi		Ernest Owino		Virginia		Syd Hull . . . . .	27-11-664-6036
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Maprik		Video Group		Tanna		Video Group	
Wewak		Video Group		VENEZUELA			
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