

Living Church News

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An Atmosphere of Faith

Dear Brethren and Friends,

What a *magnificent* Feast of Tabernacles God gave us this year! As mentioned in my member letter, many felt this year's Feast was the "most inspirational" ever! Read for yourselves some of the detailed reports on the Feast in this issue and perhaps some in the next issue as well. Your encouraging and inspiring letters about the Feast are still coming in.

During the Feast, my sermons mainly touched on the twin themes of "Restoring Apostolic Christianity" and building an "atmosphere of FAITH" within God's Church. I hope and pray that all of you are picking up on these themes—and that you will *pray* about them, and really *study* the Bible so as to be very conversant with these vital themes. After all, this is nothing new. It is exactly what we see reflected in the book of Acts and in the history and writings of the early Apostolic Church. *This approach is what we ought to be imitating!* Yet it is encouraging and inspiring to realize that—if we do our part—God will no doubt begin to "pour out" His Spirit on us as He did the early Church of God. For, as we know, "Jesus Christ is the SAME yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Remember the atmosphere of constant prayer and SEEKING GOD that is described throughout the book of Acts? Soon after Christ ascended to heaven, we read of the Apostles: "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers" (Acts 1:14). "Supplication," of course, has the connotation of *very humble* and *heartfelt prayer!* Mr. Armstrong used to tell us that he felt one of the greatest LACKS in the prayers of God's people in this age is that all too often we do NOT put our "hearts" into our prayers. We do not have the dynamic earnestness and PASSION of those who are truly "crying out" to the Great GOD!

Please think about it.

Again, notice the constant atmosphere of prayer even among the new converts in the early church: "Then those who gladly received His word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in PRAYERS" (Acts 2:41–42).

Notice this powerful prayer to God by the Church when some of the Apostles' lives had been threatened: "And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said

to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: 'Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them.... Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus'" (Acts 4:23-24; 29-30). In this case, the answer came quickly and God literally SHOOK the building in which the brethren were meeting!

But notice what the early Church of God people asked for: boldness in preaching, and that God would grant signs and wonders and HEALINGS to back up the preaching of His Word. And God began to answer DRAMATICALLY in a number of ways, including the Apostles' performing many signs and wonders and even Peter's "shadow" causing people to be HEALED! (Acts 5:12-16).

When it came time to call the first Gentile to conversion, Peter was sent to a Roman captain who was a "devout man" who "prayed always" (Acts 10:2), and who had been FASTING for about four days (v. 30). *This is the kind of man whose prayer God hears!*

In our day, God mightily used Herbert W. Armstrong because of this same type of attitude and zealous approach to God. In his autobiography, Mr. Armstrong describes a time when he was financially impoverished, when his wife was about to have a baby while at the *same time* she had developed a severe case of anemia and other complications. What did Mr. Armstrong do? His answer is contained in the following quote from the *Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, Vol. 1, pp. 391-393:

There was no more time to lose. I *had* to find the answer. I knew of only one way. *Fasting* and prayer! It was the last-ditch resort. I didn't know how one ought to fast and pray—I had never done it before. But when Jesus' disciples were unable to cast out a demon, Jesus said such a result came only by fasting and prayer. So I began to fast.

The fasting was begun on a Sabbath morning. That morning I ate no breakfast. Not knowing *how* one ought to go about fasting and prayer, I first prayed and asked God to show me the way—to open my understanding. Then, since God speaks to us through His written Word, I began to search the Bible for instruction about fasting. For one hour with the aid of a concordance I studied passages of Scripture on the subject of fasting and praying, much of the time on my knees.

Then for one hour I sat in thought and contemplation. I turned over in my mind the scriptures I had read. I reflected on my own life in recent months. I tried to compare it with God's way, as revealed in the Scriptures. Then I spent the next hour in talking to God—in prayer.

And so I decided to continue in this order—one hour in scripture study, one in contemplation, and one in prayer. I did not once ask God to heal my wife—as yet. I had been doing that for weeks, without result. I was fasting and praying, not for the purpose of bringing pressure on God to force Him to

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Let's Continue the WORK

Editorial

By Roderick C. Meredith

Among the many splits and divisions of God's people in the past several years, one troubling theme seems to be springing up again and again. That theme or concept is that "the Work is over," or that "we don't need to do a Work except merely to feed the flock."

This idea *should* seem almost incomprehensible to one who deeply drinks in of what the Bible clearly says. Yet some very misguided individuals seem bent on denigrating the *zeal* we all should have to "finish the Work." Consider carefully the Great Commission which Jesus Christ gave to His followers: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the END of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20). Jesus said He would be "with" us in doing this Work until the END of the age.

Has the "end" come? Of course not! Did Jesus ever *modify* this statement to tell us to keep preaching the Gospel to "all nations" only until Peter died? Or until the Apostle Paul died? Or until Herbert W. Armstrong died? Again, *of course not!*

Rather, every single indication in the Bible about our Christian responsibility tells us that God's *true* servants will continue to preach and publish the Gospel to the nations until they are physically stopped and kept from doing so. In an obviously prophetic commission, Jesus told His disciples, "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. When they per-

secute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes" (Matthew 10:22–23). In a prophecy pertaining to the years just ahead of us, Jesus said, "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake" (Matthew 24:9).

Were we "hated" by ALL nations in the Work Christ did through Mr. Armstrong with many of us participating? *Of course not!* Because, in fact, most nations did not even know that we existed as a church. And Mr. Armstrong personally made brief "protocol visits" to a number of world leaders and was very warmly received with NO persecution whatever!

In our Work today, the little groups of God's scattered people are virtually UNKNOWN to nearly all the nations. They do not hate us because they do not even know that we exist!

Yet, clearly speaking of His Second Coming, Jesus described how we would have to flee from persecution and said, "You will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes." This surely indicates that we would at least be TRYING to go through all "the cities"—publicly preaching and publishing Christ's Message to the END of this age.

Definitely speaking of this END-time when the "abomination of desolation" is to appear, Daniel writes, "The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. The people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering" (Daniel 11:31–33). We who do truly know God and understand His will have both the opportunity and the respon-

sibility to proclaim Christ's Message to the nations of this deceived world!

Turning our churches into virtual social clubs, trying to mainly feed ourselves and be with our friends in a comfortable environment is NOT God's will. For this coming Holocaust will be the time of the GREATEST national tribulation in human history. And it is *definitely* coming primarily upon the "house of Joseph"—the American and British-descended peoples all around the world.

At such a time, what are we COMMANDED to be doing? God answers His true Church who should understand: "But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand. So you, son of man: I have made you a WATCHMAN for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and WARN THEM for Me" (Ezekiel 33:6–7).

Do you want to have the responsibility for the BLOOD of thousands or millions of people on your hands because you tried to reason around the responsibility we have been given?

Sabbath-keeping ministers who try to kid themselves and their followers that there is "no Work to be done" are in for a rude awakening! Those so confused that they cannot remember what God's Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, taught, or somehow do not grasp the special responsibility we have to warn the "house of Israel," should consider God's inspired warning about ANY type of Holocaust coming upon a national peoples: "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold

back those stumbling to the SLAUGHTER [Great Tribulation!]. If you say, 'Surely we did not know this,' does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?" (Proverbs 24:10–12).

Despite any real or imagined faults, Herbert W. Armstrong was the human leader in God's Church whom God used very powerfully for 52 years. He *always* taught us that the heart of any true Christian should be in "the Work." He always said that most people grow spiritually according to *how much* their heart was in getting Christ's Message to others—to the *whole world*!

Just before his death a few days later, Mr. Armstrong wrote his final co-worker letter on January 10, 1986. Notice what God's Apostle wrote:

Dear Brethren and Co-Workers, This is my first letter to you in 1986, and could very well be my last. Now in my ninety-fourth year I am in a very physically weakened state enduring severe pain and with virtually no strength whatsoever. I briefly described my condition in last month's Co-Worker letter to you, and now it has worsened. It may be that the work God has given me to do is complete, but not the Work of God's Church, WHICH WILL BE FAITHFULLY DOING GOD'S WORK [emphasis ours] till Christ, the True Head of this Church, returns....

Remember, brethren, this is not the work of Herbert W. Armstrong, nor will it be the work of Mr. Tkach, or any man. It is the Work of the Living Creator, God. You are supporting this

Work of God, and it is the Great God who will pour out His blessings on you for your generosity. Continue to sacrifice through 1986 to finish the commission God has given His Church. The GREATEST WORK [emphasis ours] lies yet ahead.

Then consider what Jesus Christ said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest?' Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together" (John 4:34–36).

Finally, let us never forget the inspired statement of Daniel referring specifically to the time of the END. Daniel wrote, "Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who TURN MANY to righteousness like the stars forever and ever" (Daniel 12:3). As most Bible commentaries acknowledge, the Hebrew expression "turn many" has the connotation of "evangelism"—of "doing a Work," of bringing in NEW believers and NOT merely "feeding the flock." As the *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, states regarding Daniel 12:3:

"The parallel expression is those who lead many to righteousness. The fruit of a Christ-centered, godly life is NEW BELIEVERS, won to the Lord through God's servants. The Good Shepherd rejoices to see His sheep brought home to Him through faithful soul winners. Such 'will shine... like the stars for ever and ever (Vol. 7, p. 152).'"

Those of you who may have been called after 1965, or any year, where would you have learned the Truth if the people and the leadership of God's

Church had decided that the Work was done in 1960? What if they had gotten off radio or if they had never gone on television? And had ceased to publish the *Plain Truth* magazine? Are we now to say that because we have the truth about salvation, taught us by others, we no longer have a responsibility to continue spreading the Truth of God? I think you know the answer is we DO have that responsibility.

God's special blessing is on those who are willing to *serve* and *sacrifice* so that "others"—NEW CONVERTS—may receive and have a chance to act on God's Truth and so be protected from the Great Tribulation and/or the Day of the Lord. One of the reasons we are called now is to *do this very Work*.

Brethren, Mr. Armstrong has been dead almost 14 years. An *entire new generation* comprised of *hundreds of millions* of young people all over the world is now growing up. The vast majority of them have *never even heard* of Herbert W. Armstrong. But we in the Living Church of God are the *spiritual* descendants of the Philadelphia Era of God's Church led by Mr. Armstrong. We are the ones to carry on the Work Christ did through Mr. Armstrong—some of us already having assisted him for many decades. Christ continues to set before us an "open door" to proclaim His powerful Gospel to the nations!

Will we have the out-flowing LOVE and CONCERN—the faith and courage—to continue walking through that "door" of evangelism as long as God gives us the opportunity? The rewards for carrying out Christ's Great Commission are AWESOME. The result of failing to zealously participate in the Great Commission is tragic—not only for the untold millions who might otherwise had been reached with the Truth, but also for those small-minded individuals who merely want to serve themselves. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." □

How Deeply Are You Committed?

By John H. Ogwyn

Commitment runs very shallow in our modern western world.

Whether it is in marriage or in religion, most people want what is convenient and easy. What does Jesus Christ expect of those who would be His disciples? How much commitment is really necessary?

Christ warned His disciples that the time would come when many who claimed to be Christian would be offended and would hate and betray one another (Matthew 24:10). Clearly these are individuals whose commitment does not go deeply enough.

History is replete with the story of “sunshine patriots,” individuals who lacked the commitment to weather personal hurts and slights or hard times that came their way. Perhaps the most infamous name in American history has been that of Benedict Arnold. His name has been paired with Judas Iscariot and is synonymous with “traitor.”

Benedict Arnold did not start out as a traitor, of course. He was, in fact, the youngest American general in the Revolutionary War and a hero of some of its early engagements. He, along with many others, professed devotion to the cause of American independence, being highly thought of for putting his life on the line, and being in the forefront of action with his troops. Yet the commitment of Benedict Arnold to the ideal of an independent United States had definite limits. Those limits centered on personal ambition.

He had become increasingly angry at the actions of his superior officer, General Horatio Gates. Arnold felt that General Gates took credit for all of his good ideas and was receiving praise and recognition to which he himself was entitled. Eventually this resentment spilled over to George Washington for not seeing through General Gates, and from there to the entire American cause. Eventually Benedict Arnold made a bargain with the British to betray his colleagues and the American position at West Point, New York. In the aftermath of his sellout, his name became synonymous with “traitor.”

Obviously, Benedict Arnold's commitment was shallow. He was simply not willing to tolerate what he considered unfair treatment. Christ made it very plain in Matthew 24 and other places that many Christians will become spiritual “Benedict Arnolds.” What about you? How deep do your commitments run?

God's Commitment to Us

We sometimes talk about our commitment to God and to His way of life, but what about His commitment to us? Perhaps we do not often think about it in that way, but God has evidenced the deepest of commitment to you and me personally. In return, of course, He requires total commitment from us as well.

Perhaps the greatest test of commitment and obedience that God ever gave anyone was the one He gave to His friend, Abraham. Abraham was told by God to take his only legitimate son, Isaac, and go to the mountains of Moriah and there offer the young man as a sacrifice to God. Isaac was the son of Abraham and Sarah in their old age, the son for whom they had waited for decades. As much as Abraham loved his son, He loved God more. Not understanding what it was all about, yet knowing that the command came from his Creator, Abraham took young Isaac, along with the items needed for the sacrifice, and departed early the next morning. At the last possible moment, God stepped in and stopped Abraham from carrying out the sacrifice. At that point, God knew that Abraham's commitment to Him knew no bounds.

The test that God imposed on Abraham was not arbitrary. It foreshadowed what God the Father would Himself do almost twenty centuries after that event. Because, you see, God the Father gave His uniquely begotten Son, Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice to pay for the sins of all human beings. God's love for us and His commitment to our salvation knew no bounds. For our sakes, He made the supreme sacrifice!

And what about Jesus Christ, Himself? He had been in the beginning with the Father and He Himself possessed eternal power and glory. He was the very instrument of creation itself. Yet in spite of all of this, He voluntarily emptied Himself of the immortality, glory, and power that He had shared from eternity with the Father and became a mortal man. He was born as a helpless human baby and grew to adulthood in the ancient Roman provinces of Galilee and Judea.

Up and down the dusty roads He walked with His disciples, teaching and helping people. His authoritative teaching about God's way of life, and the miracles He

worked to heal and help others, brought Him into conflict with the religious establishment of His day. Growing increasingly fearful of His popularity with the masses of ordinary people, the religious leaders grew to bitterly hate and resent Jesus of Nazareth. Ultimately they collaborated to have Him arrested and turned over to the Roman government for execution by one of the cruelest means ever devised by human beings—crucifixion.

Consider the commitment that God the Father and Jesus Christ made to us personally. Paul explains in Romans 8:32 that God is so deeply concerned about each of us that He did not even spare His own Son in order to bring about our salvation. This being the case, Paul goes on to argue, how could we not expect that the Father and the resurrected Christ at His right hand would freely give us all the help we need in order to make it into the Kingdom of God? God's commitment to us is so powerful that it staggers the imagination. What about our commitment to Him? What kind of commitment does He expect of us?

In Luke 9:23, Jesus Christ is recorded as telling His disciples that if they wished to be His followers, three things were required. They would have to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and come after Him. What did He mean by this statement? Herein lies the key to understanding the level of commitment that Christ and the Father require.

Because, make no mistake about it, there will be no fair weather disciples or "sunshine patriots" in the Kingdom of God!

Deny Yourself

The starting point of the commitment that Christ demands of those who would follow Him is self-denial. This, of course, goes against the grain of our modern Western world. People are looking for self-fulfillment, not self-denial. They are trying to "find themselves," not to lose themselves!

Popular teachers in today's world offer to help people "feel good about themselves." Often people reason that since God is love (which He is), then He certainly wants them to be happy. The next step in this train of logic is for them to conclude that whatever it is that they wish to do (in their minds, thereby making them "happy") God would surely approve. Often this may involve divorcing and remarrying without strict Biblical justification or perhaps compromising with some other standard that the Bible holds up.

Simply put, obedience to God involves self-denial. When we tithe, when we keep the Sabbath, even when we do something very physical, such as avoiding meats that

God labels unclean, we are denying physical enticements and desires as the ruling forces of our lives.

To give or help or serve others generally involves self-denial. It usually means putting off something we had wanted to do, or in some way inconveniencing ourselves because of the needs of others. It is not enough to give and serve; it must be done with a willing heart. Paul wrote the Corinthian Church about a special offering that was being collected to feed the poor brethren in Judea. He reminded them that God "loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). It is not simply what we do, but it is also the attitude in which we do it that is vital to God.

Why did God the Father and Jesus Christ deny the self in our behalf? Why did they offer such an incredible sacrifice? The motive was LOVE, outgoing concern toward us as potential future members of the Family of God. At the basis of God's character is love, and, with it, the willingness to practice self-denial to help the one loved! Christ said that if we are to come after Him we must be willing to deny the self. Understanding this concept is crucial to being a Christian.

While God's law is for our good and points the way to eternal life and joy forever, it often goes against the grain of human nature. Loving our enemies, blessing those who revile and curse us, praying for those who seek to spitefully use us—these aren't things that come naturally. To do them involves denying the natural instincts and urges that we all have.

God loves with a sacrificial love. He tells us that as future members of His family, we must also learn the way of a love that is prepared to say no to self.

Jonathan, the son of Saul, is an outstanding example of someone who exemplified true love and thereby denied the self. Most are familiar with the story told in 1 Samuel about the close friendship between Jonathan and David, the future king of Israel. After he killed Goliath, David quickly became a national hero. He went on to achieve other notable victories over the enemies of Israel. King Saul soon became consumed with jealousy because of David's popularity. In the meantime David and Jonathan became very close friends.

As Saul became more obsessively jealous of David, he began to formulate plans to kill him. Knowing of his son Jonathan's friendship with David, Saul sought to stir jealousy within his son's heart and mind. "You will never be established in your kingdom," Saul warned Jonathan, "as long as David is alive."

Jonathan, though he began to understand that his friend would undoubtedly become king instead of him, always sought to help and protect David. He denied the self and evidenced real love.

What about us? Are our minds open to jealousy and resentment of others? If they are, they are not filled with the kind of love that is prepared to deny the self!

Take Up Your Cross Daily

What did Jesus of Nazareth mean when He told His disciples that they must be prepared to take up their cross daily? Clearly, at the end of His life, He himself took up a literal cross and began the walk from the Governor's Palace to His place of execution. What is our cross and how do we take it up daily?

The stake that Jesus took up at the end of His life was symbolic of the purpose for which He had entered human flesh and come into the world. It was indeed the instrument of Christ's execution. However, it was by His death and shed blood that He paid the penalty for sin and made possible our reconciliation to God. Additionally, He triumphed over Satan and all his works, insuring the ultimate victory of all those who would follow Him.

Taking up His cross represented for Jesus Christ the shouldering of responsibility, no matter how personally distasteful. Every fiber of His being cried out for some alternate way; nevertheless, He surrendered Himself completely to the Father's perfect will (Matthew 26:39).

In speaking as He did to His disciples about taking up their cross daily, Christ showed that our responsibilities and obligations are not just one-time things. It involves matters that we must shoulder day by day. There are many distasteful and difficult obligations that we may face in our lives, and we must carry them day by day, one day at a time.

With what attitude did Jesus Christ shoulder His cross? In Luke's account we learn that a large number of people followed Him when He began the trek to Calvary, including many women who began loudly to bewail and lament what was happening to Him. He turned to them and told them that instead of weeping for Him they should weep for themselves and their children because of the terrible things that were going to come upon them and their nation (Luke 23:27–31). Christ's attitude, even at that most difficult of times personally, was one of outgoing concern for others. He shouldered His personal burden, but not with an attitude of self-pity!

How about us? With what attitude do we take up the performance of our duties and obligations day by day?

One other thing about taking up our cross; we have not failed if we find that we need some help along the way! Even Jesus received help. Because of the terrible beating that He had suffered and His subsequent loss of blood, His steps faltered and He was unable to carry His burden all the way to the top of Golgotha by Himself.

Simon of Cyrene was pressed into service to help by carrying it the rest of the way. The lesson for us is that if we willingly shoulder our burdens and start on the way, the necessary help will be provided to make it to the journey's end.

Follow Me

Christ not only told us the way; He showed us the way! The essence of being a Christian is being one who follows Christ. He set us an example that we should follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

After Christ's resurrection, He appeared to the Apostles on several occasions during a forty-day period. The third of these appearances occurred on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The disciples, at the suggestion of Peter, had gone fishing. Christ appeared and ate a meal with them. Following the meal Christ strolled along the seashore with Simon Peter and began to talk to him about the martyr's death that he would eventually die. Peter's response is classic, for it illustrates the way each of us so often responds.

We learn from John 21:20–21 that Peter looked back and saw John, the beloved disciple, standing a ways off. He interrupted Christ to ask Him, "Lord, what about John? What's going to happen to him?" Christ's response to Peter is illustrative for us. "Peter, if I want him to remain alive until I come back, what is that to you? Follow you me!"

So often, like Peter, we get worried that others are going to get off more easily than we are. We get our attention on them and wonder what the future holds for them and why it may be different than for us. Christ's response to each of us is the same as that to Peter. Do not worry what I have in store for them or how I will choose to use their lives for My glory, He tells us. What we need to do is simply to concentrate on putting one foot in front of another to follow Him! Step by step and day by day, follow Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

About a week before the glorious miracle of the transfiguration, Jesus Christ emphasized to His disciples that if preserving and protecting themselves was their first priority, they would ultimately lose the very life they sought to insure. However, if they were willing to forfeit physical life for His sake, they would be rewarded with life eternal (Matthew 16:25–26).

The commitment that God the Father and our Savior Jesus Christ extended toward each of us was absolute and without reservation. The commitment that is required of us in return must also be without reservation or equivocation.

We give our utmost for His highest reward. We can do no more than that, and God will accept no less! □

Do You Have A Sense of Urgency?

By Douglas S. Winnail

When it comes to preparing for the Kingdom of God, growing in faith and overcoming, doing the work of preaching the Gospel and warning the world—*do you feel a sense of urgency?* Or is your focus primarily on yourself and your own concerns—your job, your family, amusing yourself, doing your own thing by soaking up all that this world has to offer? Do real Christians need to have a sense of urgency? What does the Bible indicate?

Warnings for Us!

Today it is common to view the Scriptures as a soothing source of comfort—a place to retreat for solace when life gets difficult—and there obviously are verses for that purpose. However, the Word of God is also designed to provide instruction, correction and exhortation regarding attitudes God wants to see in future members of His family (2 Timothy 4:2). This is *why* biblical authors were not writing just for people who lived long ago. The Apostle Paul makes what may seem like a surprising statement about the Old Testament scriptures, “Now all these things happened to them *as examples*, and were written for *our admonition* [for our benefit as a warning], on whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). The Bible plainly states that even the examples in the Old Testament were recorded as a warning for us today.

One striking example is the attitude that Lot and his family exhibit-

ed as God was about to destroy the wicked city of Sodom (Genesis 19). In spite of direct warnings from God of Sodom’s imminent destruction, Lot’s sons-in-law laughed at the warnings. Even Lot and his wife were reluctant to leave the city. They felt no sense of urgency to get out of a rapidly deteriorating situation. Lot’s earlier decision (Genesis 13:10–13) to dwell in Sodom, a city infected with wicked and perverted values, apparently tainted his judgment and his attitude. He and his family had learned to tolerate evil because it was so common. They saw no urgent reason to leave even though they were specifically warned. When Lot’s wife looked back, contrary to God’s instructions—apparently wishing to remain, she was turned into a pillar of salt. This sobering story is recorded for *our* admonition today!

The Scriptures provide numerous urgent warnings about the need to come out of this world and its ways, and those warnings apply to God’s people today. Peter exhorted potential converts on the day of Pentecost to “repent, and...be baptized...be saved from this perverse [corrupt, misguided] generation” (Acts 2:40). Paul urged the church at Corinth, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers... Come out from among them and be separate” (2 Corinthians 6:14–18). The Apostle John warned those living in the last days to “come out of her [a world system modeled after the Roman Empire, dominated by a false prophet and a war-making

beast], my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues” (Revelation 18:4). Do we grasp the urgency in these commands, or have we developed the same toleration of evil and complacency that infected Lot and his family?

The book of Revelation states very plainly that the last era of the Church (Laodicea) will be characterized by a similar attitude of *complacency* (Revelation 3:14–22). The prevailing attitude even among believers will be neither cold nor hot, just lukewarm. People will be content with the truth they possess, but without the zeal to fulfill the Great Commission given to the Church by Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19–20, Mark 16:15–18). This is in stark contrast to the attitude of Philadelphian Christians who, though small in number and limited in resources, possess a real sense of urgency to preach the Gospel of the coming Kingdom of God and warn the world of the dangerous time that will precede that glorious event (Revelation 3:7–13). The Scriptures indicate that God finds this sense of determination and urgency commendable and *worthy of reward*. Although both Philadelphia and Laodicea believe basically the same truth, their *attitudes* differ significantly—as do their rewards (see Revelation 12:14–17). Those lacking a sense of urgency will not be spared from the rigors of the Tribulation. But is developing a sense of urgency really *that* important?

The Mind of Christ

The Apostle Paul urged the church in Philippi to develop the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5). We see that mind reflected in statements Jesus made about his mission in life. When urged by His disciples to take a break from His ministry, Jesus responded His primary concern was to “do the will of Him who sent Me, and finish His work” because the fields were white with harvest (John 4:34–35). We see this same sense of urgency in a later response when Jesus stated, “I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4).

Jesus knew what He had to do. He knew that He had a limited “window” of opportunity—about three and one-half years—to get the job done. His time frame was short, thus His sense of urgency. Jesus was focused, but He was not unbalanced. He urged the disciples on another occasion to rest from their busy routine (Mark 6:30–31). Jesus knew the benefits of a short change of pace. However, because of His focus on His mission and His sense of urgency, Jesus was able to say to His Father at the end of His three and one half-year ministry, “I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do” (John 17:4).

In developing and exhibiting this attitude of mind—this sense of urgency to get the job done—Jesus was merely following the Scriptures He had studied from childhood. Solomon had been inspired to write a thousand years earlier, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). He also wrote, “He who deals with a slack [lazy] hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent [eager] makes one rich” (Proverbs 10:4; see also Proverbs 12:24). The Bible states that a person who is diligent (quick, skilled, excels)

in his work will stand before kings (Proverbs 22:29). Since the ultimate reward of Christians is to become kings and priests (leaders in the coming kingdom of God—Revelation 5:10) it is important to develop a sense of urgency to get a job done—as an example to those you will lead.

The sense of urgency that Jesus Christ exhibited is simply a manifestation of God’s mind. When the disciples asked Jesus to show them the Father He replied, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). Jesus told a crowd of Jewish critics that both He and His Father had a job to do (John 5:17). The Bible indicates that God is working out a plan and purpose on this earth and that God’s plan has certain time constraints. The Apostle Paul reveals that God “will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth” (Romans 9:28). Jesus indicated that God will cut short the Tribulation before man utterly destroys himself (Matthew 24:22). God the Father and Jesus Christ have a sense of urgency *ingrained in their character*—it is how they think and operate. This is also a quality that we need to develop as Christians—if we hope to become members of the God family.

Apostolic Admonitions

Jesus urged His disciples who would live at the end of the age “to take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name...and will deceive many” (Matthew 24:4–5). The same Scriptures also urge us to watch for the appearance of specific prophesied events because “the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him” (Matthew 24:44).

In a letter to the church at Rome, Paul admonishes “it is high time to awake out of sleep... the night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore

let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly... not in revelry and drunkenness, not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy. But put on Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts” (Romans 13:11–14). Paul urged the Ephesians to “awake, you who sleep... walk circumspectly, not as fools, redeeming [using wisely] the time, because the days are evil... understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:14–17). He urged and exhorted the Thessalonians to avoid sexual immorality and other lusts, to be alert and be sober, to respect their leaders and be at peace with one another (1 Thessalonians 4 & 5). Paul’s writings ring with urgency!

In a pastoral epistle, Paul urges Timothy to “charge them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit...be diligent to present yourself to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness” (2 Timothy 2:14–16). He further advises Timothy to “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching” (2 Timothy 4:2), especially as the end of the age approaches with its prevailing sense of complacency and divisive doctrinal heresies (vv. 3–5). Paul is quite urgent in his admonitions—and these apply to our time today!

The writings of the Apostle Peter contain this same sense of urgency. Peter exhorts elders to shepherd their flocks eagerly with love and not with force or for dishonest gain if they hope to get a reward (1 Peter 5:1–5). To encourage fellow Christians to grow spiritually, Peter admonishes,

Sense of Urgency?
continues on page 15

The Blessings of Third Tithe

By Gary F. Ehman

God pronounces a blessing on those who care for the poor and needy. He also emphasizes throughout the Bible that it is the duty of the individual to closely guard, protect and support those who are afflicted within society by events and circumstances not of their choice. God identifies them as the stranger, the fatherless and the widow. “He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing” (Deuteronomy 10:18).

From the beginning God warned society about taking advantage of those not able to defend themselves “You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child” (Exodus 22:22). “And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien—Because they do not fear Me,” Says the LORD of hosts” (Malachi 3:5). God established a system to help the poor and homeless. “You shall not pervert justice due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a widow’s garment as a pledge... When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow” (Deuteronomy 24:17–21).

The Church of God has, as a rule, provided effectively for widows and others in need by obeying God’s instruction concerning the third tithe. The basis of paying this tithe is found in the Book of Deuteronomy. “At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates” (Deuteronomy 14:28).

For those who are financially able, the third tithe year traditionally begins and ends after the Feast of

Tabernacles in the third and sixth year of a seven-year time cycle. “When you have finished laying aside all the tithe of your increase in the third year—the year of tithing—and have given it to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your gates and be filled, then you shall say before the LORD your God: ‘I have removed the holy *tithe* from my house, and also have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me; I have not transgressed Your commandments, nor have I forgotten *them*’” (Deuteronomy 26:12–13).

Notice that God calls this tithe a “holy tithe.” The Hebrew for holy is *qodesh*, and means “apartness, holiness, sacredness, separateness.” This is the only place in the Bible where the tithe is so described. God places great importance on this tithe because He sets it apart for a sacred use—taking care of the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow.

God promises to bless, in a special way, those who pay the third tithe if they properly respect the concept of the tithe as being holy to God. But this blessing must be asked for upon completing the third tithe year. “I have not eaten any of it when in mourning, nor have I removed *any* of it for an unclean use, nor given *any* of it for the dead. I have obeyed the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that You have commanded me. Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the land which You have given us, just as You swore to our fathers, “a land flowing with milk and honey”” (vv. 14–15).

If you have faithfully begun to observe your third tithe year after this past Feast, you can be assured that your effort is on notice before God and Jesus Christ. If you have concluded a third tithe year, do not forget to claim the blessings God will surely give because, for this past year, you cared for the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow. □

Go on to Perfection

By Gary F. Ehman

Every year the church concentrates its attention on understanding God's awesome plan of salvation by keeping His Holy Days.

From the Passover through the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day, Christians have been made aware that God, indeed, has a plan of salvation, and that each Holy Day is a milestone in His countdown to Christ's return. God shows His concern for His people by carefully insuring that much physical and spiritual pleasure is provided for them.

God wants Christians to know His plan of salvation. That is why on each Holy Day we ask the question "Why are we here?" This year's cycle of Holy Days is over, following one of the most challenging years the Church has faced and one of the most productive and stirring Feasts ever. The question to be asked—with all of the Holy Days behind us—what does a Christian do now?

It does not take long for Christians to realize they are back from the Feast. The world makes itself known very quickly. It is the same old job, the same old people on the job, the same old schoolmates and teachers—the carnal world and its overwhelming influence. Often, one can hardly even remember the Feast, if it were not for the photos one took. There are five more months before it all starts again with the Passover. So the question is, just what do Christians do until then?

Paul gives us a strong exhortation in the book of Hebrews. "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God" (Hebrews 6:1). We must go on to perfection. The Apostle Paul is

excellent or complete beyond practical or theoretical improvement." A much better definition is in the translation of the Greek word, *teleiotes*, having to do with intelligent, moral and spiritual perfection. To understand this we must look at the root word, *teleios*, defined as "a thing brought to its end, finished,

*Jesus Christ said that perfection
is absolutely necessary for a
Christian and He provides an attainable
standard for mankind.*

saying Christians cannot just simply rest, they must move forward in a positive manner.

God has given specialized doses of His word on each Holy Day and a concentrated dose during the Feast. It is almost as if He is allowing Christians to be alone for five months to see how they will do—testing their spiritual abilities. Throughout the Holy Days, God has fed His people. But He wants to know what they are going to do with this food during the next five months when they will have opportunity to bear fruit.

There is a need to take a closer look at this word "perfection." The Random House dictionary says: "It is the state or quality of being perfect...

wanting nothing necessary to completeness, full grown, adult, of full age, mature."

Jesus Christ said that perfection is absolutely necessary for a Christian and He provides an attainable standard for mankind. "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). This concept is central to the Father's love of all of mankind; a love Christians must cultivate if they are to be perfect as He is (vv. 43–45).

Perfection has one major component without which man cannot be complete. "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

bearing with one another, forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection" (Colossians 3:12–14). The same Greek word *teleiotes* is used, but notice that it is expressed in the fruit of love. In fact Paul uses the word "bond," meaning the uniting principle of perfection. Without love there can be no perfection!

One of the main reasons this world is in its current condition is

love. "But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you" (1 Peter. 5:10). Suffering speaks of the Christians' part in the perfection process. They must experience life that is contrary to what they know is God's way, to experience that only God's way produces love, joy and peace.

Peter used a different Greek word for perfect, but it has much the same effect. It is *katartizo*: "to mend (what has been broken or rent), eth-

sinned and he is going to oppose anyone who attempts to attain perfection. "You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you" (Ezekiel 28:15).

Christians need to remain focused on what God has prepared for them. The Apostle Paul wrote. "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected (*teleios*); but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended, but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature (*teleios*), have this mind: and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you" (Philippians 3:13–15).

To be perfected or mature, in this sense, means to understand God's plan for man and to work as hard as one can to be in harmony with it, to walk with God and Christ and follow those He uses as they follow Christ (vv. 16–17). Christ is the center of this process (vv. 20–21). But Christ said that there is a work involved in attaining perfection, a work that a Christian must perform. "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven: and come follow me" (Matthew 19:21).

Many Christians today underplay the importance of the church and its ministry in helping to mold that perfection and maturity. But ministerial examples have an important bearing on a Christian's life. The ministry's special calling is a major focal point helping brethren develop spiritually (Ephesians 4:11–16).

In a similar vein, Christians, as they work towards perfection, need

Man apart from God is broken. He is rent (torn) from God's initial plan at creation because of sin in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23–24).

that, outside of the Church of God, there is very little Godly love in it. This world disobeys God, and ignores His word, and therefore cannot rightly love and therefore cannot be perfect. "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him" (1 John 2:3–5).

Why is God's Church different? It is different because it keeps His word and faithfully expresses it by keeping His Holy Days and the weekly Sabbath. But it is not just a Christian's effort alone. Christians must yield to Jesus Christ and His spirit in them (Hebrews 13:20–21). The Apostle Peter speaks of a balance of our effort and God's careful

ically: to strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be." Man apart from God is broken. He is rent (torn) from God's initial plan at creation because of sin in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23–24). God taught Adam and Eve everything they needed to know about His plan for them (Genesis 2:15–17), much as Christians today are taught by observing the plan of salvation depicted by the Holy Days. Then God left them alone for a period of time, testing them. Satan, as a serpent, convinced them that disobeying God was no problem.

Attaining perfection may look a bit daunting at first glance. Both God and Jesus Christ know that if Christians want to attain perfection it is going to be a challenging battle. But it is a necessary one, which they can win. They must overcome Satan, who is a hater of perfection. Remember he was perfect before he

to keep current with the truth that God reveals through His word by the Church, which is “the pillar and ground of truth” (2 Timothy 3:14–17). The Bible is a handbook on perfection. Church members need to study the handbook diligently. “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). Why is this important? The example of Philip and the Ethiopian makes it clear. The Spirit moved Philip to reveal the truth to someone seeking it diligently. “So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ And he said, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him” (Acts 8:30–31). This does not mean someone cannot understand truth apart from the Church, but those striving for perfection do need those whom God has inspired to understand.

How does knowing and studying God’s Word help one to go on to perfection? It provides practical formulas connecting God’s laws to everyday relationships with others. Christ amplified the Ten Commandments while He was living on the earth and He inspired the epistle-writers to define them further for even more practical applications.

As an example, Paul’s epistle to the Ephesians is one of the most specific letters on perfecting individual character. Paul encourages fellow Christians by outlining their walk with Jesus Christ as they live their day-by-day lives. A Christian should walk in unity (Ephesians 4:1–16), walk in love (Ephesians 5:1–7), walk in light (vv. 8–14) and walk in wisdom (vv. 15–21). Paul also introduces some of the most moving descriptions in the Bible of

how to achieve the ideal marriage (vv. 22–33). Paul concludes his epistle with one of the best formulas for attaining Christian perfection found in the Bible (Ephesians 6:10–17).

For practicing Christians, enduring trials and tests as they pursue righteousness helps to develop perfection. But it takes time, and there is a need for patience. What God has in store for us will take time to develop. “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door” (James 5:7–11)! Those God has used throughout history displayed extreme patience in the face of heavy trials, and Christians are to emulate their approach (vv. 10–11).

These examples are listed as a permanent monument in what is called the faith chapter of the Bible, Hebrews 11. They were men and women of faith: Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, the harlot Rahab, and many others, whom Paul calls a “cloud of witnesses” to enduring faith (Hebrews 12:1). Christians—who likewise faithfully endure going on to perfection—are linked with them in the promises. “...God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us” (Hebrews 11:40).

The trials Christians face relate to the perfection being sought. Paul likens them to being trained in warfare “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witness-

es, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:1–3).

Some assume that personal striving for perfection is an attempt to gain salvation by works. Others claim it is an exercise in selfishness. Both positions are mistaken. God commands Christians to work at being overcomers. “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12–13).

But is all this work toward perfection only for a selfish cause? To believe so is to miss the real purpose of God’s plan of salvation and what the individual Feast days really represent. A Christian strives for perfection for one of the most unselfish reasons imaginable. “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Romans 8:18–21).

Christians are the hope of the world! God and Christ desire us to join their family. If a Christian desires that too—to be finished, lacking nothing necessary to completeness, to be full grown, adult, of full age, mature, and wanting it enough to “...go on to perfection...” then it will be a very short and profitable winter ahead! □

Mail Processing Department — From Ground Zero

By Aaron Eagle

The Mail Processing Department (MPD) of the Living Church of God started from scratch at the end of November 1998. We had neither postal equipment and office space nor knowledge of postal regulations and methodologies. According to Mr. Wayne Pyle, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Davis became the “throbbing heart of MPD.” Volunteers crowded into the Davis home to create labels, fold letters and stuff envelopes. After the bread was cast onto the water and the responses began to pour in, Mrs. Ruth Nestor and Mrs. June Olsen processed the incoming mail. Mrs. Nestor said, “It was great reading all the letters of support. There were so many of them. It was inspiring to see the brethren rally for the Truth once again.”

A month later, MPD moved into a small unheated warehouse and the first postal equipment was purchased. The envelope printer, postage meter, letter folder and two office computers helped tremendously. However, the suite had few electrical circuits so the electric breakers would often trip, shutting down all the equipment and floor heaters. Regardless of the challenges, “the Work was done in a refreshing and revitalized atmosphere of joy in, zeal for and dedication to the revived Work of God,” notes Mr. Pyle.

While rebuilding the department’s entire infrastructure, a great deal was accomplished. Our postage meter, which only records mailings through the U.S. Postal Service, recently passed the 100,000 mark. MPD has mailed over 22,693 sermon audio tapes (945 French, 1,280 Spanish and 20,468 English) and over 11,204 sermon video tapes (214 French, 408 Spanish and 10,582 English). We have mailed over 30,000 booklets (9,000 *Should You Be Baptized?*, 10,000 *Build A Joyous Marriage* and 11,000 *What’s Ahead for America and Britain?*). Moreover, we sent over 13,000 audio tapes in response to the *Tomorrow’s World* telecast.

The Mail Processing Department’s goal is to provide accurate and timely mailings at low cost

with minimum resources. We strive for all the brethren to receive the same meat at basically the same time. Therefore, we contracted with an organization that provides fast and reliable service to international areas. We save considerable processing time and video packets reach an international destination in only a few days. Also, letters and other publications are mailed individually outside the U.S. at lower cost with faster delivery.

This month we will install an inserter to dramatically reduce our processing time for member and co-worker letters. For example, it took an average seven hours to process 3,500 letters with a seven-person crew. By using our new inserter and high-speed printer, two people will complete the task in only two hours! Also, the equipment will allow us to even process the semi-annual letter for 30,000 *Tomorrow’s World* subscribers, a labor-intensive task that is normally outsourced.

As we have implemented technology to better conform to postal regulations, our postage costs continue to decrease. Mailing the booklet *Build A Joyous Marriage* by third class (Standard-A) cost 23.5 cents, but dropped to 17 cents after we received our non-profit status. Moreover, when we implement bar coding to qualify for the automation rate, the cost will fall to 12.5 cents. In other words, mailing 1,000 copies of the booklet within the U.S. would cost \$235 at the third class rate, \$170 at the non-profit rate, and \$125 at the automation rate.

Despite its humble beginnings, the Work continues in greater scope and power. The Mail Processing Department offers a vivid testimony of the Work’s impact. The fruits are clearly seen as tapes and publications come in the front door and exit the back door by the vanload—literally. It is inspiring to behold! Each mailing is an illustration that many are still responding to the gospel and warning message. There is much to do and MPD is trying to do its part as we finish this great Work together. □

Sense of Urgency*(Continued From page 9)*

“giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue [strength, courage], to virtue knowledge... self control... perseverance... godliness and brotherly kindness” in order “to make your calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:5–10). Peter’s sense of urgency in these passages is unmistakable.

Perhaps the most sobering reason for developing a real sense of urgency about growing, overcoming and doing the work is that our adversary, Satan the devil, will also be increasing his deceptive, divisive and obstructive activities as the end of the age approaches. John left this serious prophetic warning, “...For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a

short time” (Revelation 12:12). Peter cautions, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world” (1 Peter 5:8–9). To effectively counter these supernatural attacks, Paul links his urgent appeals to “wake up” with the necessity to “put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles [schemes, strategy, deceits] of the devil” (Ephesians 6:4).

The armor of God Paul refers to includes holding onto the truth, living a righteous life [according to the commandments of God], believing the true Gospel, exercising real faith, trusting in the promise of salvation, using the sword of the Holy Spirit,

praying, watching, and persevering through trials (Ephesians 6:14–18). Being armed before facing an enemy is an urgent necessity. As Christians we cannot afford to lackadaisically have one foot in the world and one foot in the church. We cannot afford to let personal ideas about doctrine and petty differences about administrative procedures divide and distract us from the main focus of our calling—growing in faith, overcoming, preaching the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God and warning this world of the dangers ahead. These activities *require* a sense of urgency. Are you developing this important quality? Why not make it a personal goal for the coming year? Pray with urgency! Study with a purpose! Live for a mission! God promises a reward if you do! □

Atmosphere *(Continued From page 2)*

obey my will and give what was asked—but to find out *what was wrong with me!* I realized we did not need to nag at God. NEVER fast as a means of inducing God to answer!

I read of Elijah’s prayer, in presence of all the priests of Baal, when God answered and the fire came down from heaven. I timed that prayer. It was *very* short—only about 20 seconds. But the awe-inspiring answer came crashing from heaven instantly! Elijah did not need to talk God into it by a long prayer, or by repeated prayers. But I knew that Elijah at that moment was *close to God*—that he *had previously* been spending *hours* in long prayers to be *in contact* and close communion with His Maker! And he naturally *knew* His Maker would answer!

Gradually the truth began to pierce through the fog in my mind. Gradually, as this process of fasting and prayer continued all day, and into the afternoon of Sunday—as I became more and more hungry—but closer and closer to God, the realization came that I had been keeping my mind more and more fully on this clay project.

In the following pages of his autobiography, Mr. Armstrong relates how God answered *every single request* he had made to God while fasting—plus supplying a couple of additional needs Mr. Armstrong had not thought to ask for! For he had truly been humbly, fervently SEEKING God—and so God ANSWERED in a wonderful and inspiring manner.

Brethren, if we in the Living Church of God will unitedly begin to SEEK GOD in this manner, we ourselves may be astounded at the wonderful results. Again, I urge all of you to please join with me in a CRUSADE to restore the full spirit of Apostolic Christianity within God’s Church! *Pray earnestly* for abundant FAITH. Genuinely *study* in a direct effort to make God more real and to build an understanding and dynamic FAITH (Romans 10:17).

Let us *all* join together to beseech God to build within His people a *radiant faith* in Him, in Jesus Christ and in the inspired Word of God. And let us ask God to use His chosen servants today to *powerfully* preach the Gospel, heal the sick and cast out demons (Mark 3:14–15).

In order that a truly effective Work may be done in Christ’s name, let us all CRY OUT to God to use us powerfully as His tools so that it may someday be said of us—as it was of Jesus’ original disciples: “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying SIGNS” (Mark 16:20).





1999 Feast of Tabernacles

An atmosphere of faith prevailed at the Living Church of God Feast of Tabernacles as thousands of brethren expressed joy at the feeling of unity, shared purpose and hope. The following pages show a capsule of events at Feast sites around the world.

Anchorage, Alaska—

The Living Church of God 1999 Feast of Tabernacles in Alaska was held in the Holiday Inn in Anchorage. This was a warm and spiritually, unified Feast with the Spirit of God very evident in just under 100 happy brethren.

The sun shone each time that we had an outdoor activity. All the sermons gave us plenty of fine spiritual food to accompany the salmon, reindeer and other Alaskan fare available in the outstanding restaurants near

at hand. Brethren of all ages enjoyed dog sled rides, a visit to a glacier, gold panning, and a visit to a game farm, all in the glorious setting and majesty of the mountains, streams and rivers of the “Great Land.”

We had a “dessert dance,” a sing-along, an “old timers” social and other activities that involved all ages. We heard “best Feast ever!” from brethren, some of whom came from as far away as Georgia and Texas!

—Gary Ullerick

Gatlinburg, Tennessee—

Gatlinburg, Tennessee, framed by the scenic Smokey Mountains, became the temporary dwelling for over 900 of God’s people in observance of the Feast of Tabernacles.

“Overall, there was a sense of peace, unity and a sense of urgency to finish the Work,” commented Rita Townsend, a member from Laurel, Mississippi. Indeed, the themes of the messages seemed to focus on renewing our dedication to God and increasing the depth of our personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ heretofore not attained.

Dr. Meredith gave two powerful sermons challenging God’s people to renew their efforts to grow in faith and commitment to God’s way of life and to build an atmosphere of faith

throughout the Church. He stated, that in Christ’s name, special signs of casting out demons, speaking in new tongues, protection from deadly things, and gifts of healing, would follow those who truly believe and are doing the Work of God as did God’s servants during the apostolic era (Mark 16:15).

Adding to the spiritual food given, the River Terrace staff graciously assisted the brethren to make their stay comfortable. However, the example of God’s people did not go unnoticed. Mr. Bob Charnock, the owner of the River Terrace Resort and Convention Center, remarked, “These are the kind of people I want my staff to be like.” Many brethren observed how there seemed to be more love among

God’s people as well as a profound spirit of peace permeating the entire festival.

A variety of activities highlighted the eight-day festival. The youth of God’s Church enjoyed a teen Bible study, followed the next day by a scenic trip on the tram to Ober Gatlinburg. Approximately 60 teens and family enjoyed an afternoon of ice skating, gift shopping, and playing at the arcades high above Gatlinburg.

The singles savored unique wines at a special wine and cheese tasting party. At another time they went horseback riding, and hiked to Hidden Cove. In addition, all local hosts, deacons, department heads, servers, and ministers enjoyed a dinner banquet capped off by personal

comments of encouragement from Dr. Meredith. Finally, the brethren enjoyed a delightful evening of fellowship and fun at the Feast Family Dance.

The song services were joyously enthusiastic as God's people lifted up their voices to God in thanksgiving. The efforts by the feast choir, directed by Mr. Ron Peterson, and special music, coordinated by Mr. and Mrs. Val and Elaine Burgett, were also profoundly inspiring. One member commented that the music was so uplifting that she hurried early to services just to hear the choir practice!

Truly, the Feast 1999 was a spiritual banquet, a feast of spiritual food, fellowship, and joy. May God preserve us together until the next Feast and ultimately, preserve us for His Kingdom!

—Dan Hall

Jackson Hole, Wyoming—

Three hundred and fifty two people celebrated God's Feast in Jackson Hole this year. Many brethren were from various other "fellowships," not just from Living Church of God.

Everyone felt welcomed and had a wonderful time enjoying the spiritual food, physical amenities and the beautiful and spectacular sights around. There's only one Jackson Hole, with the towering Rendezvous Mountain as the backdrop, and the Grand Teton. God's Feast in this part of the country just does not get any better.

This Feast site provides unsurpassed beauty and natural surroundings suitable for keeping the Feast in the way God intended. I am always happy when I see God's people come to realize that Jackson is "someplace special" and is a beautiful place to worship God and learn more about Him during this special time in this very special place.

Inspired by the special beauty of this site, everyone here at Jackson Hole looks forward to many more years of keeping God's Feast in the location where He places His name!

—Ben Whitfield

Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri—

Lake of the Ozarks was host to over 750 members and visitors who came there to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. Inspiring messages, beautiful weather, exciting activities, and an abundance of opportunities for warm fellowship made this Feast one of the best ever.

The one thing that everyone seemed to be talking about was the quality of sermons and sermonettes. This truly was a spiritual Feast with something for everyone to chew on. Messages ranged from prophecy to Christian living, from education in tomorrow's world to the rest God promises His flock.

The barbeque pit at Lazy Days Condos was the backdrop for feasting and fellowshiping among singles young and old. Luke McClurg and Roger Suhr served up steaks to accompany the baked beans, cole slaw, and potato salad that rounded out the meal.

Senior citizens were honored with a luncheon on Tuesday at Lodge of Four Seasons. Seniors of note were Mr. and Mrs. Norman Moore of Kansas City who were celebrating their 64th wedding anniversary at the Feast. But even they had to take second place in the contest for longest marriage, as Herb and Marge Niblock, also of Kansas City, edged them out by a year. They celebrated their 65th anniversary a month earlier.

About 90 teens and young single adults attended a dance that evening in the Valencia Room at Lodge of Four Seasons. Gary Jones II provided a good cross section of uplifting music for the occasion.



Wednesday evening was family night. Vi Gunn organized games and crafts for the younger children. Vi was better known during the evening as Rosebud, a very loveable clown. Gary Jones II once again provided music for dancing and Ric Wilson was master of ceremonies for the dance portion of the evening that included limbo, twist, polka, line dances, and a variety of other dances and music styles. Many comments were received that this was the best ever family night activity.

Members also engaged in personal activities such as golfing, shopping, go-cart racing, miniature golf, fine dining, and most of all, just plain fellowshiping. The numerous condo units available to members provided wonderful opportunities for friendly get-togethers. The pleasant weather also provided opportunities for members to share a barbecue with friends old and new. The consensus was that Feast of Tabernacles '99 at Lake of the Ozarks was spiritually uplifting and one of the best ever!

—Gerald Weston

Panama City, Florida—

The great God certainly poured out His Spirit of love and joy as was evident in the smiling faces, encouraging words and enthusiasm expressed by over 800 brethren that attended this year's Feast of Tabernacles in Panama City, Florida.

The sermons and sermonettes surpassed all in recent memory. We were admonished to volunteer for service, because "Many helpers make the load light." Many people volunteered to serve in every capacity. Even our youth pitched in by ushering on Teen Usher Day and Youth Day.

Mr. Carl McNair was the keynote speaker for the first half of the Feast. He asked us if the Work of God is finished. He proved that the Work of God will continue until the return of Jesus Christ and even into the millennial rule of Christ on this earth.

Dr. Roderick C. Meredith led us the last half of the Feast and spoke of how prophesied events are speeding up. He admonished us to grow continually closer to God and to pray, study and fast often. He then gave us a brief history of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's life doing God's Work and showed us how we, too, are an integral part of God's Work, that in keeping the whole way of life, we are restoring Apostolic Christianity.

Mr. Rand Millich pointed out that no other nation ever had laws, statutes and ordinances as did ancient Israel, nor was any other nation in such close contact with God.

He said that in the Kingdom, people "will shake hands, not fists" and that we will help teach God's Holy Days to the whole Earth. We were reminded to consider true enjoyment by Mr. Rod Reynolds. He told us our enjoyment must go beyond the mere physical to the real reason we were at the Feast in the first place.

Mr. Jim Nork helped us realize the world sees us as "loving our brother" when we show we care about them. Mr. John Shelton spoke on communication. He pointed out, that just like in the time of Babel, we once again have nearly one language worldwide. We were shown why we are here by Mr. Lehman Lyons Sr., who said Truth is why we are here.

"Abel's Message" was brought to us by Mr. Randall Kobernat, who compared our calling to Abel's in that "God doesn't care where we started—but He cares deeply where we end." Mr. Carl Ponder took us over the Lord's Prayer



and showed us how to utilize it in our own personal prayers.

On the Last Great Day, Mr. Fannin drew a beautiful picture of how the billions of people who ever lived will have their day of salvation for the very first time. This is the time in which living waters will flow, and we, the elect, will finally be able to help all peoples who suffered so in this present age.

We had a variety of activities to appeal to all groups. The seniors had a luncheon on Thursday. There was an elegant dinner and dance Sunday evening for the older singles, and on Monday evening for the young singles, a fun-filled "Beach-side" Family Day, and a Family Dance at the Boardwalk Convention Center. Last, but certainly not least, the Teen Dance on Sunday.

One last note: the locals seemed really nice. They appeared to enjoy our people, finding us to be courteous and friendly.

—Ally Maddox

Tucson, Arizona—

Four hundred and fifty brethren and visitors attended the Tucson, Arizona Feast site, where there was not a cloud in the sky to dampen the "good old Southwest" setting. Even the mountains, the cacti and the sunsets seemed to have a special glow!

It was like being at a spiritual oasis in a physical desert. Our guest speakers, Evangelists John Ogwyn and Richard Ames, gave inspiring and motivating sermons focusing brethren on how to prepare for and reach our ultimate goal... teaching and training our future brethren in the soon-coming Kingdom of God.

The choir, directed by Mr. David Poloski, performed on several days to the delight of the members. The children played an important part of the Feast here in the Southwest and there sure were many of them! The children's choir sang exuberantly under the direction of Debbie Woods. Tears welled up in more than one member's eyes as they sang.

Popular local attractions included the Old Tucson Movie Studios; the Sonoran Desert Museum; Kitt Peak Observatory; Tombstone; Nogales, Mexico and of course, the 27-mile drive up to the ponderosa pines on Mt. Lemmon at 9,400 feet above sea level.

At the Western-themed “Barn Dance and Dinner” we enjoyed live music by “Arizona Joe” Rosignolo and “Billy Bob” Brazil, a comedy skit by the Bonjour family, and silly shenanigans by Mrs. Don Davis. Ranch Dance Productions and Fred Field, local square dance caller, taught dancers how to do several old-time and modern square dances. In the back of the room, Mr. Aaron Eagle and his wife taught a whole gaggle of little ones how to do the “Chicken Dance.” Because everyone was having so much fun, the hired band went well beyond the time they were paid for. They seemed to have as much fun as we did!

Several days later, Mr. Phil Steagall, the local deacon and host, received an e-mail from the square dance caller. His comments were very positive. He was impressed by the brethren’s desire to get back to traditional values, good clean fun and mostly how cheerful, cooperative, and enthusiastic they were. He mentioned how much energy and excitement the Living Church of God gave them to keep playing and entertaining. We were definitely a shining light to those from the local area. We do have what this world needs! For this we should thank God and Jesus Christ.

—Phil Steagall

Montreal, Quebec—

More than 55 French and English-speaking brethren from Canada and the United States celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles at Ste. Adele in the beautiful Laurentian mountains, about 30 miles northwest of Montreal, Quebec. Spectacular fall colors and rustic mountain scenery served as a perfect backdrop for what proved to be the best Feast ever, both spiritually and physically!

God’s presence in Canada was clearly evident as brethren from different languages and cultures bridged those differences, giving a foretaste of the unity and cooperation we will experience in the Millennium. Although it could have been a barrier, the language differences only served to help make us more determined to get to know each other, and by the end of the Feast, we were all sad to leave our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

We experienced an abundance of spiritually and physically refreshing activities. Bilingual translations were provided, as members were eager to hear strong meat, stay late, fellowship, and enjoy beautiful special music together, just as in the early days of the Church. Spiritually rejuvenating messages helped brethren



to focus on restoring Apostolic Christianity by preparing them to teach these principles in Tomorrow’s World.

There were trips to old Montreal, a slide show and cultural evening, a barbeque, and boating, swimming, fishing and simply relaxing by the pool. On the Last Great Day, all the brethren attended a special luncheon in honor of our seniors and their many years of dedicated service in God’s work.

During the middle of the Feast we received a special visit from Canadian Regional Director, Charles Bryce and family, who traveled by train from Niagara Falls to be with us. His inspiring and encouraging messages explained how we are learning to be whole and complete people, by fearing God, doing the Work, and keeping God’s commandments.

Another highlight of the Feast was the variety show in which brethren—young and old—participated in music and comedy. One of our French-speaking Canadian brethren, Roger Baillargeon, with warmth and love, served as our “bilingual” emcee. He proved once again that language, culture or humor knows no barrier to the unity of God’s Spirit! A marvelous time was had by all.

As the last light of the Feast of Tabernacles passed on Friday evening, the Festival Coordinator and his wife hosted a champagne reception in their motel suite for the brethren. At sunset, we all raised our glasses together and gave a toast to the Last Great Day, with all that it pictures in God’s plan of salvation for the world. “To the Kingdom!” echoed, as truly this indeed was, the best Feast yet!

—By Richard A. Sedliacik &
Rodger L. Bardo

Cranbrook, B.C.–

The Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort was the location for brethren of western Canada and the northwest United States. All reports during the festival were very positive regarding housing, restaurant accommodations and local services in Cranbrook.

Even the weather was perfect, with shirtsleeve days and light jacket or sweater for outdoor evenings. God's blessings were evident in every respect. Attendance remained very good throughout the entire eight days and we had the least amount of anointing with very little sickness and no serious accidents. All activities were well attended and very positive comments were made about the entire Feast.

–Eng Monson

Prince Edward Island–

Prince Edward Island, Canada's smallest province, was host to 112 of God's people for the Feast of Tabernacles, 1999.

The hallmark of the Feast was the attitude of warmth and family atmosphere that prevailed, as God provided us with warm sunny days and starlit nights.

Brethren were inspired by Dr. Meredith's messages on opening night and the Last Great Day. Sermons were given on topics that inspired us to look forward to the Kingdom of God and the Last Great day. Evangelist Charles Bryce spent the last three days of the Feast in PEI after a visit to all other Canadian sites.

Family day was spent at Rainbow valley, where brethren enjoyed a lunch of sandwiches and homemade ice cream before "children" of all ages spent the remainder of the afternoon on rides and attractions opened especially for our benefit.

A special treat on the Last Great Day was a buffet lunch available to the brethren in the cafeteria of the school where services were held. This provided everyone a last opportunity to fellowship together before starting home.

Everyone agreed that this Feast was without doubt "The best Feast ever."

–Frank Best

Ballina, Australia–

For the second consecutive year, the beautiful seaside town of Ballina in northern New South Wales, was the site for the Feast of Tabernacles in Australia. The venue was the Ballina RSL Club. A total of 78 happy brethren from Australia and guests from Holland and the USA attended. We were pleased to have Mr. Irv Woelfle, church elder from East Peoria, IL, USA, visiting with us for the latter part of the Feast. Eight days of spiritual and physical feasting in beautiful weather with a little drop of millennial rain were enjoyed by everyone.

God blessed the Feast with an atmosphere of love, unity, joy, and harmony. A sense of purpose and urgency to do the Work before the Kingdom of God is ushered in was very evident. This surely was one of the most harmonious Feasts we have enjoyed for years. It was typical of the peace that was so frequently talked about in the messages we heard and which we know will be extant in the Kingdom.

Dr. Meredith's opening and closing messages were most inspirational, as were the two recent Tomorrow's World TV programs featuring Dr. Meredith and Mr. Ames. The Regional Pastor for the Australasian Region, Mr. Bruce Tyler, provided the bulk of the spiritual food in the form of five sermons, a split sermon, and a number of sermonettes. Mr. Irv Woelfle spent the last half of the Feast with us after visiting New Zealand, and gave

a couple of sermons, as did the Brisbane elder, Mr. Dayrell Tanner.

On both Holy Days everybody enjoyed a banquet luncheon after morning services in the adjoining "Spinnakers Restaurant," which features outstanding views over the Richmond River. Other activities during the Feast included a friendly "get-together." At this activity Feast-goers were treated to a nostalgic viewing of a past Feast production. The singles enjoyed a special activity at the local Ten Pin Bowl, a dance and fellowship evening with professional dance instruction from Dianne Tappert and family, and a river boat cruise with Devonshire Tea on the Richmond River.

Music played a major part in the success of the Feast this year. Mr. Mal Jennings coordinated this area and led a number of talented brethren who performed splendidly. All the brethren were thrilled when they learned of the baptism of Mr. Lindell Ngaluafé, a University student from Brisbane, and one of the developing "fruits" of the *Tomorrow's World* program. There were few dry eyes when little Elyse Crouch was blessed by Mr. Tyler and Mr. Wolfle, with Mr. Tanner asking God's blessing on his granddaughter.

With spiritual batteries recharged for another year, and renewed zeal to do the Work, Aussie Feast-goers left for home with a heightened anticipation of the soon-coming Kingdom of God.

–Dayrell Tanner

Rotorua, New Zealand—

God certainly bestowed His favor upon the 46 Feast-goers who gathered in Rotorua to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Many remarked upon the completely new spirit of co-operation and peace that prevailed, making this a time replete with wonderful experiences and memories.

We were also, for the first time in over a quarter of a century of meeting in Rotorua, blessed with perfect weather throughout, which enabled us to enjoy the many beautiful natural wonders of the area.

During the first part of the Feast we enjoyed the company of Mr. and Mrs. Irv Woelfle (elder from Illinois, USA). He spoke on subjects including the many New Testament brethren we will meet in the resurrection and compared the true value of physical and spiritual riches. The special Feast sermon videos from headquarters and local elder, Kinnear Penman, also ensured that the important spiritual food was well provided.

A feature of the Feast was the good number of new people with us. Several households were, for the first time, represented at a Feast of our fellowship.

These all were made very welcome and we share a common zeal to see the gospel preached to the world. Two Feast-goers, Simon Massey and Susan Church, attended their first-ever Feast of Tabernacles. These two are the first fruits of the *Tomorrow's World* program, which is shown on Television in Auckland. We were delighted to have with us visitors from as far afield as New England, Missouri and Perth.

Activities, which were enjoyed by all who attended them, included a barbecue on the evening after the first holy day. This served to bring everyone together at the Feast and was an excellent opportunity to meet new and old friends. A youth afternoon consisting of a visit to a couple of mazes and a dip in a thermal pool concluded with a potluck dinner for all Feast-goers.

—Kinnear Penman

Normandy, France—

This year turned out to be a grand Feast for about 70 Feast-goers attending in France. Organized and overseen by long-time Evangelist Dibar Apartian, this year's festival was celebrated in a town in Normandy called Forges-les-Eaux (pronounced: forge'-lay-zo'). It is less than two hours northwest of Paris by car.

The Feast site is in a beautiful country-village setting, with a fully equipped convention center and comfortable chalets. The site is beautifully nestled in a forested area with a lovely little lake and is within two kilometers of the town center, with all of its stores, bakeries, restaurants and other amenities.

For many this was the best food-feast ever! Since meals were included in the cost, the feast-goers dined together for lunch and dinner. Each meal was served in five courses with excellent French cuisine, including French wines, cheeses and breads. Good, wholesome fellowship and new friendships prevailed, as each

meal was an unhurried and pleasant experience lasting one and a half to two hours.

Not only was the Feast a physical joy, the spiritual part was just as great or greater. Mr. Apartian, assisted by ministers Mr. Henry Cooper of Ireland and Mr. Jacques Secours of Canada, gave excellent sermons. Fine sermonettes were also given by Messrs. Cooper and Secours, as well as Mr. Jean-Jacques Dalle from France, Mr. Josef Felber from Switzerland and Mr. Wayne Pyle from San Diego. Special video sermons from Dr. Meredith were a highlight for everyone and gave a sense of unity with the rest of the church around the world.

Since about half of the Feast-goers were English-speaking, and the other half French-speaking, services were translated, alternating between French and English. One service would be all in French, fol-



lowed by the next one all in English, and so forth. This worked quite well.

Hymns were all sung simultaneously in French and English. Each service was quite lively, led by the French song leader, Mr. Eric Boyer, who is a director of a local music school and is a talented professional singer and musician.

The Feast included many special activities, including a tour-bus excursion to a nearby castle, a family dance (highlighted by crazy hats, some of which were amazingly imaginative), a fun show, a talent show and a stimulating Friday-night Bible Study.

It was certainly a great physical and spiritual Feast for all who attended in France.

—Wayne Pyle

Philippines—

Preliminary reports show a combined attendance of 539 for the 1999 Philippines Feast of Tabernacles. Four sites were overseen by the following ministers: Davao City, Mr. Felipe Casing; Tacloban City, Mr. Eleno Cabahit; Baguio City, Mr. Gorgonio de Guia; and Maranding, Mr. Tex Benitez.

Pastor Jeffrey Fall, from La Crescenta, CA, USA, traveled as the special guest speaker, along with me, to three of the sites: Davao City, Tacloban, and Baguio.

Eighty scattered brethren, coming from many parts of Southeast Mindanao, attended in Davao City, a good increase over the previous year's numbers. The brethren enjoyed eating and fellowshiping together, and participated in a family night, a Spokesman Club Ladies' Night, outdoor activities with sing-a-longs and smoked fish, a seniors' activity, and a singles' activity, among others. Five individuals were baptized at the seaside venue by Mr. Casing. Two public Bible lectures were also conducted by Mr. Casing, with new contacts visiting the first night. Nine of them returned the following night. Four attended services the rest of the Feast.

Fifty-nine attendees gathered for the Feast in Tacloban City, the his-

toric site of General Douglas MacArthur's 1945 landing on the island of Leyte. The brethren came from all over the islands of Samar, Leyte, and Biliran, sharing in their feasting and fellowshiping with Dr. and Mrs. Fall, and me. Some of the activities included a fun show, a beach party, and a public Bible lecture, conducted by Mr. Cabahit.

Baguio City, a pine-scented city nestled in the mountains of central Luzon, was host to 137 Feast-goers this year. Services were held at the Girl Scouts of the Philippines camp, where some of the brethren also were housed. Dr. and Mrs. Fall, my wife, our newborn daughter and I joined the Baguio attendees for the last three days of the Feast. Activities included a youth and singles activity, a family dance night, a fun show, a seniors' luncheon, a children's activity, and a public Bible lecture. Eleven new contacts came to the Bible lecture, with several inquiring about attending services.

Maranding, a small, agricultural town located in the fertile Kapatagan valley "rice bowl" of Northwest Mindanao, hosted the largest Feast in the Philippines this year, with attendance of 263. This was quite an

increase over the previous year, with brethren coming from scattered areas all over northwest and central Mindanao. Coordinator Tex Benitez was also joined by fellow ministers Encardio Benitez and Elias Flores. Good weather and good spirits prevailed as the brethren squeezed "wall to wall" into the Church building and on-site housing. Activities included a Barrio Fiesta, children's games, a Bible quiz, and special afternoon viewing of various of Dr. Meredith's sermon and telecast tapes. Mr. Benitez also baptized 15 new members during the Feast. Members from other Church of God fellowships came and swelled the ranks even further on the Last Great Day.

Each site also had a viewing of a 30-minute video produced from footage of the 1998 Feast, and other events in the past year in the Philippines, and a special, personal message from Presiding Evangelist Dr. Roderick C. Meredith.

As we strive to grow in the unity of the Spirit, towards the goal of "restoring apostolic Christianity" around the world, the 1999 Feast of Tabernacles in the Philippines was certainly a positive step in that direction.

—Rod McNair

Wewak, Papua New Guinea—

The Papua New Guinea members send their thanks and gratitude to all the Churches of God in Australia and to Regional Pastor Bruce Tyler for the financial assistance, which helped the 43 members here to celebrate God's Feast of Tabernacles. We were not able to have a visiting minister, but appreciated the videotapes from our headquarters ministers in San Diego.

The Feast was held in Wewak, a sea town on the northern coast of Papua New Guinea, with beautiful beaches, golden sands and swaying palms. We all were able to have wonderful fellowship together, both spiritual and physical, as we are scattered through the country, and the Feast is the only time when we are able to meet and visit each other.

—Peter Devis

Quetzaltenango, Guatemala—

Forty brethren assembled together in this colonial mountain town. The out-flowing love and joy of the Guatemalan brethren is a powerful witness. It made a profound impression on those who came as visitors.

Mr. Rocael Ralda, our elder in Guatemala, is doing better. At the end of the Feast he shed tears of gratitude. A few months ago, when he experienced a serious liver condition, he did not think he would be alive for the Feast. He was very thankful for the prayers of all the brethren around the world. Please keep praying for his complete recovery. We need him in Guatemala.

—Mario Hernandez

Metepec, Mexico—



Seventy brethren from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, the United States and Spain enjoyed a very meaningful Feast in this beautiful and secluded site.

Metepec is located in the foothills of the famous Popocatepetl, an active volcano near Mexico City. When you spend the Feast near an active volcano and an earthquake shakes the place, instead of fear, you experience a profound assurance of God's protection over His people.

In every Spanish Feast site, as in all the other Living Feast sites, the Feast started and ended with the inspiring messages from the Presiding Evangelist, Dr. Roderick Meredith.

Some of the major themes presented in the Feast messages were: to stir up the vision of Tomorrow's World, the rule of the Righteous King and the need to bear spiritual fruit in order to rule with Christ!

—Mario Hernandez

Ayr, Scotland

Nearly 150 enthusiastic brethren celebrated the Feast in the coastal town of Ayr, in southwest Scotland. The messages were focused on preparing for the coming kingdom of God and were delivered with a sense of urgency. Guest speakers included Dr. Doug Winnail from the USA and Mr. Michael Gill from Australia. Fellowship was warm and the weather was pleasant. Several afternoon bus trips enabled Feast-goers to explore Glasgow, Edinburgh and the beautiful hill country where one of Scotland's most notable rogues, Rob Roy MacGregor, once roamed. Evening activities included a Scottish pipe band and dancing, and an evening devoted to family talent entertainment. The food, both spiritual and physical, was SUPERB. God blessed us with beautiful weather, and His Spirit gave us a wonderful atmosphere of peace.

—Bob Storrer

Port Vila, Vanuatu—

The Feast of Tabernacles in Port Vila again served to bring together members from the far-scattered islands of Vanuatu. This is the only time in the year that some members are able to attend services with others.

Thirty-nine members and their families attended. They were able to benefit from sermons from visiting elder, Mr. Kinnear Penman, during the first part of the Feast and thereafter were able to view the special sermons provided by headquarters' ministers. Subjects covered included using God's Word to guide our daily decisions and preparing to be the type of people with whom Christ will be pleased to share his throne in the coming Kingdom.

Three Feast-goers took the opportunity of a visiting minister to seek counsel towards baptism. Several people attended the Feast for the first time.

Activities that enabled all Feast-goers to enjoy each other's company included a picnic afternoon and a shared meal and fun show which concluded with all singing the song "Family Now and Forever."

—Kinnear Penman

Tobago—

The Feast site was at the Golf View Apartments on Shirvan Road, adjoining a beautiful golf course. There were 54 brethren from Trinidad and Tobago, 12 from Barbados and nine from the U.S. Children and young people were 27 strong.

The inaugural service was interrupted by a power failure, but brethren kept singing in the dark until they ran out of words. After the problem was corrected several minutes later, services continued without a hitch.

Mr. Ben Faulkner, the visiting minister, was scheduled to visit Barbados and Guyana and return for the last two days of the Feast. Immigration officials in Trinidad, however, informed him that he would not be able to return to speak, and may not be even allowed to step off the plane once he returns! This was a new law to all of us. After making all reasonable efforts to change the situation, Mr. Faulkner decided to stay for the whole Feast.

Mr. Faulkner tirelessly and powerfully gave eight sermons, plus a Bible

study and conducted a songleading session. A major highlight of the feast was the song services and the special music. The music and singing were truly memorable and very inspiring!

A variety of physical activities enabled brethren to rejoice. These included a trip to a tropical reef and swimming in a marine pool, a children's party, a family day at a private beach, a singles and youth day, and a dinner and dance. Many were heard to remark that it was their best Feast ever and an unforgettable experience.

—Ramsumair Sookram

Kenya–

The Feast of Tabernacles this year got underway at Kenya's beautiful south coast. The site was located at the scenic Maweni Beach Cottages, a few kilometers outside Mombasa. There were 65 in attendance but the Last Great Day had 68. The three Kenyan congregations and our scattered brethren attended. Guest speaker was Mr. Pieter van der Byl from South Africa, along with Mr. Ernest Owino, the local Church elder and Kenya representative.

During the course of the Feast, the brethren engaged in various activities. Many enjoyed swimming in the sea,

sheltered from the open ocean by coral reefs. Others could be seen having a great time just playing in the water.

Some of us traveled to various places outside the site. Some toured the port city of Mombasa, Kenya's world famous tourist attraction. Others visited Ukunda. We had one healing. Two year old Joseph Munyao, Mr. and Mrs. King'oo Muteti's grandson, was healed of a fever moments after Messrs. P. Van der Byl and Ernest Owino anointed and prayed for him.

–Pwia M. Kyondu

Penang Island, Malaysia–

Things went very smoothly for the Feast of Tabernacles in Penang Island in Malaysia. Eighty-five brethren, including children, had a wonderful feast in Copthorne Orchid Hotel.

There were inspiring sermonettes and sermons by Mr. Ken MacLeod, the visiting minister from Perth, Australia, uplifting sermonettes, and spiritually-educating video sermons from headquarters. Other members from Perth, who had been to Malaysia for past Feasts of Tabernacles, and three members from the Philippines also attended.

There was great rejoicing when three young adults were baptized by

Mr. MacLeod and Mr. Rajan Moses Thursday, September 30. They were, Mr. Gabriel David, Ms. Mahaletchumy and Mdm. Jessica Sowartha, all second-generation Christians.

The Feast was filled with activities. There was a get-together night with games, a family beach day, a youth day, a youth speech club, and a Bible study with questions and answers.

A fun show allowed the brethren to display their talents. There was a poem titled "Teach Me, God," group dances, songs, a comical sketch, and a lively international-flavored fashion show. There was a heavy downpour of rain after a member sang and

danced to the song "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head!"

The barbeque dinner also featured karaoke singing, a hymn sing-along, and an interesting and stimulating Bible quiz.

A bus tour was organized to a batik-printing factory, a butterfly farm, a tropical fruit farm, forest reserve and part of the city of Georgetown called Little India where Indian food, clothing and other products were sold.

It was a successful Feast of being trained as kings and priests, and of great spiritual and physical blessing from the Almighty.

–Peter Chan

Cape Town, South Africa–

It was truly an uplifting Feast of Tabernacles in Cape Town. We experienced the best Feast ever in this country. One hundred forty enthusiastic brethren thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the Davy Crocketts and having them as guests (hope we didn't overwork them; they do have a year to recover).

The sermons were topical and encouraging. The family day was held in a beautiful nature reserve in the wilderness area, close to George. The brethren enjoyed close-knit fellowship, a barbeque, river boating, and a bit of touch rugby. Senior citizens enjoyed a three-hour fellowship lunch organized for them at one of the local restaurants. A wide variety of special music was performed, such as the children's choir, that introduced the "meat in due season."

–Syd Hull

Myanmar (Burma)–

By God's grace we could joyfully and successfully keep the meaningful eight-day Feast with fair weather. Our highest Feast attendance was 39 (here in Southern Myanmar). No one fell sick during the whole Feast, for which I abundantly thank God.

The Living Church of God in the Union of Myanmar, with its members, can continue year after year, by God's grace, through the continual generous and sympathetic help from the LCG Headquarters and our pastor Mr. Bruce Tyler. For these things we never cease thanking God and His faithful true ministers/overseers.

Approximately 60 members met for the Feast in the Chin State of Central West Myanmar. This will have given a total attendance of around 100 keeping the Feast in Myanmar this year.

–Saw Lay Beh

In Loving Memory

Mrs. Eunice Owino, 24, of Nairobi, Kenya, died September 23, as a result of a lingering heart condition. She was the wife of church elder Ernest J. A. Owino. Her husband, a daughter, Beverly and a son, Byron, survive her. According to Mr. Owino, she remained positive and focused to the end of her physical life. Mr. Owino conducted the funeral services.

Mrs. Sharon F. Graves, 64, wife of Living Church of God elder Terrence R. Graves, died October 16, 1999 at her home in Tacoma, Washington. Sharon had lapsed into a semi-conscious sleep on Thursday evening and died peacefully by simply ceasing to breathe at 8:12 A.M. on a bright and sunny Sabbath morning. She was a wise, thoughtful and gentle wife, mother, and grandmother who was deeply committed to the way of God, the word of God and the Church of God. She was increasingly troubled by the outspoken waywardness of society. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, three daughters and their families, and a son and his wife. Other survivors are a sister and brother-in-law, mother-in-law, eight grandchildren and nine step grandchildren. The Church was her family, too.

Mr. Christian Gregoire, age 61 of Vichy, France, died from a massive heart attack on September 28, 1999. He was born in Belgium, July 31, 1938. He was a graphic arts teacher. Mr. Gregoire is survived by his daughter and her family. He died during the Feast in France at Forge-les-Eaux while performing a skit during a talent show. He had been a faithful church member for over 20 years.

Mr. Charles Pearce, of Anderson, South Carolina, died on September 5. Mr. Pearce lived in a nursing home and was an elderly, faithful member for many years. Mr. Rand Millich conducted funeral services.

Mr. Haisting Haigler, of Prattville, Alabama, died during the Feast of Tabernacles. He was an elderly and faithful member who was one of the first to step out and do what was right during the apostasy. He was a resident of a nursing home. Mr. Rand Millich conducted funeral services.

Mr. Ruben Meneses, 60, of Tijuana, Mexico died peacefully in his sleep on October 14 of complications from advanced diabetes. He is survived by his wife Sylvia, and by ten children and 15 grandchildren. He was a member of God's Church for the past 19 years. Before the Feast, doctors had insisted he should go immediately on dialysis. Instead, he requested to be anointed. His burning desire to keep the Feast gave him absolute faith and conviction God would let him keep it in Tucson. Mr. Mario Hernandez conducted services.

Birth Announcement

Jesse and Jeana Slaughter of the Cincinnati, Ohio, congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their son Jesse Conway Slaughter IV, born on July 19, at 10:36 P.M. weighing 7lb. 4oz.; measuring 21 inches. His big sister Rebecca couldn't be happier.

Ordination

God's work in South Africa got a boost during the Feast of Tabernacles with the ordination of Mr. Louis Bouwer as an elder.

According to Mr. Syd Hull, Regional Director in Africa, Mr. Bouwer has been a loyal member of the church for many years. "He was baptized into the Worldwide Church of God in the sixties, and was at the first service held by Global in South Africa, and showed no hesitation in following the Truth when Living was formed," Mr. Hull said.

"He has been a great help in serving in outlying areas, conducting the Passover, giving sermonettes, split sermons and on the Holy Days, a sermon as well," Mr. Hull concluded.

Mr. Bouwer is also a member of the South Africa church board. He was ordained by Mr. Hull, Mr. Pieter van der Byl and visiting United States minister, Mr. Davy Crockett.

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	Don Wood	870-863-8512
		Howard Stein	602-546-3773			Jon McNair	504-654-6797
Tucson	AZ	Doug Winnail	602-572-8747	New Orleans	LA	John Harbison	903-796-0790
		Phil Steagall	520-744-6453	Shreveport	LA	Jim Arnaldo	508-393-6209
Camp Verde	AZ	Doug Winnail	602-572-8747	Boston	MA	Kenneth Frank	540-786-8015
		Bob McCann	520-567-0230	Salisbury	MD	Barry Frank	410-632-3257
Arroyo Grande	CA	Video Group				Jim Arnaldo	508-393-6209
Eureka	CA	Don Haney	541-855-9872	Bangor	ME	David Burson	517-699-4971
		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	John Blanchard	906-586-6834
		Rodger Bardo	714-270-4663	Marquette	MI	John Blanchard	906-586-6834
Los Angeles	CA	Jeff Fall	626-914-1474	Saulte St. Marie	MI	Paul Shumway	651-407-3636
		Hadden Pace	626-447-4476	Minneapolis	MN	William Oswald	816-228-2035
Palm Springs	CA	Don Turk	760-325-3356	Columbia	MO	Rod Reynolds	816-827-1320
Redding	CA	Don Haney	541-855-9872			Karl Beyersdorfer	417-623-8888
Sacramento	CA	Jeff Fall	626-914-1474	Joplin	MO	Gene Hilgenberg	417-455-2057
San Diego	CA	Roderick Meredith	858-673-7470	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	Randall Kobernat	850-894-9909	Great Falls	MT	Arnold Lalum	406-265-4072
Live Oak	FL	Randall 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
Tallahassee	FL	John Burquist	334-661-9086			George Webb	336-993-5714
Tampa	FL	Randall Kobernat	850-894-9909	Asheville	NC	Martin Fannin	423-675-2304
		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 Dobbin	919-832-7296
		Jack Lowe	770-474-8101	Bismarck	ND	Paul Shumway	651-407-3636
Blairsville	GA	Martin Fannin	423-675-2304			Fred Ternes	701-250-0528
Macon	GA	Randall 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	Richland	WA	Dean Greer	509-466-0908
		Don Contardi	716-638-7508	Seattle/Tacoma	WA	Don Haney	541-855-9872
		Carl Klink	973-379-2640			Terry Graves	253-474-5807
Albuquerque	NM	Video Group				Gary Ullerick	253-922-6917
Des Moines	NM	Video Group		Spokane	WA	Don Haney	541-855-9872
Battle Mountain	NV	Don Haney	541-855-9872			Dean Greer	509-466-0908
Reno	NV	Don Haney	541-855-9872	Tonasket	WA	Don Haney	541-855-9872
Brooklyn	NY	Don Contardi	716-638-7508			Eldon Davis	509-486-4240
		Roger Allgeyer	516-271-8785	Green Bay	WI	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
Buffalo	NY	Don Contardi	716-638-7508	Merrill	WI	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
Corning	NY	Don Contardi	716-638-7508	Milwaukee	WI	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
		Shawn McMillin	717-547-1501			Glen Gilchrist	414-251-4374
Long Island	NY	Don Contardi	716-638-7508	Wisconsin Dells	WI	Paul Shumway	651-407-3636
		Roger Allgeyer	516-271-8785	Bluefield	WV	Val Burgett	540-726-8020
Rochester	NY	Don Contardi	716-638-7508			Robert Croyle	304-487-1489
Akron	OH	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917	Craigsville	WV	Val Burgett	540-726-8020
		Walter Warrington	330-325-7700	Logan	WV	Val Burgett	540-726-8020
Cambridge	OH	Video Group		Ripley	WV	Edward Lee	304-372-3047
Cincinnati	OH	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917	Buffalo	WY	Jim Dunlap	307-684-2824
Columbus	OH	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917	Casper	WY	Jim Hamby	307-235-3920
		Charles Knowlton	614-964-0437	Cheyenne	WY	Ray Fertig, Sr.	307-638-7575
Dayton	OH	Video Group		Hulett	WY	Tim Moore	307-878-4459
Oklahoma City	OK	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117	Kemmerer	WY	Jim Adrianos	307-877-4934
		Ray Reynolds	405-672-6965	Laramie	WY	Scott Winnail	307-742-7165
Tulsa	OK	Karl Beyersdorfer	417-623-8888	Rawlins	WY	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
Eugene	OR	Don Haney	541-855-9872	Saratoga	WY	Eugene Api	307-326-8038
Medford	OR	Don Haney	541-855-9872	Wheatland	WY	Terry Brant	307-322-3234
		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				
		Bob League	615-641-3778				
		Video Group					
Nashville	TN	Video Group					
Abilene	TX	Video Group					
Amarillo	TX	Video Group					
Austin	TX	Keith Walden	512-244-5478				
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					

INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIA

Canberra	ACT	Bruce Tyler	02-6231-8166
		Michael Gill	02-6254-3260
Brisbane	QLD	Dayrell Tanner	07-3806-0833
Perth	WA	Ken MacLeod	08-9457-7624
Dubbo	NSW	Maria Wiedermann	
Newcastle	NSW	Video Group	
Adelaide	SA	Video Group	
Melbourne	VIC	Colin Standing	

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 Gosse	705-737-0772
Toronto	ON	Charles Bryce	905-671-3730
		Frank Best	905-845-7922
		Winston Gosse	705-737-0772
Montreal	QC	Jacques Secours	450-623-5002
Quebec City	QC	Jacques Secours	450-623-5002
Prince Albert	SK	Eng Monson	306-545-5250

Regina	SK	Bruce Bird	306-873-4864
Saskatoon	SK	Eng Monson	306-545-5250
Yorkton	SK	Eng Monson	306-545-5250
CHILE			
Santiago		Video Group	
COLOMBIA			
Santa fe de Bogota		Eduardo Hernandez	
COSTA RICA			
Santa Ana		Video Group	
FRANCE			
Paris		Video Group	
GERMANY			
Karlsruhe		Video Group	
GUATEMALA			
Coatepeque		Video Group	
GUYANA			
Aishalton		Video Group	
Awarewaunau		Video Group	
Georgetown		Fitzroy Greeman	592-2-54059
Lethem		Video Group	
IRELAND			
Dublin		Brian Bedlow	353-55-25170
JAMAICA			
Kingston		Hugh Wilson	876-925-9350
KENYA			
Nairobi		Ernest Owino	
Ndhiwa		Video Group	
Sultan Hamud		Video Group	
MALAYSIA			
Bahau		Rajan Moses	03-930-1187
Kuala Lumpur		Rajan Moses	03-930-1187
MARTINIQUE			
Fort de France		Video Group	
MEXICO			
Guadalajara		Video Group	
Mexico City		Video Group	
San Luis Potosi		Video Group	
MYANMAR			
Ka Lay Myo		Thomas Tial Hoe	
Sa Khan Gyi		Saw Lay Beh	
NETHERLANDS			
Stramproy		Video Group	
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland		Kinnear Penman	64-09-435-3592
Palmerston North		Video Group	
PAPUA NEW GUINEA			
Maprik		Video Group	
Wewak		Video Group	
PHILIPPINES			
Baguio City		Video Group	
Bogabongan		Video Group	
Cateel		Video Group	

Cavite	Rod McNair	63-2-813-6538
	Gorgonio de Guia	
Cumbio	Video Group	
Davao City	Eleno Cabahit	
Don Carlos, Bukidnon	Video Group	
Iligan City, Lanao del Norte	Eustiquio Benitez	
Koronadal Proper	Video Group	
Lilo-an	Video Group	
Makilala	Video Group	
Maranding	Video Group	
Mauswagon	Video Group	
Monkayo	Video Group	
Nabunturan	Felipe Casing	63-082-297-0200
Quezon City	Rod McNair	63-2-813-6538
	Gorgonio de Guia	
	Encardio Benitez	
	Elias Flores	
	Video Group	
San Fernando		
San Nicolas		
PUERTO RICO		
San Juan	Ben Faulkner	813-684-1423
	Raul Colon	787-739-5708
	Video Group	
SINGAPORE		
SOUTH AFRICA		
Cape Town	Syd Hull	27-11-664-6036
	Pieter van der Byl	27-21-572-1002
	Syd Hull	27-11-664-6036
Johannesburg	Video Group	
Nelspruit	Video Group	
Pietermaritzburg	Video Group	
Pretoria	Video Group	
Virginia	Syd Hull	27-11-664-6036
SPAIN		
Canaria	Video Group	
SRI LANKA		
Colombo	Video Group	
THAILAND		
Tha Song Yang	Video Group	
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		
San Fernando	Donald Sohun	868-647-5579
St. Augustine	Ramsumair Sookram	868-645-6858
UNITED KINGDOM		
Jersey	CI	Video Group
Bristol	ENG	Video Group
Derby	ENG	Tom Mahon
London	ENG	Tom Mahon
Belfast	NI	Video Group
Glasgow	SCO	Robert Storrier
VANUATU		
Efate	Video Group	
Malekula	Video Group	
Tanna	Video Group	
VENEZUELA		
Caracas	Video Group	

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