

Living Church News

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Developing a Deep Love for God

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Greetings from San Diego! As we approach the Passover, it is important that we all try to draw closer to God in every way.

God is our Father. The Son of God is our Savior—our Lord, High Priest and coming King. We can never in a billion years even hope to begin to repay God for the gift of life, for being made in His image and for the beauty and harmony of the marvelous creation around us. How thankful we in God’s Church should be for His special calling—for His wonderful inspired Word to enlighten, teach, and inspire us, and for the precious gift of the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us.

If we can begin to grasp the magnificent opportunities God is giving to those of us who are called now, a “wave” of thankfulness and worship should sweep over our hearts and minds. For we have the privilege of really “knowing” the “High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity” (Isaiah 57:15). *If* we are led by His Spirit, we can rightly call Him “Father.” For He is our Father who has called us, who has granted us understanding and repentance, who has given us His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior and who has given us of the very thing that makes Him GOD—His precious Holy Spirit, His very nature and character.

As the literal Greek reads in Philippians 2:5–8: “Jesus Christ, who though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but EMPTIED Himself, taking the form of a servant, being found in the likeness of men” (RSV). Then Jesus “humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.” And now Jesus is our “merciful and faithful High Priest” (Hebrews 2:17).

Without question, the depth of love, concern and compassion God and Christ have for us is beyond our full comprehension at this time. Yet, as Passover approaches, it is appropriate that we focus on the depth of God’s love and take the Passover with deep feeling, reverence and humility. Even though it is often misused and misunderstood in this deceived world, the so-called “golden verse” of the Bible should resonate powerfully in *our* minds: “For God so LOVED the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

God is the one who first loves and who first gives. “We love Him because He *first* loved us” (1 John 4:19). We, as God’s children, must “feed”

on such passages as 1 John 4:8–11: “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

All through the year we will be blessed if we focus on the love, the appreciation and the worship we should express to God. Many qualities made King David a “man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22). But one of the most endearing qualities must have been David’s profound sense of appreciation for God—for His greatness, His everlasting love and His mercy. This deep feeling of worship and ADORATION resonates through literally dozens of the Psalms that David wrote.

Notice Psalm 18:1–3: “I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.”

In a sense, David had a spiritual “love affair” with GOD—actually with the “Rock” of Israel, the One who became Jesus Christ. When David was in need of *anything*, he quickly turned to God—even in the middle of the night: “I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; my heart also instructs me in the night seasons. I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved” (Psalm 16:7–8).

Brethren, David had a PASSION for God in a way very few of us today even approach! When you read of David’s life and then read his Psalms carefully, you begin to realize that God was the very *center* of David’s life and thoughts. God was his dear Friend, his Help, his Comforter and his Deliverer. Some of this deep feeling is expressed in Psalm 40:13–17: “Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me! Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion who seek to destroy my life; let them be driven backward and brought to dishonor who wish me evil. Let them be confounded because of their shame, who say to me, ‘Aha, aha!’ Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let such as love Your salvation say continually, ‘The LORD be magnified!’ But I am poor and needy; yet the LORD thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.”

Also, though possibly written by one of “the sons of Korah,” this fervent yearning for God is well expressed in Psalm 42:1–3: “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually say to me, ‘Where is your God?’”

Brethren, let us each make sure that *our* soul “thirsts” for God—that we seek Him daily in fervent prayer and Bible study, and that He

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Are You Truly Humble?

Editorial

By Roderick C. Meredith

Even in God's Church it is possible to find many men and women who are very lacking in humility. As we approach the Passover and the footwashing service—the “ordinance of humility”—it will be helpful to consider whether we meet the test of true humility.

True humility is not just an outward appearance before our fellow man. It is a totally sincere inner-state of mind—a basic attitude. If you saw a man who was “hot” with anger and who literally SMASHED two precious objects that God Himself had directly fashioned, you would normally *assume* that this man totally lacked humility and the fear of God!

Yet that is exactly what Moses did when he came down from the Mountain of God with the Ten Commandments. “So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain” (Exodus 32:19). You would not have known that this man, Moses, had just finished rejecting an offer from God to destroy these rebellious Israelites and to make of *himself* a great nation (vv. 9–14). You would probably not know that the Creator God gave this description of the man who smashed the tablets: “Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.” (Numbers 12:3).

Later, Moses described that memorable scene: “Then I took

the two tablets and threw them out of my two hands and broke them before your eyes. And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was angry with you, to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me at that time also. And the LORD was very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I prayed for Aaron also at the same time” (Deuteronomy 9:17–20).

Still later, Moses recounted how he again interceded with God to spare Israel punishment for its continuous rebellion: “Thus I prostrated myself before the LORD; forty days and forty nights I kept prostrating myself, because the LORD had said He would destroy you” (Deuteronomy 9:25). You see, Moses' fellow Israelites *did not see him* falling on his face before God, over and over, on their behalf. Even if they had, they were so filled with “self” that they would not have fully appreciated either his actions or his motives.

All of us must meditate on David's thoughtful words: “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” (Psalm 8:3–4). Truly, brethren, all of us put together have practically no physical power or mental power compared to our Creator. As our Father

in heaven reminds us: “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (Isaiah 55:8–9).

Yet how quickly even many of us come up with “our” opinion and “our” judgment of this or that—sometimes in *direct conflict* with the inspired revelation of the Great God whose massive intellect is unfathomable to our puny minds! *All* of us need to become more *truly* humble, yielded and teachable before God. *All* of us need to pray fervently that God would make us more sensitive to *His* will in contrast to our own wishes and desires.

If each of us concentrates on being a genuine “bondslave” of Jesus Christ—letting Him use us as “tools” in His hands—then we will practically never get our own feelings hurt, and practically never have a feeling of envy or resentment that *someone else* got a position or blessing that we coveted. For we will want GOD'S will to be done. We will grow in the realization that *He really does know* what is best for us even if our human impulses at the moment tell us otherwise.

This attitude will help us take correction from God—and *from His called and chosen ministers*. We will really believe what the writer of Hebrews tells us: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the

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From Passover to Pentecost— Lessons for the Christian Journey

By John H. Ogwyn

The first two of the three festival seasons that God gave to His people are connected in a special way. Pentecost is the only festival that is not celebrated on a specific day of the month. Rather, its date can only be calculated by counting from the day of the Wavesheaf—the Sunday that falls within the Days of Unleavened Bread. Why did God connect these two spring festivals in this way? Are there spiritual lessons that He would have His people learn from focusing on this count?

When God established the Congregation of Israel, He introduced His festivals in the year of the Exodus. The circumstances of the original Passover and Unleavened Bread season were tied in with God's redemption of His people from Egyptian slavery. On the night that began the 14th day of the first month, Abib, God passed through the land of Egypt at midnight, killing all of the firstborn males. The only firstborn spared from death were those in houses that had the blood of a lamb smeared on the doorpost. This, of course, pointed forward to Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God—who came to pay the penalty for sin by shedding His blood in our stead (John 1:29).

During the daylight period following the Passover, as they prepared to gather at the treasure city of Ramses and begin their journey out of Egypt, the Israelites had gifts thrust upon them by the frightened Egyptians. Beginning on the night after the Passover, the Israelites started on their journey toward freedom. Throughout the seven Days of Unleavened Bread that followed, the Israelites journeyed until they finally came to the Red Sea. There they appeared trapped between the sea, the mountains and Pharaoh's rapidly approaching army. With Pharaoh's pursuing army held back by a divinely appointed pillar of fire, the Israelites crossed the Red Sea through the night that began the seventh and final Day of Unleavened Bread. When the Egyptians tried to follow the next morning, they were all drowned in the attempt.

Over the next six weeks, the Israelites continued their journey until they came to Horeb (Mount Sinai), the mountain of God (cf. Exodus 3:1). Here God communed with Moses and proposed a covenant with the fledgling nation of Israel. The day on which God thundered the words of the Ten Commandments and made the Sinai

Covenant was the day we know as Pentecost. When God gave Moses the Leviticus 23 information about His annual festivals, He explained how to determine the date of Pentecost. It was to be *counted* each year, rather than celebrated on the same calendar date. The count began from a special celebration first carried out when the Israelites actually entered the Promised Land (Leviticus 23:10). During the years in the Sinai wilderness, Israel was fed with manna because the people could not raise crops or otherwise provide themselves with food. However, when they entered the land of promise there would be crops to harvest.

God told the priesthood that on the Sunday during the Days of Unleavened Bread, they were to begin the harvest cycle by waving before Him the first *omer* (about a quart) of grain, taken from a sheaf they had cut at sunset the previous evening. Once this ceremony was completed, the people could begin their harvest and begin eating of the new crop. The priests were instructed that beginning with the day of the Wavesheaf they were to count forward seven Sabbaths. The day after the seventh Sabbath they were to consecrate as the Feast of Firstfruits Harvest, otherwise known in the Old Testament as the Feast of Weeks and in the New Testament as Pentecost (cf. Leviticus 23:6–21).

During the year of the Exodus, the approximately seven weeks between Passover and Pentecost were marked by a journey, as Israel moved toward the mountain of God and entered into a covenant with its Creator. After Israel's entrance into the land, the time between these two festivals was marked by the countdown of 50 days. God would have us learn vital lessons by focusing our attention on this intervening period. It is the journey from redemption to covenant. It is the countdown from the beginning of the first harvest until its completion.

Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread focus on Jesus Christ and His role in salvation. Passover pictures His atoning sacrifice, and emphasizes His role as our Redeemer. During the Days of Unleavened Bread we are to focus on feeding on Jesus Christ as the Bread of Life. The day of the Wavesheaf, always coming during Unleavened Bread, puts attention on Jesus Christ as the

firstborn from the dead—the firstfruits of God’s spiritual harvest.

The day of Pentecost puts a focus on the church, God’s firstfruits harvest. This was emphasized even in the Levitical offering made on that day: two leavened loaves of bread that represented the entirety of the firstfruits grain harvest. The Church consists of those individuals who have entered into a covenant with their Creator. Under the New Covenant, begun on the day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2, God’s Holy Spirit is imparted to true believers to let us share in God’s very nature (2 Peter 1:4) and to write His laws in our hearts and minds (Hebrews 8:10).

The Journey from the Red Sea to Sinai

We can learn vital lessons from the account of Israel’s journey to Sinai. Israel confronted several points of crisis in its journey from redemption to covenant. It is important that we examine this journey and the lessons that God would have us draw from it.

Though the Israelites came out of Egypt with a high hand, they did not have to go very far in their journey to confront discouragement. The celebratory song recorded in Exodus 15 shows the people’s excitement and exuberance after God’s miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea. Yet, after three days journey into the wilderness, the people still had not found any fresh water to replenish their supply. When they finally came upon a pool of water, they found that it was undrinkable. At this point their discouragement came to the fore and they began to murmur and complain. The location was named Marah, meaning bitter. Moses, at God’s instruction, cast a tree into the pool and its water became sweet and drinkable. At this point in the journey, God introduced Himself to His people as their Healer (Exodus 15:23–26).

One month into their journey, the children of Israel entered the Wilderness of Sin and found their food supply running out—with no way to get more. Once again they began to murmur and complain, disregarding the pattern of love and compassion that God was showing in redeeming them from slavery and death and meeting all of their needs. God commanded Moses to tell the Israelites that, beginning that evening, they would be fed. From the next day onward, God sent manna every morning except the Sabbath to provide sustenance during their time of wandering. The manna not only nourished them; it was also designed to teach them to remember God’s Sabbath (cf. Exodus 16).

As the people continued their journey, they again found their water supply depleted—with no wells or rivers anywhere to be found. Once again they com-

plained. This time they began to accuse and blame Moses for their plight. When he went to God with the problem, the Creator told him to strike the rock with his rod and that water sufficient for all of the people’s needs would gush forth. Again God supplied the needs of His people (Exodus 17:1–7).

Shortly after this, the people confronted a hostile army of Amalekites coming to attack them. Moses quickly organized an army under Joshua and stood upon a hilltop to watch the progress of the battle. Whenever Moses held up his arms in supplication to God, the Israelites prevailed. After a while, however, he grew tired and was not able to hold his arms up any longer. At this point the tide of battle began to turn in favor of the Amalekites. Aaron and Hur came to his aid by holding up his arms throughout the afternoon and by sunset Israel had triumphed (Exodus 17:8–13).

In 1 Corinthians 10, the Apostle Paul alluded to this period of the ancient Exodus, pointing out that it contained important lessons and examples for Christians. “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ” (vv. 1–4).

God’s people today are reminded annually at the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread that it all *begins* with recognizing our Redeemer. However, we must proceed through a series of *personal encounters with God* as we journey toward the mountain of God and the covenant relationship with our Creator. These encounters will introduce us to God as our healer and as our sustainer. We learn that He is our provider and our protector. Unless we truly come to know Him and to rely on Him in these ways, how will we enter into a covenant with Him and remain faithful to that covenant? Israel had encounter after encounter with God, but never learned to believe and trust Him. Their example of unbelief is recorded for us so that we might learn from their failure. The journey from Passover to Pentecost is one in which we have opportunities to truly come to know God and to develop the trust and dependence that is to be the basis of our ongoing relationship.

Seven Lessons on Which to Meditate

There are seven weeks from the day of the Wavesheaf during the Days of Unleavened Bread until Pentecost. Let us look briefly at seven lessons that would be good to meditate on during this period of counting. Those who

learn these lessons will succeed where Israel of old failed. While they made the journey physically, they never made it spiritually! While they came to the mountain of God in a physical sense, in their hearts and minds most had never left Egypt. Our acceptance as part of the firstfruits harvest will, in great measure, depend upon whether we put into practice in our own lives the lessons that the Apostle Paul outlined to the church at Colosse. The seven weeks between Passover and Pentecost will provide us with a good opportunity to meditate and focus on these lessons.

The first lesson is necessary for the success of everything that follows. Without it, we will never achieve anything else of lasting value. Colossians 3:1–2 tells us to “seek those things which are above... set your *affection* on things above, not on things on the earth” (KJV). What is important to us, and what do we love? What are we spending our time, effort, and energy seeking? The answer to these questions holds the key to virtually everything else. What we love and cherish we will hold on to and guard. If our affections are truly set on the things of God, then we will seek those things—and we are promised that we will appear with Jesus Christ in glory at His return (v. 4).

The next key lesson is brought out in verse 5: “Then *put to death* those parts of you which belong to the earth—fornication, indecency, lust, foul cravings, and the ruthless greed which is nothing less than idolatry” (NEB). When we were baptized, we symbolically died (Romans 6:3–4). Here in Colossians, Paul admonished his readers to make this death to the old life *real* in their day-to-day practices. Notice what the *Expositor’s Bible Commentary* brings out concerning this verse: “The verb *nekrosate*, meaning literally ‘to make dead,’ is very strong. It suggests that we are not simply to suppress or control evil acts and attitudes. We are to wipe them out, completely exterminate the old way of life. ‘Slay utterly’ may express its force.... Both the meaning of the verb and the force of the tense suggest a vigorous, painful act of personal determination” (vol. 11, p. 211). The very opposite of slaying these ungodly desires is to feed and nourish them. When we watch the wrong kind of movies and television, for instance, we are feeding rather than starving our immoral impulses. In what other ways do we allow these carnal tendencies to remain part of our lives?


In verses 8 and 9 Paul exhorts his readers to “put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.” *Put off* is a metaphor from dress, and refers to taking off dirty clothes. In addition to slaying the life-controlling passions of the old man, as Christians we are to put away certain types of conduct and behavior, recognizing that it is inappropriate garb for a Christian to wear! This is the third lesson.

When we get rid of the “old clothes,” what are we then to do? The answer is found in a fourth lesson which Paul explains in verse 10. Here we are told to “*put on* the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.” Our “new clothes” are the result of an ongoing renewal of the mind that brings us closer and closer to the image of Jesus Christ. The new self is not intended to grow old and decay, but, rather by constant renewal, is to take on more and more the image of the Creator. In 2 Corinthians 4:16, Paul emphasized that the inward man, the new spiritual nature, is to be renewed day by day. We do this through daily prayer and Bible study. What will this continual feeding of the inner man allow us to put on and wear? “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering” (Colossians. 3:12).

How will this affect our relationships with one another? In verse 13, Paul defines the results of the new attitudes we have put on in our life—this is our fifth lesson. We are admonished to *bear with one another* and to *forgive one another*. Rather than be quick to get our feelings hurt and to hold grudges, we will have a desire to extend to others the very qualities we seek from Christ. Undoubtedly all of us have our little irritating ways, yet God reminds us to bear with one another and to be very quick to forgive.

What should be the controlling inner attitudes of a mature Christian? This sixth point bears meditating upon. In verse 15, Paul explained that *peace and thankfulness* are to rule our hearts. This peace comes from God, not from the world around us. Our life of faith and trust in the Creator makes us thankful and generates a true inner peace. Among the greatest benefits that flow from a close relationship with God are the quiet confidence and trust that bring peace of mind in the midst of turmoil.

Verse 16 brings out the seventh lesson on which we should focus. Here we are told to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom. The “word of Christ” refers to His teachings. Christ’s message must be so deeply implanted in us that it comes to control all of our thinking and responses in every situation. Our whole life is to be guided by God’s word, and is to be a credit to our Savior, whose name we now bear as Christians.

At the Passover season we are deeply reminded of God’s great love for us and of the redemptive act of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Yet this is not a stopping point. Passover is inextricably tied to Pentecost, and we are to count the seven weeks in between. As we do, let us reflect on our Christian journey and the lessons that we must inculcate into our lives. These lessons are necessary if we are to approach the mountain of God and enter into a covenant with our Creator that will endure forever. 

Do Not Be Deceived

Biblical principles can help you avoid being misled!

By Douglas S. Winnail

One of Scripture's clearest warnings concerns the danger of religious deception. Jesus said: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ' [I am a Christian, or a minister of Christ], and will *deceive many*" (Matthew 24:4-5). The Apostle Paul warned that before Christ's return there will be a great falling away, and that many will be *deluded* because they did not love the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 10-11). Paul also stated the time will come when people will "turn their ears away from the truth" and *believe fables* (2 Timothy 4:3-4). The Apostle Peter wrote: "There will be false teachers among you, who will secretly [subtly] bring in destructive heresies... and many will follow their destructive ways... [and] deceptive words" (2 Peter 2:1-3). These prophetic warnings have become a sobering reality!

The biggest dilemma for many today is trying to determine *where* God is working. *Who* is preaching the truth? *Whom* do you believe? In recent years, more than 200 splinter groups have emerged from the Worldwide Church of God. Add this to more than 600 denominations spawned by the Protestant Reformation that shattered the Catholic Church. All these groups *claim* to be children of God, teaching divine truth. But can *all* these groups who disagree over various doctrines be right? The Bible tells us that *Christ is not divided*, and that true Christians should "all speak the same thing" and "be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). The spir-

itual chaos of our age indicates that many are obviously deceived. But how do you *know* who is right and who is wrong? How can you avoid being deceived? How can you navigate through the perilous waters of deceptive religious ideas when they all *appear* to be based on the Bible? Why has God allowed such confusion to exist? We will answer these important questions in this article.

A Fundamental Deception

One of the greatest deceptions today is that you are saved if you *believe in Jesus*. This idea is based on a faulty understanding of both God and Scripture. Many believe in Jesus but do not really understand the Bible or keep God's commandments. Yet the Bible reveals that only those God *calls* will understand the Scriptures and the plan of God (John 6:44, 65). We are also told that God is not calling large numbers today (1 Corinthians 1:26-27) and that of those called, only a *few* will be chosen (Matthew 20:16). Those chosen to be among the firstfruits in the Kingdom of God must be *faithful* (Revelation 17:14). They must avoid being deceived and must endure to the end (Matthew 24:11-13). They must overcome obstacles and persevere during trials (Revelation 3:10-12). They must remain on course and finish the race (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). If we are deceived, or consistently fail to overcome the tests and trials we encounter, we will not receive a reward. The Bible reveals that there is *more* to becoming a Christian than *simply believing* in Jesus! We also

need to understand how God works in the lives of those He is calling.

God Tests Those He Calls!

When God called Abraham, He challenged him to "walk before Me and be perfect [blameless]" (Genesis 17:1). Abraham's challenge was to learn to live by God's instructions and to make godly decisions. Jesus gave the same instruction to His disciples (Matthew 5:48). God tested Abraham in a variety of circumstances (Genesis 22:2,12). As a result of this testing, God was able to discern Abraham's character and true priorities (Genesis 18:19). God was preparing Abraham for a big responsibility—to become the Father of a nation God wanted to use as an example for all mankind (Genesis 12:1-3; Deuteronomy 4:1-10). Before giving Abraham this incredible opportunity, God had to know that he would make right decisions.

God dealt with ancient Israel in a similar manner. He tested the Israelites over the issue of the Sabbath—whether they would observe it according to His instructions (Exodus 16:4). He tested Miriam and Aaron (Numbers 12), the leaders closest to Moses. He tested the entire congregation of Israel (Numbers 14) and the leaders under Moses (Numbers 16) to see if they would follow God's appointed governmental structure. In each case many failed their tests, and lost their lives because they were deceived. God also warned the Israelites that they would have to recognize false teachers and reject their misleading ideas (Deuteronomy 13:1-4). We must learn the same lessons. This is part of God's purpose for mankind

(Deuteronomy 30:15–20). God desires that we develop wisdom and character so we will be qualified to reign with Jesus Christ. Future leaders in the kingdom of God must pass critical tests (1 Peter 4:12–19). We cannot afford to be deceived!

The Bible reveals several aspects of God's testing program. God *tests* us by watching how we react in real-life situations—observing what decisions we will make when faced with a choice. We must also *examine ourselves* (1 Corinthians 11:28–32). This is a vital part of the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. By taking time to compare our thoughts, attitudes, ideas, motives and priorities with the standards God has outlined in the Bible, we can develop more of God's mind. Without regularly examining ourselves in the light of God's word, we can deceive ourselves. To avoid being misled, we must also learn to *evaluate ideas* we receive from others. Paul admonished Christians to “test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). John warned: “Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). The early Church had to distinguish between authentic Apostles and frauds (Revelation 2:2). We face the same situation today. You cannot afford to be deceived by impostors parading as Apostles, prophets and ministers of God. But how do you make such decisions? What guidelines do you use? The Bible gives us plenty of advice!

Focus on Truth

Jesus stated that a house built on solid rock will withstand trials, but a house built on sand will be swept away (Matthew 7:24–29). His point was that if we base our beliefs solidly on Scripture we will prevail, but if we trust in our own ideas we will be deceived. Jesus said, “Your Word is

truth” (John 17:17). Paul wrote: “All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). Yet many today doubt the authenticity and authority of the Bible, because of the influence of skeptics in our secular society. Biblical passages are discounted and discarded if they do not agree with our own opinions. This leads to confusion about religious ideas. Radio, television and the Internet have become a supermarket for self-proclaimed religious teachers. However, you can avoid being deceived by asking simple but pointed questions.

Does the Bible command us to observe Christmas and Easter, or are these pagan practices to be avoided (see Jeremiah 10:1–4)? Did Jesus and the Apostles observe the Sabbath and Holy Days, or did they observe Sunday (see Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2; 1 Corinthians 5:7–8)? Was Jesus' gospel about the coming kingdom of God or just about His life, death and resurrection (see Mark 1:14–15)? Did the Church preach the same gospel or a different one (see Acts 8:12; 28:23, 31)? Do believers go to heaven when they die (see Acts 2:34; 13:36)? Do human beings have an immortal soul (see Ezekiel 18:4, 20)? Is the term *Trinity* found in the Bible? Are sinners tormented forever or are they simply burned up (see Malachi 4:1–3)? Is the Holy Spirit a person or the power of God (see Acts 8:18–19)? Do all professing Christians receive the Holy Spirit, or is it only given upon repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands to those who *obey* God's instructions (see Acts 2:38; 5:32; 8:14–19)? Do we need a ministry today, or is everyone a minister (see Titus 1:5–11; 1 Timothy 3; Ephesians 4:11–12)? Do we need government in the church (see Acts 15)? Is it scriptural for churches to select their own leaders by popular vote, or does God

provide other means (see Numbers 14:1–10; compare Acts 6:1–4 with Exodus 18:17–26; Galatians 1:15–16; 2:7–8)? Is it important to know the identity of the Israelite nations (see Genesis 48; 49; Ezekiel 3; 33; also review the booklet, *What's Ahead for American and Britain?*). Is this concept important to the New Testament church (see (Matthew 10:6)? What is the real purpose for human life (see Romans 8:14–18; 1 John 3:1–3)?

From Scripture you can prove the truth on all these issues! You need not be deceived by any of the conflicting ideas that you hear. You must ask yourself *where* you first learned the truth about each of these concepts, and *who* is still teaching these truths plainly and powerfully? Can you recognize who has begun to compromise, change and discard these truths? If you follow such individuals or organizations, you will be deceived! Jesus told his disciples: “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). You can avoid being deceived if you focus on the truth, prove the truth and hold on to the truth. God's Truth does not change—it is the solid rock on which we must build!

Define the Mission

Many are confused and deceived today about *why* we are called and *what* we are to be doing as a Church. Individually, we are called to learn to live “by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God [the Scriptures!]” (Matthew 4:4). We are to be “lights” to a darkened world, showing mankind the proper way to live (Matthew 5:14). As Christians we must “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). Our challenge is to learn to think and act as Jesus would in any situation—to develop the very mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5). Jesus did not argue with God or try to reason around the clear intent of Scripture—He obeyed

His Father's instructions (Philippians 2:8) because He knew that was best (Deuteronomy 4:40; Proverbs 3:1–2). Many people today have been deceived into believing they can *disregard* God's instructions in Scripture—if they continue to pray, go to church, feel religious and are nice to other people! The Bible calls this hypocrisy (Romans 2:17–24; James 2:10)! We must avoid this deception.

The *biblical mission* of the Church is clearly stated: proclaim the good news of Christ's sacrifice for our sins (Matthew 1:21) and preach the gospel of the coming kingdom of God (Mark 1:14–15; 16:15; Acts 8:12). The gospel is to be preached as a *witness*—to let the world know what is coming—even though many will not believe what they hear (Matthew 24:14). The Church also has the responsibility of feeding the flock—teaching those who are called how to live by every word of God (John 21:15–17). Another aspect of the church's mission is to *warn the world* of the sobering events that will mark the end of this age and the return of Christ (see Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). This is a major task of God's end-time work (see Ezekiel 3; 33). Neighborly acts of kindness and charitable actions in the community are fine, but they cannot replace God's clearly stated mission for His Church! To presume we can pick and choose from this clearly defined mission is to promote deception. You need to ask yourself: what are *you*, and the group you are part of, doing? Are you focused on the mission God outlined, or are you *mised* and busy doing your own thing?

Know Your Enemy!

The Bible reveals that Satan is the predominating influence in this world who *blinds, deludes, divides* and *deceives* whoever he can (2 Corinthians 4:4). Many Christians

today seem to think they are immune to Satan's influence because they have been “called” into the Church, yet Peter tells us to: “Be sober, be vigilant; because *your adversary* the devil walks about like a roaring lion, *seeking whom* he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Peter was speaking from experience, because he had been deceived on several occasions by his own ideas and by listening to the misguided ideas of others (see Matthew 16:21–23; Galatians 2:11–14). Paul warned the Church: “Savage wolves will come in among you... speaking perverse [misleading] things, to draw away the disciples after themselves” (Acts 20:29–30). Paul was concerned that people would be deceived by false doctrines spread by false teachers who *claimed* to be ministers of Jesus Christ—but in reality were *agents of the devil* (2 Corinthians 11:1–15). Satan's efforts and activities spawn confusion and deception (1 Corinthians 14:33).

When you consider the doctrinal confusion that pervades the church and society today, it should be obvious *who* is causing the problems! Some of the deceptive ideas circulating through the church include:

- The Work is over; only Mr. Armstrong was commissioned to preach the gospel.
- We do not need a ministry or government in the church. Since we are all ministers, we can select our own leaders—we do not need to let God make those selections.
- It is OK to observe Sundays, Easter and Christmas if we are sincere in heart.
- There are true Christians who neither understand the Bible nor keep the commandments.
- God's people need not agree on basic doctrines, and individuals can decide doctrine

for themselves based on their own feelings.

- We do not need to keep the Passover on the 14th, even though the Bible specifies that date.
- We can decide what calendar to follow, based on our own reasoning.
- We do not need to tithe anymore; the dietary laws are no longer applicable; there is no place of safety during the tribulation; understanding the identity of nations is irrelevant to understanding prophecy; everyone will be saved.

The list could go on, but this illustrates what happens when we are deceived into ignoring what the Bible plainly states. To avoid being deceived, we must be able to recognize the fruits of deception, and recognize who is promoting these deceptive ideas (1 Peter 5:9; Ephesians 6:11). Jesus said we should recognize false teachers by their fruits, and He warned that many professing Christians are actually deceived because they do not recognize their enemy or his methods (Matthew 7:15–23)!

Think Critically

Many assume that Christianity is merely about loving, trusting, believing and having faith and hope. Yet Jesus warned His disciples to “be wise as serpents and harmless as doves” because they would have to deal with “wolves” intent on their deception and destruction (Matthew 10:16). As Christians, we have to learn to think—and to *think critically!* In Proverbs we are told “the first person to plead his cause *seems* right” until he is cross-examined (Proverbs 18:17). It is risky to believe the first

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Report from the Treasurer

By Fred Dattolo

As of this writing, we have assembled preliminary financial information for the year 2000. With the twelve largest countries reporting, our worldwide income was about \$8,064,000—the United States accounting for \$6,975,000. The U.S. income increased by almost 12 percent over 1999. In the U.S., our expenses were \$6,475,000—resulting in a **net** income of about \$500,000—much of which was attributable to the income received in December, since December's income was unexpectedly almost 18 percent higher than in 1999!

Last year, expenses to preach the Gospel were \$2,527,000 (about 39 percent, compared to 35 percent in 1999); to “feed the flock,” \$3,387,000 (about 52 percent, compared to 55 percent in 1999) and \$561,000 for administrative support (about 9 percent, compared to 10 percent in 1999). As you can see, the percentage of resources devoted to preaching the Gospel increased significantly. In terms of dollars, more than two-thirds of the total increase in expenditures was attributable to the preaching of the Gospel. This is largely due to the devoted ministry in the field and the overwhelming support of the many volunteers who make Church services and activities possible.

In this report I want to give you a glimpse into the management reports that we provide to Dr. Meredith and the operation managers to help them make informed decisions. First, we provide a “Daily Mail Income Report” which compares the day's income to what was budgeted and to what was collected on the same **day** (not date) last year. To budget mail income on a daily basis is not as difficult as it may seem, primarily because of the faithful tithing patterns of most of you! In addition, since we know when payday occurs, when social security checks are issued, how mail generally travels and what the income was for the same day last year, we can be relatively accurate in our daily budget (usually!).


For example, we know from experience that many people mail their tithe checks after the payday at the end of the month. Since we do not pick up mail on the Sabbath, the first Monday of the month

is usually the biggest income day, unless it is too close to the end of the previous month—in which case the second Monday becomes the biggest.

The “Daily Mail Income Report” also lists month-to-date and year-to-date income compared to budget and to last year. The Holy Days are shown separately. Income, though, is just one side of the picture. We must also report on how the expenses are doing. Expenses are budgeted weekly. Many expenses—including payroll and rent—always occur at the same time of the month. For those that do not, we have established reliable and proven methods of distributing the monthly expense budget on a **flexible** weekly schedule. This enables us to provide the “Weekly Financial Report.”

This weekly report lists the income collected and payments made (according to about two dozen categories of expense), and the corresponding budget amounts of both. The difference between the actual amounts collected and spent, and the budget for both, is the **net budget variance** for the week. This budget variance, whether positive or negative, is added to the cash flow projection. That lets us recalculate, each week, the projected bank balances for the rest of the year. This year, for example, the bank balances are projected to be at their lowest level on September 14. By monitoring weekly variances and adjusting the cash flow projections accordingly, we may ensure that we have adequate cash in the bank at all times—not only at the low point, but also at the end of the year. Because of growth, bank balances at the beginning of next year must be even larger than what we started with this year.

These calculations also let us show on the weekly report the status of “operating reserves.” Operating reserves are the funds available in the operating fund for projects not in the budget. Finally, the weekly report also lists commitments for things we desire to implement for which there are not yet adequate funds. This helps keep Dr. Meredith and others abreast of priorities already “in the pipeline.”

Brethren, thank you very much for remaining faithful to God's Work on earth. That helps us in the Financial Department to do our part as best we can! 

Do You Live in the Shadows?

By Henry Cooper

In Scripture, Jesus frequently used physical, everyday occurrences and familiar situations to demonstrate great spiritual lessons and truths. He described vivid parallels contrasting the good or bad of daily scenes and the gain or loss certain behaviour would bring to our spiritual well-being.

Similarly, the opening verses of the Bible, contrasting light and darkness, symbolize two opposing ways of life. Light pictures God's way of life, leading to success and eternal life, while darkness represents Satan's way, which promises success but leads ultimately to disappointment and disaster. The sobering, inescapable conclusions of history demonstrate that the human race has consistently chosen the wrong way, constantly repeating the mistakes of earlier generations. This article will explain why, and show you how to avoid making wrong choices and to recognize the way to real enlightenment.

In the Beginning...

Genesis 1:1–5 records that God introduced light to an Earth then shrouded in darkness. Light is stronger than darkness; light dispels darkness—never the other way around. Light penetrates through darkness and defeats it. Light is a force, an energy, that travels through the blackness of space at 186,000 miles per second! Darkness is static; it is a state, not going anywhere. Darkness occurs in the absence of light—the reverse never happens. Darkness cannot exist in the direct presence or pathway of light. Light **always** conquers darkness.

At the outset of the re-creation of the world, some 6,000 years ago (Psalm 104:30) God let through the light—and a rotating planet Earth has ever since, every day, seen daylight dispel the darkness of night.

We perceive light as good and wholesome, while we associate darkness with evil and underhandedness. The verb “to enlighten” implies giving knowledge of a positive nature. We label the fifth and sixth centuries after Christ, when humanity slid backward into ignorance and economic decline, the Dark Ages. Similarly, biblical terminology uses light as synonymous with godliness and eternal life, and darkness with sin and death.

Role of Jesus Christ

Ever since Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:22–24) mankind's thoughts and actions have been dark and destructive (Genesis 6:5; 8:21). With few exceptions, the history of mankind is a chronicle of wrong choices and their ensuing destructive results (Romans 3:10–18). Into this desperate scenario came Jesus Christ, sent by the Father to bring light and hope and the message of the Kingdom of God to come, and of what we must do to enter it (John 12:35, 36, 46). On many occasions Jesus told His disciples that He was as a light shining in darkness (John 8:12; 9:5; 12:46). Almost all who followed the crowds in Judea, to hear Jesus preach and teach, did not comprehend His message or remain faithful to His exhortations.

After He submitted to death by the hands of hardened soldiers, egged on by the taunts of the frenzied mob, only about 120 people really believed His news brought from God (Acts 1:15). Why?

Role and Rule of Satan

It is a commonly held misconception that society around us is “good” or righteous, or, on the whole, godly and god-fearing. Shocking as it may sound, your Bible clearly says it is not (Psalm 14:1–3; 53:1–3). Certainly there are numerous good deeds done and noble causes embraced, but as a whole, the nations produce heartache and humanly insoluble problems for their citizens. This is little wonder, when we read who their present ruler is—none other than the ruler of this world (John 12:31; 14:30), Satan, whose domain Scripture describes as darkness (Ephesians 2:1–2; 6:12). Trying to go forward in an environment of darkness is a hazardous, usually fruitless endeavor. We cannot see the way ahead, nor discern the direction we should take. We would most likely stumble and fall repeatedly. Satan the devil has spiritually blindfolded the world's population (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:2–3; 12:9). The human race needs to be rescued—to be guided and drawn by the light of truth in place of the darkness of deception and sin. This is the core message of the Gospel (good news) Jesus

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How Reliable Are You?

By Donald Roach

Some people are notorious for not keeping their word. Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister of Great Britain, said in 1938 after signing the Munich Pact with Adolf Hitler, that “in spite of the hardness and ruthlessness I thought I saw in his face, I got the impression that here was a man who could be relied upon when he had given his word.”

Prime Minister Chamberlain also said of his dealings with Hitler: “For the second time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honor. I believe it is peace for our time... Go home and get a nice quiet sleep” (*The Experts Speak*, 1998, p. 118).

Of course, despite Hitler’s deceptive and hypocritical promises, he had no intention of keeping them and he started World War II within the year. That is what one got for taking Hitler at his word.

A godly leader, though, must be reliable. Reliability touches many aspects of life. As God is reliable, we also ought to be reliable, completing our projects and fulfilling our responsibilities.

Hitler could not be trusted. His word was no good. But we can take God at His Word. God *is* reliable. Imagine what would happen if God were moody, whimsical and untrustworthy; someone you could not count on. What if the Ten Commandments were not law, but kept changing depending on God’s moods? No, God is very reliable. The sun will rise tomorrow. The laws of nature that God set in motion, such as the law of gravity, are just that—*law!* We even measure time by the rotation of the heavenly bodies—that is how reliable *down to the very second* they are.

The Kingdom of God *will* be here. You can count on it. Christ, who had lived forever, gave up His life knowing that He could count on His Father to bring Him back to life. There were no doubts or waverings or second thoughts. Christ could count on His Father! And the Father came through.

Jesus Christ, too, is reliable. God came up with a plan to save us. The plan involved Christ becoming a sacrifice for sin. But the plan required Christ to live sinlessly—not to sin even once. The entire plan of God rested on it. The Father counted on Christ *never* to sin—not even once. You might think that such a plan would have been considered too risky, especially after their experience with Lucifer, who sinned after coming to earth. But that did

not stop the plan. Christ came through! Jesus Christ is *totally* reliable!

We are members of God’s Family, though not yet born (1 John 3:1–3). We must be reliable, dependable and trustworthy. Otherwise, how could we function in a reliable, dependable and trustworthy family? Christ came to set us an example (1 Peter 2:21).

Can your spouse count on you? Is your word any good? Can our children count on us? Do we fulfill our promises to them, or do we just make empty promises so they will run along and leave us alone? Can our boss count on us? If we are given an assignment, is it as good as done? Can those we supervise rely on us, or are we moody, fickle, unpredictable and hard to understand?

Let us consider four points on how to be reliable—how to see a project, assignment or task through to completion.

- Count the cost before you commit to projects

Ask yourself such questions as: “Do I have the resources in time and energy to see this project through? How long will it take? How much will it cost? How much time away from my family would be involved?” Even governments do not get involved in costly wars without first counting the cost. Christ spoke of this in Luke 14:25–33.

Ask yourself: “Is this a godly endeavor? Do I have to compromise godly values and principles?” Depending on the answer, we may even have to pass up a career move “up the ladder.” If we cannot answer such questions affirmatively, we must *graciously decline* participation in the project.

Of course, occasionally a *really* negative development arises during a project—something serious, wrong or even sinful. On such an occasion, it is not a sin to change plans. God changed His plan for King Saul when the king’s conduct changed. Also, God pronounced a curse that would have descended upon Nineveh in 40 days. However, the people’s conduct changed—and so did God’s planned destruction.

- See worthwhile projects through

When you commit to a task, it must be as good as done. Your co-workers, supervisor and employer *value* such workers.

One of the disappointments for professors and teachers is to see students come close to the end of a semester and drop out. Of course, the dropouts have their reasons. But are they valid reasons? Often, they are not. It is disappointing to watch students put much time and effort into a class only to quit near the end. Often, just a *little more effort* would have brought success.

On those rare occasions when one cannot see an assignment through, one should let the project leader know in good time. Maybe one can find or recommend a substitute. Or perhaps one can swap duties with another. Again, such occasions must be rare—very rare—for one who is reliable.

- Never worry about who gets the credit

It really does not matter. God is keeping score. His message to Philadelphia contains an extremely satisfying verse: “I [God] know your works” (Revelation 3:8). What else can *possibly* matter? God knows what we are doing or not doing. This life is only the beginning. Can we patiently wait on God to reward us in the next life, or must we get everything here and now?

Let your satisfaction be the successful completion of the project. We must be givers. The Word of God teaches

us that the greater blessing is *always* in the *giving*, rather than in the *receiving* (Acts 20:35).

- Include God in all that you do

Even in secular or professional projects, include God. Make God a full partner. Ask Him to give insight, wisdom and guidance. He will come through. God is simply the smartest and the strongest. He is the ultimate Source of wisdom and strength (Proverbs 3:5–6). And God is only too willing to share, so why leave Him out?

In conclusion, remember, as Christians, we are in *the ultimate* project—living God’s way of life. This is the mother of all projects that are ever taken on in this life. For this project, there is absolutely *no excuse* for not completing it—at least no excuse that God would accept! Christ puts it as follows: “*No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God*” (Luke 9:62). The good news is found in Matthew 24:13: “But he who endures to the end *shall* be saved.” *All* who complete this—the ultimate project—*will* be in the kingdom of God; so says Christ.

We all need to put these four points to work now. Christ Himself said: “He who is *faithful* in what is *least* is *faithful* also in *much*; and he who is *unjust* in what is *least* is *unjust* also in *much*” (Luke 16:10). LCN

Notice from Legal Affairs

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Members’ personal publications may provide Headquarters, Regional Office and paid ministry contact information as appropriate, if done with the consent of the parties involved, but personal contact information and official Church contact information must be kept separate.

Laws in the United States, and in other countries where Church members live, require the Church to be *very careful* not to *misrepresent* the physical organizations through which the spiritual organism is working, nor to give the impression that the Church is legally registered in a country where the Church has not been registered. A well-meaning Church member may put himself and/or the Church in jeopardy by promoting a Church name, address, contact name, and/or phone number that is *not actually registered to the Church in that country*. A local congregation cannot simply rent a mailbox (or use a member’s home) and call it a Living Church of God address, nor can an individual’s Web site represent itself as an official Living Church of God Web site. Additionally, neither can the Church’s television or radio broadcasts or other media be promoted in countries where the Church is not legally permitted to “do business.”

If you have any questions about the above, please contact Legal Affairs by e-mail at legal@cogl.org or by phone at (858) 673-7470, or by facsimile at (858) 613-7968.



International Corner...

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT

—By Ray Clore, Paris, France

The Living Church of God on the European continent has been blessed with zealous members who are contributing toward preaching and publishing the Gospel. The Work is moving forward rapidly. Visitors are always welcome, but are urged to contact Headquarters in San Diego in advance, to obtain information about location and time for services, or about video groups in the various countries of the European continent.

FRANCE

Sabbath services are regularly held in Paris, with an average attendance of around 16. Services are normally held in a member's apartment. Once a month we meet in a hotel

in a small town north of Paris, so that French-speaking brethren from areas outside of Paris, including some from Belgium, can also attend. We profit from a combination of live messages as well as timely tapes from Headquarters, particularly from Mr. Dibar Apartian. After services each

week we have a meal together and we fellowship for hours. Members are scattered throughout France—from Lens in the north near the English Channel, to Montpellier in the south near the Mediterranean. Members work together to translate articles and booklets into French (under Mr. Apartian's supervision) and make them available on the French website located at www.mondedemain.org. We are looking forward to the Feast of Tabernacles this coming year at Port d'Albret near Bordeaux in the warm south of France, an area famous for fine wines!

BELGIUM

The brethren in Belgium have the opportunity for live services in the eastern city of Liege once a month, and other weeks enjoy taped messages. Attendance averages around 13 for the live service. Using a contact with a local publishing agent, we are happy to have been able to place an advertisement in early January 2001 in a local commercial magazine in eastern Belgium with a circulation of 70,000. The ad invites people to receive one of our articles, and shows our French e-mail and regular mail addresses. We hope to be able to cover all of Belgium and France, as God gives us resources and opportunities, with advertisements in a systematic fashion so that all in these countries will have had a chance to see an ad offering access to the Truth.

NETHERLANDS

The Living Church of God in the Netherlands has been blessed with few, but strong and faithful, members. We are in the process of forming a legally recognized association in the Netherlands and are happy that a Dutch language Web site is now operating at www.wereldvanmorgen.org. Brethren do not have a regular video group yet because of small numbers and distance, so they normally profit from tapes in their homes each Sabbath. From time to time, brethren travel to attend services in neighboring Belgium. We hope to have live services once a month starting soon in the Netherlands. We are looking into opportunities to place advertisements for church publications as well as for our Dutch-language website.

GERMANY

Germany's handful of Living Church of God members are also very diligent and hardworking toward the proclamation of the Gospel. A German-language Web site at www.weltvonmorgen.org has been in operation since August 2000. More than 560 visitors from 11 different countries have visited the site, and downloaded booklets, articles and *Bible Study Course* material offered there. Members work to translate the items (under Headquarters supervision), spread flyers, post notes on pin boards of stores, telephone booths and train stations and distribute pre-paid post cards for literature. In just the first three weeks of 2001, more than 30 publications



have been sent out to requestors. Brethren meet as a video group in Karlsruhe.

SWITZERLAND

The two families we have in and around Geneva regularly receive French audiotapes. Our largest group (six or seven) is in Zurich and assembles each week as a video group under the direction of our strong and faithful host.

A Czech-language Web site (now only one page, but soon to expand) has been set up with the efforts of a family in Paris and their relatives in the Living Church of God in the United States. Since Czech is understood in parts of Poland and Slovakia as well as the Czech Republic, many more people will have a gateway to the Gospel through this site. The site is located at www.budoucivst.org. If you visit the site, however, you will have to change your Web browser's character set to "Central European" to see the Czech-language characters as people in Eastern Europe see them.

A final remark: The four Web sites mentioned in this article (German, French, Dutch and Czech) have all come on line since August 2000. While the primary credit for setting up each site and working on the translation of the many articles, booklets, *Bible Study Course* lessons and other material offered on the sites belongs to the faithful brethren in Europe—who devote their own spare time to this labor of love—all of us in Europe would like to express special thanks to Mr. Steve Bode and all the computer wizards of Kansas City for their untiring assistance in helping set up and maintain these Web sites. We see from the relatively small number of brethren in Europe that each person is valuable and that each can and does contribute personally to spreading the Gospel message or edifying and nurturing the congregation. The brethren here are dedicated to fulfilling Christ's commission to preach the Gospel to all the world.

ILOCANO TRANSLATIONS

—By Rod McNair

In the last year, another avenue has opened up in preaching the Gospel to the world: translation into the Ilocano dialect of the Philippines. In addition to English, more than 80 dialects are spoken around the Philippines, and dialect plays an important part in the identity of every Filipino. Although Ilocano-speakers are not the largest group, they account for a significant percentage of the population, especially on the island of Luzon. Last February, Mr. Pedro A. Fabroa, a Filipino member of the Church in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, volunteered to translate Church booklets and articles into his native Ilocano dialect.

Works already translated are: "Ania nga aldaw iti nachristianoan nga aldaw a panaginana?" ("Which Day is the Christian Sabbath?"); "Parmekentayo Cadi Iti Yuyeng?" ("Will We Conquer Space?" from the November-December 2000 *Tomorrow's World* magazine) and "Panagcadua ti Estados Unidos/Filipinas: Apay A Ti America Mapucpucawna Dagiti Napateg A Gagayyem Ken Cacaduana" ("United States/Philippines Relations: Why America Is Losing Valuable Friends and Allies," from the September-October 2000 *Tomorrow's World* magazine).

Mr. Fabroa works with the editorial assistance of Mr. Felipe Casing, fellow Ilocano speaker and Pastor serving in Davao City, Mindanao. Although funds are not available to mass-distribute the translated works, photocopies can be helpful tools for new Ilocano contacts interested in Church literature.

FROM COLOMBIA

—By Jorge Schaubeck

Medellin, Colombia's second largest city, is an industrial center nestled in a bowl-shaped valley in the heart of the Colombian Andes. On one of the steep hills that surrounds



the city stands majestic El Tesoro, one of the most modern malls in the world. Last September, Church members from Medellin took a visiting minister on an excursion to that mall. On Wednesday, January 10, around 8:00 p.m., a car bomb exploded in one of the mall parking lots, leaving

3 dead and more than 50 wounded. The explosion also destroyed 261 cars and eight commercial establishments.

It is shocking to hear the news of such a violent act in a place our members and ministry had so recently visited, knowing that it is not an isolated incident but part of a chain of violence that has gripped Colombia for four decades. Competing guerrilla factions, paramilitary retaliation, drug trafficking and common crime have brought the country to the brink of anarchy.

This news gives us an idea of the danger our Colombian brethren face. What many fear as the inevitable is an all-out war between the government and different guerrilla groups.

Please pray for our Colombian brethren, holding fast in a country that has the highest crime rate in the Western Hemisphere. LCN

Are You Truly Humble?
(continued from page 3)

Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives” (Hebrews 12:5–6). So when we are corrected in a sermon, we will take it to heart and *pray about it*—feeling that the correction is from GOD!

But a truly humble person is not looking for reason to be offended or to leave the Church that is primarily DOING God’s Work. Even if human mistakes are occasionally made—and there will *always* be human mistakes while we are still in the flesh—a genuinely humble and converted individual will try to learn even from imperfect teachers and imperfect situations.

For the deeply converted person will always be “teachable” and willing to learn from every situation. *This* is the attitude God wants to see in all of us: “For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive

the heart of the contrite ones” (Isaiah 57:15).

The Apostle John was inspired to show us how this attitude is to affect our *human* relations as well. “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also” (1 John 4:20–21). And: “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:16–18).

As we approach the Passover and the ordinance of humility expressed by washing one another’s feet, let us *beseech God* to cleanse us of all vanity, selfishness and stubbornness. As John instructed, let us “lay down our lives” for one another in the Church—and in the *Work* of getting Christ’s message to the

untold millions who desperately *need what we have to give!* In heartfelt humility and outflowing concern, let us emulate the Apostle Paul who said: “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more... To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:19, 22).

Dear brethren, let us so live our lives that God *who knows our hearts* will see that we truly intend to *serve Him, honor Him and obey Him* throughout all eternity—no matter what the cost. Through our thoughts, prayers, words and actions we must let God and our *fellow men* know that we are *here to serve*. We must be “givers”—not merely “takers”—who can heartily wish, with the Apostle Paul, that “according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:20–21). ☐

Developing a Deep Love for God
(continued from page 2)

is the very *center* of our thoughts, our hopes and dreams and our lives. Let us in the Spirit-led Church of God each POUR OUT OUR BEING in “seeking” God, *walking* with God and *worshipping* and *adoring* our Father and our Redeemer! For what is the first and great Commandment? Matthew 22:35–38 gives the answer: “Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.”

The example of David’s *zeal* and PASSION in worshipping and exalting God can give us special insight into how we ought to fulfill this Great Commandment. As New Testament Christians, this attitude of worship

and adoration and profound appreciation ought to be with us in a *special* way as we partake of the symbols of the ultimate sacrifice made by our Creator, our King, our merciful High Priest, our Lord and Savior—Jesus Christ.

Every day of the year, we should remember God’s instruction to the Jewish captives as they returned from exile: “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with ALL your heart” (Jeremiah 29:12–13). Dear brethren, we are chosen servants of the living God at the END of this age. Let us always *remember that fact* and SEEK God and His will with every fiber of our being!



Do Not Be Deceived (continued from page 9)

idea that you hear or the first book you read! We need to ask: who are these people who promote ideas or write books or articles? Where do they get their authority? What is their track record? How has God used them over time? Many of Jesus' listeners were familiar with His background (Mark 6:3). Peter and Paul openly reveal their names and their personal histories for all to judge (see Galatians 1:11–24; 2 Peter 1:16–19). If you are going to follow some group, you better know something about them and where they got their ideas—or you risk being deceived!

The Bible also states: “In a multitude of counselors there is safety” (Proverbs 11:14). If you seek advice and check appropriate sources before jumping to a conclusion, you can avoid being deceived. Do not just believe the latest idea you hear or see in print. Check out what critics have to say before you buy! Determine what is valid and what is not. Be alert to the fact that our vanity likes to think we do not need any help—that we can figure everything out on our own! That is a prescription for failure that only fools choose to follow (Proverbs 12:1, 15). Paul advised Christians to *carefully evaluate* every-

thing—he did not say “just believe” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Peter warned that Paul's writings would be *twisted out of context* by ignorant and unstable individuals (2 Peter 3:16). It is instructive that those who want to do away with the Sabbath, the Holy Days, the dietary laws and many other doctrines *use Paul's writings* to try to prove their points—in spite of Peter's clear warning! We need to be alert to this. To avoid being deceived, we must learn to think critically. It is part of a Christian's responsibility.

Brethren, God informs us that Satan has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9). He deceived Eve and caused Adam to shirk his leadership responsibilities. He misled Peter and deceived Paul before his calling. He prompted Ananias and Sapphira to lie and, as a result, to die (Acts 5:1–11). He sowed discord between Paul and Barnabas in an attempt to disrupt preaching the gospel (Acts 15:36–41). Satan and those he has been able to influence have wreaked havoc on true believers down through the ages. As Christians, we must be able to recognize and resist their deceptive methods. That is why God provides clear warnings and helpful principles in Scripture. Our challenge is to use this information so we can avoid being deceived! LCN

Do You Live in The Shadows? (continued from page 11)

Christ brought to mankind (John 12:35, 36, 46).

Conversion and the Role of the Church

Jesus Christ clearly told the early disciples that men must change from their inherited, natural values and lifestyles if they are to enter the future Kingdom of God (Matthew 18:3). This applies to everyone; there are no exceptions. The Bible calls this change repentance—meaning “going the other way.” In the first public sermon of the fledgling Church of God, recorded in Acts chapter 2, the Apostle Peter repeats exactly this. The Apostolic Church taught this. The Apostle Paul likens repentance to a switching from darkness to light (Acts 26:18). God wishes all people to heed and follow His instruction (Acts 17:30). The resurrected Christ com-

missioned the Church to bring these tidings of light to the whole world (Matthew 28:19–20) as opportunity and means permitted.

The newly converted Christian takes on a lifelong commitment to increase in right knowledge, and to become a light (a witness, an example, an encourager) to those around him. To a Christian, life at last makes sense, upon seeing that there is, after all, a real and worthwhile purpose to life. There are answers to the questions that baffle the world's commentators and theologians. There are explanations for the way things are, and choices to be made which bring blessings and good. For a Christian, light has begun to shine where darkness and shadows reigned (Ephesians 2:1–3). This calling, now at hand, is to grow and mature in the Christian faith in all its fullness and challenge, and to overcome the ever-present, powerful influences of darkness that daily cross our paths. We are exhorted to become shining lights of encouragement to all who aspire to live

by God's laws (Matthew 5:14–16). Few people want to live in the full glare of light. It seems easier to dwell, semi-visibly, in the shadows, choosing whether or when to opt for making changes.

This age, which began in darkness and emptiness (both physically and spiritually), will eventually be filled with glorious light (Revelation 21:23–25). Each 24-hour period we are given is a pointer to this great future ahead. Every day begins with a faint glimmer of light appearing on the eastern horizon. Sunrise brings incomparable beauty on clear mornings. The light increases to the full radiance of midday.

If you have been called, you have been given an opportunity to see the light of the truth of God, and to understand why this suffering world is the way it is. You also have outline knowledge of what lies ahead. Your challenge now is to come out of darkness and avoid living in the shadows—and instead to walk in the light that leads to eternal life in the Kingdom of God. LCN

2001 2001 Feast of Tabernacles

The 2001 Feast of Tabernacles will begin with services on Monday evening, October 1. The Last Great Day falls this year on Tuesday, October 9. The Living Church of God will operate nine sites in the United States—two more than last year—along with three in Canada, two in Europe, and many others around the world.

You will notice that this issue of the *Living Church News* contains no Pre-Registration Form. This year, Church Administration has decided to coordinate Feast registration with local congregations. At Sabbath services on June 9, you will be asked which site you plan to attend.

Those wishing to volunteer to serve at a site are encouraged to contact the site coordinators (listed below) as soon as possible. A “volunteer form” is also available on the www.livingcog.org Web site in the Member area. Forms will also be available through your local congregation.

International travelers are reminded to contact the site coordinator before making plans to travel to an overseas site. Some sites have special restrictions or concerns that the site coordinator may need to discuss with those wishing to attend.

If you are planning to travel overseas, you should send your regular Festival offerings to your home

country, and not expect your offerings to be re-routed by the overseas Feast site. Still, many international-traveling Feastgoers may wish to consider giving some additional offering to the site where they attend.

Please note that the listings below include only minimal housing information. Over the years, the Festival Office has discovered that individuals are generally able to assess their particular needs and circumstances and make plans accordingly. If the information below is not sufficient and you need further help with your research, please contact the site coordinators for whatever guidance you may require.

UNITED STATES FEAST SITES

Eau Claire, WI

Eau Claire (French for “clear water”) is located in west central Wisconsin amidst the rolling hills and rivers of the Chippewa Valley. Only 90 miles east of Minneapolis, this site provides a combination of natural beauty, history and family entertainment. Scenic beauty, outdoor activities, family recreation, excellent shopping and cultural events are all included in this attractive city of 57,000. Last year, the daytime highs during the first three weeks of October ranged between 54 and 64 degrees. Services will be held at the:

Quality Inn Conference Center
809 W. Clairemont Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Phone: (715) 834-6611

In the immediate area families can visit an Amish community with a 12,000 square-foot showroom of quilts and crafts; catch their own meal at a trout farm; tour the eighth oldest brewery in the U.S., visit a zoo, enjoy a hay ride and picking apples at an orchard and much more. Teens can enjoy a skate center, mini-golf, batting cages and bowling. Many first class restaurants and lodging facilities are found in the city, and Eau Claire has a 150-store indoor mall. For outdoor enthusiasts there are miles of hike and bike trails which run along scenic riverways, canoeing, championship golf courses and fishing. Area theaters and orchestras provide cultural venues. Only one and one-half hours away by Interstate highway is Minneapolis and the Mall of America, which boasts the largest indoor theme park in the United States

The Quality Inn, where the festival meetings will take place, has an indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna, exercise room, and restaurant. The Quality Inn has offered us the attractive price of \$59/night which includes a free, full breakfast buffet each morning in our own private breakfast room. Also, within a mile of the Quality Inn are these properties that have offered us a special price: Holiday

Inn, \$65/night (715) 835-2211, and Park Inn & Suites, \$69/night (715) 838-9989. In all cases, taxes are not included in the prices quoted here. Mention that you are attending the Living Church of God conference when making reservations. For more information visit the Chippewa Valley web site at www.chippewavalley.net or contact the Chippewa Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau at (888) 523-FUNN (3866).

If you have questions about this site, please contact the site coordinator Randy Gregory by e-mail at rlgregory@compuserve.com or by phone at (847) 249-1057.

FLORENCE, OR

Returning to a site enjoyed by many in 1998, we will be keeping the Feast in Florence at the:

Florence Events Center
715 Quince Street
Florence, OR 97439

This facility has a state-of-the-art theater area capable of holding more than 500 Feastgoers, who will be keeping the Feast in a quiet and picturesque community 50 miles west of Eugene, OR, at the junction of State Highway 126 and coastal route US-101. Florence lies at the northern end of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, with wide, sandy beaches, majestic Pacific Ocean vistas and plenty of recreational opportunities, from hiking to riding horses and dune-buggies. Harbor cruises, miniature golf, sea caves and many other natural and man-made attractions ensure that something will be available for every member of the family to enjoy.

Lodging is available with a wide range of prices and features, from hotels, to bed and breakfasts, to camping areas. Those with Internet access can explore housing options at www.florencechamber.com/VisLodging.html. For more information, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Don Davis by telephone at (858) 673-7470 or by e-mail at ddavis@cogl.org

GLEN ROSE, TX

Located in the ranch country less than 60 miles south of downtown Ft. Worth, Glen Rose offers a unique opportunity for God's people and provides a chance to recapture the spirit of the Big Sandy Feast experience enjoyed by so many thousands of brethren for decades.

For our services we will be using the exhibit hall of the:

Somervell County Expo & Texas Amphitheater
202 Bo Gibbs Blvd.
Glenrose, TX 76043

It has ample seating, plenty of close parking, and easy handicap access. Across the parking lot is a brand new Best Western motel, the Dinosaur Valley Inn & Suites. Just about a mile and a half away is the Tres Rios Campground, called by many "the best kept secret in Texas." Located near the convergence of three rivers, this beautiful wooded area brings back memories of Big Sandy. Containing not only RV and tent camping spots, Tres Rios also has a number of cabins and motel-style rooms that will be ideal for individuals and families. These will permit the benefits of a campground Feast without the "roughing it." Additionally, there are a number of bed and breakfast establishments located in Glen Rose as well as two other motels. Granbury, a fifteen-minute drive from the convention site, offers a number of additional housing and dining accommodations as well as shopping. Those with Internet access can learn more about housing options at URL: <http://www.glenrose.net/links.asp>

The location and facilities of the Glen Rose Feast site offer the makings of a relaxing and spiritually rejuvenating family Feast site. We will have exclusive use of the big pavilion in Tres Rios campground, an ideal site for barbecues and fish fries. Nearby is Fossil Rim Wildlife Center that allows for close encounters with endangered and exotic wildlife while taking the 9.5 mile drive through the park. Also on the outskirts of Glen Rose is Dinosaur Valley State Park located on the Paluxy River. There is hiking and biking, as well as exhibits and footprints left by ancient dinosaurs. For golfers, the nearby Squaw Valley Golf Course is rated as one of the ten best public courses in Texas. Additionally, in the area is Creation Evidence Museum, riverboat dinner cruises and equestrian events to be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the arena in the Expo Center, located adjacent to the facility where services will be held.

All in all, Glen Rose offers many benefits for a very special family Feast this year. For further information, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Keith Walden by telephone at (512) 244-5478 or by e-mail at kwalden@cogl.org.

JACKSON, WY

The Feast will be held in Teton Village, a small ski village 12 miles from Jackson Hole. Most attendees will want to stay right in Teton Village. Jackson Hole is a beau-

tiful, mountain-enclosed valley in Wyoming. From its floor, at an elevation of 6,300 feet, the breathtaking Tetons rise 7,000 feet higher still. Those who believe they might experience health problems due to Jackson Hole's elevation should consult with a health care professional before attending. For those with special needs, many handicapped facilities are available. The site will provide many singles activities at the Feast, but the range of activities available make it a good choice for a family Feast.

Those wishing to stay in condominiums may wish to contact Jackson Hole Resort Lodging at (800) 443-8613 or Rendezvous Mountain Rentals at (888) 739-2565. Jackson Hole Property Management can offer discounts of 20 percent and more for three-to four-bedroom condominiums. They can be reached at (800) 876-3968. One popular local hotel is the Best Western Inn at Jackson Hole-Teton Village at (800) 842-7666. Another choice is the Renaissance Resort & Spa at Jackson Hole at (800) 445-4655. Further housing information can be found at <http://www.jhchamber.com/vacationlodging.htm>.

If you have questions about this site, please contact site coordinator Mr. Dana Glatz by telephone at (406) 442-0136 or by e-mail at Dana.Glatz@juajudara.wesco-hln.com.

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MO

Services at the Lake of the Ozarks, MO, site will be held at the Main Street Music Hall in Osage Beach:

Main Street Music Hall
1048 Main St.
Osage Beach, MO
Phone: (573) 348-9500

There is a Comfort Inn just one block from the meeting hall. Call (573) 348-9555 for information or reservations. Alternatively, the Scottish Inn, one mile from the hall, has some of the least expensive rooms in the area; call (573) 348-3123 for more information. The Lazy Days Resort, 2.8 miles from the meeting hall, has condominiums ranging from two-bedroom, 900 square foot units, to four-bedroom, 1,400 square foot units. Phone (573) 348-2930 for information or reservations. Those not wishing to stay in the above-mentioned facilities may contact the Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitors Bureau at (573) 348-1599. If you have further questions, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Gerald Weston by phone at (816) 228-2035 or by e-mail at gweston@pars.net.

OCEAN CITY, MD

This year's Feast of Tabernacles will be held in the beautiful state-of-the-art Roland E. Powell Convention Center at 4001 Coastal Highway (and 40th Street). Completed in 1997 and centrally located in town, it is a contemporary and spacious building overlooking the Isle of Wight Bay.

Attached to the site is a Visitors Information Center providing dozens of free travel brochures for the area. There are 1,100 free parking spaces and the city transit bus stops in front. This local service bus stops every other block along Coastal Highway. In autumn it runs every half hour at the cost of only \$1 for anywhere in the city all day, seven days a week. Seniors travel at half-fare. There is also a pick-up service for those unable to drive.

Ocean City has more than 160 restaurants offering every type of cuisine in settings from outdoor cafes to elegant dining rooms. There are 9,500 hotel and motel rooms and 25,000 condominium units besides apartments, beach houses, bed and breakfasts, efficiencies and campsites. Some offer weekly rates.

Nearby attractions include: Assateague Island State Park, where wild ponies roam, and may be visited by cruise ships from Ocean City; ocean fishing (Ocean City is known as the White Marlin Capital of the world), ocean cruises to watch whales, dolphins and birds. Water sports include: jet-skiing, water-skiing, paddle boats, parasailing, wind surfing and sailing, kayaking, canoeing, wave surfing, kite flying and go-karts. There also are historic sites, museums, miniature golf, 17 championship golf courses, Salisbury Zoological Park, Ocean City Jamboree stage shows, several public parks, nature-trails, bird-watching, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Cambridge, a skate park, an indoor hotel ice-skating rink, Frontier Town and Wild West Show, bike rentals and much more.

To learn more about Ocean City, you may want to contact its Convention Center and Visitors' Bureau at (800) 626-2326. Those with Internet access may wish to visit www.ococean.com or www.ocean-city.com. For further information, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Ken Frank by telephone at (540) 786-8015 or by e-mail at kfrank@cogl.org.

PANAMA CITY, FL

Services during the Feast will be held at the:

Marina Civic Center
8 Harrison Ave.
Panama City, FL 32401

A variety of housing arrangements are available, from motels to hotels to condominiums. Please note that, while condominiums may offer amenities, space and convenience not available in some hotels or motels, you can expect substantial variations in the furnishings of different condominiums within the same complex, since décor is determined by the units' individual owners. If there are problems with your condo rental, property management agencies will work to transfer you into a more acceptable unit, but when most condos are booked there may not always be an alternative available. Special rates will be available from three property management agencies; remember to mention that you are with Living Church of God to secure these rates: Panama City Beach Rentals has a special rate offering nine nights for the usual cost of five. Condominiums and houses are available. Call them at (800) 923-2737, or visit their Web site at www.pcbeachrentals.com for specific rates and condo availability. Condo World is another option for less expensive condos; call them at (800) 232-6636 or visit their Web site at www.condoworld.net for more details. Sun Spot Realty has a variety of luxury units; call them at (800) 423-8367 or visit their Web site at www.sunspotrealty.com for more information.

If you are interested in a motel on the beach, you may want to investigate the Beach Tower Motel at (800) 446-8694. You may send e-mail inquiries to beachtwr@bellsouth.net or visit their Web site at www.pcbeachtower.com. These are relatively inexpensive units and are limited in number, so make reservations early if you are interested. Another relatively inexpensive option, 5.5 miles from the Marina Civic Center, is the Sleep Inn. For more information, call (888) 285-7534. For additional information or special assistance, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Ben Faulkner via email at bfaulkner@cogl.org or by phone at (813) 684-1423.

PIGEON FORGE, TN

God's people will celebrate eight inspiring days of spiritual food, family fun and fellowship at the:

Smokey Mountain Convention Center
4010 Parkway
Pigeon Forge, TN 37868

Opportunities abound for enjoying family-oriented attractions such as country music shows, shopping, sight-seeing, river rafting and more, amidst the beautiful Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. The nearest airline service is at Knoxville, TN, approximately 40 miles from the site.

Smokey Mountain Resorts offers a variety of hotels and motels at the following rates (tax not included). Brethren are encouraged to use these facilities if possible in order to help defray the cost of the meeting hall:

Bryer's Stone Inn	\$67.00 – \$97.00
Creek Stone Inn	\$73.00 – \$77.00
Country Inn and Suites	\$97.00
Knights Inn/Shiloh	\$62.00
Ramada Inn (Next to hall)	\$69.00 – \$97.00
Road Way Inn/Mountain Skies	\$65.00
Ramada Limited Suites	\$112.00 – \$149.00

Information about Smokey Mountain Resorts housing can be found on the Internet at: www.smokeymountainresorts.com/welcome.html or by phone at (877) 767-6338 or by e-mail at smr@icx.net. Those with Internet access can find a helpful Pigeon Forge vacation planner online at URL: <http://www.mypigeonforge.com/ebook.asp>

If you have any questions about this site, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Dan Hall by e-mail at dhall@cogl.org or by phone at (334) 626-0585.

TUCSON, AZ

Services will be held at the:

InnSuites Hotel (St. Mary's exit, I-10)
475 N. Granada
Tucson, AZ 85701
Phone: (520) 622-3000
Fax: (520) 623-8922
Reservations: (800) 446-6589

In addition to the temperate climate, beautiful desert scenery and many dining establishments with a wide variety of cuisines and prices, Tucson offers many opportunities for family sightseeing. Highlights include the zoological gardens at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the rustic outdoor beauty of the cacti blooming at Saguaro National Park and the historical interest of the Arizona State Museum. Ample opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation make this an ideal site for families.

More Tucson lodging information can be found online at: travel.yahoo.com/t/North_America/United_States/Arizona/Tucson/lodging. For further information, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Gaylyn Bonjour via email at: gbonjour@cogl.org or by telephone at (619) 300-7340. Spanish translation will be provided at this site.

INTERNATIONAL FEAST SITES

CRANBROOK, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Services during the Feast will be held at the:

**Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort and
Convention Centre**
209 Van Horne St. South
Cranbrook, BC V1C 6R9
Phone: (250) 417-0424
Fax: (250) 417-0423

The city of Cranbrook is nestled in the beautiful Kootenays of the Great Canadian Rocky Mountains and maintains a pleasant climate with four distinct seasons. For those who do not wish to stay at the main hotel, there are more than two dozen motels within a 15-block area around the Convention Centre. The Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort has more than 100 guest rooms, a swimming pool and hot tub, a full fitness center and two restaurants. More than 60 eating establishments are available in the area of the Convention Centre. Available tourist attractions include four provincial parks, Fort Steele Heritage Town and the ski resort village of Kimberly, located just a half-hour drive from the Convention Centre. Several hot springs near White Swan Lake are within an hour's drive to the north. Fall daytime temperatures are expected to range from 50–70 degrees Fahrenheit. For further information, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Eng Monson by phone at (306) 545-5250 or by e-mail at esm@sk.sympatico.ca.

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, CANADA

The Feast will be kept in Charlottetown on Prince Edward Island at the Carrefour de L'Isle Saint-Jean School. Ample affordable housing is available in the Charlottetown area. Options range from the Best Western

Charlottetown, reachable at (800) 528-1234, to the Travelodge Hotel at (800) 565-7633, to the Inn on the Hill at (800) 578-7878, to a variety of other hotels, motels and cottages nearby. For more information please contact site coordinator Mr. Jim Arnaldo by e-mail at jimarnaldo@aol.com or by phone at (508) 393-6209.

SAINT-SAUVEUR, QUEBEC, CANADA

“Bonjour!” (Welcome!) to Canada's bilingual Feast of Tabernacles in the village of Saint-Sauveur, just 45 minutes from the cosmopolitan city of Montreal. This typical Quebec village attracts numerous visitors to its many restaurants, art galleries and craft shops. Feastgoers will experience a mixture of French hospitality coupled with a truly family atmosphere. Expect cool nights and warm days with temperatures between 35–70 degrees Fahrenheit (5–20 degrees Celsius). Services will be held in a five-star resort hotel, the:

Manoir Saint-Sauveur
246 du Lac Millette Road
Saint-Sauveur-des-Monts
Quebec J0R 1R3
Phone: (800) 361-0505
www.manoir-saint-sauveur.com

This hotel offers 220 luxurious rooms, including 40 suites. It offers sports facilities, fine dining and inside and outdoor parking. Ample housing within walking distance surrounds the Feast site. Available activities will include: horseback riding, biking, boating, canoeing and mountain walks over the many hiking trails in the area. For the golf enthusiast, the area offers many fine golf courses which will be offering special year-end rates. For further information, please contact Mr. Frank Best by e-mail at fbest@sympatico.ca or by phone at (905) 845-7922. For more information about the Mont Saint-Sauveur region, you may phone (800) 363-2426 or visit its Web site at: www.montsaintsauveur.com.

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA:

Australian brethren will keep the Feast this year at Tugun, on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. A one-hour drive from Brisbane, this location offers miles of

sandy beaches, fishing, golfing and beautiful inland mountain scenery. The area boasts several major theme parks, including Sea World, Dreamworld, Movie World and Wet & Waterslide Park. Services will be held at the Tugun Village Community Centre, 414 Coolangatta Road, Tugun, Queensland, Australia, 4224. This is a newer facility, with full air conditioning, located just minutes away from many attractive and affordable accommodations. Coolangatta Airport is minutes away from the hall and housing. It services domestic air carriers from all major Australian cities, though many prefer to fly into Brisbane and then drive to Tugun. For information about accommodation options, please contact Mr. Dayrell Tanner by phone at 07-3806-0833 or by e-mail at dayrell@smartchat.net.au.

NEW ZEALAND:

The Feast will be held this year at the Willowhaven Holiday Park in Ngongotaha, just outside Rotorua, a small city in the heart of the North Island's scenic area, easily accessible from Auckland, where most visitors enter the country. In recent years, attendance has averaged around 40. For information about housing, car rental and other particulars, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Kinnear Penman via email at penman@igrin.co.nz or by phone at 64-9-435-3592.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA:

For information about the Papua New Guinea site, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Bruce Tyler via email at btyler@pacific.net.au or by phone at 61-7-3299-5133.

VANUATU:

The Feast will be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu's capital city. There may be opportunities for limited numbers of visitors to attend this site. For details, please contact Mr. Kinnear Penman via email at penman@igrin.co.nz or by phone at 64-9-435-3592. Please note that most Church members in Vanuatu are French-speaking.

SOUTH AFRICA

For information on the Feast site in South Africa, please contact site coordinator Mr. Syd Hull by e-mail at tempest@global.co.za.

GUYANA

Services will be held at the Prairie International Hotel, 18 miles from the capital city, Georgetown, providing a peaceful atmosphere with a rustic view over the Demerara River. For further information, or to make travel arrangements, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Fitzroy Greeman by phone at 592-2-54059 or by e-mail at rgreeman@hotmail.com.

JAMAICA

Services will be held at Negril Cabins Resorts, which is located on the beach, nestled among lush vegetation. Whatever your housing preference, please book directly with the hotel, and advise the Jamaica congregation by e-mail at kingstonlivingcog@hotmail.com.

Negotiated rates at the Negril Cabins Resort are:
Single Occupancy - US\$120 per room per day, MAP
Double Occupancy - US\$150 per room per day, MAP

For further information about the Jamaica site, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Hugh Wilson by e-mail at ehd.wilson@cwjamaica.com.

KENYA

The Feast will be kept in Kenya at the Plaza Beach Hotel, with many Feastgoers staying at the Cowrie Shell Beach Apartments, six miles north of Mombasa on Bamburi Beach. For further information please contact the site coordinator Mr. Ernest Owino by e-mail at cogl@kenyaweb.com, by phone at 254-2-340-540, by fax at 254-2-217-033 or by mail at P. O. Box 35050, Nairobi, Kenya.

PENANG, MALAYSIA

This year the Feast of Tabernacles will be kept at the Copthorne Orchid Penang, with an excellent view of Tanjung Bungah in Penang, Malaysia. The hotel is situated on a private seafront, 20 minutes from Georgetown and 30 minutes from the Penang International Airport. To make your reservation, or for further information, please contact the site coordinator Mr. Rajan Moses by e-mail at: rajend@pc.jaring.my, by phone or fax at 603-9130-1187 or by postal mail at: M263 Perkuburan Cheras, Batu 4 Jalan Cheras, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

PHILIPPINES

For information about Feast sites in the Philippines, please contact Mr. Rod McNair by phone at (916) 625-1622 or by e-mail at rmcnair@cogl.org.

PORT D'ALBRET, FRANCE

Living Church of God brethren on the European continent will keep the Feast this year at the VVF Vacances Canterelle, Domaine de Pinsolle facility in Port d'Albret, France. Located between a majestic pine forest, a lake and an ocean, this exceptional site is in the vicinity of Spain and the Basque country. Between dunes and pines, bordering a lake just 840 yards from the Atlantic Ocean, this site is ideal for swimming, jogging, walking, biking and various sports, as well as for those who simply want to enjoy the site's natural beauty.

Visitors from the United States will be able to stay at this facility for \$60 per adult per day, including lodging, breakfast, lunch and dinner at the facility restaurant. Apartments range from two to four rooms, with kitchenettes, complete washrooms, telephones and television (rentals on the premises). All apartments are heated. Please note that transportation to and from the site is not included in the \$60 per day rate.

Those with Internet access may view the area online at www.tourismelandes.com and may learn more about Port d'Albret at www.ot-vieux-boucau.fr.

Reservations and arrangements must be made through Mr. Dibar Apartian. If you would like to attend this site, please contact him by phone at (858) 673-7470 or by e-mail at dapartian@cogl.org.

TOBAGO

Tobago is the smaller of the twin-island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, at the southern end of the Caribbean island chain. It has more rustic beauty and small-island charm compared to more urbanized Trinidad. Attractions include swimming at the many beaches and reefs, diving, fishing, hiking, golfing and indulging in the local cuisine.

Services will be held in the Courlander Room of the Grafton Beach Resort, which can accommodate up to 200 people. For more information about accommodations

and rates, contact the hotel at (868) 639-0191. To learn more about the site, contact Mr. Ramsumair Sookram by phone at (868) 645-6858 or by e-mail at sookram1@mailcity.com.

ARKLOW, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

The Feast of Tabernacles will be held at the Arklow Bay Hotel in the quaint seaside town of Arklow, in County Wicklow, about 40 miles south of Dublin. The pleasant hotel, spacious meeting room and health club are nestled next to a lagoon and look out over the Irish Sea. Meals and comfortable accommodations are available at the hotel, ranging from £50 per person for a room with breakfast to £60 per person for a room with breakfast and dinner. Singles should add £15 per night weekdays and £30 per night weekends to the above rates. Please note that the hotel requires a 25 percent down-payment.

Registered bed and breakfast accommodations (at £20–£30 per day per person) are also available near the hotel, and self-catering vacation rental homes and apartments (at £175–£300 per week) are available in the town of Arklow. For more information, contact Michelle Hogan of the Arklow Tourist Office between 6-11 am Eastern Time at 1-011-353-402-32484 (from the United States).

The scenic Wicklow Mountains are a short drive inland from Arklow. Numerous tourist attractions are nearby. The closest airport with rental cars is Dublin. Trains run between Dublin, Arklow and Rosslare.

For reservations, or for information about the Arklow Bay Hotel, phone 1-011-353-402-32309 (from the United States), or visit the hotel's Web site at: www.arklowbay.com. Early registration is recommended, as the Irish tourist season may make rooms difficult to obtain. For additional information, please contact the site coordinator Dr. Douglas Winnail by phone at (602) 375-2396 or by e-mail at dwinnail@cogl.org.

SPANISH-LANGUAGE SITES:

For information about Spanish-language Feast sites, please contact Mr. Mario Hernandez by telephone at (858) 674-2223 or by e-mail at mhernandez@cogl.org.

Lake Tahoe Ski Trip 2000

Approximately 65 singles, teens and chaperones from coast to coast attended the ski weekend held December 22–26, 2000, at South Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Lakeland Village Resort housed many of those attending; others stayed at overflow housing, at the home of Ron and Colleen Miller of Reno, about 20 minutes down the road.

On Friday evening, a little rushed but very excited to be together, the teens and singles listened to a Bible study by area pastor Mr. Rod McNair, contrasting true love and infatuation.

After breakfast and a few hours of good conversation Sabbath morning, services were held in the Genoa town hall. Dr. Jeff Fall, pastor of several Central and Southern California congregations, gave a sermon titled “The Big Lie.” He explained that Satan does not want us to understand that God’s way pays off, not, only in the future, but also in our lives now.

Following church services was a potluck, and following the Sabbath, a dance held in the same hall. During the dance, the small children were treated to a surprise visit by a friendly, life-size polar bear!

On Saturday and Sunday evenings, Pictionary, Taboo and Spoons were the games of choice. A few decided to join in a sing-along.

Sunday and Monday mornings came all too quickly. The routine was: breakfast at 7:00 a.m., load up by 8:00 and to the slopes by 9:00. Because of a lack of snow, not all the Heavenly Mountain runs were open, but fun was had by all.

Tuesday was full of camaraderie and fellowship when the group headed up to a different resort, Sierra at Tahoe, for a few hours of snow-tubing. Leftovers made for a good lunch that afternoon. Then it came time to say goodbye, and everyone headed home.

Everyone greatly appreciated all the planning work by Ben Nelson of the Reno congregation, and the work of the many others whose contributions made the weekend such a great experience.

—Amanda Evans

Senior Bible Study

Twenty-one seniors met at the home of Ralph and Patricia Scarborough in Blue Springs, Missouri, for a lunch and Bible Study on February 4. Chili, soup, cornbread and dessert were served., and Mr. Gerald Weston gave a two-part Bible Study. The first part explained when the Wavesheaf offering was to be offered during the Days of Unleavened Bread, and how this relates to counting Pentecost. The second part discussed the Last Great Day of the Feast. The combination of good food, an excellent Bible Study and fellowship made a great afternoon for all.

—Charles Coakley

In Loving Memory

Mrs. Pearlie Lewis died on February 6, after a long battle with cancer. Mrs. Lewis was born in Atoka County, Oklahoma, March 16, 1921. She had been a member of the Living Church of God since 1996 and attended services in Oklahoma City up until she was incapacitated by a stroke shortly before the Feast. She was a widow and is survived by children and grandchildren. Her positive spirit and persevering attitude will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Family Weekend At Shangri-La

“Where two or three are gathered together in My name...” how wonderful it is! Just such an experience occurred over the weekend of December 23, 2000. Members of the Tulsa, Oklahoma; Little Rock, Arkansas; Omaha, Nebraska; Kansas City, Wichita, Kansas; Rolla, Joplin, Columbia, Missouri; Dallas, Texas and Des Moines, Iowa, congregations traveled to Shangri-La Resort in Oklahoma, for a fabulous family weekend.

Friday night began with a Bible study by Mr. Karl Beyersdorfer, who showed from *“The Epic of Gilgamesh”* that the flood was real and is a testimony against our day. On Saturday morning Mr. Davy Crockett gave a Bible study on four principles that make life worthwhile, followed by two hours of fellowship, then Sabbath services. On Saturday evening there was a dinner and dance.

Sunday started with three Bible studies directed toward three different age groups. Then, that afternoon, came one of the weekend’s highlights: the “Mystery Game.” Mr. Gerald Weston, with the assistance of a few members of the Kansas City congregation, had devised a scavenger hunt and had hidden clues all over the resort, disguised as apples, walnuts, eggs, spiders, mummies, bobbers, bottles, ducks, flowers and even snowballs. The group was divided into 14 teams of seven or eight. Each team was given a map of the resort, with numbers identifying the clues’ locations. The object of the game was to solve a mathematical (or common sense) riddle which would lead the team to the next clue. The trick to the game was the various “bogus” numbers on the map. At

those places, no clue was to be found. The teams had until 5:00 p.m. to find 19 clues.

Shangri-La staff members said it was great fun watching the teams scouring the resort for clues. Although the weather was a bit cold outside, the thrill of searching kept everyone energetic. One group of enthusiastic teenagers even went so far as to climb a rock wall and turn over tiles on a floor, trying to find the clues.

The activity brought together people who had not known each other before. It made people work together patiently, providing a lesson in overcoming frustration. Most importantly, though, it was something worthwhile that God’s people could do together.

That evening, families had time to enjoy whatever activities they wanted. There was plenty to choose from, whether it was bowling, swimming, racquetball, tennis or even just fellowshiping. Then around 10:00 pm, everyone gathered to hear Mr. Weston announce the winners of the scavenger hunt. The weekend concluded with a Monday morning Bible study, as Mr. Beyersdorfer described how Ahab’s decision to marry a gentile woman corrupted five kings and two nations. Mr. Beyersdorfer challenged the unmarried to choose character and conversion rather than beauty.

With 187 people (at the highest count) present, all would agree that the weekend was an enormous hit. Comments showed just how successful the weekend was: “It was like a miniature Feast!” “We’ll nail that scavenger hunt next time around!” “I can’t wait till the next Church activity!”

—Rachel Moluf

Birth Announcements

Linda Lanell Crowson, “Lillie,” was born to Shawan and Carrie Crowson of Eastland, Texas, on October 10, 2000. She weighed eight pounds, one ounce and was 20.5 inches long at birth.

Jesse and Jeana Slaughter of Hebron, Kentucky, announce the February 19 birth of their daughter **Jacquelin Zell**. She weighed eight pounds, eight ounces and was 21.5 inches long.

News of the Work

Activity on the www.livingcog.org and www.tomorrowworld.org Web sites has expanded substantially in the last few months. Particularly since the 2000 Feast of Tabernacles, activity on the sites has increased dramatically, as new users continue to discover the sites and new features continue to be added for the benefit of Church members and regular visitors.

New Content on the Sites

The *Tomorrow's World* magazine has been available online since mid-1999, but many found its previous HTML format very cumbersome and slow to view. If you have not looked at *Tomorrow's World* online for a few months, we urge you to come back and take another look. Issues are now available in a new, faster-loading format that allows even those with slower modems to view whole articles in just a few seconds, in an easy-to-navigate plain text format. Of course, PDF files are still available for those who want to download the magazine while retaining the print version's formatting.

All the Church's published booklets are also available online, with the same choice of PDF download or easy-to-view online HTML formats.

If you have not listened to an online sermon in a while, we urge you to take another look—since January, new sermons are being added each week in video format. The older audio format remains available for those with slower Internet connections or who wish to download the audio for later listening.

The Commentary section of the Web sites has undergone a dramatic upgrade, and has begun to offer 15-minute long Bible Study programs, twice weekly, in video, audio and text formats. In February, the sites featured an eight-part, twice-weekly Bible Study series by Mr. John Ogwyn, in which he gave an overview of the books of Joshua and Judges. Each of the series' eight parts remains available in the sites' Commentary Library area. On March 1, the sites began featuring Dr. Meredith's 32-part series on the Gospel of Matthew. New segments are added each Monday and Thursday. Dr. Meredith's series will run through mid-June.

Since last January, the weekly sermon files on www.livingcog.org have been available in video format, as well as in audio.

Member Information Available

The www.livingcog.org site continues to offer member-specific information in a password-protected Member area, which contains Feast of Tabernacles information, Dr. Meredith's member and co-worker letters, and other Headquarters updates, as well as back issues of the Living Church News. To enter the area, click on the site's "Members" button, then type as your user name the word *member* (not your own name, just that word). Then, as the password, type *galatians220* (with no spaces, no capitalization and no punctuation).

The *Living Church News* is uploaded to the Member area as soon as it is mailed to Church members, so if you live in an area with slow mail service, or simply need to see an issue before it would otherwise reach you, the Member area may be an especially helpful resource.



Growth Continues

In September 2000, we reported that visitors from 95 countries had visited the Church Web sites. Since then, the sites have recorded activity from 24 more countries, bringing the total reached to 119 as of March 1.

Since their inception in January 1999, the English-language www.livingcog.org and www.tomorrowworld.org sites have recorded in excess of seven million "hits," more than 980,000 page views and more than 575,000 visitor sessions. Of the more than 105,000 unique visitors recorded at the sites, more than 21,000 are repeat visitors.

The Church Web sites have been online for a little more than two years, but by some measures nearly half of the sites' activity has been recorded in just the last six months! As of March 1, visitors have downloaded more than 600 gigabytes of material (up from 300 as of last August), mostly in the form of RealPlayer files. More than 90 sermons are available on the www.livingcog.org site, along with more than 80 *Tomorrow's World* telecasts and more than three dozen Commentary programs.

As the year continues, we look forward to expanding the foreign-language content of the Church Web sites, adding more youth-oriented material, and continuing to expand the quality and quantity of material offered to Internet users. Please keep the Church Web efforts in your prayers.

— William Bowmer

Commentary

Sun Worship or True Worship?

By Carl McNair

The prophet Jeremiah wrote approximately 2,700 years ago: “Thus saith the LORD, learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them” (Jeremiah 10:2, KJV).

Each spring, we hear a great deal about Jesus’ resurrection at Easter time. Most religious leaders know that the word Easter is derived from the name of an ancient pagan goddess (Ishtar), and some even know that the custom of Easter observance is totally un-Christian! Yet, most excuse observing Easter as a Christian worship service. They teach that it was “Christianized” by its association with Jesus’ resurrection.

How is it acceptable to worship Christ through pagan customs? How can we take symbols of fertility—which all the world recognizes as such—and hold them up as symbols of Christ? Does Christ accept Christians worshipping Him as the heathen’s chief god?

One well-known encyclopedia states: “Easter, a Christian festival, embodies many pre-Christian traditions. The origin of its name is unknown. Scholars, however, accepting the derivation proposed by the 8th century scholar St. Bede, believe it probably comes from *Castre*, the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility to whom was dedicated a month corresponding to our April. Her festival was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox; traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in colored Easter eggs, originally painted with bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring, and used in Easter egg rolling contests or given as gifts” (“Pre-Christian Traditions,” cited in *Microsoft Encarta ‘99*).

Yes, Easter was about sunlight worship! Sun worship is religious devotion paid to the sun either as a deity or as the symbol of a deity. In the Americas, sun worship was practiced by the Iroquois, Plains and Tsimshian peoples of North America, and reached a high state of development among the native Americans of Mexico and Peru. Sun worship persisted in Europe even after the introduction of Christianity, as is shown by its disguised survival in such traditional Christian practices as the Easter bonfire and the Yule log on Christmas.

Most scholars accept that Easter embodies a number of “converging traditions,” now associated with the Jewish festival of Passover, or Pesach. In Acts 12:4, the *King James Version* even mistranslates *pesach* (Greek for “Passover”) as “Easter.”

Apostolic Christians celebrated the Passover. Gentiles, who became predominant among professing Christians, clung to their pagan Easter celebration and tied it to a calendar of their own devising. At present, Eastern Orthodox and Western Christians dispute the date of Easter. And to this day, *neither* has it right. Truly, “the way of the heathen” has not been easy, or pleasing to God!

This commentary can be found on the Church Web page, www.livingcog.org, in the Commentary Library, along with many other commentaries on key topics facing our world.

Local Church Listings

This semi-annual insert contains local church listings of the Living Church of God. It lists the area pastor responsible for each video group and one contact person. In cases where the area pastor is the contact person, you will see only one name. These men should have the most current information about local services within their respective areas. Members may also call San Diego headquarters (858-673-7470) for church information, or send e-mail to cad@cogl.org. Churches are designated with an (*).

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Sussex NB James Arnaldo 508-393-6209
Springdale NF Frank Best 905-845-7922
St. John's NF Frank Best 905-845-7922
Halifax NS James Arnaldo 508-393-6209
Bracebridge ON Frank Best 905-845-7922
Herman Kschesinski 705-769-2362
Ft. Francis ON Eng Monson 306-545-5250
Guelph* ON Frank Best 905-845-7922
Kingston ON Frank Best 905-845-7922
Ottawa* ON Frank Best 905-845-7922
Peterborough ON Frank Best 905-845-7922
Toronto* ON Charles Bryce 905-276-9729
Frank Best 905-845-7922
Montreal* QC Jacques Secours 450-623-5002
Quebec City QC Jacques Secours 450-623-5002
Prince Albert SK Eng Monson 306-545-5250
Bruce Bird 306-873-4864
Regina SK Eng Monson 306-545-5250
Saskatoon SK Eng Monson 306-545-5250
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Cavite* Gorgonio De Guia 011-63-2-813-6538
Davao City* Felipe Casing 011-63-82-297-0200
Don Carlos-Bukidnon Encardio Benitez 011-63-63-382-2602
Iligan City-Lanao Del Norte Eustiquio Benitez 011-63-63-382-2602
Koronadal Proper Felipe Casing 011-63-82-297-0200
Maranding Eustiquio Benitez 011-63-63-382-2602
Mauswagon Encardio Benitez 011-63-63-382-2602
Monkayo Felipe Casing 011-63-82-297-0200
Nabunturan* Felipe Casing 011-63-82-297-0200
Quezon City* Gorgonio De Guia 011-63-2-813-6538
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Los Angeles* CA Jeffrey Fall 626-914-1474
Hadden Pace 626-447-4476
Orange County* CA Dibar Apartian 858-673-7470
Rodger Bardo 949-489-2019
Palm Springs CA Gary Ehman 760-749-1430
David Spurgeon 760-345-3694
Redding CA Roderick McNair 916-625-1622
Don Haney 541-855-9872
Sacramento* CA Roderick McNair 916-625-1622
San Diego* CA Roderick Meredith 858-673-7470
Richard Ames 858-673-7470
Sonora CA Roderick McNair 916-625-1622
Denver* CO Glen Gilchrist 505-892-3264
Phillip Sena 303-227-1304
Franktown CO Glen Gilchrist 505-892-3264

Hartford*	CT	Robert Stahl	303-688-1562	Bangor	ME	Barry Frank	410-632-3257
		Paul Shumway	610-391-0753			Paul Shumway	610-391-0753
		James Arnaldo	508-393-6209	Kalamazoo	MI	James Arnaldo	508-393-6209
Washington*	DC	Ken Frank	540-786-8015			Lambert Greer	502-228-5917
Ft. Lauderdale*	FL	Benjamin Faulkner	813-684-1423			Jason Fritts	616-323-9016
		Dexter Wakefield	561-627-2471	Lansing*	MI	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917
Jacksonville*	FL	Randall Kobernat	850-894-9909	Marquette	MI	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
		Randall Waldschmidt	904-287-0502			John Blanchard	906-586-6834
Live Oak	FL	Randall Kobernat	850-894-9909	Saulte St. Marie*	MI	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
		John Finney	904-776-1741			John Blanchard	906-586-6834
Ocala*	FL	Benjamin Faulkner	813-684-1423	Minneapolis*	MN	David Burson	612-790-0582
Pensacola*	FL	Daniel Hall	334-626-0585			Garry Schaeffer	763-473-5847
		Lucretia Smith	850-438-0785	Columbia*	MO	Gerald Weston	816-228-2035
Tallahassee*	FL	Randall Kobernat	850-894-9909			William Oswald	573-657-4637
		Joseph Brown	912-465-3480	Joplin*	MO	Karl Beyersdorfer	417-623-8888
Tampa*	FL	Benjamin Faulkner	813-684-1423			Gene Hilgenberg	417-451-1663
		Ron Peterson	863-858-4090	Kansas City*	MO	Gerald Weston	816-228-2035
Atlanta*	GA	Rand Millich	706-227-9148			James Wells	816-358-9606
		Jack Lowe	770-474-8101	Rolla*	MO	Gerald Weston	816-228-2035
Blairsville*	GA	Martin Fannin	865-675-2304			Rod Reynolds	660-827-1320
Douglas	GA	Randall Kobernat	850-894-9909	Springfield	MO	Karl Beyersdorfer	417-623-8888
		Mikael McCarty	912-383-0471	St. Joseph*	MO	Gerald Weston	816-228-2035
Macon	GA	Randall Kobernat	850-894-9909			John Turner	816-387-9213
		Gaspar Bordonaro	912-923-5634	St. Louis*	MO	Gerald Weston	816-228-2035
Pearl City*	HI	Douglas Winnail	602-375-2396			William Graham	636-926-8739
		Harold Way	808-455-2761	Amory	MS	Daniel Hall	334-626-0585
Des Moines*	IA	Gerald Weston	816-228-2035			Evo Walker	662-773-6137
		Glenn Blackman	515-288-9839	Greenwood	MS	Daniel Hall	334-626-0585
Dubuque	IA	David Burson	612-790-0582			Jim Burson	601-262-7233
		Raymond Waller	319-582-4025	Jackson	MS	Daniel Hall	334-626-0585
Pocatello	ID	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931			Frank Popielski	601-664-6824
		Mark Mendiola	208-238-0403	Laurel*	MS	Daniel Hall	334-626-0585
Chicago*	IL	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057			Darrell Lovelady	601-264-5600
Metropolis	IL	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057	Ocean Springs*	MS	Daniel Hall	334-626-0585
		Jay Jackson	618-524-8744			Steven Climer	228-872-8309
Peoria*	IL	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057	Bozeman	MT	Carl McNair	858-673-7470
		Irvin Woelfle	309-698-1238			Gordon Byerly	406-585-9118
Fort Wayne	IN	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917	Great Falls*	MT	Carl McNair	858-673-7470
		Randall Ricker	219-665-1374			Arnold Lalum	406-265-4072
Indianapolis*	IN	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917	Hamilton	MT	Carl McNair	858-673-7470
		George Dellinger	317-844-7099			Vergil Hudson	406-961-3599
Plymouth	IN	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917	Helena*	MT	Carl McNair	858-673-7470
		Mark Elder	219-462-0951			Dana Glatz	406-442-0136
Terre Haute	IN	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917	Kalispell	MT	Carl McNair	858-673-7470
		Virgil Thompson	765-672-6336	Asheville*	NC	Martin Fannin	865-675-2304
Coffeyville	KS	Karl Beyersdorfer	417-623-8888	Assheboro*	NC	Ken Frank	540-786-8015
		Richard Tripp	316-431-9604			George Webb	336-993-5714
Wichita	KS	Gerald Weston	816-228-2035	Charlotte	NC	Rand Millich	706-227-9148
		Larry Moluf	316-399-8788			John Dubry	828-874-5164
Berea	KY	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917	Raleigh*	NC	Ken Frank	540-786-8015
		Leonard Witt	606-965-3773			William Dobbin	919-832-7296
Louisville*	KY	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917	Bismarck	ND	David Burson	612-790-0582
Alexandria*	LA	Jonathan McNair	225-654-6797			Fred Ternes	701-250-0528
		Curtis Lambright	318-386-2748	Omaha*	NE	Gerald Weston	816-228-2035
Baton Rouge*	LA	Jonathan McNair	225-654-6797			Brian Pomicter	402-292-9776
		Ray Joffrion	225-749-3547	Hammonton*	NJ	Paul Shumway	610-391-0753
Lafayette*	LA	Jonathan McNair	225-654-6797			Dennis Chornomaz	609-653-0425
		Harold Forrestier	318-365-8964	Morristown*	NJ	Paul Shumway	610-391-0753
Monroe*	LA	Jonathan McNair	225-654-6797			Carl Klink	973-379-2640
		Donald Wood	870-863-8512	Albuquerque*	NM	Glen Gilchrist	505-892-3264
New Orleans	LA	Jonathan McNair	225-654-6797			Cecil Roach	505-891-9618
		Jack Opel	501-633-4681	Roswell	NM	Glen Gilchrist	505-892-3264
Shreveport	LA	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117	Battle Mountain	NV	Roderick McNair	916-625-1622
		John Harbison	903-796-0790	Reno*	NV	Roderick McNair	916-625-1622
Boston*	MA	Paul Shumway	610-391-0753			Sydney Nelson	775-883-5267
		James Arnaldo	508-393-6209	Brooklyn	NY	Paul Shumway	610-391-0753
Salisbury*	MD	Ken Frank	540-786-8015			Roger Allgeyer	516-271-8785

Buffalo	NY	Paul Shumway	610-391-0753			Daniel Friz	409-829-3870
Corning*	NY	Paul Shumway	610-391-0753	Midland	TX	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117
		Shawn Mcmillin	570-546-4934			Ethel Baze	915-520-6075
Long Island*	NY	Paul Shumway	610-391-0753	San Antonio	TX	Keith Walden	512-244-5478
		Roger Allgeyer	516-271-8785			Larry Solomon	210-521-5735
Rochester	NY	Paul Shumway	610-391-0753	Temple	TX	Keith Walden	512-244-5478
Akron*	OH	Val Burgett	540-726-8020			Robert Henry	254-542-4999
		Walter Warrington	330-325-7700	Salt Lake City	UT	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
Cambridge	OH	Val Burgett	540-726-8020			Ted Bukowski	801-543-2240
Cincinnati*	OH	Lambert Greer	502-228-5917	Gladespring*	VA	Val Burgett	540-726-8020
		Ronald Duncan	812-637-0833			Charles Lauderback	423-283-0394
Columbus*	OH	Charles Knowlton	614-866-2018	Williamsburg*	VA	Ken Frank	540-786-8015
Oklahoma City*	OK	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117	Winchester*	VA	Ken Frank	540-786-8015
		Ray Reynolds	405-672-6965			Gerald Dulaney	540-662-3696
Tulsa*	OK	Karl Beyersdorfer	417-623-8888	Richland	WA	Don Haney	541-855-9872
		Sheldon Monson	918-745-9018			Roger Maddison	509-943-8503
Eugene	OR	Don Haney	541-855-9872	Seattle/Tacoma*	WA	Don Haney	541-855-9872
Medford*	OR	Don Haney	541-855-9872			Terry Graves	253-474-5807
		Fred Wittlake	541-855-6950	Spokane	WA	Don Haney	541-855-9872
Nyssa	OR	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931			Dean Greer	509-466-0908
		Byron Hartman	541-373-2210	Tonasket*	WA	Eldon Davis	509-486-4240
Portland*	OR	Don Haney	541-855-9872	Appleton*	WI	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
		Gary Ullerick	253-922-6917			Robert Galle	920-729-1048
Anderson*	SC	Rand Millich	706-227-9148	Merrill*	WI	David Burson	612-790-0582
		Ronald Poole	864-968-9112			Jerry Stevens	715-536-7912
Rock Hill	SC	Rand Millich	706-227-9148	Milwaukee*	WI	Randy Gregory	847-249-1057
		Eleonore Wise	803-327-7870	Wisconsin Dells*	WI	David Burson	612-790-0582
Walterboro*	SC	Randall Kobernat	850-894-9909	Bluefield*	WV	Val Burgett	540-726-8020
		Lehman Lyons	843-549-2985	Craigsville	WV	Val Burgett	540-726-8020
Rapid City	SD	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931	Logan*	WV	Val Burgett	540-726-8020
		Don Hilmer	605-754-6731	Ripley*	WV	Val Burgett	540-726-8020
Chattanooga*	TN	Bob League	615-641-3778			Edward Lee	304-372-3047
Crossville*	TN	Bob League	615-641-3778	Buffalo	WY	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
Knoxville*	TN	Martin Fannin	865-675-2304			James Dunlap	307-684-2824
		John Shelton	865-523-2159	Casper	WY	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
Nashville*	TN	Bob League	615-641-3778			Jim Hamby	307-235-3920
Abilene	TX	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117	Cheyenne	WY	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
		Jimmy Hale	915-735-3501			Ray Fertig	307-638-7575
Amarillo	TX	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117	Hulett	WY	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
		David Bolin	806-622-3910			Tim Moore	307-878-4459
Austin*	TX	Keith Walden	512-244-5478	Kemmerer	WY	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
Corpus Christi*	TX	Keith Walden	512-244-5478			James Adrianos	307-877-9580
		Bob Parker	361-387-9192	Laramie*	WY	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
Dallas*	TX	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117			Scott Winnail	307-742-7165
		Charles Haughee	903-880-6608	Rawlins*	WY	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
El Paso	TX	Glen Gilchrist	505-892-3264	Saratoga	WY	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
Gladewater*	TX	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117	Wheatland*	WY	Ben Whitfield	307-324-7931
		Marvin Harmdierks	903-636-4642			Terry Brant	307-322-3234
Houston*	TX	Keith Walden	512-244-5478				
		Ronald McGowen	281-331-8930	VANUATU			
Houston (Prison Farm)	TX	Keith Walden	512-244-5478	Efate		Kinnear Penman	011-64-9-435-2558
		James Crockett	501-868-8760	Malekula		Kinnear Penman	011-64-9-435-2558
Lufkin*	TX	John Ogwyn	903-986-8117	Tanna		Kinnear Penman	011-64-9-435-2558