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## Focus on “Apostolic Christianity”

Dear Brethren and Friends,

As the end of this age approaches, we in God’s Church should “sharpen our focus.” As the Living Church of God, and the *Work* of this Church become more influential and more recognized, it is vital that we speak clearly to the world *why* we are “different” from mainstream Christianity—and why and how we *must be different* in order to genuinely be the Church of God.

Many times I have noted that self-appointed critics of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong would usually accuse him of being a “syncretist.” A syncretist is one who blends or merges together different ideas, often from differing sources. As many of you know, Mr. Armstrong was often accused of getting the Sabbath idea from the Seventh Day Adventists, the understanding about Christmas and Easter being pagan from the Jehovah’s Witnesses and the concept of becoming God from the Mormons. As one who knew Mr. Armstrong extremely well for more than 35 years, I can wholeheartedly tell you that those charges are *absolutely false!*

Mr. Armstrong learned about the Sabbath from the Seventh-Day Church of God. This is thoroughly documented in his *Autobiography*, and I also personally talked to some of the earliest members of the Church, who also attested to this fact. The understanding about the world’s pagan holidays was also in their literature, although not universally understood and practiced by their membership. Mr. Armstrong had virtually *no contact* with the Mormons. I was privileged to be in the Graduate School of Theology when Mr. Armstrong began to explore—hesitantly at first—the possibility that God was reproducing Himself through humankind. He came at this subject in a *totally different way* than the Mormons do. His conclusions, and how they apply to us, are quite distinct from the Mormon ideas on the subject.

But the “key” issue here is: *why* are we “different” from mainstream religion? Is there a logical and coherent *biblical structure* to our entire theology?

The answer, of course, is surprisingly simple—and is easily “provable” for those with open hearts and minds. For it is not the Church of God that has “put together” different ideas and philosophies to make up fundamen-



# Do You Love the Jewish People?

## Editorial

By Roderick C. Meredith

**D**o you, personally, love the Jewish people? Or do you have any feeling of “distance” between you and them? Where does the Living Church of God stand on this matter? What would *God* have us feel and have us do?

Most of us have probably noticed, from time to time, brief articles or comments in the news about a Jewish school or synagogue being attacked or smeared with blood or otherwise vandalized. This is happening in Europe as well as in the United States. In fact, it is rather well known that an anti-Semitic movement is gathering strength in Europe, just as it did before World War II and the Holocaust. Many Jews in Germany and elsewhere are becoming somewhat apprehensive at the growth of anti-Semitism.

There was a definite anti-Jewish feeling in the early development of the Roman Catholic Church. The liberal bishops and leaders of that movement wanted to throw off the yoke of “Judaism”—and often went to the opposite extreme. The Roman Emperor, Constantine—who actually took charge of the Nicene Council and other religious occasions, even though he himself had an extensive pagan background—put in his Nicene conciliar letter (325AD) an admonition to “have nothing in common with the detestable Jewish crowd... and to avoid all participation of the perjured conduct of the Jews.” This anti-Jewish bias laid the foundation for arguments that began to be developed against God’s Sabbath, and

against the need to keep God’s Ten Commandments. It is well known that Martin Luther, as well as other early Protestant leaders, had a definite bias against the Jews, and made no bones about it! And, of course, this bias affected Luther’s doctrinal approach, which was antinomian—or “against law.” For it was Luther, practically the “founding father” of the Protestant movement, who in 1543 accused the Jewish leaders of “holding the poor Jews captive with the sayings of Moses,” and who advised “that

brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled” (Acts 3:17–18).

The ultimate answer is that *every one of us* has sinned and come short of God’s standard. As the Apostle Paul was inspired to write: “There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God” (Romans 3:10–11). The Messiah came to save

**Some religious and political leaders have tried to justify their bias with the excuse of the Jews being responsible for Jesus’ crucifixion. Of course, the Romans were actually the ones who crucified Jesus.**

their synagogues be burned down” (“The Jews and Their Lies,” cited in *Luther’s Works, Vol. 47, The Christian in Society IV*, pp. 268–293).

Some religious and political leaders have tried to justify their bias with the excuse of the Jews being responsible for Jesus’ crucifixion. Of course, the *Romans* were actually the ones who crucified Jesus. Pilate’s act of washing his hands did **not** get him off the hook! But the real point is that God Himself has “blinded” *all* of humanity—including the Jews (Revelation 12:9). God specifically prophesied Jesus’ death thousands of years before it occurred, so the Jews were simply carrying out God’s plan when they had their part in crucifying the Messiah. As the Apostle Peter stated to *his own people*, the Jews, regarding this matter: “Yet now,

human beings of all ethnic backgrounds. For the Apostle Paul wrote: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

When you *really* understand, you will realize that it is *Satan* the Devil who stirs up so many people against the Jews. For Satan *hates* the many good things the Jewish people have accomplished and will yet accomplish! The Jewish nation produced Jesus Christ—the Son of God—who will soon *replace* Satan, the god over this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). And Jesus was absolutely a *Jew* according to your Bible (Hebrews 7:14). King

**Do You Love the Jewish People?**

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# How to Live by Faith

By John H. Ogwyn

**T**he Bible has a great deal to say about the importance of living by faith. We are told that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Abraham is held up as an example to Christians of one who actively walked with God and lived by faith. How do you actually *live* by faith in your daily life? This is a vital topic that every Christian needs to understand.

In our day-to-day lives, we encounter many ups and downs. Sometimes we may face a specific trial with health, or with job or financial problems. Other times we are simply dealing with ongoing stresses of life. At one time or another, we have had people who have seemingly “had it in” for us or for our family. Over and over, we find ourselves in circumstances where it is not within our power to control the outcome. How should we respond to such situations? What does God want us to do?

Have you ever wondered why Scripture places so much importance on faith? The answer lies in understanding what God is actually doing. He is building a *family*! Healthy families have close relationships. At the heart and core of any healthy relationship is *trust*. The Family of God will be able to dwell together in peace and harmony for eternity, because every member of the family *completely trusts the Father*! If we trust Him, we will obey Him and follow His ways. As we learn to trust God, we develop a relationship with Him. Abraham developed a close relationship with God, based upon learning to trust Him *totally*. Because he trusted God, Abraham walked with Him in his daily life—and came to be called the *friend* of God.

As we face the pressures and difficulties of life, how do we actually live by faith in our daily circumstances? Is there a place you can go in the Bible that lays out a step-by-step process of how to live and walk by faith each day? The answer is contained in a Psalm written by a man after God’s own heart: King David. In preparation for his destiny as King of Israel, David went through many tests and trials that taught him how to develop a deep, personal relationship with God, and to walk with Him in all of life’s circumstances. During most of the decade of his twenties, he was on the run from King Saul, simply trying to avoid being killed. While we can read over the account of those years in a few chapters of 1 Samuel, we must never forget that David lived them one day at a time. He did not know the time frame of his trial, any more than we generally know the time frames of ours. In Psalm 37, we read not simply a list of platitudes; we read what David actually learned, through practical experience, about how to walk with God in life’s most trying and frustrating circum-

stances. As we look at this Psalm, we will see that seven steps to walking by faith are clearly outlined.

## **Step #1—Do Not Worry About What Others Are Doing**

“Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity, for they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb” (vv. 1–2) was the first step that David recorded in Psalm 37. To fret is to become agitated, angry or disturbed. How many times have we let ourselves become agitated and upset because of what someone else seemed to be getting away with? Sometimes we may have even looked with a little bit of envy at those who were not trying to obey God, yet appeared to be prospering. The message of faith is that God sees what is going on, and that the prosperity of the wicked is just about as permanent as the grass! When we get our minds on the behavior of others, and trying to “fix” or control them, then our minds are off of the only behavior we can *really* do something about—*our own*!

During the final decade of his kingship over Israel, King Saul became absolutely obsessed with David. He reached the point that he could not even function as king because all of his mental and emotional energy seemed wrapped up in David. He was consumed with agitation and worry. He certainly was not trusting God to take care of him, but rather was trying to kill an innocent man in an effort to establish his own dynasty. When we put our focus so heavily on what others have done, are doing or might do, then we are unable to focus on what we ourselves need to be doing.

An important aspect of walking by faith lies in trusting God to fight our battles for us. He can fight our battles much more effectively than we can. When King Sennacherib of Assyria wrote to Hezekiah, making threats of destruction and captivity for Judah, King Hezekiah went to God and actually spread the letter out before Him. He was in a desperate situation but, instead of becoming consumed with worry and anxiety, he turned to God and put the whole matter in His hands. In the midst of our trials, putting our focus on God’s power rather than on the behavior and threats of others is the first step to walking by faith.

## **Step #2—Put Your Confidence in God**

David went on to write in Psalm 37:3: “Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.” To trust is to have confidence. When we turn our



minds away from focusing on the people and situations over which we have no control, we can then focus on God and on His power. We can have absolute confidence in both God's ability and His motives! God told Joshua, after the death of Moses, that He would neither fail him nor forsake him (Joshua 1:5). In other words, God was both *able* and *willing* to meet the needs of His people. He still is!

In the well-known 23rd Psalm, David wrote: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me: Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" (v. 4). Through a life filled with danger and threats of danger, David learned to trust God and have confidence in His providence. In part, he was able to do this because he understood the role of a shepherd very clearly. After all, he had been a shepherd during his adolescent years. The shepherd's rod that he mentioned was used to fight off animals that were endangering the sheep, and the staff was used to guide the sheep—or perhaps to pull a sheep out of a dangerous situation. The point is that a good shepherd was prepared to protect his sheep and was always alert to their needs. On more than one occasion, young David had risked his own life to protect the sheep under his charge (cf. 1 Samuel 17:34–35). Sheep under the care of such a shepherd learned to trust him for all of their needs.

Having such trust toward Jesus Christ, the true Good Shepherd, frees us to do the positive things that we need to do in life. Instead of being consumed with trying to protect the self, we can instead concentrate on doing what is right and good. Trusting God is a vital key that helps us to take our minds off of ourselves and to be *truly* about our Father's business. When David wrote that the Eternal was his shepherd, those words conveyed a deep wealth of meaning to him. He knew the role of the shepherd as protector, provider and comforter, and had absolute confidence in God's fulfillment of that role.

### **Step #3—Delight Yourself in the Lord**

"Delight yourself also in the LORD," David wrote, "and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). Years ago, when my children were growing up, I took my family every summer on a 3,600-mile round trip to visit my wife's family in Saskatchewan. To relieve the tedium of a long car trip for two active little boys, my wife came up with the idea of wrapping little presents, for the boys to have as surprises along the way. Twice a day we would give them each a brightly wrapped package that they quickly proceeded to tear open. Have you ever seen a little child tear the wrapping off a present in order to discover its contents? If so, you probably have a mental picture of unabashed delight and pleasure.

What is it that really gets us excited in life? Did you know that God has many treasures in store for you, wrapped up in His Word and just waiting to be discovered? The ancient prophet Isaiah was inspired of God to record a vital point relating to this subject. In Isaiah 58:13–14, we are exhorted to turn away from trampling

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on God's Sabbath and are told not to pursue our own mundane interests on His holy time. Rather, we are told to "honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words." What is the alternative to pursuing secular delights? Does God want us to just sit around gloomy and morose on every Sabbath? Of course not! Notice what is the wonderful alternative to pursuing our own human interests. "Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father."

God wants us to put our focus on Him, and on the things that are connected with Him and His great plan. Each Sabbath should be approached as a time to unwrap another of God's presents for us. It might be a lesson that leaps out at us from the pages of Scripture, or it might be some point of understanding that we discover from an article, a booklet or a sermon. Sometimes it is the rich gift of fellowship with other believers who are also seeking God's Kingdom. The point is for us to make God, and the things of God, the source of our delight. While this should not be limited to only once a week, it can be pursued more fully on the Sabbath than on any other day, because this is the day on which God forbids us from pursuing our secular labors and interests. Delighting ourselves in the things of God on a regular basis is a vital key to being able to live by faith.

### **Step #4—Turn Your Concerns Over to God**

Psalm 37:5 reminds us: "Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." So often, it is hard for us to turn loose and simply put a mat-

ter in God's hands. We *intend* to turn it over to Him, and may even do so for a few moments, but then we proceed to reclaim it quickly as our own. We struggle under such a heavy load, because we keep trying to carry that load ourselves. It is often very hard to put into practice the Apostle Peter's admonition that each of us should be "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

King Jehoshaphat of Judah faced an overwhelming situation, and it frightened him. He was threatened with the invasion of enemy armies that were poised to destroy his nation. What was his response? It was one that would certainly never even occur to most modern leaders. In fact, most people today would consider his response downright irresponsible! Instead of pursuing a military solution, or attempting to hire foreign allies, he

### Step #5—Rest in the LORD

Have you ever had cause to notice that God does not operate on the time schedule that you have drawn up? This is where a fifth step becomes crucial. Psalm 37:7 reminds us: "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him." After we have turned something over to God, an important lesson of faith is to *relax* in faith and wait for God to do what He says He will do. The alternative is to be nervous and agitated, figuratively "pacing the floor" until God comes through.

In his *Autobiography*, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote of the founding of Ambassador College and described the severe trials of those early years. Surrounded by people who kept talking of "when this thing folds up" and facing incredible financial pressures

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proclaimed a fast and gathered the people of Judah together. He led the nation in heartfelt prayer to the Great God, concluding with these words: "For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, **but our eyes are upon you**" (2 Chronicles 20:12). Clearly aware of his own powerlessness, Jehoshaphat made the decision to completely trust God, and to commit the entire situation into His hands. What was the result? God told him to make ready the Temple choir and orchestra, and to watch the results. The next day, Jehoshaphat went out to meet the enemy troops with the Levitical choir in the forefront, singing praises to God! When they arrived at the battlefield, it was only to find that the enemy forces of the Moabites, Ammonites and Edomites had all turned on one another—and completely destroyed each other's armies! The king and those with him returned to Jerusalem with joy, entering into the Temple to celebrate God's deliverance. As a consequence, the other nations, upon seeing that God was fighting His people's battles, left Judah alone and the land had rest (vv. 27–30). You and I will never fully turn something over to God unless we recognize our inability to fight our own battles and to meet our own needs. We must always remember: God can carry our loads and fight our battles with far more success than we can.

that were beyond his ability to meet, Mr. Armstrong found himself feeling overwhelmed. There was a time, he admitted, when he actually prayed God to let him die during the night rather than to awaken to these overwhelming pressures and problems the next morning. The next day, he had to repent deeply of having given way to despondency. Finally, in 1949, circumstances began to ease up a little. Mr. Armstrong wrote that it was "during that respite I finally learned how to RELAX in faith, and shift the weighty BURDEN of it over onto Christ" (Vol. 2, pp. 228–229).

The Apostle James wrote that the trying of our faith works patience (James 1:3). God has reasons for letting us learn to wait on His own perfect timing. When you and I can come to the point of being able to truly accept God's will, in place of our self will, then we can finally rest and relax in faith, patiently waiting on God.

### Step #6—Cease from Anger

Sometimes the attitude and behavior of others really begins to get to us. But David wrote in Psalm 37:8: "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath." We cannot walk by faith while we are trying to avenge the self and get even with

**How to Live by Faith**

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# Ministerial Conference 2002:

## “This Is Only the Beginning...”

Describing the setting and fellowship as “millennial,” ministers and wives from five continents gathered from February 4–6 for the Living Church of God Ministerial Conference 2002, followed by a one-day International Conference on February 7.

Held at the Quails Inn Hotel in San Marcos, California, 20 minutes north of Church Headquarters, the conference brought together under one roof more than 170 ministers and wives not only from North America, but also from such countries as Guyana, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, Republic of South Africa, the Philippines, Malaysia and Ireland,

Meetings actually began on the previous Friday, February 1, when the Council of Elders gathered at the Headquarters office. Dr. Roderick C. Meredith opened a one-day Council of Elders meeting by expressing appreciation for the growth in God’s Work. He noted that the *Tomorrow’s World* television program began on WGN and Canada’s Vision network on January 31, 1999, just three years and one day prior to the meeting, and that growth had continued since then, with three new Louisiana stations added to our television log just that week.

In the morning session, Dr. Meredith discussed the Church’s seven-fold mission (as outlined in his article in the May-June 2001 *Living*

*Church News*). He emphasized that Apostolic Christianity is a whole way of life, that we must continue to build an atmosphere of faith—and that Christ has to do this through us. He then led an active discussion on the dynamics of restoring Apostolic Christianity.

Another topic concerned the differences between Church of God fellowships. Many

brethren in the various groups see no differences. This laid the foundation for a Ministerial Conference session the following week, discussing the distinctive characteristics of the Living Church of God. Dr. Meredith

concluded the meeting by expressing appreciation for what he described as the “love and harmony” among the Council of Elders.

In conjunction with the Council meeting and Ministerial Conference, the San Diego congregation had the privilege of hearing sermons from visiting ministers. On the Sabbath of March 2, Mr. Charles Bryce gave a sermon on “Walking with God” and, on the Sabbath of March 9, Mr. Syd Hull gave a sermon titled “Conquer Every Obstacle.”

Visiting ministers also gave sermons; Mr. Fitzroy Greeman gave a report on Guyana and spoke on “Persistence in Prayer” and Mr. Michael Gill from Australia spoke on “The Joys of Our Heart.” The international ministers and wives, as well as the many visiting local elders and wives, contributed to the atmosphere of excitement, mission and fellowship on the Sabbath and throughout the conference week.

Dr. Meredith opened the Ministerial Conference on Monday, February 4, with his keynote address: “Restoration of Apostolic Christianity.” He emphasized three characteristics that distinguish the Living Church of God:

1. Preaching the full truth—upholding the foundation taught by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, and as Christ commanded His disciples

before His ascension (Matthew 28)

2. Continuing the Work as God provides the means (Ephesians 4:11)

3. Teaching and practicing the Government of God.

Dr. Meredith also discussed divine healing, proper dealings with other Church of God groups and completing the mission Christ has given us.

Mr. Carl McNair led a session in which International ministers gave updates about the Work in their regions. Canada is one of the fastest-



Dr. Jeff Fall, Mr. Gerald Weston, Mr. Charles Bryce and Mr. John Ogwyn participate in the Council of Elders meeting.



Ministers and wives meet at the Quails Inn Conference Center, San Marcos, CA.



Dr. Meredith and Mr. Carl McNair lead a conference session.

growing areas. Mr. Gerald Weston reported that for the past three months, Canada has been receiving an average of one visit request per day. Dr. Douglas Winnail reported that one print ad in the U.K., offering a free subscription to *Tomorrow's World* magazine, produced 3,000 responses. Mr. Syd Hull reported that South Africa's currency—the rand—has dropped 60 percent in value, significantly increasing the Work's cost in that region. He commended the ministry and the brethren for their faithfulness and many acts of service, including translating the Church's literature into the Afrikaans language. Mr. Rod McNair reported that the Philippines income has increased by 29 percent, and attendance has increased by 6 percent. These international reports demonstrated that the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, is actively working to expand the gospel in many areas around the world.

Tuesday's sessions began with a discussion, led by Dr. Meredith, on "The Government of God." He emphasized that the government of God and the Kingdom of God are infused with God's love. The biblical form of Church government is hierarchal, just as Christ's government will be in the future Kingdom of God on Earth. He also emphasized the biblical principle that there is safety in the multitude of counsel. Dr. Meredith concluded the session by stating that if we are going to be in the Kingdom of God: "We must have a deep respect for and participation in the government of God."



Mr. Dibar Apartian enjoys a conversation with James and Phyllis Wells from Kansas City.

Mr. Richard Ames presented an update from Financial Affairs, and a Media Report, outlining the fiscal health and growing outreach of the Work. Following a training session on sermon preparation and delivery, the meeting adjourned early to allow time for a Headquarters tour.

Wednesday's morning sessions covered practical aspects of pastoring, as well as administrative details important for field ministers. Mr. Gerald Weston discussed the Church's youth programs, and Mr. John Ogwyn spoke on lessons learned in the ministry, with emphasis on healing the brokenhearted. Mr. Carl McNair gave an inspiring exhortation to go forward in humility to help and feed the flock. He also warned the attendees about "12 Pitfalls in the Ministry." Drawing on his years of experience in the field ministry, Mr. McNair gave practical principles and illustrations toward being more effective servants. He concluded by cautioning the ministers to be careful about



Mr. Syd Hull shares news of the South African region.

their health: "We need you!" Some may "burn the candle at both ends" driving thousands of miles, he said, so he cautioned everyone: "Don't push beyond your limits." Mr. McNair also encouraged the ministers and wives by stating: "I appreciate every last one of you."

Afternoon sessions that day covered the unique aspects of Living Church of God, tools for countering heresies, and a closing message in which Dr. Meredith asked: "How will

we finish the Work?" and "What lies ahead for us?" Discussing prophetic trends, he stated that "God will intervene more powerfully in world affairs" and that, in the meantime, we must "walk with God as a church and reflect Jesus Christ in all we do, think, and say." Then we will be able to do a "much more powerful work." He concluded the conference by expounding 2 Timothy 4:1-8, and stating: "Let God work in us to fashion and mold us—let's go forward in faith."

Following Wednesday's session, ministers and wives gathered for a dinner dance. Mr. Gary Ehman introduced five entertaining performances, which complemented the excellent food and fellowship. Mrs. Gary Ullerick sang "My Wild Irish Rose"; Mrs. Richard Ames, accompanied by Mrs. Ruben Lujan, performed a violin solo, "Banjo and Fiddle;" Mrs. Carl McNair played the accor-



Mr. Bruce Tyler reports on the Australasian region.

dian as her three grandchildren sang "I Have a Cow;" Headquarters employee Mr. Joe Rosignolo and Mr. Bill Oswald from Columbia, Missouri, teamed together on their guitars to perform "Steel Guitar Rag" and Mr. Mario

Hernandez played the guitar and beautifully sang "Guitara Mia" much to everyone's delight. The evening capped off a very unifying and inspiring three-day ministerial conference.

Mr. Charles Haughee, an elder from east Texas (now transferring to Florida), described the Conference as "extremely well organized. The in-depth presentations, frequently sprinkled with good-natured humor, obviously reflected God-inspired research and preparation by the speakers. The messages were very timely and helpful. The entire Conference seemed to be conducted in a spirit of congeniality with no apparent



contentions. Thanks for a wonderful Conference!”

On Thursday, February 7, the focus shifted to the International Work, as Mr. Carl McNair joined with Mr. Dibar Apartian to conduct a day-long meeting with the International Regional Directors: Mr.



Mr. Mario Hernández, Mr. Syd Hull, Mr. Jonathan McNair, Mr. Rod McNair, Mr. Bruce Tyler, Mr. Gerald Weston and Dr. Douglas Winnail, and with visiting International ministers, Mr. Michael Gill, Mr. Kinnear Penman and Mr. Tony Mora. Discussions covered the needs of each region, including manpower, finances, media and issues relating to local church growth. The situation in India was discussed, where as many as 3,000 Sabbath-keepers, with their leaders, have expressed a desire to become part of the Living

Church of God. Plans were also discussed for upcoming regional visits by Dr. Meredith and Mr. McNair.

Everyone agreed that the growth in the International phase of God's Work is steady and most encouraging, but in some regions our members are encountering

much hardship and even persecutions. They need our fervent prayers for God's help and protection—as we all do. Mr. Syd Hull spoke for many when he said: “This has been the best Conference ever! The unity of the ministers and wives has been an inspiration—very encouraging!”

Following the conference, one minister wrote to Dr. Meredith a note that captures the spirit shared by those attending. “This is only the beginning. We must, now, follow your admonitions to get close to God, to be filled with God's love, faith and zeal, to ‘really walk with God,’ so we can complete this great Work and Commission. For as was said so many times during the conference, it will take much more of God's Holy Spirit to accomplish the task at hand. Millions (perhaps billions) have not

heard the message. To [accomplish] that, we must yield ourselves to God and to His firstborn Son, Jesus Christ.” LCM

—Compiled by Richard F. Ames from reports

by Dibar Apartian, Carl McNair and other conference attendees.



## How to Live by Faith

(continued from page 6)

others. The Apostle Paul exhorted the Christians in Rome: “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.... Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. ‘Therefore if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:14, 19–21).

When we allow resentments against others to build up, we are being *poisoned* spiritually. Such attitudes take us away from truly walking with God, and lead us into the way of self-will. James explained that the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God (James 1:20). If we truly walk by faith, we trust God to judge the world in righteousness—just as He promised to do. Walking by faith frees us to turn loose of the hurts that we suffer, and to meet rejection in the same manner that Jesus Christ did. Without this vital yet difficult key, we will become sidetracked in our effort to live by faith.

## Step #7—Depart from Evil

In Hebrews 3 and 4, the Apostle Paul clearly links unbelief with disobedience. Just as true obedience from the heart is a result of faith, so disobedience is an inevitable result of *not believing* God. King David sums up this seventh point in Psalm 37:27. “Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore.” *Real* faith takes us in the pathway of obedience to God and to His law.

Paul explained in Romans 10:10 that “with the heart man believes unto righteousness” (KJV). If you truly *believe* God's message from the very depths of your being, *it will change your whole life!* With this step we come full circle, uniting faith and obedience. We are not walking by faith unless we are seeking to live by every word of God and to please Him in all of our ways. Living faith *always* results in obedience.

During the seven days of the Unleavened Bread festival, our minds often turn back to the story of the children of Israel and the seven days they spent coming out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea. They made their journey just as we must make ours—under God's loving care, taking one step at a time. This festival season is a good time to meditate on *how to walk by faith in our Christian life, day by day.* LCM



# International Corner...

## Philippines Update

by Rod McNair

On January 18, I arrived in Manila for my most recent visit to the Philippines. I am happy to report that, despite economic and political malaise still plaguing this country, the Work in the Philippines is on the move! Within the past year we have added two video groups and one radio station, and our overall attendance has gone up by about 6 percent. There were 13 baptisms in 2001 alone, and the income is holding steady. More than half of the country's *Tomorrow's World* subscribers are enrolled in the *Bible Study Course* (585 students at last count). We were also pleased to see the growth in the manpower of the Church—there were two ordinations during my trip, which raises our number of ministers to four full-time pastors and three elders.

Our ministers are receiving requests from new contacts all the time, especially from those who had some familiarity with WCG or the *Plain Truth* magazine. I was able to meet and visit with several new contacts during my visit in Metro-Manila. It is certain that God is continuing to call people as a result of the seeds sown previously by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong during the days of our former association.

Also during the trip, I accompanied two of our pastors to the United States Embassy, to process our requests for their visas for the Ministerial Conference in San Diego. We were happy to receive the news that their visas were approved! This is no small blessing—many applicants in the U. S. Embassy in Manila are

turned down, because of the high volume of requests and stringent restrictions set by the U. S. government. We have been greatly blessed to have each of our pastors (two last year, and two more this year) all receive their visas for the Ministerial Conference in each of the past two years.

The brethren in the Philippines continue to throw their hearts into the Work and hold steadily on to the plow to which Jesus Christ has set our hands. In an often-troubled country, God's Work continues to shine to the Filipinos, as a beacon of the hope of Christ's soon-coming Kingdom.

## Caribbean Update

by Jonathan McNair

2001 was a busy year in the Caribbean. There was a great deal of growth, which has been encouraging for everyone. Here is an overview, country by country.

**Barbados:** The size of the group in Barbados increased dramatically, from 27 to 42. On March 4, we began to air the *Tomorrow's World* program. The weekly response has hovered between 50 and 60 every week. Members are beginning to place the magazine in libraries and waiting rooms, in addition to the work they already perform answering phone calls and mailing the booklets to callers. One of the most challenging hurdles has been the registration of the Church, which was finally accomplished in October. The members enjoyed the Feast of Tabernacles this past year, and look forward to hosting

guests for the Feast next year. A Spokesman Club has been well attended, and provided an opportunity for growth for many of the men. Mr. Hugh Wilson, from Jamaica, is serving as the Associate Pastor for the Church in Barbados, and makes regular visits to the island.

**Jamaica:** Mrs. Casilda Norman was the first baptized member of God's Church in Jamaica. Now in her 96th year, she has faithfully held fast to the truth and provided a fine example for the 43 members in Kingston. Approximately 50 gather for Sabbath services in Kingston each week, and other members are scattered throughout the country. Six baptisms were performed over the past few months, with another baptism expected soon. One couple was married in the Church. The *Tomorrow's World* telecast has produced a subscriber base of more than 1,400 people. The program is aired on Saturday and Sunday mornings, with 60 or more responses every week. Public lectures are planned for the upcoming year, which should prepare the way for more prospective members. Blondelle Chang works as a secretary in the Church office, handling the many tasks that keep things moving smoothly. She assists Mr. Hugh Wilson, the Associate Pastor for Jamaica. The Feast was a real highlight of the year for everyone, with approximately 120 people in attendance. Next year, the Feast will again be held at the beautiful beachside resort town of Negril.

**Trinidad:** The average attendance in our two Trinidad congrega-

tions is 99 people. Approximately half of those attend in the northern city of St. Augustine, and half in San Fernando in the south. Everyone is encouraged that there are currently 14 prospective members. More than 60 people have contacted the Church and requested ministerial visits after watching the *Tomorrow's World* program. The telecast has provided a challenge for the local brethren, and a number have worked extremely hard to handle the responses, which have often tallied more than 100 per week. In particular, the Sookram family has provided the core logistic work in handling calls, preparing labels, and mailing literature. Three other members assist on a rotating basis by answering phone calls on the day of the program, and others assist with mailing tasks. Members have begun a program involving inmates at the Golden Grove Prison. A Church member delivers magazines and booklets to at least 20 prisoners, as well as Bibles and Bible helps that have been donated by local members. The Feast of Tabernacles was conducted in Tobago this year, and plans are in full gear to prepare all the logistics for 2002. Visitors from abroad are welcome to come! Mr. Fitzroy Greeman, from Guyana, serves as Associate Pastor for the Church in Trinidad.

**Guyana:** There are 66 members in Guyana. Half of them live far away from Georgetown, and are unable to meet regularly. Others are from various Amerindian tribes and speak in different local dialects. This creates a challenging environment for doing the Work. *Tomorrow's World* first aired in Guyana in August of 2000. So far, the highest response to a program was recorded in November 2001, with 29 people requesting literature. Between April and December

of 2001, 155 pieces of literature were sent out. Eight new people have begun attending as a result of the program. Two have already been baptized. Mr. Fitzroy Greeman serves as Associate Pastor for the Church in Guyana.

**Grenada:** We have had more than 50 responses from Grenada, but we are some time away from establishing a congregation there.

## European Update

by Douglas Winnail

The Work of God is making progress in Europe. We received a very good response to a January ad for *Tomorrow's World* magazine that was mailed out in the U. K. An advertisement for the booklet *Your Ultimate Destiny* will appear in March. In Ireland, we are continuing to pursue advertising opportunities in a variety of publications. In Germany, we have had more than 2,500 recent visitors to our German-language Web site, and more than 1,500 downloads of booklets, articles and the German translation of the *Bible Study Course*.


In recent months, I have been able to spend the Sabbath with our video group in North Wales and our congregation in London, and to visit with interested individuals in both areas. North Wales is a beautifully rugged coastal region, with a history that stretches back to Roman times and before. Currently we are placing copies of the *Tomorrow's World* magazine in libraries in the region. In addition to our weekly Sabbath service in South London, we are exploring the possibility of having monthly services in North London. In February, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cooper traveled to Holland to visit with our video group there.

Planning continues for Feast of Tabernacles sites in Arklow, Ireland, and at Lake Hasselfurt in eastern France (near the German border at Strasbourg).

## East African Update

by Douglas Winnail

Exciting developments are taking place in East Africa. In January, I was able to spend 12 days in Kenya, traveling and visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Owino, who serve Living Church of God brethren there. We conducted a *Tomorrow's World* lecture and Sabbath service in Nairobi, and talked with a number of interested individuals. On Sunday we flew to Mombasa to conduct a Bible study and look at several potential Feast sites. Our trip back to Nairobi took about eight hours by bus, after which we had several very profitable interviews with health officials and social workers about the challenges they face in East Africa.

On the second weekend of the trip, we traveled by car approximately 460 kilometers to Ndhiwa in western Kenya, near Lake Victoria, to conduct another lecture and Sabbath service for more than 130 people. Most of those who attend in this region are farmers or are unemployed because of the depressed economy, but they are very excited about learning the truth. The women of the congregation cooked lunch over an open wood fire. Malaria is endemic in this region, so we distributed a number of mosquito nets. We also discussed the potential for a Feast location in western Kenya. Before my return to Ireland, we were able to locate an apartment that the Owinos will be able to use for a dwelling and an office. It is located a convenient distance from the center of Nairobi, and should serve the brethren well. 

## Do You Love the Jewish People?

(continued from page 3)

David of ancient Israel, who will *once again* rule all the nations of Israel in tomorrow's world (Ezekiel 37:24), was also definitely a *Jew*. Most of the prophets, and the original Apostles, were Jewish—and God used them to give us both the Old and the New Testaments of the Holy Bible. So God has used the Jewish people in a *magnificent* manner to serve

**“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God”**

humanity over thousands of years, in the way that He has orchestrated world events and used the strengths of these remarkable people.

Frankly, much of the resentment against Jews is simply because of *jealousy*! The very word *Judah* in the Hebrew language means “praise.” And thousands of Jewish people down through the millennia have certainly earned the praise of their fellow men, whether that praise was properly accorded to them or not.

Out of all proportion to their numbers, Jews have generally made up a very significant percentage of the world's greatest musicians, writers, thinkers, doctors and scientists. It is not the purpose of this brief editorial to go into great detail regarding the individual accomplishments of thousands of outstanding Jews. But when you consider, for instance, the very top world-class violinists of the past 50 years, names such as Fritz Kreisler, Isaac Stern, Jascha Heifetz, Nathan Milstein, David Oistrakh, Itzak Pearlman and many others come quickly to mind. As some of the modern advertising men might put it: “No other ethnic group even comes close!” The same often applies, in principle, to outstanding pianists, scientists, doctors and leaders in other fields.


In addition, some of the warmest, kindest and most empathetic people you could ever meet on the earth are Jewish. They can express a depth of emotion, kindness and empathy that elicits the highest praise and respect. Many Jewish people have been exceedingly kind to me,

personally—which I will never forget. And the few “bad” Jews are certainly a minority—as they are among *every* race of mankind!

By the way, I am **not** a Jew, and have no Jewish ancestors that I know of. But we should, of course, understand that the Bible refers to *all* converted Christians as *spiritual* Jews: “For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God” (Romans 2:28–29). The Apostle Paul also referred to Christians as “the Israel of God” (Galatians 6:16).

The key point that we should all remember is that God **loves** the Jewish people in a special way (Romans 3:1–2; 11:1–28). And we should always remember that, in tomorrow's world, the *primary leaders* under Jesus Christ, who lived His human life as a Jew, will be men such as King David and the 12 Apostles. Remember that Jesus Christ told His Apostles on that last evening before His death: “I bestow upon you a kingdom just as My Father bestowed *one* upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:29–30). So the personalities who will sit “on thrones” over the tribes of Israel will be, primarily, *Jewish*! It should be obvious, then, that God has a *very high* opinion of the Jews and has used them greatly in His service.

For God has given different strengths to different races. But He has not made any one race “better” than another. As the Apostle Paul wrote: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:28–29). As “Abraham's seed,” the Jews certainly have a special distinction in that our Savior came in the flesh as a Jew. To hate Jews is to hate our Savior. But to hate other races is to hate the very ones whom our Savior—a Jew—gave His life to save. If we do not appreciate His sacrifice—or the human beings for whom He sacrificed—we are failing as Christians.

As mentioned above, always remember that King David was a Jew. A disproportionate number of the future sons of God who will actually be *in top ruling positions* in the soon-coming Kingdom of God will have been former “Jews.” As God does, we all need to have a deep appreciation for this remarkable people, for their outstanding abilities and for the traits of personality, mind and character that have enabled God to use them so mightily in His service. Therefore, it should not be too difficult, when you think about it, to cultivate a deep and profound *respect* and *love* for these wonderful people made in God's image! 



## Focus on “Apostolic Christianity” (continued from page 2)

and Cybele celebrated a day of blood and fasting, followed by the Hilaria resurrection-feast, a day of joy, on 25 March; the elitist Mithraics, many of whom were senior army officers, ate a sacred meal. Constantine was almost certainly a Mithraic, and his triumphal arch, built after his ‘conversion,’ testifies to the Sun-god, or ‘unconquered sun.’ Many Christians did not make a clear distinction between this sun-cult and their own. They referred to Christ ‘driving his chariot across the sky;’ they held their services on Sunday, knelt towards the East and had their nativity-feast on 25 December, the birthday of the sun at the winter solstice. During the later pagan revival under the Emperor Julian many Christians found it easy to apostatize because of this confusion; the Bishop of Troy told Julian he had always prayed secretly to the sun. Constantine never abandoned sun-worship and kept the sun on his coins. He made Sunday into a day of rest....” (*A History of Christianity*, Johnson, 1976, pp. 67–69).

If you read the above historical quotes carefully, you will understand that by the end of the appropriately named “Dark Ages,” nearly all the aspects of **paganism** had been introduced into professing Christianity. And false concepts of the “mystery of the mass,” the *worship* of the Virgin Mary patterned *directly* after the worship of the pagan goddesses, the idea of a “little Lord Jesus” born on December 25,

calling December 25 “Christmas” and connecting it with the pagan rituals of the Saturnalia—all these **false** concepts and more had begun, even before the Dark Ages, to be woven into what became “mainstream” Christianity.

Centuries later, the Protestant “reformers” were able to see a few of the problems of this Roman religion. But most of these pagan concepts were so thoroughly inculcated into their minds that the reformers made only a very few “surface” changes.

The true Church of God **never** allowed itself to be given over totally to the pagan philosophies and practices which increasingly infiltrated the early Roman Catholic Church. For, of course, the early true Church was guided by the original Apostles of Jesus Christ! They *knew*—and *knew that they knew*—the *exact teachings* and *practices* of Jesus Christ. For they had spent *three solid years* being personally trained by the Son of God. And *their example* and *their specific teachings*—along with Jesus’ teaching and example—are the very basis for **all** true Christianity.

You would think that people could figure that out! *But they cannot!* For, indeed, Satan “*deceives the whole world*” (Revelation 12:9). So only the true Church of God—which is *called out* of this deceived world and is headed by the living Jesus Christ—has consistently understood and practiced the Truth.

### A Key Concept

Frankly, the “little flock” (Luke 12:32)—the true Church of God—has always understood the need to pattern itself after the teachings and examples of Christ and the Apostles. Although very few have seriously attempted to follow this pattern, many scholars and religious historians have understood the concept of the “Jerusalem Church of God.” This

is a vital concept to understand if we are sincerely interested in contending “for the faith once delivered.”

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write to the Thessalonians: “For you, brethren, became **imitators** of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 2:14). The book of Acts makes it clear that for many decades, the earthly “headquarters” Church of God was the Jerusalem Church. It was here that the Holy Spirit was originally poured out on the true Christians (Acts 2). It was here where Peter, James and John carried on most of their ministry for many years (Acts 4:1; 8:1; 11:1–2). Later, it was to the leadership at Jerusalem that Paul and Barnabas came to settle the major question of circumcision for the Gentiles, and other related questions (Acts 15:4).

As renowned historian Edward Gibbon wrote: “The first fifteen bishops of Jerusalem were all circumcised Jews; and the congregation over which they presided united the law of Moses with the doctrine of Christ. It was natural that the primitive tradition of a church which was founded only forty days after the death of Christ, and was governed almost as many years under the immediate inspection of his apostle, should be received as the standard of orthodoxy. The distant churches very frequently appealed to the authority of their venerable Parent” (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chap. 15, sec. 1, p. 389).

As indicated above, the only major ministerial conference described in the New Testament was held at Jerusalem. Here lived the leading original Apostles. Here (*not* at Rome!) was the true “mother” Church. And it was to Jerusalem Paul and Barnabas had come even earlier, lest, as Paul had put it, “I might run, or had run, in *vain*” (Galatians 2:1–2).

After the major Jerusalem conference, Paul and Silas traveled through Asia Minor visiting the

churches. “And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem” (Acts 16:4).

### Paul Looked to Jerusalem

Clearly the original Apostles and the Jerusalem Church of God set the inspired “pattern” for true Christianity—not just for that time, but for all time! Contrary to the heretical Protestant idea that God later used the Apostle Paul to “reinvent” Christianity, the *real* Apostle Paul of the Bible *constantly* showed deep respect for the original Apostles, and deferred to the leadership at Jerusalem in all major matters! And it was the Apostle Paul who wrote to the primarily Gentile church at Corinth: “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters” (1 Corinthians 7:19). Noted historian Carl Von Weizsäcker wrote in 1895:

“Paul was far from confining his interest to the Gentile Christian Church which he had himself founded. His thoughts were much too lofty to leave Jewish Christianity to itself. He toiled not merely for his own work, but for the Church of God... the whole Church. He never forgot for a moment the true birthplace of the gospel. And for him the Christians in Jerusalem were always the [saints].... He did not however merely entertain a grand policy of ecclesiastical union, but his first and constant thought was that the primitive Church was the foremost divine institution under the Gospel.... In the early Apostles he saw... the

Apostles of the Lord. From them the testimony of the Resurrection emanated (1 Corinthians 15:1 ff.). They were ever the apostles, whom God had placed at the head of His Church, the first of those divinely commissioned men who held the leading office in the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:28)” (*The Apostolic Age of the Christian Church*, pp. 12–13).

Brethren, most of us know from our own study of his letters that the Apostle Paul *never* attempted to do away with God’s law. But it is important that all of us familiarize ourselves with a number of facts and quotes such as I have cited above. *Why?* Because mainstream “Christianity” has based its entire understanding of justification and salvation on a distorted view of the Apostle Paul’s teaching. They insist that Paul advocated a doctrine of salvation without obedience to the Ten Commandments. And they have manufactured all kinds of clever reasonings to support this totally unscriptural teaching. But if we can show that quite a number of respected theologians and church historians

acknowledge that the Apostle Paul *in no way* opposed the clear teachings of Jesus Christ, Peter, James and John, then we will be better able to assist many confused people in their quest for Truth. As Peter tells us, we should “*always* be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

All of us need to understand and stress the fact that our Church believes in “Apostolic Christianity”—the Christianity taught and practiced by *all* the Apostles, including the Apostle Paul. I urge *all* of you brethren to read and re-read our booklet *Restoring Apostolic Christianity*.

This fundamental concept can help new brethren, prospective brethren and outsiders realize that the Living Church of God did *not* get its doctrines “here and there,” but that we are definitely following the entire pattern and example of the *original Apostolic Church*. This understanding can be a powerful “tool” in helping and solidifying thousands of others whom God may be beginning to call. So, again, I encourage all of you to really *study this topic*, as it is one of the key themes and truths that makes our Church distinct.



## Upcoming Tomorrow’s World Telecasts Every Sunday, 6:00 AM E.T., on WGN

WGN Air Date	Broadcast Title
April 7	Your Ultimate Destiny
April 14	Armageddon Is Coming
April 21	Successful Marriage
April 28	The Beast Is Rising

# 2002 2002 Feast of Tabernacles

The 2002 Feast of Tabernacles will begin with services on Friday evening, September 20. The Last Great Day falls this year on Sabbath of September 28. The Living Church of God will operate nine sites in the United States 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 1, 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" will be available on the [www.cogl.org](http://www.cogl.org) Web site. 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  
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, pick 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. When making reservations, mention that you are attending the Living Church of God conference. For more information, visit the Chippewa Valley web site at [www.chippewavalley.net](http://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 [rgregory@cogl.org](mailto:rgregory@cogl.org) or by phone at (847) 249-1057.

## EUREKA SPRINGS, AR

Services will be held at the:

**Inn of the Ozarks Resort & Convention Center**  
 Highway 62 West & Historic Loop  
 Eureka Springs, AR 72632  
 Phone: (800) 998-9620  
 Fax: (479) 253-9768  
[www.innoftheozarks.com](http://www.innoftheozarks.com)

Living Church of God brethren will gather this year in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in this picturesque location nestled in the hills of Arkansas. Founded more than 100 years ago, its 63 mineral springs gush from a rocky wilderness; today it is equally well known as “America’s Victorian Village.” The limestone buildings and lovely limestone walls throughout the town were built from native stone, an early response to the problem of the devastating fires that plagued the area’s timber structures in the 1800s. Magnificent examples of fine late Victorian architecture are everywhere. The entire downtown area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in America. There are enough historical landmarks and fascinating facts, legends and lore in Eureka Springs to keep you coming back for more.

Just 45 miles away from Branson, Missouri, Eureka Springs is centrally located to a variety of natural and man-made wonders. Pine Mountain Jamboree is just five minutes away. Opera in the Ozarks is another popular attraction. Nearby are the Eureka Springs Botanical Gardens and the Turpentine Creek Wildlife Ranch. Beaver Lake, Table Rock Lake and White River are less than 10 miles away.

For those preferring not to stay at the Inn of the Ozarks, many hotels and motels near the convention center offer very affordable rates for those on a tight budget; several Comfort Inn Suites hotels are advertising rooms for as little as \$39/night.

For more information about this location, contact the site coordinator, Mr. Davy Crockett, by telephone at (501) 868-8760 or by e-mail at [jcrockett@cogl.org](mailto:jcrockett@cogl.org).

## FLAGSTAFF, AZ

Services this year will be held at the:

**Little America Flagstaff**  
 2515 East Butler Avenue (I-40 exit 198)  
 Flagstaff, AZ 86004  
 Phone: (800) 352-4386  
 Fax: (520) 779-7983  
[www.littleamerica.com](http://www.littleamerica.com)

The Living Church of God will be keeping the Feast in this beautiful community of approximately 60,000, high in the pine-fresh air of the Coconino National Forest. Near the majestic San Francisco Peaks, not far from the breathtakingly unique Grand Canyon, Flagstaff offers a downtown historic district with antique stores, craft shops, dozens of restaurants, and lots of things to do.

In addition to the Grand Canyon, Feastgoers can visit Meteor Crater, the red rock formations of Sedona, Walnut Canyon, the Petrified Forest and the Painted Desert. And Phoenix is just 140 miles to the south.

Recreation opportunities include golf, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and back-country jeep tours. For the adventurous, there are even helicopter flights over the Grand Canyon.

Please be aware that Flagstaff is situated at an altitude of 6,900 feet above sea level which, for some, can be a strain on the heart and lungs. Although thousands of visitors each year experience no problems, those with medical conditions that could be aggravated by the “thinner” air may wish to consult with a health care professional before attending this Feast site.

For more information about this location, contact the site coordinator, Mr. Glen Gilchrist, by telephone at (505) 892-3264 or by e-mail at [ggilchrist@cogl.org](mailto:ggilchrist@cogl.org).

## FLORENCE, OR

Returning to a site enjoyed by many in 2001, 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](http://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](mailto:ddavis@cogl.org).

## LANCASTER, PA

Services will be held this year in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at the:

**Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center**  
 2300 Lincoln Highway East (Route 30)  
 Lancaster, PA 17602  
 Phone: (717) 299-5500  
 Fax: (717) 295-5116  
[www.lancasterhost.com](http://www.lancasterhost.com)  
 e-mail: [sales1@lancasterhost.com](mailto:sales1@lancasterhost.com)

Historic Pennsylvania Dutch country will host the Living Church of God for the Feast of Tabernacles this year. The Lancaster area is a picturesque patchwork of rolling farmlands, fresh air and pure tranquility. Life in these parts, home to the Amish, has changed little over the last two centuries.

Yet the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center will provide modern convenience and a range of amenities and leisure opportunities for Feastgoers. The resort's 330 guest rooms offer all the usual amenities, including the very modern convenience of in-room computer jacks. Many accommodations offer a picturesque courtyard view, overlooking a sparkling pool and beautiful gardens. Other rooms offer views of lush green fairways and not-too-distant farmlands.

For golfers, an 18-hole championship course and a driving range are located right on the resort property.

Others may prefer the miniature golf course. Tennis courts, basketball and volleyball courts, ping pong and pool tables are among the available recreational facilities. Other attractions include horse-drawn carriage rides, ballooning and a 1.9-mile jogging course. When you wear yourself out, you may enjoy the available whirlpool.

Nearby attractions include the Dutch Wonderland Amusement Park, the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum and the American Music Theater. Shoppers will enjoy the approximately 200 store outlet shops in the area.

Rooms at the Lancaster Host Resort start at \$75/night, for one to four guests. For more information about this location, contact the site coordinator, Mr. Paul Shumway, by telephone at (610) 391-0753 or by e-mail at [pshumway@cogl.org](mailto:pshumway@cogl.org).

## NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

Living Church of God brethren will be keeping the Feast this year at the:

**T-Bar M Ranch**  
 2549 Highway 46 West  
 New Braunfels, TX 78132  
 Phone: (800) 292-5469  
[www.tbarm.com](http://www.tbarm.com)

New Braunfels, founded in 1845 by German settlers, provides a peaceful country setting for this year's Feast of Tabernacles. Popular local attractions include the world famous Hummel Museum and the Sophienburg Museum. Visitors can explore the historic town of Gruene, now restored to its original beauty, where you can shop for (or browse) antiquities in renovated Victorian homes, or eat at the famous Gristmill Restaurant and Bar.

Nearby Schlitterbahn is world famous for its thrilling water park rides, with something for every age. Tubing on the Comal River is another popular pastime. For the more adventurous, there is plenty of white water on the Guadalupe River!

Natural Bridge Caverns, also nearby, is the largest natural cavern formation in Texas. Here, you can walk through Sherwood's Forest, marvel at the Castle of the White Giants and tiptoe in the Bear Pit, during a 90 minute walking tour.

Shopping opportunities are plentiful, whether at the New Braunfels Marketplace or 20 minutes north at the giant outlet malls in San Marcos.

The T-Bar M Ranch itself offers two pools, 12 outdoor tennis courts and two indoor hard-courts. A well-equipped sports complex offers facilities for basketball, volleyball, ping pong and pool. For the dedicated weight trainer, there is a weight room as well. A selection of stone-lined trails awaits joggers and walkers, and for nature lovers—keep your eyes open for wildlife along the way!

The Resort is offering discounts on two of its basic rooms. The Comal Rooms, regularly \$98, have been discounted to \$75 (plus tax), and the Guadeloupe Rooms, regularly \$90, have been discounted to \$72 (plus tax). The nearby Comfort Inn Suites (<http://www.comfortsuitesnb.com>) has also offered \$69 rates on rooms with one king-size or two double beds, holding up to five guests, with breakfast included in the room rate; for details and reservation information call (877) 755-2855. Other housing information for the New Braunfels area may be found online at <http://www.texasoutside.com/newbraunfels/lodging1.htm>. For more information about this location, contact the site coordinator, Mr. Bob Parker, by telephone at (361) 387-9192 or by e-mail at [beparker@worldnet.att.net](mailto:beparker@worldnet.att.net).

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:beachtwr@bellsouth.net) or visit their Web site at [www.pcbeachtower.com](http://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@cog1.org](mailto:bfaulkner@cog1.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  
Reservations: (800) 523-3919

Opportunities abound for enjoying family-oriented attractions such as country music shows, shopping, sightseeing, river rafting and more, amidst the beautiful Smokey Mountains. 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). When you call, remember to identify yourself as a member of Living Church of God. Brethren are encouraged to use these facilities if possible in order to help defray the cost of the meeting hall. Please note that the following price ranges are approximate:

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](http://www.smokeymountainresorts.com/welcome.html) or by phone at (877) 767-6338 or by e-mail at [smr@icx.net](mailto: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. Martin Fannin, by e-mail at [mlfannin@esper.com](mailto:mlfannin@esper.com) or by phone at (865) 675-2304.

## TETON VILLAGE, 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 beautiful, 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. Ben Whitfield, by telephone at (307) 324-7931, or by e-mail at [bwhitfield@cogl.org](mailto:bwhitfield@cogl.org).

## INTERNATIONAL FEAST SITES

### ARGENTINA, SIERRA DE LA VENTANA

Living Church of God brethren from Argentina and Chile will be meeting for the Feast this year at the

Silver Golf Hotel, in Sierra de la Ventana. Four hundred miles south of Buenos Aires, in sudden contrast with the flat horizon of the Argentinean pampas, its green hills offer a cozy environment for the Feast of Tabernacles.

If you are interested in keeping the Feast at this site, please contact Church Administration (before making your reservations) by e-mail at [cad@cogl.org](mailto:cad@cogl.org) or by telephone at (858) 613-7970, extension 220.

## AUSTRALASIA

### AUSTRALIA:

Australian brethren will keep the Feast this year at Ballina, Australia. For information about this site, please contact the site coordinator, Mr. Dayrell Tanner, by phone at (61) 7 3806 0833 or by e-mail at [dayrell@smartchat.net.au](mailto:dayrell@smartchat.net.au).

### NEW ZEALAND:

Living Church of God brethren in New Zealand will keep the Feast this year in Taupo, centrally located on the lake in New Zealand's North Island. Because of exchange rates, visitors from the United States will find Taupo a very inexpensive site; a fully equipped motel unit for the whole family will cost approximately US\$40 per day. The New Zealand brethren encourage visitors to join them for the Feast. If you are interested, please contact site coordinator, Mr. Kinnear Penman, by e-mail at [penman@igrin.co.nz](mailto:penman@igrin.co.nz).

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:penman@igrin.co.nz) or by phone at 64-9-435-3592. Please note that most Church members in Vanuatu are French-speaking.

## **CANADA, CRANBROOK, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Services during the Feast will be held at the:

**Town & Country Hotel Ballroom**  
600 Cranbrook Street North  
Cranbrook, BC V1C 3R7  
Phone (250) 426-6683

A hearty welcome to western Canada, with its beautiful forested hills and the many lakes, rivers and streams that surround the city of Cranbrook. This Feast location is just 50–60 minutes north of the U.S./Canadian border. The mild weather and peaceful surroundings add to the physical blessings and millennial valley setting. A new recreation complex is now complete, with a wave pool, a large water slide and a hockey arena. The nearby hot spring, the many scenic hiking trails and the fine golf courses provide ample opportunities for fun activities.

Area motels are plentiful, and prices are very reasonable. Several restaurants are within walking distance of the site, including a fine restaurant and coffee shop on-site.

The old Fort Steele heritage town, and the quaint city of Kimberly, are located just a half-hour drive up the road.

The meeting hall provides ample parking, and 91 hotel rooms on-site.

Visitors from the United States are welcome; they will find their second tithe dollars going 35–40 percent further thanks to the exchange rate with the Canadian dollar.

For further information about this site, please contact site coordinator, Mr. Eng Monson, by telephone at (306) 545-5250, by fax at (306) 949-5222 or by e-mail at [esm@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:esm@sk.sympatico.ca).

## **CANADA, CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

Brethren from eastern Canada will gather for the Feast at Charlottetown, on Prince Edward Island. Services will be held at the Carrefour de Lisle Saint-Jean School. If you are looking for a site with a warm and relaxed pastoral setting, this is the one for you. Any season is a great

time to visit Prince Edward Island, but the autumn is especially beautiful, with vivid and inviting colors that make every day special.

Expect the weather to be mild, with cool nights, and daytime temperatures in the high 60s to low 70s Fahrenheit.

Ample affordable housing is available in the Charlottetown area. Options range from the Best Western Charlottetown, reachable by telephone at (800) 528-1234, to the Travelodge Hotel at (800) 565-7633, to the Inn on the Hill at (800) 578-7878, along with a wide variety of other hotels, motels and cottages nearby.

Charlottetown has a local airport; it can also be reached by automobile. Many fly to Moncton, New Brunswick, and drive to the island, to gain an extra opportunity to explore the area.

For further information, contact the site coordinator, Mr. Jim Arnaldo, by telephone at (207) 532-0531, or by e-mail at [jimarnaldo@aol.com](mailto:jimarnaldo@aol.com). Information about the site can be found on the Web at [members.aol.com/jimarnaldo/](http://members.aol.com/jimarnaldo/).

## **CANADA, SAINTE ADELE, QUEBEC**

Are you looking for real adventure—something out of the ordinary? How would you like to visit the French Alps without ever leaving North America? If so, consider attending the Feast of Tabernacles in beautiful St. Adele, Quebec.

Mont Gabriel will be hosting what promises to be a relaxing family and fellowship-oriented Feast site. Sitting atop a high peak in the Laurentian Mountains, this four-star hotel has something for everyone: an 18-hole golf course, six lighted tennis courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a sauna, an exercise room, volleyball, horseshoes, hiking, a putting green, shuffleboard and Thalaspas (where you can receive a massage or enjoy one of several water treatments). For those less active moments, Mont Gabriel is perfect for fellowship amidst spectacular views in warm surroundings. And the food, ah, the food! Chef Mario Crepeau will delight you with his unique cuisine in the elegant l'Ambroisie dining room.

Mont Gabriel looks down upon the Alpine village of St. Sauveur (about 10 minutes away) where there is abundant shopping and restaurants for all budgets. For the more adventuresome, historic Montreal is only 40 minutes away. If exercise is what your heart desires, there is a 200 kilometer biking trail, mountain bike trails, and a



river for canoeing. Both bikes and canoes can be rented for reasonable rates. Horseback riding is also available.

September is the perfect time to visit the Laurentians. Fall colors should be at their peak, and Mont Gabriel is the perfect location from which to view the spectacle. With an early Feast date, temperatures should be moderate, making 2002 the ideal year to visit this mountain retreat.

Accommodations at Mont Gabriel are CAN\$99 (US\$62 at current exchange rates) for double occupancy plus taxes. Triple and quadruple occupancy is CAN\$116 (US\$72). Children 16 and younger, staying in a parent's room, stay for free. Since all meetings will be held in one of Mont Gabriel's beautiful meeting rooms, Mont Gabriel is the ideal place to stay. If, however, you need kitchen facilities or alternative accommodations, contact Mr. Frank Best by telephone at (905) 845-7922 or by e-mail at [febest@sympatico.ca](mailto:febest@sympatico.ca); or contact Mr. Jacques Secours by telephone at (450) 623-5002 or by e-mail at [jacquessecours@sympatico.ca](mailto:jacquessecours@sympatico.ca).

For pictures and more information concerning Mont Gabriel and its surroundings, look it up on the web at: [www.montgabriel.com](http://www.montgabriel.com). To book your room at Mont Gabriel, phone toll free: 1-800-668-5253 and identify yourself as with Living Church of God. Be sure to book early and prepare for your finest Feast ever!

## FRANCE, LAKE HASSELFURT

The Living Church of God brethren from France invite brethren from around the world to join them in keeping the Feast of Tabernacles this year at beautiful Lake Hasselfurt, in northeastern France just 40 miles from Strasbourg, Germany.

Lake Hasselfurt is nestled in a basin bordered on all sides by forest, dominated by a large rock crowning the majestic ramparts of the citadel. Located between an immense leafy forest and the lake, this Feast site is also convenient to Belgium and Luxembourg.

Easily accessible by air from Strasbourg airport (with more than 20 daily arrivals from Paris-area airports, along with connecting flights from Brussels and London-Gatwick airports), the site can also be reached by train or automobile.

Nearby areas of interest, besides Strasbourg, include the Castle of Haut-Konigsbourg, Obernai, Northern Alsace and the Northern Vosges Regional Park. There is a Maginot Line museum nearby, as well as the glass and crystal museum of Meisenthal and the Citadel of Bitche. Brethren will stay at the Feast site, at the:

VVF Vacances Canterelle—Etang de Hasselfurt  
Allée Jean Goss  
F57230 Bitche

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided with your accommodations. Rooms are spread throughout four hectares of grounds at the edge of a lake available for swimming. A variety of two-room apartments are available, with kitchenette, bathroom and telephone. For families, three-room bungalows are available, offering a lounge with kitchenette and bathroom. Beds are made by maid staff. Towels are provided, and are changed in mid-stay. All units are heated.

Amenities at the resort include a fitness center, sauna, volleyball court, cycling and nature trails. Nearby are tennis facilities, a 27-hole golf course and rowboat rentals.

The total cost for a nine-day stay is \$540 per adult, with a \$50 reduction for those not wishing to take breakfast. Children under three months stay for free; from three months to two years the fee is \$175; children from two to 12 years stay for \$350.

Reservations and arrangements must be made through Mr. Dibar Apartian. If you would like to attend this site, please contact him by telephone at (858) 673-7470 or by e-mail at [dapartian@cogl.org](mailto:dapartian@cogl.org). To learn more about this site online, visit [www.monedemain.org/fot2002/](http://www.monedemain.org/fot2002/).

## GUYANA

Services will be held at Camp Kayuka, 25 miles from Georgetown. For further information, or to make travel arrangements, please contact the site coordinator, Mr. Fitzroy Greeman, by telephone at (592) 225-4059, by fax at (592) 226-8536 or by e-mail at [rgreeman@hotmail.com](mailto:rgreeman@hotmail.com).

## JAMAICA

The Feast will be kept in Jamaica this year at the Negril Cabins Resort, an eco-tourism facility nestled among lush vegetation. Activities will include a Family Fun Day, a Children's Party, a Games Evening and a Seniors' Luncheon.

Housing is available at the Negril Cabins Resort; room rates range from \$140/night (single occupancy with breakfast) to \$220/night (double occupancy, all inclusive). You can learn more about this hotel at its Web site: [www.negrilcabins.com](http://www.negrilcabins.com), or via e-mail at [negrilcabins@cwjamaica.com](mailto:negrilcabins@cwjamaica.com).

Other housing options include the Point Village Resorts, with rates ranging from \$100/night for a single

occupancy studio, to \$280/night for a quad occupancy two-bedroom suite. Children 12 and under stay for free. Find out more at [www.pointvillage.com](http://www.pointvillage.com) or by e-mail at [pt.village@cwjamaica.com](mailto:pt.village@cwjamaica.com).

For those seeking less expensive accommodation, the Sea Splash Resort offers a one bedroom single occupancy for \$79/night, or \$99/night for double occupancy. Find out more at [www.seasplash.com](http://www.seasplash.com), or by e-mail at [seasplashngl@cwjamaica.com](mailto:seasplashngl@cwjamaica.com).

If you plan to attend the Feast in Jamaica, please notify the site coordinator Hugh Wilson by e-mail at [kingstonlivingcog@hotmail.com](mailto:kingstonlivingcog@hotmail.com).

## KENYA

Kenyan brethren will be keeping the Feast this year at the Orchid Bay Hotel, in Mombasa, just a mile and a half from the city center. The Orchid Bay Hotel is encircled by beautifully manicured greens, dotted with shade, and offers stunning views over the blue waters of Kisauni Creek. Spacious air-conditioned rooms, with color television and telephones, are available, from US\$39 to US\$68 per day, including breakfast. The hotel offers modern conference facilities and superb restaurants. Wildlife sanctuaries and breathtaking historic sites are nearby. The hotel is just 25 minutes north of Mombasa's Moi International Airport.

Brethren interested in attending this relaxed and friendly Feast site are asked to contact the site coordinator, Mr. Ernest Owino, by telephone at (254) 2 565 824 or by e-mail at [cogl@kenyaweb.com](mailto:cogl@kenyaweb.com).

## MALAYSIA, PULAU LANGKAWI

The Feast of Tabernacles this year will be held in Malaysia at the Hotel Grand Continental Langkawi. The hotel is centrally located in Kuah town, featuring traditional Malaysian architectural design. Langkawi, a cluster of 99 islands separated from mainland Malaysia by the Straits of Malacca, is a district of the state of Kedah in Northern Malaysia, and lies approximately 51 kilometers west of Kedah. The main island spans about 25 kilometers from north to south, and slightly more from east to west. The coastal areas consist of flat, alluvial plains, punctuated with limestone ridges. Two-thirds of the island is dominated by forest-covered mountains, hills and natural vegetation.

Along with a variety of other activities, brethren will gather for a combined luncheon on the first and last days of the Festival, and for a poolside barbecue during the feast.

Accommodations range from RM75/night for a single or double without meals, to RM85/night for a single or double with breakfast, to RM95 for a triple without breakfast. For further information, and for assistance in making reservations, please contact the site coordinator, Mr. Rajan Moses, by phone at 603 9200 8176, or by e-mail at [rajend@pc.jaring.my](mailto:rajend@pc.jaring.my).

## MEXICO, OAXTEPEC

The brethren from Mexico will keep the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day 2002 in beautiful Oaxtepec, Mexico—a hot springs area where even the Aztec emperor Montezuma used to take his vacations 500 years ago. Brethren from around the world are invited to come and keep God's Feast with the Mexican brethren, and enjoy eight days of spiritual nurturing and warm fellowship.

Oaxtepec is a small town located an hour away from Mexico City. There are many restaurants and shops. Brethren from Mexico will pick up all visitors from the Mexico City airport and arrange direct transportation to Oaxtepec. English translation will be provided during services.

Services will be held at the Oaxtepec Recreational Center auditorium. This center has one hotel, cabins, a water park, and an auditorium with 600–person capacity. Most of the brethren stay in Hotel Tepozteco, located within the recreational center; their reservation line can be reached at (52) 5-238-2701 or (52) 5-238-0702. Accommodations near the auditorium are also available at the Hotel Hacienda Cocoyoc.

If you are interested in attending this site, please contact Church Administration (before making your reservations) by e-mail at [cad@cogl.org](mailto:cad@cogl.org) or by telephone at (858) 613-7970, extension 220.

## PHILIPPINES

Living Church of God brethren will be keeping the Feast at several sites throughout the Philippines, including Baguio, Davao, Don Carlos, Maranding and Tacloban. Because of political and economic instability in the region, we urge you to use caution if traveling to this site. Contact information for the individual sites is as follows:

**Baguio:** Mr. Gorgonio de Guia. Telephone (63) 2 813 6538, e-mail [lcgph@pacific.net.ph](mailto:lcgph@pacific.net.ph).

**Davao:** Mr. Felipe Casing. Telephone (63) 82 297 0200, e-mail [fcasing@mozcom.com](mailto:fcasing@mozcom.com).

**Don Carlos:** Mr. Tex Benitez. Telephone (63) 63 382 2602.

**Maranding:** Mr. Tex Benitez. Telephone (63) 63 382 2602.

**Tacloban:** Mr. Eleno Cabahit. Telephone (63) 53 325 2932.

Before you finalize your plans, please contact Regional Director, Mr. Rod McNair, by e-mail at [rmcnair@cogl.org](mailto:rmcnair@cogl.org) or by telephone at (530) 822-0530.

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, ARKLOW

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, starting at £40 per person for a room with breakfast. Singles should expect to pay a singles supplement. 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 approximately £300 per week) are available in the town of Arklow. For more information, contact 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](http://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 1-011-353-41-987-3386 or by e-mail at [dwinnail@cogl.org](mailto:dwinnail@cogl.org).

## SOUTH AFRICA

For information regarding the Feast site in George, South Africa, please contact the site coordinator, Mr. Pieter van der Byl, by e-mail at [wyndover@intekom.co.za](mailto:wyndover@intekom.co.za) or by telephone at 021-572-1002.

## 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 this year will be held at the Tropikist Beach Hotel. For more information about this site, please contact the site coordinator, Mr. Fitzroy Greeman, by telephone at (592) 225-4059, by fax at (592) 226-8536 or by e-mail at [rgreeman@hotmail.com](mailto:rgreeman@hotmail.com).

## Festival "Head Count" Planned for June 1, 2002

The Festival Office needs your help in determining how many people will be attending each of the various Feast sites. At services on the Sabbath of June 1, please be prepared to tell your Festival Coordinator where you and your family plan to attend the Feast of Tabernacles this year. This one-Sabbath "snapshot" of members' plans will help the various site coordinators plan the activities that help make the Feast of Tabernacles a success. Please consider your plans now, so that you will be ready to be counted on June 1. If your plans change later, that is no problem. The June 1 survey is not a commitment; it is just a tool to help estimate the likely attendance at each site.





## Camp Sherwood Forest, Missouri Pre-Teen

**Dates:** Sunday, June 9–Sunday, June 16.

**Ages:** Open to campers aged 8 to 12. High School workers must be 15 or older, and will find previous LYC experience as a camper helpful. Young adult workers should be aged 19 to 24. We can also use older adults to oversee various programs and work in support areas.

**Location:** About one hour northwest of St. Louis, Missouri, in Cuivre River State Park.

**Cost:** Tuition for Campers is \$90. The second camper from the same family is \$80 and a third camper is \$70. Tuition for High School and Adult Staff is \$30. There is an additional non-refundable \$5 application fee for all applicants.

**Deadline:** All applications should be returned no later than April 15, 2002. Applications received after that date may be accepted, but your chances of acceptance will drop.

**Where to Get an Application:** You can download an application from our Teen Web site: [www.youth-web.org](http://www.youth-web.org). You may also request an application by sending e-mail to [rgregory@cogl.org](mailto:rgregory@cogl.org), or by writing to Mr. Randy Gregory, 1981 Alpine Court, Gurnee, IL 60031, or by phoning Mr. Gregory at (847) 249-1057.

## Jackass Rock Camp, California Pre-Teen

**Dates:** Sunday, June 30–Friday, July 5

**Ages:** Open to campers aged 8 to 12. High School workers must be 15 or older, and will find previous LYC experience as a camper helpful. Young adult workers should be aged 19 to 24. We can also use older adults to oversee various programs and work in support areas.

**Location:** Two hours east of Fresno, California, in the Sierra Mountains.

**Cost:** Tuition for Campers is \$90. A second camper from the same family is \$80 and a third camper is \$70. Tuition for High School and Adult Staff is \$30. There is an additional non-refundable \$5 application fee for all applicants.

**Deadline:** All applications should be returned no later than April 15, 2002. Applications received after that date may be accepted, but your chances of acceptance will drop.

**Where to Get an Application:** You can download an application from our Teen Web site: [www.youth-web.org](http://www.youth-web.org). You may also request an application by sending e-mail to [jfall@cogl.org](mailto:jfall@cogl.org), or by writing to Dr. Jeff Fall, 1040 Coronet St., Glendora, CA 91741, or by phoning Dr. Fall at (626) 914-1474.

## Ontario, Canada Pre-Teen

**Dates:** To be determined.

**Ages:** Open to campers aged 8 to 12. High School workers must be 15 or older, and will find previous LYC experience as a camper helpful. Young adult workers should be aged 19 to 24. We can also use older adults to oversee various programs and work in support areas.

**Location:** To be determined

**Cost:** Not yet finalized, but we anticipate camper tuition will be approximately \$100 Canadian, or \$65 U.S. Adult and High School Staff fees will be in a similar range as the other pre-teen camps.

**Deadline:** All applications should be returned no later than April 15, 2002. Applications received after that date may be accepted, but your chances of acceptance will drop.

**Where to Get an Application:** You can download an application from our Teen Web site: [www.youth-web.org](http://www.youth-web.org). You may also request an application by sending e-mail to [gweston@lccanada.org](mailto:gweston@lccanada.org), or by writing to Mr. Gerald Weston, P.O. Box 27202, Toronto, ON M9W 6L0, or by phoning Mr. Weston at (905) 671-0632.

## Jackson Hole Ski Trip a Success!

We all had a wonderful time at this year's "Jackson Hole Winter Family Ski Trip!" Twenty brethren, family and friends enjoyed three days of wonderful skiing and snowboarding, five days and five nights of fellowship and family fun! Dwayne Wilts of Canada mentioned that this was truly a "ski trip" to long remember. From the tops of Rendezvous and Apres Vous mountain peaks in the beautiful Teton range to the valley below, one is able to ski over 4,139 continuous vertical feet in one run that is close to seven miles long. This is where you will find the terrain for all levels of skiers and boarders, beginner to expert; Jackson Hole has it all, and we did it all! Known as "The Big One," Jackson Hole lives up to the legend.

Brian and Scott MacPhee drove all the way out from their home in Peoria, Illinois, to ski with us this year. Brian said, "I'm definitely coming back! We had a wonderful time!"

While our days were spent skiing and snowboarding, our evenings were spent at dinner around a warm fire while we visited and played board games, watched "Warren Miller" ski movies and had a grand time fellowshiping with one another. There were no late nights for our group; we were all up and going to catch first tracks on the groomers and the fresh snow off piste. Spending time with one another, and enjoying the beautiful scenery for which Jackson is famous, was well worth it. The Sabbath also was a welcome break from skiing, and gave us time to reflect on the tremendous calling we have in God's Church today—and what He expects from each of us.

The time went by so fast that we are looking forward to next December, when another ski trip will be held here from December 26–31, 2002. Mark your calendars!

—Ben Whitfield

## Tahoe Singles Weekend

The slopes were perfect, the weather was refreshing, and the fellowship was encouraging. The 56 singles who attended the annual Lake Tahoe Singles Weekend, hailing from all over North America, were in for a fabulous weekend. "I had a great time overall," said Ruwani Wijesuriya, from Altadena, California. "It was relaxing and peaceful. The atmosphere was conducive to truly getting to know people."

Most of the 56 singles who attended the event arrived Friday, December 21, in time for a spaghetti dinner prepared by vol-

unteers. Fellowshiping and a Bible study followed the meal. The room filled to capacity as Pastor Rod McNair delivered a message about turning trials and challenges into opportunities. The study set the tone for an inspirational Sabbath.

Sacramento area elder Tony Mora gave the sermonette on Sabbath afternoon, followed by special music by Iowa native Lisa Wilson, singing, "On My Knees." Dr. Jeff Fall delivered the sermon, instructing the local congregation and the singles about the path to total success. Walking with God

and trusting Him, Dr. Fall said, is fundamental to having a good life. The important message was well received.

Members of the local congregation prepared a covered-dish meal, which energized the group before the evening's dance. While the singles were dancing, the weather was having its way back up the road at Lake Tahoe, preparing the mountain for skiing the next day.

Although not everyone braved the slopes at the Heavenly Ski Resort, the 32 singles that did experienced prime skiing condi-

tions. “The skiing was excellent—the best in over a decade for this early in the season,” Mr. McNair said. “I can remember being at the top of the mountain and thinking that God created this and how blessed I was to be able to experience this and be with a group of His people,” said Darlene Chornomaz, who came to the ski weekend from New Jersey.

After a good day of skiing, everyone was ready to warm up inside the condos for a while. They played games and talked until midnight, when most

decided to try to get some sleep. Twenty-five people went back Monday for a second day of skiing. The other half stayed behind to relax, play games and plan a friendly ambush to greet the returning skiers. What was meant to be an ambush turned into a marathon snowball fight, with most of the battle waged before the skiers had even arrived. This was the last event of the ski weekend and, after breakfast the next morning, many began the trek home. Everyone seemed to have had an outstanding time.

“What really made the activity a success was the fellowship,” Mr. McNair said. “It seemed like everyone enjoyed the opportunity to have a fun weekend together, building bonds with other single brethren.” Creating those bonds meant a lot to the group. “I feel that over the past few years, it’s really important for me to reach out and make new friends,” said Jaci Stiffler, of Jacksonville, Arkansas. An opportunity like the Lake Tahoe singles weekend gave those who went a perfect chance to do just that.

—Carol Blanchard

## *In Loving Memory*

**Marcela Caballero**, of Bacayao Sur, Dagupan City, Philippines, a long-time member of God’s Church, died of pneumonia in the early morning of October 1, 2001. She had been blind for almost five years. A widow, she is survived by five children and grandchildren. Pastor Gorgonio de Guia conducted a graveside service during the Feast of Tabernacles. Seven brethren from the Living Church of God, keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in Baguio City, were among the 300 attending the funeral.

**E. Joanne Danford** died on January 7, 2002, of congestive heart failure. She was 67 years old, and had been a dedicated member of God’s Church since 1968. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Robert Danford, and by four children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She will be missed by her brethren in the Denver congregation of Living Church of God, and by many others whose life she touched with her love and hospitality.

**Rosita Francisco**, of Don Carlos, Bukidnon, Philippines, died from complications of diabetes and high blood pressure, the day before the Feast of Tabernacles, on October 1, 2001. She was 71 years old. Her husband, **Lucio Francisco**, who took care of her for about a month before she died, also subsequently had a stroke, losing all his memory. He was taken to the hospital during the Feast of Tabernacles, where he also died, four days after his wife was buried. Mr. Francisco was buried on the 4th day of

the Feast, Friday, October 5. Both funerals were officiated by Pastor Eustiquio Benitez. The Franciscos were members of the Radio Church of God since 1963, and members of Living Church of God up to the present.

**Barbara Huggins-Talley**, a long-time member of God’s Church in Birmingham, Alabama, died on February 8, 2002. She was 84 years old. A well-traveled lady who spoke several languages and had lived in Europe, she was very zealous for the Work, and attended services faithfully, driving her own car until health finally would not permit. Survived by one son, she will be missed by all who knew her.

**Charles H. Kelsey, Jr.** died on November 2, 2001, after a six-month battle with melanoma. He was 69 years old. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Nancy M. (Quinn) Kelsey, two daughters, two sisters, and an aunt. A resident of Berlin, Massachusetts for the past 35 years, Mr. Kelsey attended the Boston congregation of Living Church of God.

**Opal Louise Reynolds** died on January 12, 2002, in Rotan, Texas. She was 70 years old. A long-time member of God’s Church, she attended the Abilene, Texas congregation of Living Church of God with her husband of 53 years, Hollis Reynolds, who survives her. She is also survived by three sons, three daughters, 17 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

# Member Web Resources

Starting in March, Living Church of God members will be able to look to a new Web site for member-specific information. The [www.cogl.org](http://www.cogl.org) Web site will contain all the information previously available in the Members area of [www.lcg.org](http://www.lcg.org), plus new features to be added over the next few months.

Material available at [www.cogl.org](http://www.cogl.org) includes electronic copies of the *Living Church News*, Dr. Meredith's co-worker letters, Church Administration updates (including the *World Ahead* weekly update), Feast of Tabernacles information and Holy Day calendar dates.

The shift is part of an overall reorganization of the Church Web sites that will facilitate the addition of sites for more countries and languages in the future.

One key benefit of the reorganization concerns "brand new" visitors to the Church Web sites. In the past, some visitors came to [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org) and then found their way to [www.lcg.org](http://www.lcg.org), but were puzzled that they could not reach the information in the Members area. None of that member-specific information was confidential, but its presence would have tended to distract or confuse people without any previous Church of God background—people for whom dozens of tapes, booklets and magazines are already being made available, including hundreds of hours of audio and video content online.

With the reorganized sites in place, Church members will be able to reach the member-specific information without a password. Since the [www.cogl.org](http://www.cogl.org) Web site will not be referenced in any public Church

materials or presentations, our goal is to keep the member-specific material separate from the rest of the Church media outreach. The contents of [www.cogl.org](http://www.cogl.org) will not be indexed in search engines, and the site will not be mentioned in any public Church media, whether print or electronic. It will not be a "confidential" page, in the usual sense of the word, but it is meant to be a private page serving only and specifically the needs of Living Church of God members.

Activity on the Church Web sites continues to increase; as of March 1 we can document 150 countries having visited the [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org) and [www.lcg.org](http://www.lcg.org) sites.

Please note that the [www.cogl.org](http://www.cogl.org) page will also be the official online location for Feast of Tabernacles information. The information from this issues' Feast section can also be found online at [www.cogl.org/fot2002/](http://www.cogl.org/fot2002/), and the online Feast pages will continue to be updated as new information becomes available between now and the Feast. Since many brethren do not have Internet access, we hope that each congregation will arrange with one or more members to have the online Feast pages printed out and made

available at Sabbath services, so that all members have the chance to benefit from the updated Internet information.

If you have any questions about the above, or comments about the Church Web sites, please direct them via e-mail to [media@cogl.org](mailto:media@cogl.org). Please keep the Church Internet efforts in your prayers!



The official English-language Living Church of God Web sites are [www.lcg.org](http://www.lcg.org), [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org) and [www.cogl.org](http://www.cogl.org). Watch in the coming months for exciting new features, and new foreign-language content, at these and other Living Church of God web sites.