

Living Church News

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Getting Our “Balance” on Health

Dear Brethren and Friends,

During our recent Council of Elders meetings, among several other topics we discussed our approach to divine healing. Since I hope to produce a booklet on this vital matter, I wanted the input of the Council on this topic. We all agreed that, in years past, two extreme approaches often dominated the thinking of ministers and Church members alike. In decades past, many felt that you were “weak in the faith”—or possibly even *sinning*—if you took any physical action above and beyond “fully trusting God.”

On the other hand, a growing number of ministers and brethren over the years noted that God often did **not** supernaturally “heal” right away—and some people even died prematurely when proper medical care might have prolonged their lives. Therefore, many of these people began to forsake the biblical instruction in James 5:14–15: “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

As we confirmed during the Council of Elders meetings, the Living Church of God teaches that *either* extreme is **wrong!** Praying to God, having *faith* in God and at the same time doing “our part” and getting physical care are **not** mutually exclusive! Even Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong got *full medical treatment* during the last few years of his life—as has been well documented. But he was also anointed, and he prayed that God—to *the full extent of His will*—would heal him and prolong his life.

Viewing carefully Mr. Armstrong’s example, and *studying carefully* the entire Bible on the subject of healing, we see that a “balanced” approach to this topic is both correct and more truly “Christian” than some of the extremes of the past. No, we do **not** want to “water down” our understanding that God is the *only* One who can truly “heal.” Only *God* can supernaturally remove the penalty of broken physical laws that have contributed to our sicknesses, diseases and injuries. *We must never forget that!* Doctors, drugs and knives may remove or mitigate some of the “symptoms” of whatever illnesses we may be experiencing. But these methods nearly always cause “side effects” that are sometimes more harmful than the original problem.

Also, within a few years, massive **disease epidemics** will sweep across the western world—often bringing terrible “new” diseases that will not

respond to modern drug therapy! (Matthew 24:7). Where will you look for healing *then*?

When all this occurs, it will be *imperative* for God's true Church to *absolutely* rely on **Him** for divine healing and deliverance! But even when medical care is available, God's Word shows that we should *always* involve the great God who is our Father and our Healer. In *all* things, we need to heartily follow the Apostle Paul's instruction in Colossians 3:17: "Whatever you do in word or deed, do **all** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

God tells us to call for the elders, and to look to Him, when we are sick. Yet God's inspired Word also clearly describes Luke as the "beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). And the Son of God clearly stated: "Those who are well have no need of a **physician**, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (Mark 2:17). Additionally, Jesus described the Good Samaritan as "pouring on oil and wine" to assist the healing of the wound suffered by a traveler (Luke 10:34). The wine contained alcohol and other elements to kill the germs and help prevent infection in an open wound. The oil was a natural lubricant to aid in healing. Did Jesus do *wrong* in describing in a positive manner the use of these medicinal properties?

And what about Timothy? Paul writes that the "genuine faith" of his mother and grandmother resided in Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5). Paul also described Timothy as one with "proven character" in the service of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:22). Yet God allowed Timothy to have a stomach ailment and "frequent infirmities" (1 Timothy 5:23). And though the Apostle Paul certainly must have anointed and prayed for this outstanding young evangelist whom he regarded as a "son in the Lord," he *also* prescribed for Timothy "a *little wine*" for his illness. Red dinner wine contains a natural antibiotic similar to penicillin. It would have helped combat the bacteria Timothy often ingested from drinking the local water in that warm, Mediterranean climate.

So wine was used as a type of "medicine." Was Paul mistaken in giving Timothy this advice? *No indeed!* God's servants were *often* advised to use certain healing elements in dealing with sickness, injury or disease (Exodus 21:19; Isaiah 38:21). And God had this instruction preserved in the Bible for *our learning*. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

In retrospect, we see that ideas that have circulated through the Church and its ministry in decades past have not always been entirely consistent with Scripture. There is a need for better balance and better wisdom on the subject of healing, medicine and health. Absolute faith and trust in God—in *every area* of life—is a *major* need (Matthew 9:29). *Where* we place our trust is also important (2 Chronicles 16:12). Getting *advice* from a doctor who is knowledgeable about the body and disease is **not** the same as putting blind trust in a medical practitioner. For the Bible says that there is "safety" in a "multitude" of counselors (Proverbs 11:14; 15:22).

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A WAY of Life

Editorial

By Roderick C. Meredith

Most of you “old timers” in the Church will remember that, back in the 1950s and 1960s, Mr. Herbert Armstrong taught us that true Christianity is an entire “way of life.” It is *not* just a belief in the Person of Jesus. It is also sincerely and consciously following Jesus’ instruction: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4). In *principle*—though not always in the letter—we should follow even the Old Testament instructions given in the “statutes” of God. For we know that, as magnified by Christ’s personal teachings and the entire New Testament, the *entire Bible* reveals the “mind of God.”

The Old Testament gives instruction about *washing regularly*, about *burying* human refuse under the ground so that it would not spread disease, about putting a railing around the flat roof of your house so that people would not fall off, about *not* eating animal fat and eating only the animals the Bible designates “clean.” All of this—and much more—is part of a *way* of life which acknowledges that “God knows best” even in the smallest details of life. Following carefully this entire *way* of life certainly does *not* “earn” salvation, but it demonstrates that we are *truly* trying to “live by every word of God.” As we grow in understanding, and in our humble yieldedness to God’s Word, this certainly

helps us qualify for greater responsibility in the coming Kingdom of God. For God can see that we are earnestly putting into practice *His* way in our lives, and that we will therefore be *far more yielded* and *experienced* in implementing this “way” in the five or ten cities we may be put in charge of in Christ’s soon-coming world government (Luke 19:19; Revelation 2:26–27).

God’s inspired Word indicates that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). It instructs

even *dangerous!* For instance, in a recent *New York Times* article, Lisa Sanders, MD, relates her own apparent disillusionment with the almost worshipful approach that millions take toward medicine. Dr. Sanders describes that at the very beginning of her training in medical school, the dean said: “**Half** of what we teach you here is **wrong**, unfortunately, *we don’t know which half!*” (emphasis ours).

Dr. Sanders goes on to describe how drastic changes are sometimes made every five or ten years in treat-

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us to “glorify God in your body” (1 Corinthians 6:20). So, if we *really* believe these and other clear scriptures, we should assume that *every* part of our body is put there for a purpose. We should assume that *every* organ of our body is there for a good reason and should not be cut out and thrown away without a *very good reason!*

As a corollary, we should carefully acquaint ourselves with the fact that the very top doctors and medical researchers now realize that *many* of the operations and procedures doctors have traditionally practiced are often *completely unnecessary* and sometimes

ing certain conditions. The doctors *themselves* tell us that they are “practicing” medicine.

Does this mean that we should completely avoid doctors? *Of course not!* If you are hit by a truck, you had probably better get to a hospital and see a trained physician *immediately!* Medical doctors, dentists, osteopaths, chiropractors and other health professionals often render an *invaluable service* to their fellow man. They are often deeply sincere and dedicated men and women doing “the best they can” with their present knowledge

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Learning to Practice the Way of Peace

By John H. Ogwyn

With the fall festivals approaching, our minds are properly turned to the soon-coming time that we call “tomorrow’s world”—a time when the nations will neither learn nor practice war anymore, and people will enjoy peace and security the world over. At this season of the year we frequently read, and hear commented upon, scriptures describing the peaceful and abundant world that will be ruled over by the Kingdom of God.

Often, however, we fail to stop and think about *how* this wonderful world will actually be brought about. Will the returning Christ simply snap His fingers, after which everyone will immediately start thinking peaceful thoughts? Or will people the world over need to be reeducated, learning a different way to deal with others? Will there need to be detailed teaching to help people understand the practical applications of how to truly love one another?

The prophet Isaiah tells us that in the future time of the Messiah’s kingdom, the law of God will go forth from Mount Zion (Isaiah 2:3). The reading and expounding of the law was anciently associated with the Feast of Tabernacles (Deuteronomy 31:9–11; Nehemiah 8:18). While many professing Christians believe that Jesus *replaced* Old Testament law with New Testament grace, the reality is that Jesus *amplified* the law and explained it in its full spiritual intent. Many would readily recognize that Jesus taught His listeners to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 19:19), but would be quite surprised to learn that in so doing He was quoting directly from the Torah (Leviticus 19:18)!

James, the brother of Jesus, called this principle—to love our neighbors as we love ourselves—“the royal law” (James 2:8). This principle underlies the way of peace that will be practiced in tomorrow’s world. And it is far more than a nice-sounding platitude. It has very practical applications to a wide variety of human relationships and problems. Specific applications of *how* to apply this principle are brought out in Leviticus 19, where we are directly commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus expounded upon these scriptures as He brought the good news of God’s coming Kingdom. He emphasized the importance of His disciples practicing these principles in all of their activities. This certainly makes sense, for how can we teach the way of peace to others in tomorrow’s world if we do not first learn it ourselves?

We need to put the way of peace into practice in our lives today and anticipate teaching it in tomorrow’s world. Let us examine more closely what the Bible defines as the “way of peace.”

The Origins of War

The Apostle James, early leader of the Jerusalem Church, explained one of the main causes of war. War comes from lust and covetousness, he declared (James 4:1–4). Mankind has a self-centered desire to get and to possess. People notice that someone else has what they want, and they begin to scheme how to get it for themselves. In Genesis 14, we read of an alliance of kings that invaded the ancient land of Canaan and carried off wealth and captives (including Lot and his family) from the cities of the plains. Desire for riches has led to many wars and conflicts throughout history.

Revenge has also been a powerful motive for warfare. Old grudges are nursed from generation to generation, and indulged whenever the opportunity presents itself. Scripture rebukes the descendants of Edom for nursing a perpetual resentment against the children of Israel. They are noted for their desire for revenge and their unwillingness to turn loose of old hatreds (Ezekiel 35:5).

Misunderstandings that are not properly resolved have been yet another cause of warfare and conflict. Joshua 22 gives an example of a misunderstanding that almost led to war. When the conquest of Canaan was completed, six years after the Israelites’ entry into the land, the men from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh were allowed to return east of the Jordan River to their farms and families. Word soon reached the rest of the Israelites that they had built an altar just like the one at the tabernacle at Shiloh! Assuming that their brothers were founding their own rival place of worship, the rest of the Israelite tribes prepared to go to war to punish them for this clear violation of the Covenant. However, when the Israelites east of the Jordan were asked for an explanation, it turned out that their motivation was very different. What they had built was not a rival center of worship, but rather was intended as a memorial to link them with their brothers west of the Jordan and the tabernacle at Shiloh. False assumptions about the intentions of others have led to much conflict down through time.

One particular attitude is behind many conflicts, causing them to escalate and preventing them from being resolved. That attitude, essential for conflict and warfare, is *pride*! Proverbs 13:10 reminds us that “by pride comes only contention.” James reminds us that God resists the proud and gives more of His grace—His freely bestowed benefits—to the humble (James 4:6).

Whether we are talking about full-scale warfare between nations, or simply conflict between family members and neighbors, the fundamental causes are similar—greed, misunderstanding and desire for revenge. This applies, as does the way of peace, both to nations and to individuals.

The Law Points the Way

God inspired Moses to exhort the people that they were to be holy, for God is holy (cf. Leviticus 19:2). The Creator wants us to share His outlook and to possess His character. Verses 9–18 contain a series of injunctions that are summed up by the statement: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But how do we apply this in a practical way, and how does it lead to peace?

The first point mentioned is **generosity** to those in need (vv. 9–10). When farmers harvested their crops, they were told not to reap the corners of the field or to return to pick up what was dropped. Neither were they to go back afterward to gather the last of the fruit. This was to be left for the poor and the strangers. Thus, from the very beginning, God’s people were taught the very opposite of a self-centered approach focused on getting for self.

The next point stressed is the importance of **honesty** in all of our dealings (vv. 11–13). Agreements are to be kept, and our word is to be our bond. Very specifically, the strong are not to take advantage of the weak. Wages are to be paid in full and when promised. To do otherwise is to defraud our neighbor, and only establishes grievances.

Verse 14 shows that we are to extend **respect** to all, whether they are aware of it or not. A deaf person may not know when someone is cursing him. But such an act of disrespect shows contempt for another human being. To put a stumbling block before the blind is to do harm when you think there is no chance of being discovered by the one harmed. However, the end of the verse gives us the key. **We are to live our life in deep awareness of God’s presence.** It is not a question of whether or not people will know how we have treated others. It is not even a matter of whether those to whom we showed contempt are aware of it. Life is to be lived before God, not simply before man.

The next verse instructs us to be **fair** to all. We are not to have a double standard of justice, showing favoritism either to the rich or to the poor. Regardless of social position or wealth, the person with whom we are dealing is our

neighbor and is to be treated in an evenhanded way. To tilt the scale—either because we feel sorry for someone’s lowly station or because we are awed by someone’s high station—leads to a society that is unjust and inequitable. While this happens frequently in today’s world, it will not be allowed in a society governed by God’s law.

Verses 16–18 reveal how those who truly love their neighbor as themselves will respond to the sins of others. We also see that God’s law forbids the most common approaches that people today take toward conflict and disagreement.

The law reminds us that we are not to be talebearers. We are not to go about as purveyors of scandal, nor are we to talk to all who will listen to get them to agree with us in cases of conflict. Trying to gather allies, or simply putting others down, is not the way of peace. Talebearing ensures that old sins will not be forgotten, and that old conflicts will not truly be resolved. It is often motivated by a desire to gain approval at the expense of another.

Additionally, we are not to harbor grudges or seek revenge. Nursing resentments ensures that nothing from the past is ever really put to rest. Some people actively display their resentment and hostility toward other people, while others simply hold hate in their heart. Whether it involves telling “our side” to others to get them to agree with us, trying to “get even” with someone or just secretly holding on to a resentment against someone who wronged us in the past, these approaches are all equally forbidden by the law of God.

What are we to do, then? We are told to go to someone who has done wrong and point it out to him in a way that may convince him of his sin. We are not to gossip, to try to punish, or to quietly nurse a grudge. Rather, we are to actively confront the erring party and try to help him. This is, of course, often far more difficult in practice than in theory. In fact, most people dread confrontation and seek to avoid it. Yet this is one of the specific commands that are summed up by the “royal law” of loving our neighbor as ourselves. How do we go about properly applying this part of the way of peace?

Peaceful Resolution of Disputes

In Matthew 18, Christ addressed this same subject to His disciples. How should mistakes be handled so that peace rather than conflict may result? This is important to understand, because it involves not only what we need to be learning and practicing in the Church of God today, but also what we must be preparing to teach all of mankind in tomorrow’s world.

In explaining the way to peace, Jesus Christ began by emphasizing the importance of a humble, childlike spirit. Since strife and contention flow from pride, it is important that Christ’s disciples be characterized by humility. This

mindset must be understood as a *prerequisite* for all of Christ's teaching that follows.

The next matter that is vital to understand is that of giving and receiving offense. What does it mean, in this context, to be offended or to offend others? The Greek word *skandalon* is the origin of the terms translated "offend" or "offense." In its original meaning, it refers to something that causes falling—in other words, a stumbling block or a trap. Well before New Testament times, the word primarily came to refer to that which caused someone to trip or stumble in life—something that interfered with a smooth walk through life's journey.

To those who disobey the gospel, Jesus Christ Himself was considered a *skandalon* (cf. 1 Peter 2:8). The disobedient figuratively tripped over God's Word, because Jesus and His message interrupted their life's journey and made it uncomfortable. More commonly, however, *skandalon* is used in a negative sense to describe behavior that hurts others in a moral or spiritual way, causing them to fall or stumble from the "straight and narrow." While the world will provide no shortage of stumbling blocks to interfere with our Christian journey, we must take great care that our own behavior does not entice others to sin or cause them to stumble in their efforts to walk with Christ. We must also be willing to go to any length to root out attitudes from our own life that may cause us to fall into sin.

Christ, our Good Shepherd, then emphasized the importance He places on going after any of His sheep who have stumbled or gone astray (vv. 11–14). This demonstrates the great value that God attaches to each one of His sheep, and should guide our attitude in approaching those who have sinned against us. We *do not* go to them to vindicate the self or to make them apologize for hurting our feelings, though these motives come naturally to us as human beings. We go to our sinning brother out of a desire to *help recover one who has gone astray!*

This desire to save our brother is why Christ instructs us not to simply "let the matter drop." If private one-on-one discussion is insufficient to provide the help someone needs to return to the right path, then we are to return and bring with us witnesses to our brother's conduct, so that the facts are not in dispute. If this second attempt fails, the matter is then to be taken to the Church.

Some have mistakenly thought telling a matter "to the church" means to air it before the entire congregation. But this is not what the Bible describes. To take a matter "to the church" means to go to those in authority in the Church, as we see illustrated in Acts 11:29–30, when a collection was taken up in Antioch for the brethren in Judea. Verse 29 explains that the collection was for the brethren, but verse 30 explains that it was actually delivered into the hands of the elders, who would in turn be responsible for distribution

to the brethren. The elders, as those responsible for taking care of the congregation (cf. 1 Timothy 3:4–5), act on behalf of the Church. Also, the context of Matthew 18 shows that Christ was speaking to the Twelve and giving them authority to make authoritative judgments. This clearly must be done in Christ's name; that is, based upon His authority—not upon the ideas and whims of men.


Matthew 18 concludes by emphasizing the importance of being willing to extend forgiveness. Peter obviously thought he had really understood Christ's point, and magnanimously offered to forgive someone who sinned against him seven times. But Christ explained to Peter that this is not nearly enough. Christ concluded by telling a parable to illustrate how we must be willing to forgive those who have sinned against us if we expect God to forgive us. The Greek word for forgive is *aphiemi*, literally meaning to "let go" or "to leave behind." This must be our attitude.

One other vital aspect of the way of peace is the **manner** in which we go to a brother. Galatians 6:1 emphasizes that when we go to our brother, our motive must be restoration and we must approach him in an attitude of deep humility. This, of course, fits exactly with the context of Matthew 18, where the emphasis is the same: the importance of a childlike humility and the importance that God places on the restoration of the one gone astray.

Now notice something with a different slant that Christ brought out in the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 5:23–24, He emphasized that whenever we realize that someone has something against us, we are to take the initiative in seeking reconciliation by going directly to him.

Why do we go to our brother? Because we are concerned for him! We are never told to go to vindicate ourselves or to win an argument or a dispute. When we recognize that estrangement has occurred, we go to seek reconciliation. When someone has committed a sin against us, we do not seek to "get even" or to "get him in trouble," but rather to help restore our erring brother to the path of righteousness.

In today's world, people seek to promote their own interests. They simply do not know, or do not deeply value, the way of peace. When people seek only their own good, this produces selfishness in the way they deal with others, promotes strife on a personal level and leads to warfare on a national level. The way of peace begins with us as individuals, but extends to all of society and the world.

Tomorrow's world will be very different than today's. An entire society will learn the way of peace based upon learning how to love and value their neighbors. Christ taught His disciples a message based upon the proper applications of the righteous law that He had revealed through Moses many centuries earlier. God's way has always been the way of love, and His Word tells us how to apply that principle in a practical way in all of our dealings with others. 

Ten Principles of Child-Rearing

By Carl E. McNair

Scripture tells us that children are the gift of God (Psalm 127:3). Rearing godly children is a responsibility placed on parents by the Giver of that gift (Malachi 2:15). Unlike many animals, human babies are born helpless. Babies are without ability or instinct to go to the source of their nourishment. Child-rearing is thus basic to human society. It is the parents' responsibility to *prepare* their children for *life*, from birth to adulthood.

Adam and Eve led the way in child-rearing. Regrettably, they set the example that mankind has followed for 6,000 years—a mixture of success and failure. Their failure led to uncontrolled anger, violence and death (Genesis 4:8).

They also failed in religious education. Their failure consigned their children to confusion and a loss of the knowledge of God—to ignorance of the purpose of life and death (Genesis 6:11).

As in any discipline or endeavor, there are elementary principles of child-rearing. Yet a majority of humankind is too impatient to learn and teach these fundamental tools for success in child-rearing.

The First Principle: Love

The human mind takes one of three tracks in responding to God:

- *Terror*—viewing God as a violent and selfish tyrant. This view,

exemplified in many pagan religions and philosophies, portrays God as an authority figure who is unkind, uncaring and often arbitrary in His dealings with mankind.

- *Ambivalence*—viewing God as having no real authority or influence in our lives. This view is commonly exemplified by

“the fear [in other words, respect rather than terror or ambivalence] of the Lord.”

Next, children must be taught respect for others, as codified in the last six of the Ten Commandments. Without respect for God and His supreme rule, one will not respect one's fellow man. Conversely, without respect for other human beings,

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“agnostics” or those who believe that God wants us to find our own way, without any objective source of His guidance.

- *Respect*—accepting God as our Creator and the giver of all good gifts. This view should be held by true Christians, who respect God and His Word and see them as the light and guide for our walk through the human experience. From such a view, true love of God can develop.

The most important and basic lesson we can teach a child is love (1 Corinthians 13:1–8). First, we must have love toward God, as codified in the first four of the Ten Commandments. The first lesson parents must teach their children is

one does not respect God, the Creator of all mankind.

Love toward neighbor is measured by how one respects or disrespects another's person or things. Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments in two—love toward God, and love toward fellow man. “Jesus said to him ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37–40).

Love is reflected by *self-less-ness*. *Self-ish-ness* is the opposite of love, demonstrated by dishonoring authorities (God, parents and civil

authorities) by lying, stealing, killing and by cheating other persons.

The prime fruit of *successful* child-rearing is demonstrated by a spirit of *cooperation, and sharing*. A prime fruit of child rearing failure is exemplified in a spirit of competition. These fruits are evident early, and they continue throughout adolescence and into maturity. While many people modify their behavior in mid-life, they often revert to the same selfish traits they exhibited as a juvenile in “the golden years” — with the same fruit!

Someone told the following story about a grandmother overheard giving directions to a grandson who was coming to visit:

“You come to the front door of the apartment complex. I am in apartment 14. There is a big panel at the door. With your elbow, push button 14. I will buzz you in. Come inside; the elevator is on the right. Get in, and with your elbow hit button 14. When you get out, I am on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell.”

“Grandma, that sounds easy, but why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow?” asked the grandson.

“You mean you’re coming empty-handed?” she replied.

One could think that this grandmother was assuming that her grandson had been taught to share. Or one might conclude that she had reverted to her childhood selfishness!

The Second Principle: Self Control

The second most crucial lesson parents should teach is *self-control*. Children who are not taught self-control are prime candidates for lives of broken relationships and of crime. The Apostle Paul described that in the “last days” our world would suf-

fer from a lack of self-control. He wrote: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Timothy 3:1–5, KJV).

Self-control comes from learning the meaning of “No.” It is taught by parental example and discipline. Too many parents fail to say no to their own “lusts of the flesh.” Few parents understand that saying no to themselves is the prerequisite for teaching no to their children.

Self-control, for children and parents alike, means *acceptance* of the meaning of “No.”

The Third Principle: Respect for Learning

“Lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). Only a fool refuses to respect learning. The book of Proverbs is a book of wisdom from the ancient sages, Hebrew and Gentile. King Solomon gathered wise men around him from the nations around Israel, and he assembled their wisdom into a collection readily available to all who desire a right relationship with the Eternal God. The importance of getting knowledge cannot be over-emphasized (see Proverbs 2:3–5; 8:10; 10:14; 12:1; 18:15).

The fear of the Eternal is the beginning of knowledge (1:7). Learning to *listen* is the first step in getting knowledge and wisdom (4:1; 8:33; 19:20; 22:17; 23:19).

Parents and teachers who do not teach this lesson establish a destruc-

tive habit in their charges. We should teach our children to *work at learning*. Many modern American educators have wrongly reasoned that it is destructive to require adolescent children to listen and to work at learning. The result of this folly has been chaos in the classroom, hindering even the learning of those children who desire to learn. In America and much of the Western world, a common attitude is that education should be free—primary, secondary and sometimes even higher education. The reality, of course, is that somebody always pays. But when parents or children approach education with the idea that it was obtained without cost, there can be a tendency to discount its value, and not take full advantage of what is being offered. One way or another, it is those parents and children who work at the education process who gain the most from it.

Parents should also teach their children to develop a curiosity about “the world around.” Children should be taught to question “why” and “how” the world is what it is, both in “their world” and in the world at large.

The Fourth Principle: Endurance

The Western world today is often rightly described as a society of whiners. A great percentage of citizens refuse to accept responsibility for their own foolish decisions and actions. Social and legal institutions have developed that foster this mindset. This “victim mentality” has made many rich, and many others comfortable.

Wise parents, however, will teach their children to accept personal responsibility, and not just depend dangerously on government and social institutions. The ability to stand independently of government

and social institutions can help a child avoid the heavy burden and trap of dependency, and instead become a productive member of society.

We should teach our children to establish practical goals in training and education, and to persevere in their pursuits. Enduring a few years of sacrifice and hard work is a small price to pay for attaining practical skills and education. Ignorance and ineptitude are far more costly over a lifetime, and can lead a child into a life of unhealthy dependence on the ungodly society around them.

The Fifth Principle: Godly Independence

Going along with the flow is easy. But the stream grows deeper and wider the longer one floats with the flow. It matters not what the crowd does; ultimately each person reaps the consequences of his or her actions. We should teach our children, early in life, to buck the current of Satan's world. Godly children should learn to dare to be different from the worldly society around them, and to pursue the godly qualities that God desires in them—now, and for all eternity.

Following God, regardless of what people think, requires the strength and discipline of swimming against the current. Children may learn this lesson in many seemingly insignificant ways. Being “in style” is the universal trap that has derailed many children whose parents did not understand and teach the value of living by God's standards, rather than man's. For example, a conservative, modest style of dress and grooming reflects self-discipline—a godly attribute. Extremes *either in modish or in ultraconservative dress and grooming* reveal one's attitude and mindset—and show that we are reflecting or reacting to the attitude of others.

We should teach our children to dress according to the needs of the occasion, not the latest fads set by entertainment or sports personalities.

In a television interview on *Larry King Live*, the host asked Mr. Paul Harvey—perhaps America's most highly respected newscaster/commentator—why he wore a coat and tie when recording his radio program. Mr. Harvey's reply was that an engineer who had worked with him for decades told him that when he dressed casually his presentation reflected his dress. What was the point? People could not see via radio that he was dressed casually—but his voice inflection revealed it.

Parents who permit their children to wear radical styles popularized by “movie idols” and other “trend-setters” may not realize that they are allowing their children to drink in the rebellious attitudes of these individuals. But that is what they are doing—no different from letting them imitate a mobster because they admire or relate to his lifestyle.

Godly independence leads to following God—not the “crowd.”

The Sixth Principle: Learning to Lead

Leadership is learned by learning to follow.

My father-in-law, Mr. Peter H. Ochs, was a professional musician and businessman. He built an outstanding music school in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He established a youth marching band program that toured the United States and Canada. They toured and played in cities of seven European countries, without government subsidies! His senior marching band was requested to march and play in President Kennedy's inauguration parade.

Through many years, he fought against corrupt business competitors

and city and school officials who hated him because of the principles he stood for and by which he lived. He taught many young men how to lead. The principles by which he lived were incorporated in the development of a Feast of Tabernacles music program that became known and respected across the nation. Mr. Bill Halliar became his leading assistant choir director at the Wisconsin Dells Feast site. Mr. Halliar was an elder in another Church area; Mr. Ochs was “only a deacon.” In one organizational meeting, Mr. Ochs paid the highest compliment that can be given to an assistant in any organization. He said: “Bill Halliar is a real leader—he has played the best second fiddle of any man I have ever known.”

Satan would not “play second fiddle,” so he rebelled against God. He sought to overthrow God and take to himself the “first chair.” His rebellion caused chaos for the earth and the universe. And his spirit permeates the earth today, producing competition, hatred and warfare among all nations.

Leaders *build*, but competitors divide. Leaders have a spirit of giving and serving, but competitors think first and always of getting for self. Jesus was and is the ultimate leader. He created the heavens and the earth—and He gave oversight of the earth to the archangel who became Satan, the Destroyer. Jesus said that it is more blessed to *give* than to receive (Acts 20:35). He practiced what He preached by divesting Himself of His divinity, reconciling us to God by His death (Philippians 2:8).

The Seventh Principle: Conquering Fear by Faith

We live in a fear-laden society. The various media feed on violence, in both news and entertainment—

and sometimes blur the distinction between news and entertainment. Violence seems to be almost everywhere in our world today, and many are fearful as a result.

Parents must conquer their own fears, and teach by their actions. Parents must teach their children to conquer fear by faith. The Apostle Paul wrote: “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). Also, he wrote to the brethren at Philippi: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

Fear paralyzes, but it is overcome by *action*. As the Apostle John wrote during a time of persecution: “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18).

The Eighth Principle: Conquering Anger

Anger is the basis of murder. Uncontrolled anger led to the first murder, when Cain killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4:6–8).

Jesus said: “But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire” (Matthew 5:22).

Christ revealed to the Apostle John that the whole earth will be in a state of anger at the end of the age (Revelation 11:18).

The wisdom of ancient king Solomon provides parents with very good reasons to overcome and learn to manage anger:

- A quick-tempered person is foolish (Proverbs 14:17).

- Do not make friends with an angry man, or go with a furious person (Proverbs 22:24).
- An angry man *creates* strife—he cannot let a matter lay (Proverbs 29:22).
- Do not be hasty to anger, for anger rests in the bosom of fools (Ecclesiastes 7:9).

The Ninth Principle: Learning to Trust

Because we live in “a wicked and perverse generation,” there is risk in trusting. But one cannot live without an element of trust. Without trust, one cannot commit to a marriage relationship. Distrust will corrode and destroy a marriage. Often, one who does not trust will seek to control or manipulate the other party in the relationship.

Yet trust must be tempered by reason. Teaching *how* to trust is a very important part of training a child. Trust lies at the heart of every intimate relationship—including business and financial relationships as well as personal relationships. Preparing your child to trust is a process that begins with infancy and continues on to adulthood.

Children must learn that character is vital. If a person has little or no character, how can he be expected to be trustworthy? If we have a relationship with such a person, we must limit our trust in him. And as we apply this principle to others, we should also ask ourselves: “Am I trustworthy?”

A person’s core beliefs, and principles of living, will affect our ability to trust. Children should be taught to recognize that if their friends have no problem with lying, or illegal drug use, or with excessive drinking, they may not be trustworthy.

Trust is also fostered by common family cultures and traditions. Especially when seeking a spouse, knowing the upbringing and values of a potential mate can help build trust. Of course, the deepest common family cultures and traditions are those centered on God and His ways. Divergent family cultures may add spice to a relationship if they are godly and positive, but seriously divergent family traditions may create misunderstanding, mistrust and conflict.

The Tenth Principle: Faithfulness

God is faithful (1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13). If we are to be sons of God, we must learn to be faithful. Faithfulness is learned through our personal relationships with other people. One cannot claim to be faithful to God while being unfaithful to one’s fellow man (1 John 4:20–21).

Recently, a man walked into a store with a little 3-year-old boy in tow. He placed the boy in a shopping cart, went into one section of the store, placed a toy in the little boy’s hand, then strolled out—abandoning him without a backward glance. Are parents who know the truth of God—who abandon their children to a godless world and to a state of ignorance of God—worse than such a man?

What does God think of parents who neglect or abandon their children to Satan’s world? Our children are one of our greatest responsibilities. How can we neglect them? Children are the gift of God (Psalm 127:3). May God give us the heart to use our responsibility toward our children to learn to love them, and teach them to love others, as God has loved us. ☐

Satan's Devices:

Do you know how the Devil operates and why?

By Douglas S. Winnail

We live in a world filled with problems—personal problems, problems between individuals, problems within families, churches and organizations and problems between nations. In our modern secular society, many *assume* that the solution to problems is negotiation, passing new laws or enforcing old ones, providing counseling or financial assistance or increasing opportunities for the disadvantaged. Yet these efforts to solve problems often overlook or ignore a fundamental aspect of reality—that many human problems have a *common source*. The Bible reveals that a powerful spirit being—Satan the devil—is deeply involved in fomenting problems that plague human beings. Scripture describes Satan's nature, his goals and his methods. In this article, we will examine how this powerful spirit being operates, so that we can become more alert to his activities and can avoid coming under his influence. Without this biblical knowledge, we can become unsuspecting pawns in Satan's disruptive plans and schemes, causing—rather than solving—problems.

Satan's Nature

The Bible reveals that when God created the being who is now called Satan, He created him perfect in beauty and wisdom (Ezekiel 28:12–13). This powerful and gifted spirit being was given a special position covering the throne of God (Ezekiel 28:14), symbolized by the two cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant whose wings extend over the mercy seat (symbolic of God's throne; see Exodus 25:18–22). But this powerful being allowed thoughts of vanity to dominate his mind. He began to envision himself as capable of taking over God's role in the universe (Isaiah 14:12–15), and eventually led one-third of the angels in a rebellion against God (Jude 6; Revelation 12:4–9). As a result of these misguided thoughts and actions, his name was changed to Satan (meaning “adversary” or a “hostile opponent” of God).

Scripture indicates that when Satan sinned, and began to act in opposition to God's divine plan, his mind became perverted, his reasoning became twisted and the wisdom God had given him became corrupted (Ezekiel

28:15–17). He became filled with violent thoughts and actions (Ezekiel 28:16). He began to spread lies, and to promote hatred and murder (John 8:44). Satan is also called a “destroyer” (*Abbadon*, Revelation 9:11) and a “deceiver” (Revelation 12:9). Satan's destructive and deceptive nature is utterly opposed to the nature of God, as God is a creator and sustainer who upholds truth, and acts out of love, mercy and concern for others.

Satan's Goals

Satan understands the plan of God, and that God made human beings in His own image (Genesis 1:26–28) to become part of the God family (Romans 8:14–17; 1 John 3:1–3). He understands the importance of the physical family in molding future members of God's family (see Colossians 3:18–20). Satan also knows that the Church is a vital part of God's plan to help human beings grow to spiritual maturity. He knows that Church members are learning to respond to Jesus Christ's leadership, just as a wife should respond to the leadership of a loving husband (Ephesians 5:22–33). Satan knows that the Church has an important mission to preach the gospel of the coming kingdom of God, to warn the world of an impending judgment and to feed the flock that God calls out of this world. Satan also knows that God wants those whom He calls to develop the very mind and character of their Creator (Philippians 2:5) and to be lights to this world (Matthew 5:13–16).

However, as the adversary and hostile opponent of God and His plan, Satan has sought from the beginning to undermine and disrupt the plan of God. He deceived Adam and Eve, and sowed discord in the first family, leading to Cain killing his brother (see Genesis 3–4). Satan sowed seeds of rebellion, doubt, idolatry and sexual licentiousness in the camp of ancient Israel, and later in the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Satan tried to destroy Jesus just after His birth, to thwart God's plan for a Messiah (Matthew 2:16–18). He moved Judas to betray his Master (John 13:27) and motivated the Jewish authorities to oppose Christ (John 8:40–44). Satan has sought to infil-

trate, disrupt and destroy the Church of God from its inception in the early first century AD (see Acts 4–9).

Satan also goes after individuals, especially those who have been called or who have come into contact with the truth of God. In the Bible, he is described as one who “walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Satan seeks to destroy individuals so that they cannot become part of God’s family, and to undermine the family structure that God designed to prepare future members of His family. Satan also seeks to divert the Church from its God-given mission. But just what are his methods? How can we recognize his activities, and how can we avoid becoming unsuspecting pawns in his disruptive schemes?

Satan’s Devices

The Bible indicates that Satan is the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4) and the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2). He is able to put thoughts into people’s minds, influence attitudes and spur actions against the way God wants people to live. Most people today do not realize that Satan can actually influence our thoughts, actions and reactions. The Apostle Paul warned the early Church that “we are not ignorant of his devices... lest Satan should take advantage of us” (2 Corinthians 2:11). But *how* do we recognize when Satan is trying to influence us? We will examine five methods he uses to accomplish his purposes.

(1) *Satan operates by deception.* The Bible indicates that Satan has *deceived* the whole world (Revelation 12:9). Jesus warned that many false teachers would come—claiming to be Christians—and would “deceive many” (Matthew 24:5). Mixing truth with error, in order to mislead the unwary, is a deception that Satan used effectively against Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:17; 3:1–13). He appealed to Eve’s physical senses, her emotions and her human reason, and was able to mislead her into making a wrong decision. Satan uses the same method today. This is why God provides specific warnings in Scripture, such as: “There is a way that *seems right* to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 16:25). We are also told: “Trust in the LORD... and *lean not on your own understanding*” (Proverbs 3:5). One of the surest ways to be deceived is to ignore wise counsel and to follow our own reasoning—or the reasoning of the “friends” with whom we associate. The Apostle Paul taught us to “test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Before making major decisions, we need to carefully evaluate the consequences of our anticipated choices or actions. These are practical guidelines to help us avoid being deceived by our adversary,

and being caught up in situations that will ultimately lead us astray.

(2) *Satan is an accuser of the brethren.* Satan can achieve his destructive purposes by prompting people to make damaging allegations against other people. The most devastating accusations are those that twist and misrepresent facts in order to destroy someone’s character. Jesus Christ was accused falsely, and He was crucified (Matthew 26:59–66). Stephen suffered a similar fate at the hands of false accusers (Acts 6:8–14). Satan still uses the same tactics today. False accusations have played a major role in producing divisions in families and in the Church. To avoid being caught up in Satan’s divisive schemes, we need to be wary of listening to those who come with long lists of accusations about someone else. God warns us that “an ungodly man [person] digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire [it is all he wants to talk about]” (Proverbs 16:27). We are also advised that “the first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him” (Proverbs 18:17). It is never wise to believe the first person who presents his case; it is always better to listen to the “other side” of the story before coming to a conclusion. Jesus did not encourage accusations; He advised accusers to “clean up their own acts” before becoming overly concerned about others’ faults. If we are determined to “walk in the footsteps” of Christ, we will not become unwitting agents in Satan’s schemes by listening to accusations or joining with accusers in their destructive works.

(3) *Satan spreads rumors.* A rumor is simply gossip—something you heard from someone else. Rumors tend to undermine and divide friends, acquaintances, co-workers, family members and churches. Rumors are dangerous and destructive, which is why Satan employs them. The Bible takes a strong stand against spreading rumors. Moses told the Israelites: “You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people” (Leviticus 19:16). Solomon wrote that “the hypocrite destroys with his mouth his neighbor” and that “a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter” (Proverbs 11:9–13). We are also told that “a perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends... he who covers [overlooks or forgives] a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates the best of friends” (Proverbs 16:28; 17:9). People influenced by Satan like to hear and pass on juicy rumors about other people, generating strife and bad feelings. Yet the Bible states that “where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases” (Proverbs 26:20). A real Christian will not listen to rumors or pass on rumors. Anyone who has a proclivity to promote rumors is very likely to become an instrument in Satan’s hands.

(4) *Satan spreads lies.* Jesus plainly stated that Satan is a liar who has no respect or regard for the truth (John 8:44). To achieve *his* goals, Satan can use those who tend to twist or shade the truth in order to achieve *their* own purposes. Satan used lies and half-truths in the Garden of Eden (see Genesis 3). He motivated Ananias and Sapphira to lie to Peter—which cost them their lives (Acts 5:1–11). Paul told Timothy that “in the latter times some will depart from the faith... speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron”—they will lie with a straight face to achieve their own selfish ends (1 Timothy 4:1–2). When people lie and fail to speak the truth, trust is destroyed. Families, churches, business organizations and societies plagued by lies begin to break down because no one can trust anyone else. Lies are destructive, which is why Satan (the destroyer) employs this device. God, our wise Creator, designed one of the Commandments—“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor”—to discourage this dangerous behavior. If you do not lie or participate in spreading lies, you can avoid being used by Satan.

(5) *Satan despises authority and acts presumptuously.* Satan assumed that because God created him perfect in beauty and wisdom, he could actually replace (or act in place of) God (Isaiah 14:12–14). In his misguided audacity, he led an angelic rebellion against his Creator. We see this same attitude in human beings who are influenced by Satan. The disciples encountered a man called Simon, who was a local leader in Samaria, “claiming that he was someone great” (Acts 8:9). Simon was attracted by the miraculous power that the disciples possessed, and he tried to buy that power so that he could use it for his own purposes (vv. 18–19). Peter’s response—“you have neither part nor portion in this matter” (Acts 8:21)—indicates that Simon was actually trying to buy an “apostleship” (see Acts 1:25). Simon’s presumptuous action was the result of Satan’s influence (Acts 8:22–23). Peter later warned that false teachers would be characterized by their willingness to “despise authority. They are... self-willed; they are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries” (2 Peter 2:1–10). Down through the ages, many have proclaimed themselves to be prophets, evangelists and teachers, and have led many sincere people astray. The Bible indicates God works through His Church to appoint humble, qualified individuals to positions of leadership—individuals who recognize and can work with established authorities (see Romans 10:14–15; Acts 13:1–3; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1:5–9). Jesus set the example of how to respect and submit to authority (John 5:30; 6:38). Anyone who follows Christ’s example will not act presumptuously, or despise the authority that God has established in the Church or the family. Such Christians will also abide by the laws of

the country they live in, as long as those laws are not contrary to the laws of God (Romans 13:1–3). Satan will have a difficult time influencing someone who has a proper attitude towards authority.

(6) *Satan pretends to be a Christian and part of the Church.* As we have already seen, Simon, the self-proclaimed leader from Samaria, claimed to be a Christian because he was baptized (Acts 8:13), but his subsequent actions revealed that he was merely a pretender. The Apostle Paul spoke of “false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:13). Paul also explained that since “Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if *his ministers* also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 11:14–15). According to the Bible, Satan has ministers masquerading as ministers of Jesus Christ—pretending to be Christian leaders! These false ministers will be involved in preaching about “another Jesus... a different spirit... [and] a different gospel” (2 Corinthians 11:1–4). This is why there are so many different churches today preaching so many different ideas. It is all part of Satan’s plan to destroy the Church that Jesus Christ founded—the Church that He still guides and leads.

Just because people attend the Church of God does not mean they are converted. Paul warned the leaders of the Church in Ephesus: “I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among your own selves men will rise up, speaking perverse [deceptive, misleading] things, to draw away the disciples after themselves” (Acts 20:29–30). Paul was describing how false teachers—unconverted individuals who appear to be “members” of the Church—would actually become instruments of Satan and be used by this powerful spirit being to wreak havoc and destruction in the Church of God.

The Bible clearly indicates that Satan is real, and that he stirs up problems between individuals, family members, Church members and nations. Satan has his devices, and he knows how to use these very destructive tools. As human beings, we need to recognize how Satan operates. We need to understand his goals and objectives. By studying and following the instructions that God provides in His Word, we can prevent the problems Satan wants to cause. We must remain alert, and learn to live “by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). If we want to avoid becoming instruments in Satan’s hands, and unsuspecting agents operating on his behalf, we must be able to recognize the methods he uses to accomplish his purposes. By doing so, we can avoid Satan’s devices, and make progress towards the kingdom of God. LCN



International Corner...

Europe and East Africa Update

by Douglas Winnail

We were pleased to welcome Dr. Meredith and his wife on their recent trip to the United Kingdom, Europe and Ireland. Dr. Meredith was able to speak to and fellowship with the congregation and guests in London on the Sabbath. On another Sabbath, in Drogheda, he addressed the combined congregations from Dublin and Belfast.

In addition to conducting board meetings for the UK and Irish corporations, Dr. & Mrs. Meredith were able to visit Vienna, the former capital city of the Austrian Hapsburgs and the "Holy Roman Empire." They also were able to view the European Union Parliament buildings in Strasbourg, France, and to see historical sites in Northern Ireland associated with Jeremiah and the Israelite migrations to Ireland. During their European trip, the Merediths were able to experience firsthand some of the record-breaking temperatures of the heat wave that scorched the UK and much of the Continent in August.

The advertising campaign in the UK and Ireland has drawn good responses this summer, and resulted in a number of visit requests. Responses to the German Web site in the first six months of 2003 have increased more than 70 percent over

the last six months of 2002. This translates into more than 8,000 visitors who have downloaded more than 2,300 booklets and more than 6,400 articles in the last six months. In addition, more than 400 items have been sent out by surface mail. In the last two-and-a-half years, there have been nearly 25,000 visitors to the French Web site, who have downloaded more than 40,000 articles, 800 booklets and 7,000 radio broadcasts.



In June, I was able to make a short trip to Gibraltar to gather information and take photographs for future *Tomorrow's World* articles. From Gibraltar, I traveled to Kenya for visits with members of the Nairobi congregation and video group hosts from other parts of the country.

Philippines Update

by Rod McNair

The seasonal rains that begin in May and June bring a respite from the long and hot summer season in the Philippines. This rainy season lasts all the way to the Feast of Tabernacles. It is during this time when the ministers and brethren begin preparations for the upcoming Feast season.

In May, Pastor Tex Benitez organized meetings for 22 deacons and leaders and their wives, from all over the area, to discuss Feast preparation. Everyone arrived in Maranding on Friday, May 15, and enjoyed

meeting together with local brethren for Sabbath services (attendance was 74), and a fellowship picnic the following Sunday. During the next two days, the ministers (Messrs. Tex and Gideon Benitez) addressed Feast-planning issues, as well as other topics such as: servant leadership, the history of the true Church, the importance of vision, sermonette preparation, and leadership, morality and ethics.



Mr. & Mrs. Frans Peeters, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Bedlow, Dr. Roderick C. Meredith, Dr. Douglas S. Winnail and Mr. Henry Cooper.

Preparations for the other Feast sites—Davao City, Tacloban City and Baguio City—are underway as well. We are expecting approximately 100 brethren in Davao, 70 in Tacloban, and 150 in Baguio City. Davao and Tacloban are located by the sea, while Baguio City is located in the mountains of northern Luzon—a cool, welcome respite from the heat of the lowlands of Luzon.

With the typhoon rains also comes danger from floods and sickness, especially flu and mosquito-borne infections such as dengue fever. During this period, our pastors see a marked increase of sickness, especially among the children, who are the most vulnerable to the seasonal illnesses. As the rainy season

begins in the Philippines, it is exciting to begin preparing for Festival 2003, and to be thinking of a time when this whole nation of 70 million Filipinos will all prepare for the Feast together.

On July 22, after a 14-hour flight from Los Angeles, my father and I touched down in Manila at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). Super-typhoon “Hurarot,” the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines in five years, had just passed through the country, packing 118-miles-per-hour gusts and leaving 17 people dead. God’s people were not totally unaffected. One of the hardest provinces to be hit was Isabela, in the Cagayan valley of northern Luzon. Sixteen brethren attend Living Church of God services in San Mateo, Isabela. Mr. Val Martin, our deacon there, had four mango trees virtually destroyed. All his other fruit trees suffered as well. His experience was not as devastating as Mr. Marte Ordinario’s, however, whose kitchen was completely destroyed when a large branch from a neighbor’s property crashed down on top of it. Marte and his family had just vacated the kitchen, being warned when another large branch fell just nine meters away from the house. God certainly protected all of our brethren in Isabela through this terrible storm.

After the typhoon had passed, the weather cleared for the remainder of our trip to the Philippines. Wednesday through Friday, July 23–25, was spent in meetings with local Metro-Manila pastor Mr. Felipe Casing, elder Mr. Basilio Osillos, and the Church office staff. On the Sabbath, 120 brethren from Metro-Manila convened to worship God. In my sermonette, I gave an update on the Work in the Philippines, then Mr. Carl McNair spoke about the ongoing value and success of God’s people, despite the

tragedy of the apostasy a decade ago.

The next morning, we awoke at 2:00 a.m. to head for the domestic airport, for our 6:00 a.m. flight to Tacloban, Leyte. Little did we know at the time that a *coup de etat* had begun just one hour earlier. At 1:00 a.m. Sunday morning, 296 government soldiers, led by junior officers in the army and navy, occupied the Oakwood Premier apartment building, in Ayala Center, just across the street from the Gilarmi hotel where we were staying. A standoff ensued when they refused to surrender to government troops. They placed bombs with trip wires around the perimeter of the shopping center, and snipers were seen walking on the rooftop of the Oakwood high-rise. Thankfully, we had no problem reaching the airport, and we proceeded to Leyte without incident. The standoff ended late that night, with the rebel troops laying down their weapons and returning to their barracks. As it turned out, the “coup” was more of a media event, to highlight government abuses and military corruption.

In Tacloban, Leyte, we touched down to greet Mr. Gorgonio de Guia, pastor of the Visayas and Southeastern Mindanao. After breakfast with Mr. de Guia and a brief rest in our hotel, we met at 11:00 a.m. with 61 brethren who had gathered from all over Leyte, Samar and Biliran. Mr. Carl McNair gave the Bible study, afterwards answering questions from the congregation. We all rejoiced and fellowshiped over a covered dish meal, before many of the brethren had to catch a 3:00 p.m. bus for home. After more fellowshiping that night with the remaining brethren and the de Guias, and a brief night’s sleep, we were up the next morning for the flight back to Manila.

Caribbean Update

by Carlos Harding and
Jonathan McNair

The tensions generated by the war in Iraq have continued to reverberate throughout the Caribbean region. Caricom (Caribbean Community) member states, comprising most of the English-speaking territories of the Caribbean, in addition to Haiti and Surinam, refused to support the Iraq war. Among the reasons cited were political issues, concern about oil prices and a much-feared potential reduction in tourism. As a result, there was deep disappointment and disapproval from the U.S. State Department, and even talk of punitive action. In return, many Caricom states resented the U.S. pressure. The end result has been a deepening of the growing rift between the two regions.

On another front, the recent outbreak of SARS has evoked widespread fears throughout the region. Although Caribbean countries have taken steps to deal with SARS, many remain concerned. Much of the Caribbean is densely populated, which could facilitate a rapid spread of SARS. This fact, coupled with scarce economic resources and the potential damage to the tourist industry, continues to worry the region’s leaders.

The third issue catching the headlines has to do with geography. Separated as they are by water, the people of the Caribbean depend on air travel. The tourism industry is also based upon strong airlines. As a result, the near-bankruptcy of BWIA airlines, headquartered in Trinidad, and LIAT, also Caribbean-owned, shook the business community. Leaders recently rushed to a hastily convened meeting in Barbados to formulate a rescue package for the airlines.

For now, the airline bailout seems to have worked. The airplanes are still flying, and the airlines are still “afloat.” ☐

Living Youth Camp 2003

Another Living Youth Camp has successfully concluded. By all accounts, it was an excellent camp, with 54 boys and 51 girls participating, along with 23 high school and 52 adult staff.

The weather in northern Michigan this year was exceptionally mild, with highs in the 60s and 70s and lows in the 50s and 60s. Rain interruptions were minimal, so camp events were not disrupted by the weather, though one canoe trip experienced a soggy breakfast, which was endured in good spirits.

Camp began with staff orientation on Sunday, July 20, when Camp Director Gerald Weston began educating new and returning staff in the LYC approach to camp. Mr. Weston stressed that there is a strong set of values that underlie LYC; values that are distinctly *different* from the world the campers are typically experiencing. The attitude and leadership example of the staff are critical to successfully transmitting God's values to the campers. At LYC, we seek to create a *culture of purity, honor and respect*. Activity Director Jonathan McNair went on to instruct the staff in the principles that are involved in successful instruction and education. The goal of the activity portion of LYC is to teach God's way of life in the context and process of instructing the campers in sports and outdoor activities. Assistant Camp Director Lambert Greer followed the next day with various legal considerations that all needed to be aware of.

It quickly became evident to this first-time staffer that LYC demanded a great deal of behind-the-scenes organization and work, far in advance of the camp itself. Many dedicated volunteers worked very hard at all the areas of camp operations to make the LYC such an outstanding success.

Mrs. Carol Weston organized and supervised the kitchen. The work of feeding the campers and staff began at around 6:00 a.m., and often ran through to 9:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m., with few breaks. The hard-working kitchen staff provided an excellent example of pep and high morale throughout camp, and reported that their hard work was always accompanied by a lot of fun.

Mrs. Lori Lyons organized the laundry services provided to campers and staff, helping to keep all of us in pre-

sentable and clean clothes. Mrs. Kathy Koons, a registered nurse, operated our camp Health Center. Mr. Steve Olson supervised a staff of Campus Improvement volunteers, assisted by campers, as part of the daily activity schedule.

Department heads and faculty included Mr. Derek Forrestier (archery), Mr. Sheldon Monson (canoeing), Mr. Lambert Greer (creative design), Mr. Michael Thomas (dance), Mr. Paul Marianovits (flag football and Ultimate Frisbee), Mr. Jerry Ruddlesden (life skills), Mr. Brian Scarborough (media), Mr. Jonathan McNair (public speaking), and Mrs. Kristy McNair (volleyball and special projects). Christian living classes were coordinated

by Mr. Jonathan McNair, and were conducted by Messrs. Weston, Greer, McNair and Gilchrist. Mrs. Linda Blanchard provided invaluable assistance in the camp office, helping us keep things organized and under control.

One of the most vital and fulfilling functions at LYC is provided by the counselors. These hard-working young adults supervise the campers at all times, ensuring that

their campers understand and live the standards of LYC. Counselors told me that they were inspired to serve in their roles by the examples set by counselors they had when they were at camp.

Campers began arriving on Tuesday, July 22, and things really got busy! A full slate of activities began the next day. After breakfast, Mr. Weston held another orientation, this time for the campers, followed by an activity period, lunch, fellowship time, a rest period, and three afternoon activity periods.

Each day started out with all campers and staff attending "Morning Motivation," followed by breakfast and "Christian Living" class (always the first activity period, in the spirit of *putting first things first*). The theme for these classes this year was "The Family," and topics included *The Family: An Endangered Institution*, *What is the Function of the Family?*, *What is the Proper Role of the Father and Mother?*, *Dealing with Family Conflict*, and *How to Honor Your Father and Mother*.

After this class, campers attended their second activity, then met for lunch. After lunch, campers mixed and min-



Campers gathered together to begin each day's activities with "Morning Motivation."

gled during the first fellowship time of the day. Fellowship time has been one of the most popular periods at camp.

After a brief rest period, campers attended their third, fourth and fifth activity periods before returning to the



For many teen campers, the two-day canoe trip was a highlight of LYC.

dining hall for dinner. A variety of activities took place after dinner, including an open activity, which allowed campers to participate in any of their favorite classes already offered. Other nights' activities ranged from table-topics and dance to "Play Dough Pictionary."

Sabbaths began with an evening Bible study conducted by one of the staff ministers. During the daylight portion of the Sabbath, campers rested, fellowshipped, participated in hymn sings, and attended afternoon Church services.

The final camper activity of each evening was "Evening Reflection." After singing hymns, campers enjoyed Mr. Weston's reading a variety of inspirational and instructive accounts from different sources, providing examples of courage, honesty, loyalty and other virtues. Campers then returned to their dorms for showers and lights out.

A new feature of camp this year was a staff lounge set up in a large tent, and organized by Mrs. Kristy McNair. Staffers would gather after "Evening Reflection" to play board games or chat, enjoying various drinks and snacks. A "Name the Tent" contest ended with the staff lounge being called "The Leaning Elephant," after a favorite example used by Mr. McNair to illustrate one way that change can be effected in a group through long-term example and positive peer pressure.

A highlight for many is the two-day canoe trip. Staffer Jennifer Bowman, of Linwood, Ontario, said: "Canoe staff unites you like no other staff will. That hardcore wilderness experience really brings you together!"

The busy and fast-paced camp concluded with the final banquet, a formal event attended by campers and staff. Each lady had an escort, and all were encouraged to put into practice the principles taught during LYC, most notably *thinking of the other person*.

Following the final banquet, and heartfelt farewells, 52 campers climbed into a bus headed for the airport; the rest left by other means the following day.

Camp staff said that this year's camp was one of the smoothest camps so far. Campers and staff alike worked very hard to make this year's camp a success. The all-volunteer staff deserves many thanks for their donation of time and energies to the youth of God's Church.

—Glen Gilchrist

California Pre-Teen Camp

On June 29, 51 campers and staff arrived at the 6,500-foot level of the California Sierra Nevada Mountains for five days of mountain camp adventure. The scenic camp, two hours east of Fresno, provided an outstanding setting for the annual California pre-teen camp. Campers this year came from the western region, including California, Oregon, Washington and Colorado.

This year the weather was *perfect* with daytime temperatures in the low 70s along with clear bright blue skies. A nearby mountain stream allowed campers the opportunity to wade in cool melted snow water runoff amid lush ferns, mountain flowers and the shade of towering pines,

This year's classes included arts and crafts, orienteering, soccer, manners, flag football, Christian living, entertainment, fitness, pellet gun riflery and a river activity. A short hike to a nearby stream gave the campers a restful cooling off for the last activity of the day where they enjoyed swimming and splashing



Happy California Pre-Teen Camp participants gather for a group photo.

This year's newest activity, pellet gun riflery, was a hit with most of the campers. Even many of the girls, with a little coaching, demonstrated a high level of marksmanship. When asked in the survey what activity they would like to see added in the future, two-thirds of the campers answered "archery."

Evening activities included Bunko, line and circle dance instruction, goofy Olympics, and the grand finale:

the campfire program with skits, entertainment and sing along.

“Morning Motivation,” “Evening Reflection” and “Christian Living” classes provided a spiritual focus that rounded out the experience for the campers; many of whom explained on their applications that one of their goals for camp was to “learn more about God’s Way.”

The teen and adult staff were outstanding examples, willing to serve and give for the benefit of the future



Campers enjoyed evening activities around a campfire.

potential Family of God. The number of staff was about 10 fewer than last year’s camp, but everyone pitched in and really worked as a team. All campers and staff returned home happy with a memorable experience at the second annual California Pre-Teen Camp.

—Jeffrey Fall

North Carolina Pre-Teen Camp

There were seven boys and 12 girls at the pre-teen Living Youth Camp at Maranatha Springs Camp and Conference Center near Siler City, NC. The staff included eight men, seven ladies and a teen counselor-in-training. Though the local weather forecast had predicted rain for the whole week, God gave us warm sunny days to enjoy His great outdoors.

Campers enjoyed several outdoor activities, including campfires, sports, canoeing, fishing and hiking. With the coach’s expert direction, the campers learned how to play Ultimate Frisbee, foxtail, flag football, softball, soccer and basketball, with a strong emphasis on the kind of sportsmanship acceptable to God. On the last day, it was campers versus the staff in a game of softball, which ended in a tie called on account of time. Fishing was a great success, with campers pulling in bluegill, white bass and catfish. All the fish were released unharmed.

Indoor activities included crafts, dancing, music, jump-rope and lessons in first aid and etiquette. The campers also enjoyed daily stories and lessons from the Bible. There was only one day when the weather forced us inside, at which time the campers learned a new game involving balloons and another called “Play-Dough Pictionary.” One of the

highlights of the camp was the farewell supper at which the campers practiced their etiquette while the staff served them as waiters. A great time was had by all.

—James K. Hazen

Missouri Pre-Teen Camp

Forty-one campers and 28 staff members gathered on June 15 at Cuivre River State Park, Missouri, for the third consecutive year of the Missouri Pre-Teen Living Youth Camp. Blessed with beautifully mild weather, everyone enjoyed the activities and the opportunity to be together.

Many activities kept campers and staff busy, including archery, choir, riflery, manners, canoeing, first aid, babysitting, volleyball, flag football, arts and crafts, and “Christian Living.” Campers also had the opportunity to enjoy many

new activities at camp, such as Ultimate Frisbee, ragball, storytelling, nature walk, fishing, swimming and track.

Evening activities included Pictionary, Bunko, Bible

baseball and musical talent night.

Napoleon said: “An army moves on its stomach.” So do camps, and at this camp we were so well fed that we did Napoleon one better and were able to move on our feet! Two separate kitchen crews kept the insatiable appetites quenched: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Oswald led the breakfast crew, and Mrs. Carolyn Ramsey led the lunch and dinner crew.

Mr. Mark Varichak, who taught the babysitting and first-aid classes, treated afflictions ranging from stings to scrapes to the occasional sprain with good humor and proficiency.

Comments such as “best year yet” and “I can’t wait for next year” were expressed by many. At the conclusion of the camp, campers and staff left with new friendships and pleasant memories.

—Randy Gregory and Ann Rankin

Texas Pre-Teen Camp

June 22–27 was an exciting week for nearly 40 children between the ages of seven and twelve. Mostly coming from Texas and Louisiana, these young people, along



Texas campers, counselors and staff enjoyed a wide range of activities.

with teen staff and counselors as well as adult staff members, spent the week at Ft. Parker State Park near Mexia, Texas. There were a wide range of activities, all the way from outdoor sports to Christian Living classes and special evening games and skits.

Mr. Gerald Weston, who oversees Living Church of God youth programs, provided guidance and support for those directly working with the Texas camp. Southern Regional Pastor John Ogwyn served as Camp Director and was assisted by Mr. David Crockett of the Dallas congregation.

The state park provided a beautiful setting on Mexia Lake for our whole range of activities. We leased the group camp facility and had an air-conditioned headquarters building that served as our dining hall and main activity center. It contained a full institutional style kitchen. In addition, there were dorms for the campers and the staff as well as playing fields and a beautiful wooded setting with hiking trails.

The day started early with morning exercises, followed by breakfast and a brief “morning motivational”

given by Mr. Ogwyn. There were two classes for the campers in the morning and three in the afternoon. Classes included swimming, basketball, softball, archery, canoeing, ping-pong, arts and crafts, and “Christian Living.”

After supper there was an opportunity for indoor games such as Pictionary as well as time for each of the four dorms to entertain everyone with skits and musical entertainment.

Mr. Derek Forrestier from the Houston congregation is a certified archery instructor and provided the equipment needed for that class. He even managed to procure life sized animal mannequins to serve as targets, rather than the traditional bulls eye style. Before the week was over, some of our budding “William Tells” were able to not only hit

their target, but even to shoot an apple sitting atop the target!

When the week ended, everyone was tired from a full schedule of activities, but the pre-teens had learned new skills and made new friends, all the while having a lot of fun in the process.

—John H. Ogwyn



Campers, Counselors and Teen Staff.

A WAY of Life

(continued from page 3)

and with the resources available to them. So this should be *deeply appreciated!*

On the other hand, if you read *their own writings*, you will find warning after warning about the dangers of using too many drugs, and about carelessness and even malpractice in certain hospitals. So this should help us *think very carefully* before submitting to **any** medical procedure. And it should encourage us to be conscientious in doing all we can to **prevent** sickness and injury to our bodies. I subscribe to a few health newsletters written by top health professionals. These letters all warn, in principle, that we should remember the old adage: “There is a **cause** for every **effect!**” These health care experts,

many of them doctors, *all* encourage their readers to follow more carefully the laws of health and therefore **not** get sick in the first place! They are simply describing, from their professional perspective, the principle that we should glorify God in our bodies. This is a vital part of the “way of life” of a true Christian.

God tells us: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Our professing-Christian nations *used to have* millions of respectful and obedient youth. But, several decades ago, along came the “child psychologists.” As a whole, they were trained by God-rejecting, secular humanist professors who paid *no attention whatever* to the teachings of the Bible. Then came Dr. Benjamin Spock, and others like him, who

gave us a *totally different approach* to teaching, training and disciplining our children. As many have observed, this led to an entire generation of selfish, undisciplined and unruly children who grew up with “Spock marks” all over them!

Within a decade or so after the Americans and the British began to allow these “educated fools” to tell us how to raise our children, the statistics for juvenile delinquency began to skyrocket, young people started turning to illegal drugs, and other social ills began to multiply. As they say: “You know the rest of the story.”

In the realm of marriage and family, God’s Word very clearly tells us: “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as

the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself” (Ephesians 5:22–28).

But along came “feminism” and the modern “pick and choose” approach to the Bible—even adopted by many professing Christians. The leaders of these movements either totally reject the Bible as a genuine authority, or reinterpret even plain and clear scriptures to suit themselves. Because of the entirely *wrong approach* to marriage and family taken by most of today’s so-called experts, marriages in our western, professing “Christian” nations have been breaking up with increasing frequency, and young people *by the millions* just decide to “live together” without benefit of marriage!

Many of you have read—as I have—the horrifying results of people not following *God’s* teaching regarding marriage and the home. The real picture of life for the millions of miserable married couples—and those just cohabiting—is indeed very sad. Young people today have not been taught *how* to establish a stable and happy home. They have **not** been taught to *totally commit* themselves to each other, before God, to establish a home and family “till death do us part.” They have *not* been taught to *give and give*, and to *forgive* each other continually in the marriage relationship. So they become absolutely miserable, and live lives of untold agony and sorrow. Then their children—by the millions—become confused, disoriented and resentful because their parents “split.” In self-

pity and anger, many of these children turn to drugs, to crime and often even to *violence* in their frustration. It is well documented that children from broken homes have a *far higher rate of suicide*. They simply try to “solve” the problem by *killing themselves*.

“*The wages of sin is death*,” says your Bible (Romans 6:23). Even physical death is often the **result** for those who break God’s laws of health, of marriage or of child rearing.

There is a *cause* for every *effect*. Even though we live in a confused and increasingly God-rejecting society, we as the Church of God need to get back to the right *way* of life taught and practiced by the early Christians.

In the late 1940s, and for many years afterward, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong tried to recapture and impart this *way of life* to God’s people—and especially to the students of Ambassador College. In fact, he set the motto of Ambassador College as: “Recapture True Values.” Through much study, prayer and God’s guidance, he tried to teach the early Ambassador College students *how* to properly date and conduct a truly Christian courtship, *how* to love and serve our mate in marriage and *how* to “train up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6).

Of course, we were not “perfect” by any means. We were all learning as we went along. But *to the degree* that we followed this way of life, our marriages were blessed, we were in better health, and our families as a whole were in better shape than most families in the society around us. Even the neighbors often remarked about how the Ambassador students “radiated” an inner joy and expressed unusual kindness and courtesy.


In fact, in the early years of Ambassador College, *not a single divorce occurred!* And when the first one happened, many of us were in shock because we had never experienced such a thing in our midst.

Also, significantly, to the best of my knowledge even after investigating and checking up for years, I know of *not one* single rape perpetrated by a student attending Ambassador College—even though, over time, *thousands* of young people attended.

We were also taught: “Get your happiness from your work!” We were constantly encouraged to live lives of productivity and accomplishment. We were often reminded of Ecclesiastes 9:10: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.”

Mr. Armstrong regularly exhorted us to set high standards and seek for genuine *quality* in things we read, the music we listened to, the food we ate and the way we treated one another. We were taught that God *always* does things “right” and that we should seek for the proper type of culture and quality in every area of life.

So I would like to encourage *all* of you brethren—young and old alike—to think again about the “way of life” of a true Christian. Like Mr. Armstrong, we will *not* be able to perfectly restore every phase and facet of this way in the Living Church of God. But we can *try*. We can make substantial progress if we *zealously* seek to honor God in all these ways—and if we start *now, today!*

When our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ returns to this earth, we will joyfully experience “*the times of the restoration of all things*,” which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21). The fullness of this *way of life* will permeate the entire world under Christ’s rulership. But as “pioneers”—as participants in the first resurrection with the wonderful opportunity to teach this “way”—we need to learn and to practice *this way* in our lives now. May God guide and inspire all of us to *do* just that. 

Getting Our “Balance” on Health

(continued from page 2)

The Bible itself offers several perspectives on healing. Healing is a prerogative of God. It is described as one of the *benefits* that God makes available to human beings (Psalm 103:1–5). It is also described as a *gift* from God (1 Corinthians 12:7–11). Healing is the forgiveness of sin (Mark 2:1–12). Man’s medicines and surgeries do *not* heal. At best, they merely treat symptoms—sometimes successfully, sometimes not. Remember, divine healing is **not** the same as working with physical means in repairing the body. But it is certainly *not wrong* to do our part and to try in every way we can to “glorify” God in our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:20).

In the broader scope, God is not only concerned with healing our physical bodies; He also wants us to learn *every lesson* we need to learn in this physical life to prepare us for eternal life in His Kingdom. If our physical problems are removed or “healed” every time we make a mistake, we may not learn some of the vital lessons about life that we need to learn regarding how to manage our bodies wisely and live in harmony with physical laws. When we are sick, we are not only instructed to be anointed and look to God, but also to *examine our lives* and behaviors to see what we have done wrong—and to *repent* of those wrong actions (James 5:16). Healing is not simply a mechanism for automatically “bailing us out” of problems we may have brought upon ourselves. It is important that we try to *learn the lessons* of life—including the lessons of maintaining good health—so we can teach others in tomorrow’s world.

While prayer and faith in God have an absolutely vital place in restoring health, we are also told: “Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments *and do those things that are pleasing in His sight*” (1 John 3:22). Those things “pleasing in His sight” involve *much more* than living generally good lives and avoiding unclean meats. “Those” things involve using our God-given minds to sincerely try to understand and “glorify” God in our physical bodies as He tells us to do.

In decades past, Mr. Armstrong led all of us in trying to live an *entire way of life!* This way of life was focused on the fact that God and His creation are essentially “good”—that we must learn to *work within the natural laws* of His creation. So we came to realize that breastfeeding children is normally *far better* than the artificial means of using a bottle. Many articles have come out, in recent years, from doctors and hospitals *documenting* this fact. We learned that “natural childbirth” is, in most cases, *much better* for both the woman and child. Again, many medical doctors and other health authorities *now* recognize this fact. We

learned that eating fresh fruits and vegetables and “natural” foods is *much better* than getting our nutrition from artificially manufactured “foods” packaged in cans and boxes. Mr. Armstrong told us to eat natural foods that will spoil, but to eat them *before* they spoil.

Years ago, I wrote a booklet (which some of you older brethren will remember) titled *The Seven Laws of Radiant Health*. In it, I detailed the basic laws of health, which *still apply*—and about which health authorities now write far more often than they did “back then.” Those laws are:

1. Eat a proper diet.
2. Learn to exercise regularly and, when possible, vigorously.
3. Get the proper amount of sleep and rest.
4. Ensure that you are getting enough sunshine and fresh air.
5. Practice cleanliness and wear proper clothing.
6. Avoid bodily injury.
7. Maintain a positive attitude.

In that old booklet, I discussed each of these points in detail. They are obviously *very important* in maintaining proper health. For instance, as I indicated in that booklet, you can keep *all* the other laws—yet become careless, step in front of a truck, and get yourself *killed!* So—especially you older brethren—be *very careful* while out walking or traveling, or when going up and down stairs. Being careful when involved in any potentially dangerous activity is *vital* for maintaining good health.

Also, as the old saying goes: “Your problem is not what you are eating. It is *what is eating you!*” In other words, you may get enough exercise and have a good diet, but if you allow *negative thoughts* of envy, resentment, bitterness or hate to dominate your mind, you may end up with ulcers, high blood pressure and even premature *death*. So, dear brethren, please *think on these laws*. If we truly want to “learn the lessons” that God wants us to learn, He will honor that. And He will honor us a lot more when we come to Him for healing if we have sincerely tried to do *our part!*

Remember also the *negative* effects of “running to the doctor” with every cold and flu, or other problem that comes along. God wants us to “get the facts” and to *use wisdom* in obtaining proper medical care. A recent issue of the newsletter *Public Citizen* contained an article by Sidney Wolfe, M.D. A few of the points he brought out may be helpful in giving us the proper perspective:

- “Seventy percent of doctors treating Medicare patients flunked an exam on their knowledge of prescribing to older adults.

- The majority of physicians who were asked to take the exam refused, often giving as their reason that they had a ‘lack of interest in the subject.’
- Between 40 percent and 50 percent of drugs prescribed for older adults outside the hospital were overused.
- Forty-eight percent of patients taking three or more drugs were given drugs with one or more harmful interactions with other drugs.
- The fact is that there are far too many victims of drug-induced illness each and every day.
- Every minute, two people are hospitalized for adverse drug reactions (1,500,000 a year) and there’s a death every five minutes and 15 seconds (100,000 a year). Every three and one-quarter minutes, someone suffers drug-induced or drug-worsened memory loss (163,000 a year). It is fortunately reversible if you know which drug was the cause.”

In addition, a *Los Angeles Times* article (November 30, 1999) reported: “Basic flaws’ in the U.S. health care system produce medical errors that lead to as many as 98,000 deaths annually, a federally sponsored panel said Monday, and members called for rigorous changes to safeguard patients.... Between 44,000 and 98,000 people each year die as a result of medical errors—more than die from motor vehicle accidents, breast cancer or AIDS, according to the report. The annual costs of preventable injuries are estimated at between \$17 billion and \$29 billion.”

Many, many more quotes and statistics along this line could be included here, but this should begin to give you the idea. You need to *be careful*—as are many doctors regarding *their own families*—and not just let any doctor who comes along prescribe some “new” or dramatic treatment for your body!

Brethren, as we have taught for many years, it is *up to you* to make *your* decision as to when and how much to seek medical help when you are ill or injured. Frankly, many health professionals realize that the most effective use of their skills involves repairing bodily injury. When you are hit by a truck, or have broken bones or crushed internal organs, medical doctors can often help you in a dramatic way! This must be appreciated, and we must give credit where credit is due. But, overall, you do need to take great care about the type of treatment in which you involve yourself. And you must exercise wisdom even when using “natural” products such as herbs and vitamins in an attempt to “cure” diseases or ailments. Some of these products can help the body heal itself of physical infirmity. Yet, ultimately, only **God** is the true Healer.

Therefore, as each year goes by, I pray that all of us *as a Church* will draw closer and closer to God, have our

minds more fully aligned with the thoughts expressed in the Bible, and learn to “walk with God” *in every area* of life—not just in regard to healing. We must show God that we are trying, in every way, to “do those things” which are pleasing to Him. Then, when we have done the best we can, seeking proper counsel—having done our part—we can look to God to go above and beyond what man can do, and to *intervene* to deliver us or to heal us. He is our Father. He tells us: “I will **never** leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

Dear brethren, as we draw toward the end of this age let us *get our balance* in this subject of health and healing! Let us do all *we can* to “glorify God” in our bodies and in the way that we treat illness and injury. Let us learn to get *all the facts* and use real *wisdom*. But let us **never** leave out the vital approach of *trusting God* with all of our hearts, and ultimately looking to Him for His help and intervention.

Also, most importantly, we must **not** judge one another in how each one reacts when stricken by illness or injury. We *do not know* the exact details of the other person’s body, his “heart,” his approach to God or the way he is thinking. So we *cannot* properly judge any other individual in this manner. Jesus Christ commanded: “**Judge not**, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge you will be judged; and with the same measure you use it, will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:1–3).

Please remember, brethren, that any of us who harshly “judges his brother” (or sister) about a decision to use medicine, operations, or any other means of becoming well is in grave danger of committing an even **greater** error. For our “judging”—and the attitudes of vanity and arrogance this may engender—may be *far worse* than a sincere person in God’s Church reaching out for help when he is terribly sick or his very life is in danger! For Jesus Himself said: “But if you had known what this means, *I desire mercy* and not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the guiltless” (Matthew 12:7).

I will be writing much more about this in my upcoming booklet on healing. But I wanted to share these insights with all of you brethren now. When fellow Church members are ill, our main task should be to *pray fervently* that God will help them to do their part properly, and then will go *above and beyond* what man can do, and will supernaturally *heal* them in His time and way. This approach of *wisdom* and *mercy* should underlie all our thoughts and actions in the matter of health and divine healing.



Local Church News

Campout in the Great Smokey Mountains A Great Success!

More than 50 happy adults and children experienced God's great outdoors at the annual July 4th (American Independence Day) Smokey Mountains campout, hosted by elder Marvin Maney and his extended family from the Living Church of God congregation in Asheville, North Carolina.

During three nights of camping, brethren from congregations in several states had an opportunity to taste good food, camp coffee and fellowship. Deacon Gary Maney oversaw the cooking of everything from scrambled eggs to steak, and even 200 trout caught by the Maneys.

A few hardy souls took time to hike some of the many trails in the mountains including a short segment of the 2,200-mile-long Appalachian Trail. Fishermen pulled rainbow trout from the stream that ran next to the camping area. Some campers stayed up after midnight playing

games by lantern light. Two Bible studies were conducted, one on Friday night by Mr. Carl Ponder, pastor from the Atlanta area, and another on Sabbath afternoon by Mr. Martin Fannin, pastor of the Asheville congregation.

"Into each life some rain must fall..." especially in the Great Smokey Mountains, however the rain quickly left and was replaced by cool mountain breezes. On Saturday night, several campers were able to attend, as special guests of the Maneys, a presentation of the world famous outdoor drama *Unto These Hills*, which depicts the amazing history of the Indians on the nearby Cherokee Indian Reservation. The Maneys live and work on the reservation, and are Cherokee themselves.

Thanks to the Maney family and all those who volunteered to make this year's event an outstanding success.

—Carl Ponder

Upcoming *Tomorrow's World* Telecasts

WGN: Sunday, 6:00 AM ET

VISION (Canada): Sunday, 3:30 AM & 5:30 PM ET

Air Date	Broadcast Title	Air Date	Broadcast Title
September 21	Principles of Bible Study	October 12	Will You Be Left Behind?
September 28	Can Satan Deceive You?	October 19	A Biblical Tale of Two Cities
October 5	Who Is the Antichrist?	October 26	Why Prophecy?

For additional stations and times, check the Television and Radio Log on page 31 of your *Tomorrow's World* magazine.

Births

Joe and Wanda Ross, of Dubuque, Iowa, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, *Elizabeth Anne Ross*. She was born June 26, at 9:02 p.m. She was 20 inches long and weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces. Mom and baby are doing fine, to the joy of the rest of the family. Elizabeth is the granddaughter of Raymond and Joan Waller, also of

Dubuque, and Joe and Anne Ross of Kelowna, BC, Canada..

Aden and Shirley Bowman are excited to announce the birth of their seventh child, *Lillian May Bowman*. She arrived on May 19, a healthy 7 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 21 inches long. She is loved and adored by her 2 brothers Marlin and Darcy, and 4 sisters Jennifer, Virginia, Charlene and Emily.

Ordination

Mr. Rodger A. Hagmaier was ordained as an elder by Regional Pastor Lambert Greer on the Sabbath of June 21. Mr. Hagmaier will continue to serve the brethren in Akron, Ohio.

Wedding

Mark Sandor and Amanda Evans were married on August 9. The ceremony was performed by Mr. Ken Frank, in Statesville, NC. Mr. & Mrs. Sandor will reside in Fayetteville, AR.

Commentary

A Homosexual Bishop: Overlooking the Obvious?

By Richard F. Ames

How many of us sometimes “overlook the obvious”? A case in point is the unbiblical reasoning that led the Episcopal Church in the United States to elect an openly homosexual priest as a bishop.

The newly elected bishop said that “his opponents were right that the decision was contrary to the church’s traditional teaching against homosexuality. ‘Just simply to say that it goes against tradition and the teaching of the church and Scripture does not necessarily make it wrong,’ he said. ‘We worship a living God, and that living God leads us into truth.’” (*The Charlotte Observer*, “Episcopal vote OKs 1st openly gay bishop,” p. 9A, August 6, 2003).

But is the new bishop overlooking an obvious truth? Read Romans 1:24–26. The Apostle Paul plainly labels homosexuality and its practice as “vile passions” and further states that those who “dishonor their bodies among themselves... exchanged the truth of God for the lie.” How can one who believes the Bible support a “lie”? Yet, that is exactly what is happening! A church is supporting a “lie” by calling it a new truth! Incredible!

The Bible *plainly* teaches that homosexuality is sin. By supporting homosexuality as “truth” these people are admitting that they do not accept the Bible—Old Testament *or* New Testament—as the authoritative Word of the Creator God. The Apostle Peter wrote of Paul’s epistles, “which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures” (2 Peter 3:16). Homosexual clerics and their followers are overlooking the obvious, by twisting and even *rejecting* Scripture “to their own destruction.”

Why do so many people reject the Ten Commandments? Are they influenced by a “spirit of error?” Let us understand. There are unseen forces persuading millions of professing Christians to sin. As the Apostle Paul wrote, concerning those who allow themselves to be blind-

ed spiritually: “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age [Satan, the devil] has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them” (2 Corinthians 4:3–4).

Sexual immorality is increasing in our Western world as media broadcast the false doctrine that society is free to follow unbridled passions. Willing millions become slaves to sin, and seek to justify their own wickedness. Hoping to rationalize their licentious behaviors as “righteousness,” gullible people follow false ministers in the name of Christianity. As the prophet Jeremiah wrote: “An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?” (Jeremiah 5:30–31). God will judge those who overlook the obvious teachings of His Word. Jeremiah records God’s judgment: “‘Shall I not punish them for these things?’ says the LORD. ‘Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?’” (v. 29).

God plainly states that homosexual behaviors are an “abomination” (Leviticus 18:22). Nations whose people are encouraging religious and legal approval of homosexual unions, will pay the penalty for transgressing the laws of God. May our peoples wake up to the truth. May they reject the smooth persuasions of those who turn light into darkness. As the prophet Isaiah declared: “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20).

God’s judgment *is* coming! Do not be deceived by false doctrines that call sexual perversion “God’s gift.” Rather, seek God’s truth—in this matter as in all matters—and you will find true freedom (John 8:32, 31)! Do *not* overlook the obvious!

The above is an adaptation of one of the many commentaries, on key topics facing our world, available at the www.lcg.org and www.tomorrowworld.org Web sites.