

infuse

FALL 2004

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"On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.'" John 7:37-38

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I love the autumn season for several reasons. The days are shorter, the trees will begin to turn brilliant colors of orange, red and yellow and the hottest days of summer are a thing of the past. More importantly it is a time when the High Holy Days are once again upon us. The mere words "Holy Days" conjure up many emotions and memories.

Throughout the pages of this magazine our writers have beautifully described the importance of each of the Fall Holy Days and how they outline God's plan of salvation not only for the individual but for the world as well. It is a time of spiritual renewal.

The Feast of Tabernacles in particular is a vacation away from the routine and ordinary concerns of day-to-day living. It is a time that stresses the importance of obedience to God and service, duty and responsibility to the brethren and our neighbor. In Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus underscored the first and second most important commandments of all. A heartfelt relationship with God is what our Creator desires. We do this by loving Him and our neighbor.

The Feast is not a ritualistic act of attending church each day to sing songs and hear a sermon. We should be attending the Feast because we fear the Lord and love Him with all our heart, mind and soul. Each and every day of the Feast is an opportunity to learn more about God's truth and develop a closer relationship with Him.

My prayer this Holy Day season is that no matter where you attend God's Holy Days, your understanding will grow even greater as you immerse yourselves in the teachings, activities and fellowship.

Keep the Feast and Rejoice

God bless you,

Noni McVey
Editor in Chief

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● **How You Can** ●
● **Contribute to the Winter** ●
● **2004/2005 Issue of *infuse*** ●

● We're looking for articles, short stories, artwork, poetry, ●
● essays, personal experiences and reviews from you. ●

● **GUIDELINES:** Articles should be approximately 500-750 ●
● words. All submissions should be centered on the next ●
● issue's theme of **Salvation**. ●

● **DEADLINE:** All submissions must be received by ●
● **November 1, 2004**. ●

● If you are interested in contributing to the next issue of ●
● **infuse**, contact Noni McVey by writing to infuse@cgi.org ●
● or call 831-625-0231. ●

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Feast of Tabernacles 2004

Pensacola Beach, Florida

The Feast of Tabernacles of is upon us and Infuse is ready. Below is a sneak peak at what is planned.

All Infuse services are directed to you—high school students and young adults in their 20's and early 30's (both married and single). The services will consist of sermons, group discussions and uplifting music. Sermons will be 30 minutes long and sermonettes will be 15 minutes. Members of the audience will have the ability to raise their hands to ask questions, as in a classroom setting. The panel discussions and the discussion day will allow the members of the audience to participate, ask questions and share thoughts.

The Infuse Service will end in time for everyone to walk over to the Clarion Suites Resort to hear the sermon in the Main Service.

Schedule Note: Times and activities may change.

Wednesday, September 29th	
7:00-10:00pm	Hospitality & Feast Orientation at Clarion Suites Resort
Thursday, September 30th	
	No Infuse Service
10:30am	Main Service at Clarion Suites Resort
1:00-2:30pm	Infuse Luncheon between services at Best Western For high school students, young adults in their 20's and early 30's (both singles and married couples) and the ministry.
3:00pm	Main Service at Clarion Suites Resort
7:30-11:00pm	Family Dinner Night with Karaoke Entertainment at Jubilee Restaurant
Friday, October 1st	
9:30-10:00am	Infuse Morning Social at Best Western
10:00-11:00am	Infuse Service at Best Western Sermon by Mr. Mike James
10:30am	Main Service at Clarion Suites Resort
1:00-3:00pm	Senior Luncheon at Jubilee Restaurant
1:00pm	Infuse Table Hopping at Best Western A get-to-know-you ice breaking activity.
4:30pm	Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen This activity gives young adults the opportunity to serve the community of Pensacola, FL.
7:30-9:00pm	Church Bible Study at Clarion Suites Resort
Saturday, October 2nd	
9:30-10:00am	Infuse Morning Social at Best Western
10:00-11:00am	Infuse Service at Best Western Panel Discussion on Living a Christian Life when dealing with Pop Culture.
10:30am	Main Service at Clarion Suites Resort
1:00-3:00pm	Ministerial Luncheon at Jubilee Restaurant
Afternoon	Main Service at Clarion Suites Resort
Sunday, October 3rd	
7:30am	Morning Run on Beach Meet at Best Western.
9:30-10:00am	Infuse Morning Social at Best Western
10:00-11:00am	Infuse Service at Best Western Sermon by Mr. Bill Watson
10:30am	Main Service at Clarion Suites Resort
1:00-3:00pm	Ladies' Luncheon at Jubilee Restaurant

3:30pm	Bike Ride or Miniature Golf
7:30-9:00pm	Church Bible Study at Clarion Suites Resort
7:30-9:00pm	Tutoring and Study Session hosted by Infuse Occurring at the same time as the Church Bible Study, this activity allows the young adults to serve their brethren. Parents will be able to leave their school-age children with the young adult tutors and attend the Church Bible Study.
Monday, October 4th	
7:30-8:30am	Cardio Kickboxing Class at Best Western Taught by Elizabeth McVey
9:30-10:00am	Infuse Morning Social at Best Western
10:00-11:00am	Infuse Service at Best Western Sermonette by Mr. Craig Smith Sermonette by Mr. Daniel McLean
10:30am	Main Service at Clarion Suites Resort
2:00-5:00pm	Church Beach Party at Best Western
4:30pm	Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen This activity gives young adults the opportunity to serve the community of Pensacola, FL.
Tuesday, October 5th	
7:30am	Morning Run on Beach Meet at Best Western.
9:30-10:00am	Infuse Morning Social at Best Western
10:00-11:00am	Infuse Service at Best Western Sermon by Mr. Duane Nicol
10:30am	Main Service at Clarion Suites Resort
	Free Afternoon
7:30-9:30pm	Family Fun Show at Clarion Suites Resort
Wednesday, October 6th	
7:30-8:30am	Cardio Kickboxing Class at Best Western Taught by Elizabeth McVey
9:30-10:00am	Infuse Morning Social at Best Western
10:00-11:00am	Infuse Service at Best Western Discussion on Creation vs. Evolution
10:30am	Main Service at Clarion Suites Resort
	Teen Outing
7:30-9:00pm	Church Bible Study at Clarion Suites Resort
Thursday, October 7th	
	No Infuse Service
10:00am-12:00pm	Main Service at Clarion Suites Resort

Good Feast Memories

By Margie Marang

Coming into the truth of God in the latter part of the year of 1968 and reading Deuteronomy 14:22-26, was a truly eye opening experience. My husband, Frank, and I found out we should be doing what is written in these verses. It took us a long time to change jobs and not to work on Saturday. It was an eye opener to realize Saturday was God's true Sabbath. We had to change a lot of things before we could be baptized, and we were baptized in March of 1969.

In Nehemiah 8:14-18, it says we are to dwell in booths which means a temporary dwelling place when we are at the Feast of Tabernacles. Now we had to make plans to be off work nine or ten days, according to where the main office of the World-Wide-Church of God wanted us to go for the Feast. We weren't given a choice. We didn't have much money, so we hoped we would be sent someplace close.

We were told to go to Big Sandy, Texas. Our first Feast of Tabernacles was in October of 1969, only 7 months after we were baptized. We were low on money. We borrowed a tent, and collected all the things we needed to eat, to sleep on and to wear. We had enough clothes, so we didn't have to buy any. It was an exciting week, making sure we had everything we needed.

We drove down in a caravan, along with two other families. They were already in the church of God and knew where to go, so we followed them. As we drove into the camping area, there were men directing us to a parking spot where we could put up our tent. We were put on row three. That was pretty close to the big building where we met. We could walk to it. As we were unloading our tent, several men were right there to help us put it up. They had the tent up so quickly I could hardly believe my eyes. I got busy arranging the inside, putting our bedding in a certain place and our food and clothing in another. In no time we were ready for the unexpected.

It was a beautiful place. There was a huge metal building they called the Tabernacle where 14,000 people met. The grounds were immaculate. The ponds were so clean they looked like a mirror. There were ducks and swans everywhere. The horse barns and dairy barns were spotless. It was breath taking. The people were friendly, always a smile, and always ready to help us.

We never missed a service. Every time the door was opened we were there. They had Church activities we were invited to. The singing was wonderful coming from 14,000 voices. The coordinator of the Feast had planned for an event



Herb and Tui Haupt (left) and Frank and I (right) inside our meeting place in Australia.

everyday, that we were welcome to attend if we wanted to. We were not obligated to take part in any of the planned events unless we wanted.

Sometimes we would go with a group and go shopping, or visit people who were camping out, or we would take a bus tour of the huge property we were camping on.

From our first Feast to every Feast since then, they have gotten better. We have good memories from every Feast we have ever attended.

Please follow the dotted line throughout the magazine as we share some more Feast memories with you.

Lake-of-the-Ozarks, Missouri:
The hilly country and the beautiful flowers and the fun we experienced. Eating in the parking lot while waiting 2-3 hours before we could leave. Several of us brought our lunch and had a "Tail Gate Party."

Tucson, Arizona: We traveled with four other families. We enjoyed the bible studies, the sing along, the fun show, touring the town and going to Nogales, Mexico with the brethren and shopping in the streets.

Sanctuary in the Wilderness

by Ruth Kerr

One day the Lord called Moses up to Mount Sinai and said, “Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”

Moses might have looked a little confused. Dwell with them? The Israelites? Moses may have glanced over his shoulder, down the craggy slopes of Mt. Sinai, at the crowds of restless people camped on the desert floor. The Lord wanted to dwell with those people, who complained about the food, the water—and just about everything else?

It was in 1446 B.C., give or take a few years, the slave-nation of Israel fled Egypt. They trekked through the wilderness to Mount Sinai, where the Lord outlined the Ten Commandments. Such an arduous journey would test any relationship, and by now the honeymoon between Moses and the Israelites was definitely over.

But any thoughts Moses may have had about this new arrangement were brushed aside. The Lord gave Moses a detailed set of blueprints for the tabernacle (Exodus 25-27). It would be a sanctuary of exquisite simplicity and profound symbolism.

Sanctuaries or temples

dedicated to various gods were common in the ancient world. Nowhere was this more evident than in Egypt, the land of towering pyramids and larger-than-life sphinxes. The Israelites were highly skilled in ancient building techniques; as a nation of slaves, they helped build Pithom and Raamses, two of Egypt’s supply cities (Exodus 1:11).

The Israelites were qualified to build a monumental temple that would rival the over-the-top edifices of Egypt. But that was not the Lord’s wish.

This sanctuary was unique to humanity. First of all, freewill offerings were requested for building materials (Exodus 25:2). Secondly, the tabernacle was portable; it could be quickly disassembled and moved. Thirdly, it was a place where the glory of the Lord could dwell with His people.

Clearly this was no pagan temple, where mystery religions bullied people and reminded them of their lowly place in the universe. This was the tabernacle of the living God, who abhorred the child sacrifices and perverse temple rituals of the ancient world. This God spoke to Moses face to face,

as a man speaks to his friend (Exodus 33:11). Unlike the fickle pagan gods, this God provided for Israel instead of demanding bizarre sacrifices from them.

The tabernacle shows us something else. Writer Athol Dickson calls the tabernacle “Heaven’s Embassy.” The Bible tells us it was a “shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle” (Hebrews 8:5).

The Lord was revealing Himself to the Israelites through the tabernacle. He told them He desired an intimate relationship with them; He wanted them to be blessed by living His laws; and He assured them He would be with them wherever they went.

This was similar to the message Jesus gave His disciples after He was resurrected. “[Teach] them to observe whatsoever I have commanded you,” He said, “and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

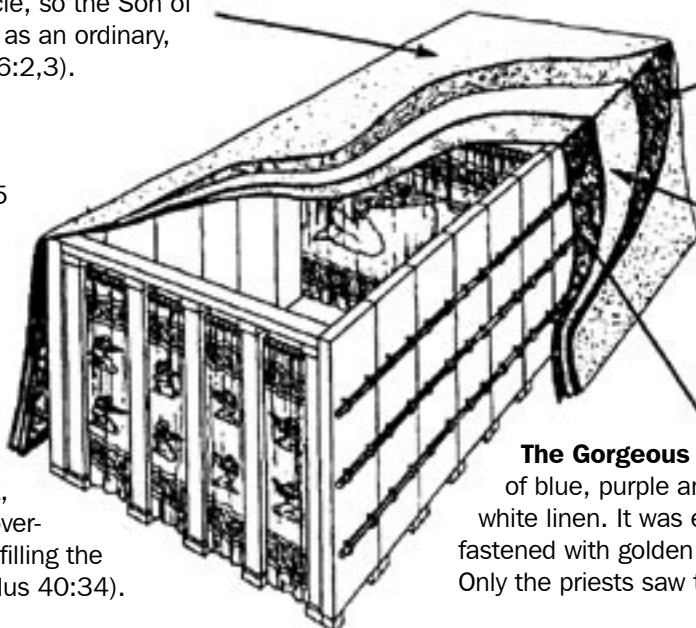
The lessons of that sanctuary in the wilderness are over 3,400 years old. But they are still instructing us, even today. **i**

THE TABERNACLE

The Outer Protective Covering may have been made from badger skins or leather. Just as the outer covering was plain and hid the beauty inside the Tabernacle, so the Son of God came to earth as an ordinary, mortal man (Mark 6:2,3).

The Tabernacle was perched in the western half of the court and measured 15 by 45 feet. The sides were wooden boards symbolizing humanity. Gold covered the boards representing Christ. Individuals in Christ (wood and gold), collectively, make up one body (Ephesians 2:21).

After the Tabernacle was built, God blessed His people by covering the tent with a cloud and filling the sanctuary with His glory (Exodus 40:34).



Rams’ Skins: Under the protective covering were the rams’ skins. The skins were dyed red. Here is seen the blood Jesus shed to pay for our sins (John 1:29).

The Covering of Pure White Goat’s Hair was under the rams’ skins. On the Day of Atonement, goats were used as the sacrifice. A part of the goat’s hair hung down as a boarder over the top of the only door to the tent. The white goats’ hair reminded the Israelites there was sacrifice and forgiveness for them (Titus 3:5, 1 John 1:7,9).

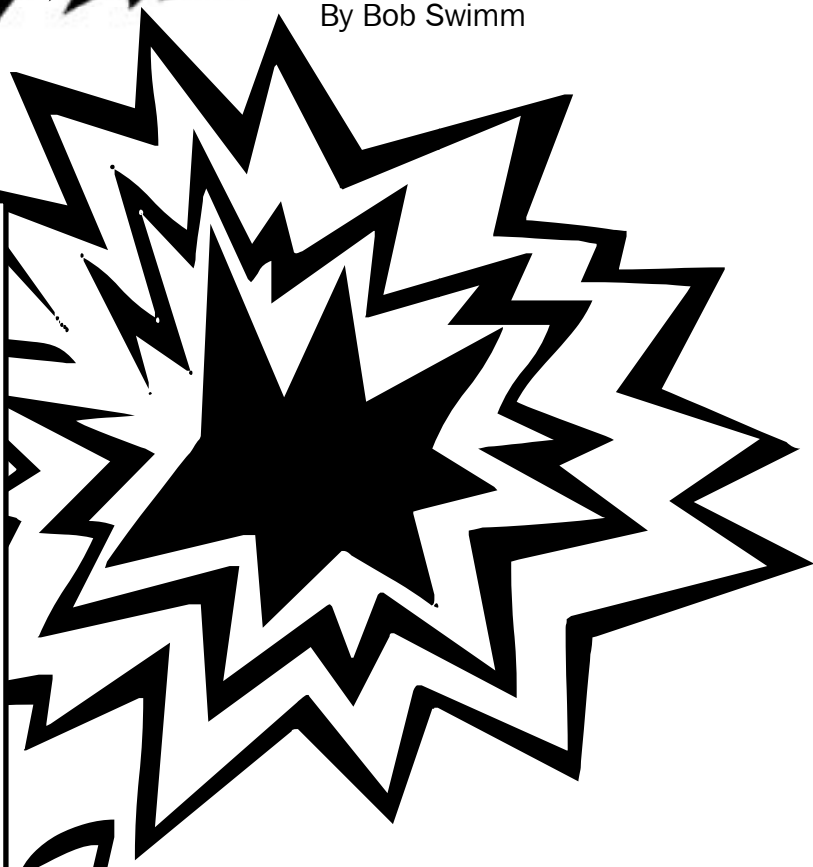
The Gorgeous Inner Covering was made of blue, purple and scarlet threads woven into white linen. It was embroidered with cherubim and fastened with golden clasps. The colors reflect Christ. Only the priests saw the inner covering.

JESUS CHRIST TO THE RESCUE

By Bob Swimm

THE SHOW: THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN:
1953
THE EPISODE: "FIVE MINUTES TO DOOM"
THE SCENE: AN INNOCENT JOE WINTERS HAS
BEEN STRAPPED INTO THE
ELECTRIC CHAIR, WRONGLY
CONVICTED FOR A MURDER HE
DID NOT COMMIT.

Daily Planet reporters Clark Kent, Lois Lane and Jimmy Olsen have unearthed last minute evidence to prove Joe Winters' innocence. Editor Perry White tries desperately to call the governor but a storm has knocked out the phone lines, the situation is desperate. Clark tells them not to worry, he'll get through, but he only has five minutes. He's able to "contact" Superman who crashes through the concrete wall of the prison cell and thrusts his arm between the armature and the deadly plates taking all the voltage himself sparing Winters' life at the last possible second.



THE SHOW: THE LONE RANGER: 1955
THE EPISODE: "THE LYNCHING"
THE SCENE: A DOWN ON HIS LUCK FORMER TEXAS
RANGER, DRIFTING THROUGH TOWN
FINDS HIMSELF IN THE WRONG PLACE
AT THE WRONG TIME AND IS FRAMED
FOR THE ROBBERY AND MURDER OF
A BELOVED TOWNSMAN.

The actual killer works the town's people into a frenzied mob mentality and they overpower a weak sheriff. The Lone Ranger, a former Texas Ranger and an old friend, has been disguised as a bearded prospector and discovered the truth. The Lone Ranger follows the mob out of town from a safe distance, and at the last possible instant, with the noose around the drifter's neck, the horse has been whacked on the rear, with laser precision the Lone Ranger fires both six shooters slicing the rope saving his old friend's life without a second to spare.

WHACK!

THE SHOW: SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE

THE EPISODE: "THE GREAT TRIBULATION"

THE SCENE: "FOR THEN THERE WILL BE GREAT DISTRESS, UNEQUALED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD UNTIL NOW- AND NEVER TO BE EQUALED AGAIN. IF THOSE DAYS HAD NOT BEEN CUT SHORT, NO ONE WOULD SURVIVE, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE ELECT THOSE DAYS WILL BE SHORTENED." (MATTHEW 24:21, 22).

The first two stories were adventure serials from the 1950's where Superman and the Lone Ranger were always arriving just in the nick of time to prevent a catastrophic miscarriage of justice. The third scenario points us toward the fourth of the great festivals of Almighty God: and at the same time it is the first of the final four Holy Days not yet fulfilled. It is time for the Feast of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24).

The drama unfolds as all of the seven seals have been opened, all the plagues, all of the woes, and all but one of the seven last trumpet plagues have sounded.

Mankind is on the brink of total nuclear annihilation. Satan (the Dragon) has influenced the great military leader (the Beast) and a blasphemous religious leader (The False Prophet) to gather for one final world war at Armageddon (this one is a desperate, foolish war against Jesus and His Holy angels) as the seventh angel sounds and pours out his vial into the air. Then comes a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done" (Revelation 16:16,17).

What Superman and Lone Ranger did in fantasy, Jesus the Christ will enact in breath taking reality brokering ultimate righteous vengeance once and for all on the fulfilled FEAST OF TRUMPETS ending all the injustices and tyrannies and wars.

At the last possible second, the Father will give the order. "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." (Revelation 19:11-16).

The other awesome element of the Feast of Trumpets not to be overlooked is the resurrection of the dead in Christ. Not only is Jesus the conquering General at the battle of Armageddon, He is Victor over death, which is the final enemy of mankind.

"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised

imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:51-57).

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS: HAIL TO JESUS CHRIST, OUR CONQUERING KING, JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!

Febyll Island, Georgia: Singing in the choir, walking in the Atlantic Ocean and on the beach, picking up seashells and sand dollars. Touring the wealthy homes in the area.

Squaw Valley, California: Shared a condominium with a new family. Had services in Slyth Arena. It was really cold. We had to wrap up in blankets to keep warm during services. Touring the town and shopping was a wonderful experience.

THE CHURCH OF GOD

By Rory Ries

My question for you today is, are you where you need to be? You're probably wondering, "What is he talking about, are you where you need to be?" Actually, the question is directed at those who may be attending church and for those who may be seeking a church where they can attend.

There are so many different religions in the world and then, there are many different churches in the world. All of them claim to be God's church and millions of people claim they are Christians. How do you know where to attend and how can you be sure they are following Christ? It may not matter to you but it does matter to God where you attend church and what you do as you walk with Jesus Christ.

A Christian is simply someone who believes in the doctrines of Jesus. Believing is a word that means there is action. Believing is entrusting your whole being to Jesus (Matthew 22:37-38). Giving up yourself and allowing Jesus Christ to live in you is what a Christian is called to do (John 3:16).

Once someone takes on the responsibility of being a Christian, it is up to that individual to continue to prove all things and know what is expected of him or her (1 Thessalonians 5:21, and 1 John 4:1-3). We see it is possible to be deceived if we allow ourselves to be deceived. On the other hand, we can discern what is of God and what is not of God (John 7:16-18).

How then can we know where God's true church and His people are today? Is there a guide we can look to, to make sure we are where we need to be? Yes, there is a guide and, yes, we can know if a church or its people are truly following Jesus Christ.

First of all, Jesus Christ is our guide. He speaks to us through his word. In his word are signs that lead us to where we need to be and these signs will lead

us into the Promised Land (Luke 8:21, Revelations 7:13-17, 1 John 2:14).

What are these signs that we can look for that will tell us we are where we need to be as we walk with Christ along our journey in this life? There are many, but today we are just going to cover the ones that separate the true believers from the rest of the worldly religions.

God has set aside a chosen people whom He calls a royal priesthood. He has done this so these special people can proclaim praises of the Eternal God (1 Peter 2:9-10). God did the same thing with Ancient Israel in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 4:5-6). What signs can you look for to prove you are with God's people today?



First of all, God does the calling into His church (John 6:43-45). "A person is set aside by God" and it is God who leads an individual to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). That individual then has to repent and become baptized. The laying on of hands allows the Holy Spirit to enter into that individual (Acts 2:36-39). One sign is the teaching of repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands (Hebrews 6:1-2).



Another sign is, who is keeping all of the 10 Commandments? There are many out there who will tell you the 10 Commandments have been nailed to the cross or they have been fulfilled and you no longer have to keep them. There are also those who teach Sunday is the day of worship. What does Christ say about keeping all of the 10 Commandments?

If we do not keep the 10 Com-

mandments, John says the truth is not in us (1 John 2:3-6). John also said we are to walk just as Jesus walked if we abide in Him. That's simple enough and this was written long after Christ had died. Christ, himself, taught his followers to keep the Commandments and if anyone taught something differently, they would be considered the least in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:17-19).



God says there will be a sign between Him and His people and that sign is the Sabbath (Ex 31:12-17). Those who are keeping the Seventh Day Sabbath are obeying what God has put in place many years ago. The Sabbath, along with the Holy Days, are a shadow of things to come and as we keep these days we grow in the grace and knowledge of God's great plan for all of mankind (Colossians 2:16-17).

Included in keeping the Holy Days is the command to keep Passover. We're not talking about Easter, which is a holiday created by man. When we partake of the Passover we are being given life through the body and blood of Jesus Christ (John 6:53-58). Those who keep the Passover according to Christ's instructions, which includes the foot-washing ceremony, do abide in Jesus Christ. Anything else that is different from Christ's instructions is a counterfeit or a false doctrine.



On the night Jesus was betrayed he gave us a sign so we would know who his true disciples are and that sign is, the love they have for one another (John 13:35). Wherever you attend church, there must be love.

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The Great Need for Atonement

By Loren Chamberlain

From the time Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the Great need for the Holy Day of Atonement was necessary. The need for all mankind to receive atonement, “reconciliation” is paramount. The reason for this need is because the nature of man has become totally saturated with sin, and the guilt of that sin.

For salvation the sinner who does not know God, must bridge the great gulf between himself and God, which is impossible for him to do. God Himself however, has provided a “new and living way.”

In the mind of the follower of Christ, Atonement is the act by which God and man are brought together in a personal relationship. The term “Atonement” is derived from Anglo Saxon words meaning, “making one,” hence “at-one-ment.” The great gulf and alienation that separates God and man needs to be overcome if humans are to know God and experience fellowship and Eternal Life with Him. As a term expressing relationship, Atonement is tied closely to such other Biblical terms as reconciliation and forgiveness.

According to Jeremiah, “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). Isaiah also stated, “All we like sheep have gone astray” (Isaiah 53:6). The apostle Paul describes all men as “enemies of God” (Romans 5:10), as “hostile to God” (Romans 8:7), and “sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works” (Colossians 1:21).

We are the offspring of Adam and just like him. “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12).

This sinfulness of man is a problem of great magnitude, and it is compounded by the holiness of God, who cannot look

upon sin. “‘But,’ he said, ‘you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live’” (Exodus 33:20). While man is extremely sinful, God is awesomely holy and cannot look upon sin. Therefore, man can do nothing about this condition and dreads God. Man is lost and in a hopeless situation, standing under the awful judgment of God. Man by no means can justify himself, or merit God’s concern. Therefore, if man is to receive atonement it rests solely with God.

YOM KIPPUR

Yom Kippur was a most important day, falling on the tenth day of the month of Tishri according to the Hebrew calendar, corresponding to mid-September through mid-October.

On that day the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle (or temple) to atone for the sins of all Israel. His purpose in this ritual was to accomplish reconciliation between the Israelites and God. In the New Testament the Day of Atonement was referred to as the “Fast” (Acts 27:9).

In Leviticus 23, the only chapter in the Bible where all of the Festival Days together are summarized, we find the proclaiming of a Day of Atonement.

The Seventh month of God’s sacred calendar in type, represents the Seven 1,000-year day of man’s time on earth. All those called out of the world and drawn to Jesus Christ are commanded to assemble on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:27). In the book of Numbers we find additional affirmation of this including the exact day on which we are to meet (Numbers 29:7). The Feast of Trumpets was observed on the first day of Tishri and on the tenth day of this same month The Day of Atonement was kept.

JUBILEE

The Day of Atonement was selected by God as a time of emancipation and restoration “release”—a Day symbolizing release from bondage (Leviticus 25:1-9). After seven seventh years were reached, totaling 49 years, the fiftieth year was heralded by the Trumpet of Jubilee. This year was set aside as belonging to the Lord. The word “Jubilee” simply means a “Ram’s Horn.”

This was not just a year of release from labor, nor just a year of rest, but this year belonged to the Lord. By this, God expressed His Lordship over earth and all creation that should be acknowledged by all His people by their obedience to all His commands.

The Sabbath day expresses God’s right to order life, six days of work, one day of rest. And just as the Seventh year, linked in Deuteronomy 31:9-13 with the reading of His law, expressed His right to command obedience of His people, so

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Huntsville, Alabama: We saw the Space and Rocket Center. Frank sang his first duet at church services for special music. Visited with new people and enjoyed the outdoor games.

Branson, Missouri: Traveling the hilly country. Getting to where the feast was to be held and being in the fun show. Wonderful times. Doing some shopping and being with the brethren.

You're Going Where?

To the Feast of Tabernacles!

By Patricia Chamberlain

Here we are, "at that time of year," when once again we will be questioned by friends, relatives and bosses about our beliefs, actions, and where we are going. The answer we give will define us as being "very different" from the mainstream believers in Christ, and the whole world for that matter.

The questions will come, from friends and co-workers to whom we have explained our beliefs to till we are blue in the face, and still, they never remember. It is very tempting to avoid the long explanation and go for the short version. Either way, you will be asked this same question every year. People forget what is not important to them. So be prepared!

FEAST OF TABERNACLES: WHAT IS THAT?

The Feast of Tabernacles is one of several Holy Days established by God. You can read about all of them in Leviticus 23. It is a very special Holy Day of God, and I have decided to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Pensacola, Florida this year. However, there are numerous other Feast sites all across the United States to choose from and many other places around the world such as Australia, England, Ireland, and Malawi, Central Africa.

WHAT IS IT YOU DO AT THE FEAST?

The Feast is a very special time to gather together with others of like mind who believe that God's Holy Days as established in the Bible are to be observed today. This particular Feast reveals God's plan for those people God has called and chosen to do His work. It is a time to gather together in a place God chooses and to dwell in booths, that is, somewhere other than our own homes. It is a time God blesses us in all the work of our hands. We are given an opportunity to give God an offering according to the blessings we have received over the past year, and at the same time gain an awesome respect for the God who has supplied all our needs and who has created all things. From sermons and Bible studies, we gain wisdom about how to live a happy and productive life on earth, and be prepared mentally and spiritually to enter the Kingdom of God when Christ returns and establishes it.

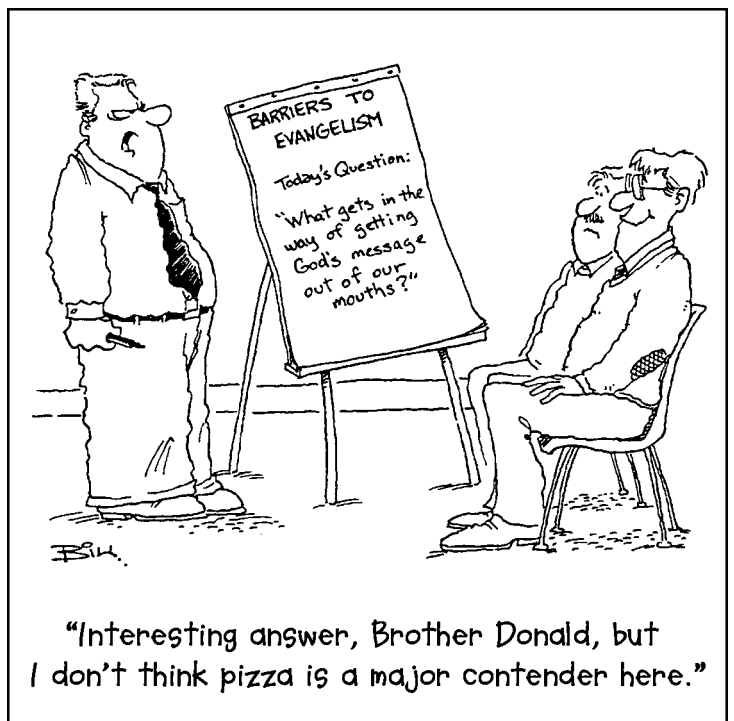
Of course it is not just the study of God's word, but the living of it, by sharing food at picnics and BBQ's, playing games, swimming, bike rides, goofy golf, and in general, a whole lot of fellowshiping together. This is made possible because through the year God has made it possible for us to lay aside the necessary funds to be able to keep the Feast. It is a great time to become re-acquainted with old friends and make hundreds of new friends. This is very important because these are the people we will be sharing Eternal Life with.

DO YOU HAVE TO DO THIS?

Well, no. No one has to do anything, but you can't please God by being disobedient to His commands either. God is a wonderful Father. He wants us to take time out of our busy, hard working life, and spend some time rejoicing with Him. He gave us the Holy Days for just that purpose. These Holy Days are for all people for all time. They were not just intended for the ancient Israelites. The prophet Zechariah said, "Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16).

So let's not look for the quick easy way out by saying we are going on vacation or to attend a church conference, when in reality we are going to be enjoying God's Feast of Tabernacles. This is a perfect opportunity to witness for Christ. Yes, people in the world understand the phrase "I am going to a Church Conference." But if we do that we have lost a precious opportunity to bring the Bible or God into the conversation, and of course, we also bypass the stigma of being labeled a religious weirdo. We of all people must be honest with our answers. If not, we would be acting as if we are ashamed of Jesus Christ and of His way. If we are ashamed of Jesus, God will be ashamed of us.

God the Father, has given us the opportunity to come together out of the workshop of the world and rejoice before Him as one body, worshiping Him and His Son Jesus Christ, our savior and soon coming King! Let's do just that! i





Facing Your FIERY Furnace

By Noni McVey

The story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego in Daniel 3 is more than a story of three men who miraculously survived the fiery furnace. The lesson of the story is their unwavering faith in God to deliver them.

All these young men had to do was bend a knee to worship the golden image King Nebuchadnezzar had built. If they had done this, no peril would have come their way. But these young men knew the faithfulness of God. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Our God is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace" (3:17); they were also very aware God does not always deliver the faithful from death, "but if not, let it be known...we will not worship the gold image" (3:18). In the midst of despair, they were faithful. Jesus Christ met these three faithful men in the furnace and He protected them.

For some, making the decision to attend the Feast of Tabernacles is like entering a fiery furnace.

As Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego stood looking into that furnace they must have thought it may be the end. They had no way of knowing whether God would save them or not. Trusting in God's faithfulness is not always easy. For some, making the decision to attend the Feast of Tabernacles is like entering a fiery furnace.

One reason attending the Feast is made difficult is the Fall Holy Days begin when many students are well into their studies. For those with jobs and careers the opportunity to take time off has come to an end with the summer months left behind. It is around this time every

year discussions come up about whether one should leave school and work to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. After all, for the student, this is an entire week of missed lectures, quizzes, lab work and tests. For the employed, it is a loss of pay and maybe a job.

In addition to the panic that strikes a young adult just thinking about the repercussions of missing classes or work, there seems to be the idea their presence at the Feast is not important. Along with this belief, many believe there is no way they can be excused from class and be allowed to make up missed work.

God expects the presence of everyone at the Feast of Tabernacles. A very important aspect of the Feast is rejoicing. Deuteronomy 14:26 says not only is the head of the house to attend the Feast and learn to fear God, but it says the entire household is to rejoice before Him. If you, as a young adult fail to attend any of God's Holy Days, you would not be obeying or rejoicing before the Lord to the fullness He expects and has commanded you to do.

Here are a few tips that may help you make this very important decision.

1. Know the laws about religious freedom in your country. Having the facts about what is and is not allowed is crucial.

2. Find out the policy on notification of days off for religious purposes. Whether this is the school policy or the place one works. Remember that a school institution does not deem whether your religion is valid. If they did, it would be a violation of your civil rights.

3. If you find the college or university you attend does not have a policy that will allow you to reschedule exams and turn in assignments due to religious conflicts, go to each professor individually.

4. Should you need it, the church has a letter, which is signed by a minister requesting you be excused.

5. August 1995, Richard W. Riley, Secretary of Education, sent every school Superintendent in the nation a statement of principles addressing the extent to which religious expression and activity are permitted in our public schools. This was on the list:

Released time: Subject to applicable State laws, schools have the discretion to dismiss students to off-premise religious instruction, provided that schools do not encourage or discourage participation or penalize those who do not attend. (<http://www.ed.gov/Speeches/08-1995/religion.html>).

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Kings Beach, California: Shopping the boardwalk. Took a cruise on Lake Tahoe. Three people were baptized in the lake on a cold "below freezing day."

Gulf Shores, Alabama: Walking on the sandy beaches by the Gulf of Mexico. Watching the dolphins play in the water. We rented a house, which was up on stilts, right on the beach.

A World RIGHT SIDE UP!

By Loren Chamberlain

Can you imagine, living in a world that is “Right Side Up?” That will be the case when the Millennium begins on earth. The Feast of Tabernacles looks forward to and portrays the Millennium, which will be a most encouraging and favorable time for people.

Satan and his demons will have been imprisoned and there will be no other overpowering obstacles for people to deal with other than overcoming their own human nature, and bringing it into alignment with God’s will.

During the thousand years they will not be pitted against Satan, and a world that is totally upside down and backwards to God’s way of life.

In the world of today, the Apostle Paul tells us, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:2).

In the future world of the Millennium, God’s way will become the broad popular way, and society will be, in general, going that way.

Humanity today is constantly pressured to conform to this present evil world. In the New World the pressures brought to bear on society will urge conformity toward God’s standard and overcoming the self, building true spiritual character.

Jesus Christ with great power and force will put down those who would fill the earth with violence. The fear of violence by warfare will be abolished for all time. “He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4).

We are told here of a wonderful future of peace, when the whole world will be taught God’s laws and will obey them. We know that one day God will remove all sin that causes war, conflict and disruption. Yet, we do not need to wait to obey God. We are encouraged to obey God now. He has given us His Word for direction and guidance in order to obey Him now. Some benefits of obedience we will receive only in the future. But we may enjoy some benefits now as we apply God’s Word to our lives.

During the Millennium there will be no waste of human life through war as has occurred in the past and is still raging in numerous places around the world today. No more will young men and women be taken from their homes, trained to destroy life, only to come home and have to face a life handicapped by

loss of limbs, eye sight, or even the loss of life itself.

In comparison to the world humanity has always known, this new world will certainly be a strange place. We will not have to fear the tyranny of world leaders ever again. Jesus Christ will rule all people with benevolence, from the least to the greatest. “Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice” (Psalms 72:1-2). What qualities do we want most in our rulers? God desires all who rule under Him to be righteous and just. As you think of world leaders today, think how the world would change if they would commit themselves to these two qualities.

God cares for the helpless and poor because they are precious to Him. We must be willing to reach out to them also with the “Good News” of the Kingdom of God that will be established on earth during the Millennium. “For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight” (Psalms 72:12-14).

No one will be able to influence His judgment by bribery of any kind. And He will judge righteous judgment (Isaiah 11:1-5). There will be no mistakes in His righteous judgments, for His is without error.

There will be no fear of wild animals. During this coming Millennium God will make a covenant with the beasts, the birds and the little creatures of the ground. “In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety” (Hosea 2:18).

No one will be afraid to be out on the streets day or night. “Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land” (Isaiah 32:2). Because of the Kingdom of God (God’s government) and right education, human beings will become a source of help for one another.

Nothing is more heart rending than to see an infant born deformed. In the “New World” of the Kingdom of God, established when Christ returns, parents will not have to fear

RIGHT SIDE UP!



RIGHT SIDE UP!

giving birth to physically deformed children. God will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more. "No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Jeremiah 31:34).

All physical ailments can be contributed to the sin of Adam and Eve, centuries of wrong living, and wrong eating habits. Children having children, general dissipation and the ingestion of all manner of drugs, which cause degeneration and genetic damage, are the cause of sickness. This irresponsible way of life means deformity and ill health for future generations.

In the New World of the Millennium, those of a fearful heart, (having an awesome respect for God), will be saved, the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be unstopped, and the sick will be forgiven of their iniquity (Isaiah 35:5,6; Isaiah 33:24).

Even the fear of drought and famine that plague the world today in many nations will be gone (Amos 9:13-14). Those who put their trust in God will dwell in confidence, and their confidence will be in Christ. They will be the ones who truly "know the Lord" because they obey Him. They will not be taught to have confidence in self, but in Jesus Christ. "They will live there in safety and will build houses and plant vineyards; they will live in safety when I inflict punishment on all their neighbors who maligned them. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God." (Ezekiel 28:26).

People will be re-educated to have a godly fear, (awesome respect) for Jesus Christ and God the Father (Jeremiah 32:39-40). They will be of sound mind and mature in thinking, realizing that to break God's laws only leads to degeneration in all areas of life (Philippians 2:5; 2 Timothy 1:7).

One of the fundamental teachings of the Feast of Tabernacles is that we may "learn to fear God always" (Deuteronomy 14:23). i

11 Things to Make Sure You Do At The Feast

1. Make new friends.
2. Visit with old friends.
3. Pray
4. Choose a scripture from each message to memorize.
5. Decide on something spiritually you want to work on for the next year.
6. Attend planned activities.
7. Get involved by serving.
8. Introduce yourself to someone you normally would not.
9. Take a walk and enjoy God's creation.
10. Verbally show your appreciation to the ministry and those who help make the Feast fantastic!
11. Stop a child and ask him/her what was learned in Sabbath School that day.

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6. The best time to let your employer know you will be taking time off for God's Holy Days is when you are hired. If you are in a job now and did not do it at the time of being hired, be sure to approach your employer well in advance of the Holy Days to let him/her know how important it is for you to keep these days.

7. Under the First Amendment in the United States, Americans enjoy the freedom to practice the religion of their choice. The primary statute in the area of how an employer may treat an employee is found in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. According to this title an employer cannot discriminate on several bases, including race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

8. While the employer must make an accommodation for your religious belief, do not make your request a burden. Do what you can to make it work for the employer. Show the employer you truly care about the job and the place it puts him when you are gone. Offer to go in on a Sunday and work, trade shifts with another employee, or put in extra hours before your departure. Remember, the employer has given you a job, don't disrespect the place he is in when you are gone.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were willing to stand firm and not compromise their faith by worshiping false idols. Deliverance for them was obedience to God. Wholehearted commitment to God under the most difficult of situations is never easy. For those who have not completely decided to attend the Feast, I strongly encourage you to go to God in prayer. Ask Him to give you the power to obey Him with all your heart, soul and mind. He will meet you in your fiery furnace. i

Hawaii: We enjoyed the Luau and before we could eat it, we were rained out. I took hula dance lessons. We went to an elaborate pageant held outdoors. We climbed Diamond Head Volcano. We flew over all the islands and stopped at Maui and saw the oldest tree in Hawaii. The limbs had to be held up with crutches, because they were so long and heavy. We toured the Memorial of the Ship Arizona which was the ship that was sunk when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese, starting World War 2.

How Do I Represent Christ Without Turning People Off?

By Mike James



When analyzing the question in the title of this article realize that no matter what you do you will not please everyone. Let us look at some things that will help us represent Christ to others. To do this I'm going to tell you a little story about my early experience with this very question.

I was about 17 years old at the time and I had become aware of the pagan origins of many of the customs of the Greek Orthodox Church, which was my church at that time. I remember one incident when I began to express to my older cousin all the problems with "our" church. I remember him looking at me like I had lost my mind or something. My views seemed to have no impact on him at all.

I would like to analyze what I did wrong. Hopefully this will help you in your future attempts to evangelize.

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

The first thing I did wrong was I did not know my audience. My cousin had no real interest in religion at this time in his life. Rattling off a number of facts relating to pagan survivals had none of the impact on him that it did on me. That is one of the keys. Know the person you are going to talk to if possible. What motivates him, what is he really interested in? You have to start off with people at their level of religious knowledge and begin to build from there.

RESPECT

My second major blunder was I was attacking something (the Orthodox church) that my cousin had a vested interest in due to the fact that all our relatives and family held to the beliefs of the Orthodox Church. I didn't display any respect for his tradition. This was partly due to my shock and surprise for the new truth I was learning. But what I forgot was my cousin was not at a point

where his mind was being opened like mine. If I had the opportunity to relive that exchange I would state the new things I was learning in a non-threatening manner rather than attack the belief system he adhered to.

LISTEN

My third mistake was I didn't listen to my cousin. In fact I never really even gave him the opportunity to express what his views might have been. Rather I just launched into a one sided diatribe against the Orthodox Church. Today I would do things differently. I would begin by asking someone general questions about his/her belief system and find out why they believed the way they do. Something in what they tell you may provide you with an opportunity to provide them with some of your information.

Here's an example of what I'm talking about:

You: Hey what's new?
Your Friend: Oh I just got out of church today.
You: Oh yeah, what was the message about today?
Your Friend: Oh he was talking about this saint who lived on a pillar the last 20 years of his life.
You: Wow that sounds like a tough way to live. Do you think you could do that?
Your Friend: No way, it seems like a waste of time to me.
You: Yeah, I think he could have done more for people if he interacted with them.
Your Friend: Yeah.
You: Hey do you know what the Biblical definition of the word saint is?

As you can see here, the strategy is to build upon what your friend already knows and begin to slowly add to it. Too much information too soon will have a tendency to overwhelm people and turn them off to more. Another advantage with this method is you can begin to gauge how interested the other person is. If they add to the conversation, keep going. If they don't, back off and try another day.

The point is to stay in the relationship with the person. The moment you begin to turn somebody off you need to back off or you can jeopardize the relationship. Maintaining the relationship will give you the opportunities to share the information at the right time as the Holy Spirit leads you. i

Role Playing

- Pretend your friend comes to you and says how important it is to her that she obeys God. But she doesn't keep the Holy Days or understand why she should. What would you say to your friend to clarify why she should keep the Holy Days if she wants to obey God? Take a few moments to reflect on how you would share your faith and write down the important scriptures and statements you would use.

10 Things God Can't Do

By Maise Sparks

Williamsburg, Virginia: We toured the old church where George Washington and Thomas Jefferson had their own pews, and we sat in them!

Jamaica: Going to everything they did as a church. We were there two weeks after hurricane "Hugo." Not many stores or restaurants were open. Not any meat or milk was to be found in the grocery stores. There was no piano in the meeting place, but the people made their own music. There was one lady there that had perfect pitch, so she started the singing and everyone joined in. Our luggage never made it to Jamaica, so I made myself a long dress out of two bath towels so we could perform in the fun show. Also a lady gave me a beautiful gold dress so I would have another dress to wear for services. I waded in the Caribbean Sea.

Amsterdam Cruise: A feast we had on board ship. Touring the ship. It was a complete floating city. At had everything. Dress shops, shoe shops, beauty parlor, movie theater, game room, elegant dining room, and much, much more. We stopped at Key West, Florida and took a tour of the town. We could see Cuba from there. We stopped at Jamaica and had a service with the brethren and enjoyed lunch with them. Just before we left, Frank sang a song to them called, "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You." We stopped at four-port-of-calls. We also stopped at the Grand Cayman Island where they had a turtle farm. We saw the tiniest turtles and some very large turtles. They put them back into the sea when they get big enough. Then we went to the smallest village called, "Hell." The postcards read, "We have been to Hell and Back."

1. God can't get tired.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. (Isaiah 40:28)

2. God can't take on a job he can't handle.

Ah, Lord God! Behold, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for you. (Jeremiah 32:17)

3. God can't be unholy.

And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (Isaiah 6:3)

4. God can't be prejudiced.

In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears him and works righteousness is accepted by him. (Acts 10:34-35)

5. God can't break a promise.

My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of my lips. (Psalm 89:34)

6. God can't remember sins he's chosen to forget.

I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake; and I will not remember your sins. (Isaiah 43:25)

7. God can't make a loser.

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ. (2 Corinthians 2:14)

8. God can't abandon you.

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, he is the one who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

9. God can't stop thinking about you.

How precious also are your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with you. (Psalm 139:17-18)

10. God can't stop loving you.

Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. (Jeremiah 31:3)

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Keeping Your Faith Through Adversity Within The Church

By Brian Christensen

Over the last few years, the body of Christ has gone through some difficult times. Groups have split, families have split, friends have split and bitterness has flourished. These aren't exactly the action and characteristics of God's people, as Christ described in Matthew. So why does this happen? Can you be part of a group and still maintain your own individual thoughts and ideas? Should you fellowship with others outside the group?

These are very tough questions that everyone has asked or experienced. Most of the elders in our church have experienced these feelings when they left the Worldwide Church in the 70's and 80's. My first encounter with this was recently when my best friend and his family chose to attend another group. I also have numerous friends, whom earlier, had left to attend with an independent group. I was constantly second guessing my decisions and questioning theirs. Some relationships became strained and eventually disappeared; others remained strong with some understanding. I have even seen couples where each attends a different group.

It is important, during a trial, to step out and look at all aspects of the situation. Refrain from blame or finger pointing, and be understanding. Look at other's point of view, motivations, history or other considerations. Ask a lot of questions; try to remain objective and separate fact from possible fiction or unknown. For instance, we know that, "All have come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Christians are not perfect and never will be, until Christ returns. Since people organize churches, there will never be a perfect church, until



Christ returns. He is the only one who has lived a perfect Christian life on earth. So, he is the only one who can truly lead or show us how! We must, however, strive for that perfection.

When someone leaves a group, he has simply decided to change the people who will teach him. He has not left Christ. That decision is made between him and God—similar to a choice we may make, as to which college to attend. It should not change our heart toward them. Instead of criticizing others, we should focus within ourselves and ask: are we doing everything we can to achieve God's glory (Matthew 7:3-5)? These trials are not unique to us. Almost every book in the New Testament is a letter written because of a problem or events within the church. Judas was personally taught by Jesus and still betrayed him. Peter denied Jesus three times when approached by others. Even after being enslaved for 400 years and witnessing the power and strength of God, his people whom exited Egypt, are examples of some of the most selfish,

ungrateful and faithless people in the Bible.

We also know that trials must happen in order for us to grow. Sometimes the choice or initial decision may not be right or wrong in God's eyes, however, how we handle ourselves and treat others is more important. Also, if we are not careful, our emotions and decisions may eventually lead us off God's path, and pride can prevent us from finding our way back. The only actions we can control are our own. The only person we can truly change is our self. Our actions can positively or negatively influence others, but we are ultimately responsible for our decisions.

God has given us some basic, firm, "no compromise" guidelines for living. Such as the Sabbath, Ten Commandments, Holy Days, fellowship, etc. Other guidelines may be more flexible and based on our own personalities, faith, or convictions. God handles this quite simply, by telling us not to judge or act more excessively toward others than we wish God to judge or act toward us, with respect to that subject or issue. Each time we interact with others we are potentially setting our own benchmarks with God (Matthew 7:1-2).

Someday we will all meet together for the Feast of Tabernacles to hear Jesus give a sermon and teach us. Until that time, act on faith. As life's trials are endured, and you fellowship with others, remember to focus on God and the truth. Focus within yourself and what you feel God wants you to do. Pray others will do the same, and accept their choices with God as their choices. The life you save, just may be your own. i

*Myrtle Beach,
South Carolina: walking
in the Atlantic Ocean,
picking up seashells and
sand dollars. We went
to everything the church
offered. They had a
Carnival on the beach,
and games anyone could
play. We ran the 3
legged race and won.*

THE LAST GREAT DAY

By Loren M. Chamberlain

The “Last Great Day,” represents the time when those who have never had the knowledge to understand salvation will be resurrected and be given that chance. Only then will God’s initial plan for mankind be at an end. Thus, this last great day of God pictures the greatest period of salvation for mankind—the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

In the book of Leviticus we are told to observe the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days and it is a commanded assembly. On the first of the seven days no work is to be done (Leviticus 23:34-35). Carefully notice in verse thirty-six there is an “eighth day” of worship held immediately after the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Because this eighth day came on the heels of the Feast of Tabernacles, people who came to keep the Feast remained to keep the eighth day also and it became associated with the Feast.

In the New Testament it is called “The Great Day of the Feast” (John 7:37). There must be thirst if there is to be a desire to drink. If the condition is right, the desire will follow. This is the same truth Jesus expressed to the Samaritan woman (John 4:14). Jesus also taught that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness would be satisfied (Matthew 5:6).

Jesus also spoke of the final resurrection in connection with the “Last Great Day.” Compare John 11:23-26 with John 6:39, 40, 44.

Jesus used the term “living water” in (John 4:10) to indicate eternal life. Jesus’ words, “Come unto me, and drink” allude to the theme of many Scriptures that speak about the Messiah’s life giving blessings (Isaiah 12:2, 3; 44:3, 4; 58:11). By promising the Holy Spirit to all who believe, Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah, for that was something only the Messiah could do.

WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

John tells us that after the final rebellion and punishment of Satan he saw a Great White throne. And standing before the throne was a great vast multitude of resurrected dead made up of those who never participated in God’s plan or understood the message of Jesus. Many millions of infants have unknowingly awaited this second resurrection from their graves.

Jesus tells us that Tyre, Sidon and Sodom also had not received the witness of the gospel (Matthew 11:21-27). But a time of judgment was coming when they would be given the opportunity to understand what He preached to Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum.

Besides these people mentioned, the people of Nineveh and the Queen of the south, Sheba, would hear His good news message (Matthew 12:41-42).



The people of Palestine together with the people and nations of all past ages will be given their first opportunity to understand the gospel (Ezekiel 37:1-10).

These resurrected billions will be raised and given human bodies that breath air and are made of flesh and bone (Ezekiel 37:5-9).

These resurrected people are promised they will know the Lord and He is the one that will put His Spirit within them. He will also put them in their own land and they shall know it is the Lord God who did this for them (Ezekiel 37:13-14). This is the same outpouring of the Spirit Jesus spoke about on the Last Great Day of the Feast (John 7:37-39).

JESUS AND THE SAINTS JUDGE

The Scriptures make it clear Jesus Christ will be the Chief Judge in the Last Great Judgment (Revelation 20:11; Daniel 7:9 compared with Psalms 9:7) and the Saints will judge with Him, (1 Corinthians 6:2).

It is confirmed by Peter that Jesus is the judge of both the living and the dead (Acts 10:40-42). Jesus Himself also confirmed this fact (John 5:22).

Daniel saw God judging millions of people as they stood before Him (Daniel 7:10).

Isaiah envisioned for us the final days of the judging of the resurrected billions of people at the end of the Millennium. During much of the world’s past history, half of the babies born died within the first year after birth. But, during the judgment period after the Millennium, no babies will die and old people will not die prematurely.

For someone to die at one hundred years of age will be like a baby dying today. Habitual sinners will still be present, but by the time they reach a century in age they will be declared “cursed” (Isaiah 65:20).

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Every Facet Of Life Affected By Health

By George James

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

What do the words “health” and “fitness” mean to you? Do you care about their influence in your life? We all should because health and fitness can influence every facet of our lives. I guarantee it. Let’s define these terms. According to Webster’s New Riverside Dictionary, “health” is the optimal mental and physical soundness and well being of an individual. This means one’s mental and physical capacities are working to the best of their abilities. Our state of mind is peaceful and tranquil because we don’t allow the stress of day-to-day life overcome us. Rather, we turn obstacles into interesting challenges where personal growth and development are the result, instead of destructive behavior.

For instance, when we drive in our cars do we often lose patience with those driving around us or do we smile, relax and just be thankful for the fact that we arrived at our destination safely?

In light of the security situation in the United States, being thankful for life is a good way to be. I don’t wish to go off on a tangent here, but for goodness sakes, put life’s items into perspective. This will relieve a ton of stress and will help you keep that cool, calm, serene, and sharp state of mind that we should have as Christian’s.

Besides the mental component, health also has a physical component. Do we allow ourselves to be more susceptible to disease and illness because of a sedentary lifestyle smoking, heavy drinking and overeating? Don’t forget, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own” (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Heart disease, liver problems and cancer may be the result of this lifestyle. Wouldn’t you rather have blood flowing freely through your arteries with nothing to obstruct its path

because you haven’t eaten greasy sausage and fattening doughnuts for breakfast for the last ten years and, yes, you do exercise?

Now don’t give me the famous line, “Oh, we’re all gonna die someday anyway.” Instead, think of this: what we do today will impact tomorrow and do we really want to spend the last few years of our lives with someone else doing everything for us? I can’t necessarily promise more years to anyone, but I can guarantee a better quality of life for anyone who makes a serious effort in attaining high standards of health and fitness.

Speaking of fitness, there are five areas that exercise affects: cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition.



All of these areas display a specific facet of fitness and are important to a well-rounded healthy person. Cardiovascular endurance is the body’s ability to walk, jog, bike, or swim for a sustained period of time lasting 20 minutes or more. This is also the most important component in strengthening one’s heart muscle.

Muscular endurance is when we perform muscular contractions over an extended period of time. An example could be a timed push-up or sit-up test for one to two minutes.

Muscular strength is displayed by one all out effort with as much weight as possible. This shows how much one can lift in a one-repetition max (RM).

Flexibility is the capability of the joints to move through the entire range of motion. A sit and reach test is one that illustrates flexibility of the hamstrings and lower back.

Finally, body composition compares lean body tissue with how much fat we have. You can have your body fat checked with skin fold calipers, but keep in mind the margin of error may be 3-5 percent up or down.

Health and fitness may comprise more than what you originally thought. Health constitutes a physical aspect of an individual as well as an emotional aspect and maybe even a whole lot more. However, the “whole lot more” can wait for another article. i

Western Hills Guest Ranch (Wagoner), Oklahoma: Teaching the children at Sabbath school every morning before church services. Going in on all the activities the church offered. Taking a trail ride on horseback, and having a sing along around a campfire. Participating in the fun show.

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the fiftieth year of Jubilee, expressed his ownership, of all people, land, and methods or means of production, and life itself.

During this year, those who had fallen on hard times were released from debts they were unable to pay. Those who, for lack of food and clothing, sold themselves into slavery and those who lost inherited land through poverty, were released from slavery and had their land restored to the family who owned it. This was a typical portrayal of man's future Atonement—release from the death penalty earned (Romans 6:23) and from the slavery to sin (Romans 6:16; Romans 7:14).

THE FASTING OF THE CHURCH

Our sins and iniquities have separated us from God and have hidden His face from us, nor will he hear us (Isaiah 59:2). If we do not confess our sins, or if we harbor certain sins in our heart, it is like building a wall that separates us from God (Psalm 66:18). David asked God to cleanse him from secret faults and presumptuous sins (Psalms 19:12, 13).

There is a very important part for the Whole Church to perform on the Day of Atonement. Notice we are commanded to abstain from food, meaning to "fast" which includes no eating or drinking. We are not to do any work at all. This will continue forever in all our dwellings (Leviticus 23:29-32).

FASTING

Numerous scriptures show us the act of fasting is indicative of "sorrow because of sin":

- Ezra 10:4
- Deuteronomy 9:8, 9, 18

The Biblical example indicates that spiritual fasting is to be accomplished by not drinking water or eating food:

- Exodus 34:28
- Esther 4:16
- Acts 9:9

Romans 8:17 reminds us, if we expect to be glorified with Christ, we must also suffer with Him.

Jesus suffered great affliction

for us (Isaiah 53:4, 7). On the Day of Atonement we can be one with Him by submitting ourselves to the affliction of fasting. The same Hebrew word, "anah," used in verse 4 is the same word used for fasting, "afflicting the soul."

MERCY SEAT

The whole position of humanity was altered in its relationship to God, by the Atoning death of Christ for the world's sin. Whether a man accepts this marvelous blessing or not, makes no difference because no one is beyond the hope of forgiveness (1 John 2:2). Jesus Christ is our "propitiation" delivering us from the wrath of God. The Hebrew word for which "mercy seat" is the translation is technically best rendered as "propitiatory," a term signifying the removal of wrath. We see the significance of this found in the ceremony performed on the Day of Atonement when the blood was sprinkled by the High Priest on the mercy seat to make atonement for the sins of the people of Israel.

The mercy seat "propitiation" looks forward to Jesus who is termed by Paul (Romans 3:25) the "means of propitiation" through faith in His blood for all who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. This Greek term translated propitiation is the same Greek word used in the Septuagint and (Hebrews 9:5) to translate the Hebrew word for mercy seat in the Old Testament.

You will find in the New Testament references to expiation have to do with the sacrifice of Christ for human sin. Both expiation and propitiation are a part of God's atoning work.

Christ's sacrifice both propitiates (turns away) the wrath of God and expiates (covers) human sin.

GOD'S WRATH AND GRACE

The Wrath of God is a metaphor for God's displeasure with human beings and action. It will help to look at the wrath of God in relation to His forbearance, love and readiness to forgive.

First, God is patient. He has already given nearly 6,000 years to man to come to repentance. The Hebrew word for patient is related to the word for wrath, and means "length of wrath," that is, God does not quickly become angry. He is long-suffering (Exodus 34:6).

Secondly, He is full of compassion and love. He is always faithful to His children (Exodus 34:7). Thirdly, He is always ready to forgive those who sin against Him when they atone for and are cleansed from their sins, (verses 6 & 7).

In the New Testament we see God's Wrath in contrast to His grace, love and forbearance (Matthew 3:7; Luke 21:23; John 3:36; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 5:6; Revelation 14:10).

Those who do not have faith in Christ remain in their sins and fall under the Wrath of God. Those who believe in Him are delivered from God's wrath (Ephesians 2:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:10). However, the faithful are reminded that it is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of an angry God (Hebrews 10:31). God the Father and Jesus Christ are a "consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29).

We have already studied the good news that Jesus has come to deliver us from the Wrath of God (Romans 5:9). Those who have been delivered are Reconciled with God and have received the Atonement (Romans 5:10, 11). They are no longer under condemnation (Romans 8:1).

Throughout the year as the seasons arrive bringing God's Holy Days, we are constantly reminded of God's intentions for the salvation of all humanity and the restitution and restoring of all things on earth, including the beauty and vibrancy of the whole universe.

Atonement for mankind will not be complete without the binding of the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan binding him for a thousand years. Satan the Devil will be bound and put into the bottomless pit at the second coming of Jesus Christ, when He establishes The Kingdom of God on Earth (Revelation 20:1-3). However, at the end of the Millennium Satan will be released, from his imprisonment and will immediately set about to deceive the nations on earth at that time. This time Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire, where the beast and the false prophet had been cast at the beginning of the Millennium (Revelation 20:7-10). Satan will no more trouble mankind. Now the way is clear for the fullness of Atonement to take place. God the Father Himself will come to Tabernacle and dwell with men (Revelation 21:3). i

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*French Lick, Indiana:
 Arriving at this huge motel and staying on the 4th floor. The meeting room for the feast was in the same motel. Participating in the fun show was great fun. Taking a walk around the quaint town with brethren, enjoying the sights and sounds. Watching two people being baptized in the motel swimming pool. We went to everything the church had planned.*

Collingwood, Ontario, Canada: Staying in a condominium with two other men. One man did all the cooking and the other man entertained us by telling clean, funny jokes. We each had our own bedroom and bathroom in Victorian furnishings. The church offered many events and we went to all of them. One of the activities was going to a sing along in a beautiful lounge room where a gentleman played the piano exceptionally well, and could play most anything we asked for. Taking a ride with new friends up Blue Mountain and buying the Blue Mountain coffee that is famous there.

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Love for God, which is shown by obeying His commandments, and love for the brethren, which is shown by esteeming one higher than one's self (Phillip. 2:3).

These are just a few signs we have to show us where we need to be and whom we need to be with on our walk with Jesus Christ.

God has chosen a special people to do His will. Those who claim to follow Christ must walk as he walked. Anything outside of what God has instructed man to do is a deception. We have the guide to show us where we need to go and what it is we are to do and He will lead us every step of the way until we do come into that Promised Land. i

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These resurrected multitudes are counted among God's elect, are made participants in His plan and given candidacy for the Kingdom of God after they receive His Spirit. They will have a close and intimate relationship with Him (Isaiah 65:20-23).

These multitudes at the end of the Millennium in this Last Great Judgment period will be given One Hundred years to show by their works their willingness to follow God's Spirit, submitting to His divine direction (Isaiah 65:20).

God will be patient, but by the time they reach the age of one hundred they will be declared "cursed." This means death. "Those He proclaims "cursed" will be cut off" (Psalms 37:22). And death and hell will be cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death (Revelation 20:14). i

San Antonio, Texas: We stayed in the same motel the meeting room was in. Helping with the Sabbath school every morning before church services. Having a sing along, having a clown perform during dinner. Listening to a Mariachi band after we had a reception. Took a barge on the river, walked with brethren. We went up 36 floors at the tower of the Americas and ate dinner on the revolving floor, which took an hour going around in a circle so we could see they lay out of the whole city.

Australia: A 15-hour flight to a beautiful country. Seeing wallabies and Kangaroos running wild. Having our services in a beautiful building in the country, surrounded by flowers of all kinds, a gold-fish-pond and a bridge over the pond you could walk across. The church planned a lot of activities and we enjoyed them all. We also had a cookout at the church and games in the afternoon. I wrote three different poems and read them just before special music that Frank gave. Most all the brethren went with us every afternoon.



2001 Wagoner, Oklahoma "Western Hills Guest Ranch" Frank lead a song with Ron Elkins before a baptism.

Salt Lake City, Utah: Taking a bus tour with the brethren around the town and seeing the Olympic Village they were building for the next year's Olympic games. Seeing the monument of Brigham Young who said, "This is the place." They built the city there. We also saw the huge copper mine hole and trucks that stood about 8 to 10 feet tall or more and tires so large you could stand up in them. Participating in the Kari Oki evening at the church.

These are all the places we have been to. Some of the places we went to we went more than once. We went to the Lake of the Ozarks seven times.

My Personal Experience? They are the greatest in the world. I'm looking forward to the Feast in 2004. Before we came into God's church we didn't have the money to take any trips. But when we came into the church we found, with God's help we could save a tithe to go to the Feasts. Since then we have traveled all over the world and made a lot of good friends of our brothers and sisters in the church.

The best things about the Feast are the people and the encouragement we get from each one of them. GOOD MEMORIES? I SHOULD SAY!!!! i