



# THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The official newspaper of The Church of God International

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"Put on the whole armor of God"

2002

## Tragedies, triumphs shared by congregation

By Wanda Rogers

**A**TLANTA, Georgia—It seems like it was just yesterday when we were taking part in the spring holy days. Now, here we are at the end of the summer, and the fall holy days are upon us. It has been an eventful summer here in Atlanta, and we've experienced the highs and lows of joy and sorrow, sometimes at the same time.

Three families within our church family have experienced the loss of loved ones, and the deaths occurred over three successive weekends. On June 15, Reba Leverett's 22-year-old daughter, Amanda, died in a car crash, and her funeral was held the following Friday, June 21. Word of Amanda's accident came just after services began this particular Sabbath.

Bill Watson happened to be in Atlanta for Sabbath services at the time of this occurrence, and he offered words of comfort to our stunned congregation. We were reminded to continue to live our lives, ever aware of the opportunity to share God's truth in a world filled

See **THREE DEATHS**, page 2

## Coming Clean!



**F**ORGIVEN!—Mary Durisseau was baptized by Frank Marang on August 10 in New Orleans. This occasion was the result of her recent letter to Tyler asking for baptism. There was a sense of urgency to her request since she has been placed on a waiting list to receive a liver transplant. When Mrs. Durisseau's needs were mentioned to Frank Marang, he was instantly willing to help in whatever way possible. Frank and his wife Margie visited Mrs. Durisseau in her home. After her confession of repentance and yearning for baptism, she was baptized, coming out of the watery grave a "new creature in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

This issue of *The International News* includes a good number of baptismal announcements. We are humbled and excited to see the fruit God is producing through our work. Congratulations to all the newly baptized, and may God bless you.

## Rate of Toronto baptisms at record level

By Horane Smith

**T**ORONTO, Ontario, Canada—In a society that is getting more and more secularized, the Toronto congregation of the Church of God International has been holding its own as it tries to help spread the good news of the return of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

Bill Watson, pastor of CGI Toronto, baptized seven people between June 8 and July 27 this year, a record number for the church here since it was established in the 1980s. So far this year, there have been eight baptisms, again another record number for the year so far. In addition, two more baptisms will be done in the coming months.

Those baptized were Francisco Henriques, William Housden, Steve Agnew, Walter Watters, Rose Dias, Winston Bowers, Lucy Dubois, and Raymond Dubeau.

The Greater Toronto area has a population of over four million people. However, over the years, repeated studies have shown that church attendance across Canada has been steadily declining, but more recent studies in the past year have shown that there has been a slight increase, especially since the September 11 terrorism bombing of the World Trade Center.

Toronto, like many other areas, is ripe for harvest, although it, too, is suffering moral decline. As a result, the Toronto congregation has stepped up its outreach program. A public Bible study was held in April of this year, and

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## Three new baptisms in Elmhurst

By Duane E. Nicol

**E**LMHURST, Illinois—On August 3, we were privileged to baptize three people into Jesus Christ: Rory Myers, Connie Thomas, John Schultz, and Jeff Cormany.

Rory Myers is the brother of Kelly Myers, who has been faithful in attendance in Elmhurst and in Rockford. Kelly was instrumental in bringing his brother Rory to services, and, as a result, Rory is now baptized and on his way to eternal life. We are

all very thankful for the "brotherly companionship" of the Myers brothers.

Connie Thomas is a product of the *Armor of God* TV program. She wrote in to Tyler requesting information on the local church, so we contacted her and she started attending just a couple of months ago. She lives in downtown Chicago and does not own a car. She was taking the train from downtown to Elmhurst every Sabbath. Patrice Garner Hudley (also a local member) met her, and in their conversations Connie discovered

that Patrice is able to pick her up and bring her to services. This is a definite win-win situation! Connie had her cousin with her to celebrate the joyous occasion!

John Schultz has been a faithful member in the local congregation for a number of years. John finally made the decision to be baptized and we are all grateful for his wonderful attitude. John said that he was tired of being "passed over" when the bread and wine passed by him on every Passover. John's wife and son also witnessed his baptism and laying on of hands for God's Spirit.

Jeff Cormany, who assisted in the ceremonies, is a longtime member in the church. Jeff and his wife Cindy are very active in the church and are greatly appreciated by the congregation for their continuous support. Jeff has created a weekly newsletter that lists events like anniversaries and has a prayer list of all who need healing prayers. He also gives sermons and sermonettes to enhance our speaking schedule. His father Harold Cormany was a minister in the Chicago church for a number of years.

Each of the newly baptized members were given a certificate of baptism and a potted plant. There was a decorated cake with flowers and the name of each of the newly baptized. We all shared in the joyous occasion by helping them eat cake!



**LET THEM EAT CAKE!**—The local tradition here is to celebrate baptisms with a cake, and each new member receives a potted plant. From Left to Right: minister Duane Nicol, Rory Myers, Connie Thomas, John Schultz, Jeff Cormany.

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...and **MUCH MORE!**

## Three deaths, one baptism, one birth in Atlanta

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with pain, sorrow, greed, and vengeance. We are examples of what it means to remain faithful, even in times of hardship and sorrow.

Early on the Sabbath of June 22, we received news of the death of Sarah Corbitt. Sarah had fought a battle with Hodgkin's disease on and off, from the time she was 10 years old. She was a courageous young lady who, at age 17, had already endured more suffering than most of us will ever experience in our lifetime.

Sarah spent the last week of her life at Camp Sunshine, after having pleaded with her mom to let her go because she enjoyed it so much. Camp Sunshine is a place here in Georgia where children who are battling life-threatening illnesses can go to experience the fun of camping and being treated like other kids.

Sarah died on the last day of camp, just before her parents, Holland and Constance Corbitt, arrived to take her home. Though they were devastated when informed of their daughter's death, there was some consolation in the knowledge that Sarah was where she wanted to be, doing what she loved the most. For her, that meant just being a teenager who went off to summer camp.

On Friday, June 28, Tommy Walker lost his sister to breast cancer. He traveled to New York to be with his family and

had the opportunity to share God's truth with some of them. While it was a tragic time for the family, hopefully they received some comfort from the words of truth Tommy was able to share with them.

These three weeks were difficult ones for all of us.

Even if we did not know the ones who died, we could still relate and share in their grief. In spite of the circumstances, it was heartwarming to see the love displayed through the caring, serving people who stepped into action.

In a world filled with takers, it is a wonderful experience to see and be a part of a family of caregivers.

On the Sabbath following these tragic losses, Randy Ranstrom gave a sermon entitled "The Blessing of Death." In this sermon, he began by saying grief for a loved one can sometimes become selfish. We get so wrapped up in what we have lost that we lose sight of the fact that God doesn't view death in the same way mankind does. This isn't to say grieving is wrong, because grief is a normal, natural reaction to losing someone who has played an important role in our lives. However, comfort comes when we remember that our loved one no longer faces temptation or carries the burden of sin. Sin doesn't exist for the dead. Also, because we understand that fleshly bodies cannot enter into God's kingdom, we acknowl-

edge that death must occur in all of us (1 Corinthians 15:50). Another passage of Scripture that brings comfort is found in Psalm 116:15, which reads, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints."

Some highlights of the summer began with Pentecost. The Atlanta congregation traveled to Oxford, Alabama, and met for joint services with the folks from the Alabama congregations. Our roster of speakers included Steve Chappell, Randy Ranstrom, and Clint Mahoney, and we had approximately 80 people in attendance. After being fed on the spiritual food delivered by these speakers, the remainder of the afternoon was spent sampling the delectable dishes contributed for our potluck lunch, and enjoying a time of fellowship with our fellow brethren.

On June 15, Jim McGonigal was baptized into God's church. Many of us had watched Jim as he traveled the journey toward baptism, and, like most of us, he struggled to remain on course while trying to decide just which course he was supposed to be on.

When the day of his baptism arrived, his wife Sandi and his mother-in-law CeCe Stephens witnessed an answer to their prayers. It truly was a day for celebration, as many of us shared in this special day.

Another member of our congregation has seen evidence of God's answer to prayer. Ray

Sprayberry's wife, Barbara, has been very ill and has been hospitalized for much of the summer. There were times when the outcome of her various health concerns did not look promising. However, she is now recovering in the rehab facility of the hospital, and her future looks much brighter. Please keep both Barbara and Ray in your prayers as she still has a long road to travel in her journey toward better health.

Our most recent happy event occurred on August 11, 2002, with the arrival of Kira Elise Mooney. She made her entrance into the world at 1:33 a.m. and is the beautiful daughter of Athena and Curtis Mooney. Mother and Baby are doing well and are currently being cared for by proud grandparents, Paul and Anna McIntyre.

Finally, as we prepare to enter into the period of the fall holy days, talk centers around the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles. Every year, as the Feast of Tabernacles draws closer and closer, excitement builds as we anticipate greeting old friends and meeting new ones. All around we hear each other discussing who is going to what feast site; which speakers may be at a particular site; what events are being planned, and which ones will be participated in.

Are you ready for the Feast of Tabernacles 2002?

See ya there!

## TORONTO

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another one will be held on October 12. There are plans to have these outreach studies twice annually.

The Toronto CGI has also established its own Web site. It makes available the *Armor of God* television program both in audio and video. In fact, Tyler now uses our Web site to make video/audio available worldwide for *Armor of God* viewers.

The recent developments here have been an inspiration to us all, and the brethren are grateful to God for giving us the increase and for all those who continue to be a part of this great and meaningful work.

## Wedding bells



**T**YLER, Texas—Many well-wishers witnessed the marriage of Benjamin Sharp and Patricia Sanchez on April 13, 2002. After the wedding, most were able to celebrate at the lovely reception.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Sharp!

## Feast... or Vacation?

By Horane Smith

**M**y third feast attendance, some years ago, was one for which I had great anticipation. That a number of overseas brethren would be attending the Feast of Tabernacles (FOT) in Jamaica was the best piece of news I could have heard.

Why? After the first and second feasts at the internationally known Jamaican resort, Ocho Rios, I could hardly wait for the next one. It was great news to hear that our North American brethren would join our small group (about 25 then). It was something to look forward to without the shadow of a doubt.

However, I had an experience at that and subsequent feasts in Jamaica that I cannot erase from my mind. Then, coming to Canada to live in 1990, I soon discovered that, unfortunately, some of our brothers and sisters in the church seem to confuse vacations with the FOT.

Not for a moment is my aim to pick on our North American brethren. At the same time, I make no apologies for being blunt, because I believe this is an attitude that still affects the Church of God today. It's pathetic, and it should be a matter of concern for us all. We all should examine ourselves when we slip into this mode when we attend the FOT.

On the first day of that feast in Jamaica, most of our visiting brethren were present. To my utter dismay, by the second and third days, some brethren, including myself, were

asking, "Where are the foreign brethren?" We did not see them again until the Last Great Day.

Most of us didn't get the drift as to their whereabouts. Of course, we did not want to pass any judgment. Nevertheless, by the following year, we learned firsthand. The brethren who disappeared told us of their adventures around the island. I clearly remember one brother renting a motorbike for an all-island tour.

In 1991, my family and I attended the FOT in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. If my memory serves me correctly, there were some 800 people on the first day. Afterward, the number trickled down. My experience at French Lick Springs in 1992 was hardly different.

Again, if I remember correctly, one year at Panama City Beach our numbers were well over 1000 for the first day. By the third day, attendance was somewhere in the 700 range.

In my conversations with brethren from time to time, I have often taken note of the manner in which the word *vacation* is substituted for references to the FOT. This should not be so. The FOT is the FOT; vacation is vacation. We take vacations for a period of rest and recreation from work. We attend the FOT in keeping with God's Word.

While some of us take our vacation period to attend the FOT, it DOESN'T mean we must use God's FOT as a vacation. It is not by any means a vacation.

## THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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# Why We Keep the Law

By Richard W. Williams

Some read a couple of scriptures, and then draw conclusions without considering what many other scriptures say about the same subject. Then, based on these faulty assumptions, they condemn others who practice things different from themselves. Let's look at a couple of scriptures that are commonly misunderstood and misapplied: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them*" (Ephesians 2:8–10).

"Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, *for by the law is the knowledge of sin*" (Romans 3:20).

Many read the first parts of these verses, but do not take note of what is written in the later parts. They simply think, "Well, since it is only by grace and faith, and since one cannot be justified by keeping the law, there is no reason to keep it."

Such people are suffering spiritual blindness because they do not consider the whole truth of God's Word. If they did, then they would see ample reasons for striving to keep every single one of God's laws as they apply to us.

## Which Law?

Before going very far, we need to distinguish what law we are talking about. The second verse above shows that it is a law that defines sin. Another verse gives us more information about this particular law:

"Whoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: *for sin is the transgression of the law*" (1 John 3:4, King James Version).

Notice that "sin" is defined as "the transgression of the law." To find out what law is in view here, consider the following scriptures:

"*All unrighteousness is sin*, and there is sin not leading to death" (1 John 5:17).

"Then it will be *righteousness* for us, if we are careful to observe all these *commandments* before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us" (Deuteronomy 6:25).

"My tongue shall speak of Your word, *For all Your commandments are righteousness*" (Psalm 119:172).

These passages are speaking of the Ten Commandments, which define both sin and righteousness. Sin is unrighteousness, or law-breaking. Righteousness is just the opposite; it is equated with *keeping the commandments*.

## Four Reasons for Keeping the Commandments

**The first reason** to keep them is because God's Word tells us to do so. God tells us that He is holy, and He wants us to be holy as well.

"[B]ut as He who called you is *holy*, you also *be holy* in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:15–16).

"Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God" (3 John 1:11).

"[D]o not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:12).

There simply is no excuse for anyone who reads God's Word to reason around the essential truth that we must strive to obey God's commandments to the best of our ability, and with God's help.

Now, let us go a little further in our understanding. If simply keeping God's law will not justify or save us, why does God want us to keep it?

God gave us His law because it teaches about conduct that will destroy our lives and bring about death.

"*The soul who sins shall die*. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself" (Ezekiel 18:20).

"*For the wages of sin is death*, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Not only will unrepented and unforgiven sin bring physical and eternal death; it brings terrible consequences in this life as well.

**The second reason** to keep God's laws is so we will not be enslaved to evil, which ultimately will totally corrupt us and separate us from God.

"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of *sin leading to death*, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" (Romans 6:16).

If we follow the ways of sin, or transgressing God's laws, we become obedient to Satan. Eventually, we will not even desire God's forgiveness and mercy, for we would become totally corrupted and twisted like Satan.

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God*, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:5–8).

"[The servant of God should correct] those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and *escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will*" (2 Timothy 2:25–26).

**The third reason** to keep God's laws is that we are commanded to become like Jesus Christ. This is simply impossible if we do not try our best to keep God's laws.

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

"[God wishes to bring us all] to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that *you should follow His steps*: 'Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth'" (1 Peter 2:21–22).

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love" (John 15:10).

For us to become like Jesus Christ we must learn to keep God's laws in spirit and letter as He gave us example. Sure, we will not be perfect as long as we are human beings; but, if our spirit has been united with His, we will want to be perfect, and will humbly and contritely ask for forgiveness when we fall short.

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked" (1 John 2:1–6).

**The fourth reason** for keeping all of God's laws is that if we break one we will be led to breaking others, and the curses from breaking them will continually build until they totally destroy our lives and bring death.

"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10).

This scripture tells us that we must be vigilant in keeping God's laws, for breaking even one makes one a law-breaker and leads to breaking others. It is like a child who takes things that do not belong to him. If this behavior is not stopped early, when he grows older he will probably commit petty theft, and eventually he may commit grand larceny.

So we should understand that the keeping of God's

laws is not optional for the true Christian.

## An Important Key for Law-Keepers

Now here is a key concerning keeping the laws of God: We should keep them as Jesus did. Christ's example and teachings show us how to properly understand and obey God's Ten Commandments. Many people try to tell others just what laws should be kept and how one should keep them. But we must look to the Scriptures and study the example and teachings of Jesus, and let God's Spirit lead us to a deeper understanding of God's will.

We are individually responsible to insure that what we learn and practice truly comes from God. We cannot pass this responsibility on to others and simply follow them without question. We must learn God's Word and use it to verify what we are told by others. Read and reread the following scriptures:

John 17:17: "Sanctify them by Your *truth*. Your word is *truth*."

John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the *truth*, and the *life*. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

John 1:14: "And the *Word* became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and *truth*."

John 4:23–24: "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in *spirit* and *truth*; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 'God is *Spirit*, and those who worship Him must worship in *spirit* and *truth*.'"

John 16:13: "However, when He, the *Spirit of truth*, has come, He will guide you into all *truth*; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

2 Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the *word of truth*."

1 John 2:27: "But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone *teach* you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him."

1 Corinthians 11:1: "*Imitate* me, just as I also *imitate* Christ."

## The Ten Commandments

Let us briefly run through the Ten Commandments. I will be brief to illustrate how much we need to study each one so we can remove many subtle errors that may be causing us a lot of grief in which we do not understand the cause.

Basically, the first four tell us how to properly worship God and show Him honor and respect. The last six deal with our relationship with others here on earth. Every act that we do relates directly or indirectly with these commandments. Remember, they were given for our benefit. Violating them will bring curses upon others and us. This is automatic, and unless God intervenes they will come as surely as we breathe. Even if we repent and ask for forgiveness, and even if God forgives us, we still may suffer the consequences physically for breaking them.

So, it is not just a simple, "Sorry, God, for breaking that law. Forgive me," and now everything is just fine. WRONG! In most cases there will be problems even if we do not have to bear them spiritually and face the death sentence that extinguishes our life for all eternity. That is why we must strive to constantly obey God, keeping every single one of His commandments just like Jesus did.

Let's turn to the listing of God's Ten Commandments and spend just a few minutes hitting some highlights to jog our memory to their importance in our lives. First, notice Exodus 20:

"And God spoke all these words, saying: 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage'" (verses 1–2).

## —KEEP THE LAW—

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Before going on, let us drop down to verses 18 through 20:

"Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, 'You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.' And Moses said to the people, 'Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.'"

This is God directly telling His people what sin is. No need for man to make up a list: No dancing, card playing, movie going, drinking, etc. Unless one can tie the misuse of some activity to one of these ten laws it simply is not sin I don't care what some religious traditions have taught in the past.

### **Worship reserved for God alone**

Now, let's go back and take up where we left off. In Exodus 20:3, God says, "You shall have no other gods before Me." This is the First Commandment of the Decalogue.

To put anything ahead of God is to break this commandment. God, and God alone, is to be worshipped. We may love, honor, and deeply respect our brothers and sisters, but our worship belongs to God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, there are some self-styled religious experts debating whether Jesus Christ was a created being or truly God, and, consequently, whether He is worthy of our worship. How foolish can one become? Read the Word; study it; meditate on it. Using it with God's Spirit, we can know the truth and be set free of the ignorance that enslaves man to false ideas and reasoning.

Notice what John's Gospel says about the preincarnate Word:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-3,10,14).

Clearly, the One who became Jesus Christ was *with* God the Father, and *was* Himself God. He could not have been a created being, for the passage above plainly states that He participated in the making of *all* created things.

Remember, what appears to be "intellectual" and "scholarly" may be completely foolish in God's eyes. Paul spoke of those who claimed "to be wise," but "became fools" (Romans 1:22). He cautioned the Corinthians about the deception of false wisdom:

"Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their own craftiness'; and again, 'The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile'" (1 Corinthians 3:18-20).

### **God to be worshipped in spirit and truth**

The Second Commandment reads, "You

shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments" (Exodus 20:4-6).

Every religion of man has some kind of image that it identifies itself with. However, in the true religion of God, we are instructed not to have any kind of image integral to our religious worship of Him. That means crosses, pictures of Christ, statues of Mary, and so on, violate this commandment. People try to split hairs and say they do not worship these things but God simply says, "Do not use any kind of representation of anything as a device to facilitate your worship of Me." God wants to be in our inward parts, our very mind and spirit, not in some kind of physical object we can see.

### **God's name to be hallowed**

Now we come to the Third Commandment: "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain" (Exodus 20:7).

Have we ever used God or His name in some kind of joke? Have we ever used the name "God" or "Jesus" in expressing frustration or anger? The very name of God should be so sacred that we never use it unless we are addressing Him in prayer or speaking of Him reverently.

### **The Sabbath to be kept**

The Fourth Commandment states, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8-11).

Even in this scripture God reveals which day He has set aside for rest and worship for true believers. Trust God's Word; do not lean on the "wisdom" of men who think they can decide how to obey God. Read Leviticus 23, for it is God's Word, and it reveals a lot more about God's Sabbaths—days that He has made special to reveal His mind and His plan to those who will obey Him and find truth rather than error.

### **Parents to be honored**

The Fifth Commandment is the first that concerns how we relate to one another, but it also teaches us something about our relationship with our Heavenly Father. It reads, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12).

The family unit is integral to God's way of life. God is a family, and He is making sons out of human beings. He tests them, puts His Spirit in them, and will one day resurrect or transform them to a new body

just like His own. Learn about things that strengthen family ties and bonds. Practice them with all your might. These things are the making of eternal life.

### **Life to be cherished**

The Sixth Commandment reads, "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13).

Let us fully understand this commandment. It goes to the intent of our hearts and minds and involves our feeling toward others. Hate and bitterness have no part in one called by God to become like His Son. Even while Jesus was dying He forgave those who betrayed Him and put Him to death.

### **Marital commitments to be kept**

The Seventh Commandment forbids marital infidelity: "You shall not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14).

Satan uses adultery to destroy man's faith and the family unit. It takes a strong commitment to marry and stay married in our society. It's easy to find justification for divorce, and infidelity is often considered a minor flaw rather than a major sin.

Someone described marriage as a besieged fortress: Everyone on the inside is trying to get out and everyone on the outside is trying to get in.

Making and keeping commitments is absolutely essential to developing the kind of faith that we must have to please God.

"But without *faith* it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Having and keeping our commitments to family, friends, and relationships with others builds our ability to keep our commitment to God. Anything that breaks this down in our lives with others breaks down our commitment to God.

### **Others' property to be respected**

The Eighth Commandment concerns respecting others' belongings: "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15).

Never take anything you do not earn or cannot rightly have. Don't trust in winning the lottery to save you from your debts. Be thankful and content for whatever you have, and plan and execute the plan to prosper with the intent that it will help you to help others and not just yourself.

### **Truth to be esteemed**

The Ninth Commandment states, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16).

One of the base elements of Satan is that of being a liar. He is the originator of this practice of using information to deceive or create problems with others. Many friends are separated because of untruth and rumors. If you hear something bad, simply refuse to tell it to someone else. If you must tell someone, be absolutely sure of its authenticity, and determine why and what might happen if you share it.

"A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends" (Proverbs 16:28).

"He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends" (Proverbs 17:9).

"These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that

shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:16-19).

Notice that sowing discord—even if what is told is true—among brethren is committing an abominable act before God.

### **Desires to be managed**

All the sins described above originate with unlawful or excessive desire. The Tenth Commandment goes to the heart of the problem:

"*You shall not covet* your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's" (Exodus 20:17).

It is interesting that God put this commandment, which deals with the "starting point" of sinful behavior, at the very end of the list. Our wrong behavior begins in our hearts and minds. When we dwell on things that we cannot rightly gain, we lose appreciation for all the things we have. A contented heart is a powerful asset in our faithful relationship with Almighty God.

"Now godliness with *contentment* is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:6-12).

### **Choose Life!**

Why do we keep the law? Only a fool would want to do otherwise. Blessings are a lot more enjoyable than curses. In keeping the commandments we are choosing the way of life rather than of death.

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30:15).

*Scripture quotations taken from the New King James Version, except as noted.*

# Questions & Answers

By Vance A. Stinson

## Are We 'Sons of God' Now?

**Q** We are not yet "spirit" sons of God. We belong to Him because He made the first "pair," but we must be in the Book of Life to see Him as He is. Where in the Bible are people called sons of God?

O.L., Ontario, Canada

**A** Since God made Adam and Eve, He is the Father of all mankind. In that sense, we are all the "children of God." But true Christians are sons (or children) of God in a special sense. We are not yet spirit beings; but, through the regenerative and vivifying power of the Holy Spirit acting on our human spirit, we *are* sons (children) of God, nevertheless. The apostle Paul writes, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the *sons of God*. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption [literally, *sonship*] by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the *children of God*, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Romans 8:14–17).

Notice that the Spirit of God—the Holy Spirit, the means through which God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son make their abode with us (see John 14–16)—*bears witness* that we are the children of God. This is *not* the language of metaphor! It means quite plainly that if the Spirit of God dwells within us, then we are *literally* the children of God. We are *literally* "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ."

In other words, God's people—those in whom the Spirit of God dwells—are members of God's own *family*.

When the New Testament says that God is our Father, it does not mean that He is our Father in the figurative sense—the sense in which an inventor is the "father" of his invention—but in the sense of a literal *begettal*. This happens when His Holy Spirit joins with our human spirit and imparts divine life to us.

The apostle Paul says that "he who is united to the Lord *becomes one spirit with Him*" (1 Corinthians 6:17), adding that "your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God" (verse 19). The human spirit, now joined with God's Spirit, makes the believer a "new creation" in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15).

John writes, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1).

Think of it! Almighty God Himself gives us the privilege of addressing Him as our *Father*. And we—if the Holy Spirit resides within us—have the honor of being His begotten children.

John continues, "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be"—God is our Father and we are His children, but we have yet to experience the fullness of that relationship—"but we know that when He is revealed"—when Christ comes down from heaven and is seen by all—"we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (verse 2). Only when we join Him in His Kingdom-Family will we comprehend Him fully, and we can comprehend Him fully only when we are *made to be like Him*.

A few verses later, John says, "Whoever has been born [begotten] of God does not [practice] sin, for His [God's] *seed remains in him*; and he cannot sin [habitually, as a way of life], because he has been born [begotten] of God" (verse 9).

The word translated "seed" elsewhere refers to sperm. The Spirit of God—the agency through which divine life is imparted to the believer—is here compared to the male sperm, which fertilizes the female ovum and imparts the characteristics of the father to the newly begotten human life. When God gives His Spirit to a repentant believer, an "impregnation" occurs. The Spirit imparts to the believer the characteristics of the Father. As long as the believer abides in the Spirit, the process of spiritual growth continues, and he becomes more and more like Jesus Christ, the Father's firstborn Son. And finally, when the time for "delivery" has come, the child of God emerges from the "womb" fully developed and bearing the likeness of his elder Brother. At that moment, he literally, and in the fullest sense, becomes a member of the immortal *family of God*!

## How Do You Identify a 'Laodicean'?

**Q** I believe it would be interesting to do a study of the Laodicean church to compliment your "Seven Golden Lampstands" study. This study I am suggesting could/should address the question, How would believers identify the Laodicean church? There is a WCG splinter group pointing the finger at all other groups and labeling them "Laodicean." I have always thought of Laodiceans as being an attitude prevalent in the end-time church as reflected in the thought, "I am rich and increased in goods and have need of nothing." I believe this is self-sufficiency.

J.T.G., Ovilla, TX

**A** Without a doubt, the "Laodicean attitude" is "alive and well" in the Church of God today, but it also existed in the early church. Proof of this is in the book of Revelation itself. Even the most radical of the "Philadelphia fundamentalists" accept the fact that the seven churches named and described in Revelation 2 and 3 literally existed when the apostle John received the visions that would make up this book. One major difference between them and me is that they accept as a matter of *doctrine* the view that these seven literal churches represent seven successive eras spanning the entire church age, from Pentecost to the Parousia. I firmly believe that it is a mistake to put this view in the category of "doctrine" or "dogma." At best, it is a *theory*; and, in my opinion, it lacks any real biblical or historical support.

You suggested doing a study addressing the question, "How would believers identify the Laodicean church?" I would prefer to revise the question somewhat. Perhaps something like this would be more in line with my preferences: "What are the characteristics of a 'Laodicean'?" I prefer this question because *all* the characteristics described in Revelation 2 and 3 can probably be found in every church. In other words, each congregation probably has a few "Philadelphians" as well as a handful of "Laodiceans." I wouldn't want to label a whole congregation one way or the other.

I agree with your assessment: at least one of the problems with the church in Laodicea was its self-sufficiency. They boasted, "I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," but Christ said that they didn't know they were "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17).

The city of Laodicea was known for its wealth, its garment industry, and a medical community that produced a salve for certain conditions of the eye. Christ alludes to the city's wealth and resources when He describes the spiritual condition of the church, and when He admonishes her members to zealously repent: "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see" (verse 18).

Self-sufficiency of the sort that afflicted the church of Laodicea is rooted in *pride*. As long as the prideful spirit is allowed full expression, there can be no honest self-evaluation, no facing up to the truth about one's own motives. Pride, if given full reign, leads a person to redefine himself completely. Serious sins become minor weaknesses. Minor accomplishments become grand achievements. Vices become virtues. Revisions like these are possible only when a person blinds himself to his own motives. Such is the fruit of pride.

Many erroneously assume that the problem with the church in Laodicea was nothing more than spiritual apathy. This is based on Christ's condemning depiction of this church: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth" (verses 15–16).

The Laodiceans' spiritual condition is compared with lukewarm water, which is not good for quenching thirst (as cold water is) or for soothing painful conditions (as hot water is). The terms "hot" and "cold" do not refer to spiritual fervor ("hot") and apathy ("cold"), for then we would have Christ saying that He would rather see His people apathetic than mildly enthusiastic. "Lukewarm," then, does not refer to a spiritual condition midway between indifference and passionate; it refers to a deplorable condition wherein prideful arrogance is mistaken for righteousness.

While apathy most likely existed in Laodicea, the condition Christ condemns was far worse than a mere lack of spiritual zeal. The Laodiceans' sin was the antithesis of the humility and spirit of obedience God wants to see in His people.

It's not too difficult to spot a Laodicean—except when the Laodicean is oneself. Unfortunately, when a Laodicean glimpses his own arrogance, he is usually able to quickly redefine what he sees. "That's not pride," he says; "it's *passion*—passion for the work of God! I guess that makes me a Philadelphian."

## What About Calling Up the Dead?

**Q** Most Christians are against communicating with the dead. In view of that, what is your answer to Moses and Elijah appearing?

T.O., Prince George, BC

**A** God plainly condemns necromancy, or conjuration of the spirits of the dead, along with all other forms of occultism. Notice His warning to Israel: "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who *calls up the dead*. For all who do these things are an *abomination* to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you" (Deuteronomy 18:10–12).

In view of God's powerful condemnation of necromancy and other such practices, we should immediately rule out the idea that the Transfiguration narrative suggests divine approval for these practices.

The Transfiguration is reported in Matthew 17 and Luke 9. Both accounts tell us that Moses and Elijah appeared and spoke with Jesus when He "transfigured" before the disciples. Later, after Moses and Elijah disappeared and Jesus' appearance returned to normal, "Jesus commanded them [His disciples], saying, 'Tell the *vision* to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead'" (Matthew 17:9).

This was a *vision*. Therefore, one cannot use this narrative to prove that Moses and Elijah were actually there, or that their spirits consciously dwell in some ethereal realm, and are capable of "crossing over" to our world.

Even if the real Moses and Elijah had been temporarily raised from the dead and made to appear alongside Jesus, this is certainly no evidence that God overturned His law concerning spiritism and the occult. There is no suggestion in the text that it is now all right to conjure up the dead.

## All in the Family

# Sister of pastor's wife baptized

By Betty Register

**S**PRINGFIELD, Missouri—On July 21, at the home of one of our members near Springfield, Judy Foulks was added to the body of Christ. Judy, along with her family and friends, drove three hours from Doniphan to be baptized, and to rejoice along with the angels. This was a special, long-awaited event for sister Betty Register.

Betty and Judy's father, in the late 1940s, learned of the Sabbath. Judy remembers her father teaching her that Saturday was the Sabbath, the seventh day. She read the calendar at age six and never forgot. As Scripture says, train the young and they will not forget. This was a wonderful time for the family. The person missing was her mother. It was the desire of her mother to see her baby girl baptized into God's church. Her mother, Ella Parker, is in a nursing home at Poplar Bluff and doesn't remember much of the past. One day, at the resurrection, they can share their tears of joy along with Judy's father, who started her life down the right path.

Judy was baptized by pastor Mr. Ken Register (her brother-in-law) and deacon Mr. Ted Standley.

Congratulations, Judy.



**TEARS OF JOY**—Betty Register congratulates sister Judy Foulks after Judy's baptism, above.

Left, Judy receives the laying on of hands by pastor Ken Register and deacon Ted Standley.



## First sermonette!

**S**PRINGFIELD, Missouri—On Pentecost, a special handshake was given to Daniel DeJarnette from his grandfather, Ken Register.

Daniel had given his first sermonette, about serving God and our fellowman. This was a very special day for Grandpa, sharing the service together: Grandpa and Grandson.

Daniel has been in God's church all his young life. He attended Sabbath school until he was 16, and then began sitting in at church services, starting to see the bigger story in an adult way.

The Springfield church is proud to say his was a job well done.

Daniel is the fourth generation of his family who is serving God.

That day, we also had first-time visitors attending with us all the way from Southeast Missouri. They could feel God's Spirit among us and wanted to learn more. Hopefully they will follow the calling.

We all enjoyed the fellowship and abundance of food.

—Betty Register

## The Saga of the Lady Bird

By Nancy Miles



*There was once a little lady bird  
who was looking for a place to  
lay her eggs and raise her  
young according to  
God's grace*

*She spied a place of beauty a  
place of trees and shade*

*Then she saw the perfect spot  
but the spot was  
human-made*

*She loved the pretty bird bath  
and the bird feeder you  
did prepare*

*She knew her children would be  
safe from weather and  
cat's snare*

*So she built her little nest in  
a hanging flower pot*

*She thought it so important that  
she had picked the  
perfect spot*

*When she first built her tiny  
nest you threw it down  
three times*

*Three times she rebuilt it in  
your flowers until you changed  
your mind*

*Then she laid two tiny eggs and  
warmed them 'neath  
her breast*

*Her heart is full of joy and  
peace for she's found her place  
of rest*

*So now she'll sing her song of  
gratitude—just listen out  
your door*

*And know you are a part of  
God's plan with Him  
forevermore*

*So when you are discouraged  
and your heart is  
in a mope*

*Think of how she kept on trying  
and never lost  
her hope*

*Always remember the little bird  
and how she loved  
your sod*

*For when you let her  
share your home  
you touched the heart of God!*

# The Question of the Day

*If you could go back in a "time machine," what would you change in your life?*

By Lloyd W. Cary

Many of us enjoy science fiction. Many years ago, H.G. Wells wrote a novel called *The Time Machine*. There have been several movie adaptations of it. There was a series of hit movies called *Back to the Future*. There was a series on TV called *Quantum Leap* that was quite popular. Wouldn't it be wonderful, sometime, to have your own time machine and go back into the past and change things?

What if you had a time machine? What if you could have gone back less than a year ago—back to the infamous 9-11—knowing what you know today? What would you have done? Called the police? The President? Called in a "bomb scare" to get all those people out of there? *Could* you have changed things? And what would have happened as a result if you *had*?

We have all had regrets, made mistakes, and missed opportunities.

What if you had a time machine in which you could go back, say, 20 years into your past. What CHANGES would you make in your life?

What if you—with the knowledge you have today—could go back and talk to yourself as you were 20 years ago? First of all, if you could have seen yourself 20 years ago as you are today, what would

you have thought? Would you have been pleased? Would you have believed and taken your own advice? Would there be anything you would change to prevent you from becoming like the person you now see before you?

Unfortunately, we do not have a time machine, but we do have something nearly as good. We have **today**. And, God willing, **tomorrow**. We can make changes in our lives **now**. Today. While there is yet time.

## Our Time Machine

God's Word—the Bible—is, in a sense, a "time machine." It is first and foremost a history book. Through its pages we can peer into the remote past. We can see into other dimensions—into the spirit world. We can see into the hearts and minds of men. We can see the wisdom of the ages. And we can also see into the future. Prophecy is but history written in advance. Through this time machine, we can know the very plan of God, and adjust our lives accordingly.

Is there anything in your life that, say, 20 years from now, you will wish you *had* changed? Comedian George Burns once said, "If I had known I was going to live

this long, I would have taken better care of myself!" Physically, is there anything that you should be doing differently? Are we eating as we should? Exercising? Is there some bad habit we should break, or a good habit we should inculcate? Spiritually, is there anything we should be doing, or not doing? Is there a habitual sin we should overcome? Is there someone we should help? Someone we need to forgive? Someone we should love?

What about the Big Three: prayer, Bible study, and meditation? Are we doing OK? Or is there something we should change?

If so, let's change it. We can, you know. We're not alone. We have each other for help and support. We have God's Spirit to guide us. And we have God Himself to open and close doors of opportunity for us.

Many professed Christians are always doubting and fearing, and they are sometimes convinced that this is the necessary state of believers. This is a mistake, for "all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23), and it is possible for us to enter into such a state of closeness with God that any doubt or fear can be as a shadow, flitting across the soul but never lingering there.

When you read of the daring exploits of God's people in the pages of your Bible,

when you read the trusting psalms of David, do you sometimes sigh and murmur in the chamber of your heart: "Alas! These are not for me"? When you hear of deeds which men have done in the name of Jesus; what they have enjoyed of Him; how much they have been like Him; how they have been able to endure great persecutions for His sake; do you say, "Ah! As for me, I am nothing; I can never attain to this?"

God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). There is nothing which one saint became or overcame that *you* cannot become or overcome. There is no stature of grace, no attainment of spirituality, no clearness of assurance, no call of duty which is not open to you if you have but the power to believe, to trust, and to obey (Matthew 21:22; Psalm 56:4,11; Acts 5:29).

## The Question of the Day

Today, we have little excuse. We *have* our time machine: the Bible. We can see the past, the present, and the future. We know what we need to do. And we have the power to change.

The question of the day is, What are we waiting for?

# Check us out on the Web!

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Church of God International website. The page features a navigation bar with links like Home, Armor of God, TV, Radio, Literature, Bible Lecture Series, SKY, and August 2002. The main content area includes a section for 'Tune in to the Armor of God' with a 'Now view the Armor of God television program' link, a 'HOME BIBLE Study Course' section, and a 'Repentance' article. A sidebar on the right contains a 'SKY Newsletter' sign-up and a 'Windows Media' player. The bottom of the page shows a Windows taskbar with various open applications like QuarkXPress, Howie's Quick, Exploring - Te, BJRapture.WM, The Church of, Acrobat Read, and RealOne PL.

Log on to  
**www.cgi.org**  
and...

- Browse the latest issue of *The International News*
- Listen to or view past editions of the *Armor of God* program
- Download lessons of our Home Bible Study Course
- Read our online literature library
- Make prayer requests
- Find local congregations
- **AND MUCH MORE!**



## Project Linus

# CGI Sabbath school coordinator featured in local paper

**Editor's Note:** Church member Noni McVey of California was featured in a local newspaper article for her charitable volunteer work. The article, originally published under the title "Project Linus comforts kids in crisis" in the March 12 edition of The Monterey County Herald, is reprinted below in its entirety.

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Danny is 3. Delaney, his baby sister and best friend in the world, was just 15 months. But earlier this month, in a terrible twist of surgery gone wrong, Delaney died. Danny has had only 36 months of life to learn how to cope with this kind of grief.

Carmel's Noni McVey has never met Danny nor Delaney or any of his family members, except for her friend and his great-aunt, Jeanne Hale. But she did have an idea how to help Danny. Upon hearing the news of the tragedy, McVey went out for supplies and returned home to make Danny a blanket. Within a few days, it was his.

"When his mother gave Danny the blanket Noni had made," said hale, "she told him, 'Any time you're thinking about Delaney and feeling sad, and you want to have her around you, just hang on to this blanket.' Danny has kept this blanket with him and has slept with it around him; it has been his connection to his little sister. My family has been amazed how this blanket could mean so much to this little boy. It's

given him something to hang onto."

Noni McVey knew it would. She also knew it wouldn't bring back his sister, but that it might give him a warm hug when he needs it.

"At a time when a child feels nothing but clouds in his life," she said, "he can feel the warmth of a blanket wrap him with a sense of security. It's not that the medical field doesn't provide a lot, but it can't offer a pill that tells a child he's loved, cared for, safe and secure. We can give him that through this gesture."

This gesture provided one more hug among more than 400,000 blankets that have been delivered worldwide through Project Linus, a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization founded by Karen Loucks in 1996 to "provide security through blankets" to ill or traumatized children.

Loucks had just learned how to crochet when, on Christmas Eve 1995, she saw "Joy to the World," an article in Parade Magazine by Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Eddie Adams. The story featured the picture of a tiny child with cancer, who said that her security blanket was helping her get through her chemotherapy treatments.

Inspired, Loucks responded by providing blankets to Denver's Rocky Mountain Children's Cancer Center, her first gesture toward the establishment of Project Linus.

Named for the Peanuts cartoon character whose profundity and wisdom seemed anchored in the security of his blanket, and endorsed by the late Charles Schulz, Project

Linus now operates out of more than 300 chapters worldwide.

Thanks to Noni McVey, one of the newest chapters functions in Monterey County.

"Extending the hand of warmth and love to a child," said McVey, "creates a wonderful circle of care, as it provides healing and comfort not just to the child who receives the blanket, but to the parents and other family members who witness the gift. It's a basic concept of showing a love for the children of our community. I can't think of anything nicer."

McVey is no stranger to caring for children. A native of Phoenix who moved to the Monterey Peninsula during her teens, she went to Southern California to study business and theology at Ambassador College, but returned to Carmel to marry and raise a family.

A full-time wife and mother who puts her family first, McVey has made a dedicated career out of her volunteer work, particularly on behalf of her daughters, Elizabeth and Jordana.

"My children are the center of my life," she said. "I volunteered all through their schooling, and Jordana and I enjoyed making quilts for the National Charity League. When she graduated from high school, we could no longer participate in the League, but we just couldn't stop making blankets. So, I knit one for Project Linus, instead."

And then 9-11 happened.

"As did everyone in America, we wanted to do something," said McVey. "We learned they needed blankets for the victims, so we made more."

Project Linus sent 10,000 handmade blankets to victims of the World Trade Center. It sent 600 more to the victims of the Pentagon. Another 5,000 blankets were shipped to Afghanistan.

But McVey wasn't finished. In fact, she was on a mission. Calling her project "Sew for America's Children," she went to every local fabric and crafts store she could find in the phone book and asked for donations. The response was generous. Among local donors is Picante Sportswear in Pacific Grove, which contributed three oversized boxes of hand-woven fabric.

"We keep fabric on hand for its historical value, but what better use for it than blankets for these children," said Melissa Eason who, with husband Bob, founded Picante 20 years ago. "Jordana, who had interned with us, brought in a sample of a blanket she'd made from our fabric

swatches. It was so beautiful; it encouraged us all the more to let them pick out whatever they could use. It's just a wonderful project."

McVey also sent out fliers, inviting friends and neighbors to make blankets for Project Linus. She collected 14 blankets, but learned from headquarters that many others had sent theirs in directly. It was then that Project Linus invited McVey to become a coordinator and establish "Project Linus Monterey Bay." She didn't hesitate.

"Since October," she said, "I've collected and distributed about 80 blankets. They tend to go out the door as fast as we get them in. I have 10 volunteers right now, but we need more. I want people to know that we need blankets for children here, in this community. We are working with the Department of Social Services and the Women's Crisis Center. The fire departments carry blankets on fire engines. We want to know which agencies and hospitals would like blankets. We've found if people know where the need is, they'll fill it."

Blankets, given to boys and girls—from newborn to 19 years old—must be handmade, washable and new. They may be any size and style, including but not limited to knit, crocheted, fleece, quilted, appliqued and woven blankets. Upon receipt, McVey stitches a "Made With Tender Loving Care for Project Linus" label into every blanket.

She is hoping to have a lot more labels to sew on next Sunday, which has been designated as "Blanket Day" on the Monterey Peninsula. Courtesy of the DoubleTree Hotel, Project Linus Monterey Bay is hosting a "sewing circle" for anyone who would like to donate time or materials toward what she hopes will be many blankets.

"Even if you can't sew," she said, "we can still use your help. If you'd like to learn, we'll show you. The simplest lesson is to make the blanket as if you're making it for a child you love, knowing that every stitch counts. It's easy to go buy a blanket for a child, but it's quite a gift to put yourself into it."

For those who have blankets ready to donate, you can drop them off at any of the following locations: Beverly Fabrics in Seaside, Girl Scouts Monterey Bay Council in Castroville, The Hand Maden in Pacific Grove, Elizabeth Ashley & Boyz Only at The Barnyard in Carmel and, on Blanket Day, at The DoubleTree Hotel in Monterey.

## Blessings on meeting overshadow weather and health

By Orville Bumgardner

**C**HARLESTON, West Virginia—The invitations had been sent out for the March 2 Bible lecture in Hurricane, West Virginia (near Charleston). The meeting room was prepared. We had prayed for good weather, which didn't happen. For once the weather people got it right. It rained all day. To complicate things, Mr. Watson, who had arrived the evening before, awoke that morning with an upset stomach. He called me around 9:30 a.m. to tell me that I should prepare something as a backup just in case he may not be able to give the lecture.

Arriving at the meeting room after lunch, Mr. Watson informed me that he was somewhat better and would be able to give the Bible lecture. The people began arriving and continued to arrive until it was time for the lecture to begin. There were 38-40 people present. The audience was not aware that Mr. Watson was not up to standard physically. His enthusiasm, organization, and knowledge of the subject captured and held the attention of the audience for more than an hour.

Mr. Watson explained who we are as a nation, as Christians, and what we should be doing to prepare for the return of Jesus, the Christ. He explained in detail how God has worked mostly with Abraham and his descendants and how we have

become a powerful nation and a company of nations. He expressed his belief that we will never recover the quality of life that we had in the United States prior to the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Several people were still there visiting and discussing the lecture an hour and a half after it ended.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Tackett and Mr. and Mrs. James Pollitte were there along with about eleven other members from the Morehead, Kentucky, congregation. Nearly half of the audience was made up of CGI members. There were members of two different independent groups there as well. They are not likely to attend regular CGI Sabbath services or Bible studies in the area. There were eight adults and one child who did sign up as being interested in attending on a regular basis. There was another couple that verbally expressed interest in attending further Bible studies, Sabbath services, or both.

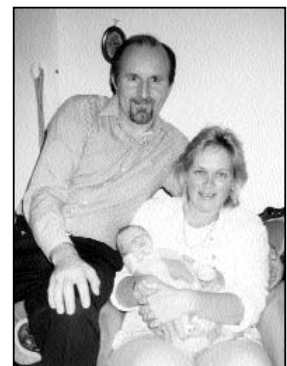
Morgan and Brenda Pinkerman have offered to act as hosts if we are successful in starting a fellowship group in the area.

Mr. Watson's illness and the rain could have resulted in a different outcome, but God is in charge, and I'm confident that most would say that we had His blessings and inspiration.

It was a success as measured both by the attendance and by the enthusiasm of those present.

AUSTRALIA—Great excitement has greeted the newest arrival in our midst. Danjard was born on July 13 (weighing just over 8 pounds) at the Mater Mothers Hospital in Brisband to Dianne and Zoltan Tuskes. Mother, Father, and Babe are all doing well. This is a new blessing for our church.

—Tui Haupt





# How to Be Used of God

Many ask, "What can I do? How can I be used of God?" We're glad you asked! Here is the answer!

By Lloyd W. Cary

**M**any times after hearing an inspiring sermon, or after returning from the Feast of Tabernacles, or even after baptism, we ponder, "Okay. I agree. But what can I do? How can I be used of God?" The first thing we must do is to take a self-inventory and ask, "What do I have to be used? Look into your mirror. What do you see? Well, you have a mind, eyes, and ears. You've got a voice, hands, and feet. And you've got heart. And that is enough! Let's look deeper into this composite picture of yourself and see what God can use.

Second Timothy 2:21 tells us, "If a man therefore purge [cleanses, or purifies] himself...he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet [useful, or fit] for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

## If you want to be used of God... Let Him think through your mind

How do we let God think through our minds? Hebrews 10:16 explains: "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." In other words, we must begin to think as God thinks in every aspect of our lives, just as though He inscribed His laws indelibly into our minds.

Second Timothy 1:7 tells us, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." A sound mind is a gift of God, and the more we begin to think as God thinks, the sounder our minds become.

Sin begins in the mind. A man has to *think* wrong before he *acts* wrong. This is why Christ made the Commandments even *more* binding, covering not only the *letter* of the law, but the *very thoughts and intents of the heart* as well. For example, Christ said in Matthew 5:21-22, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment. But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment."

Instead of "doing away" with God's law, as some pretend, Christ made it sinful to even hate in the mind because He knew that action follows thought. Further, He said in Matthew 5:27-28, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery. But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Christ did not "do away" with any laws; instead, He *magnified* them (Isaiah 42:21)—expanded them to their spiritual intent. As Paul put it, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity *every thought* to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). To put it another way, we need to condition our minds to think as God thinks. Succinctly, we need to examine God's Word and spiritually discern its spiritual intent, not look for loopholes to get around something that may interfere with our libidinous lifestyle.

Be assured that God can put thoughts and ideas into your mind that can be used to bless others and glorify Himself. However, God will not force you to obey Him. God awaits your cooperation. You must discipline your thinking; fill your mind with *Bible* thoughts. Paul advises, "Let this *mind* be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5) "For who hath known the *mind* of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the *mind* of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16). Therefore, if you want to be used of God, allow His thoughts to become your thoughts.

## If you want to be used of God... Let Him see through your eyes

Revelation 3:18 says to "anoint thine eyes with eye-

salve, that thou mayest see," spiritually speaking, of course. God's Word, the Bible, is that eyesalve! Apply it liberally.

Satan the devil, on the other hand, attempts to deceive and blind us by distracting and diverting our attention through—what?—"the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16). Satan is an artful and malignant spirit, and has many devices for deception and injuring the cause of Christ, ruining the lives of men. Persons who disbelieve his existence, who do not oppose his influence, or are ignorant of his devices will soon be overtaken by his subtlety. He can be likened to a master magician, distracting you in one area while he accomplishes his evil deeds in another. But we are not ignorant of his devices (2 Corinthians 2:11). We must be on the constant *lookout* for his sorcery.

The Lord wants to see through your eyes—how you perceive the world. And He wants you to see through His eyes—from His perspective. He wants you to see the blessings that come from obeying His laws—and the curses that ensue from disobedience. He also wants us to see the hurts, suffering, pain, and needs of others. *Why?* That we might learn empathy and that we might pray all the more earnestly, "Thy kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10). So, if you wish to be used of God, see the world from His vantage point, through His eyes.

## If you want to be used of God...

### Let Him hear through your ears

Revelation 2:11: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches..." Turnabout is fair play: if you would have God hear you when you pray, you must hear Him when He speaks. He speaks to us through His Word, the Bible.

By contrast, most TV programs promote *non-Christian* values: foul language, illicit sex, and wanton acts of violence are common. These are not the kinds of things a Christian should be seeing and listening to. The Scriptures ask us, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not *heard*? And how shall they *hear* without a preacher" (Romans 10:14). Verse 18 concludes, "So then faith cometh by *hearing*, and hearing by the Word of God." *Whose words? God's words!* God's words are what we should feed our eyes and ears with, not the time-wasting scoria and swill that pours into millions of living rooms nightly via "hellelevision." Jesus assured us, "My sheep *hear* my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). "He that is of God heareth"—what?—"God's words..." (John 8:47)! Are you spiritually attuned to God's words or are you tuned into the wavelengths of this world? If any man have an ear, let him hear.

God would also have us use our ears to hear the cries of the lost, the frustrated, and the needy so that you may help and pray for them.

If you earnestly desire to be used of God, use *your* ears as God does: listen to the words of God and wholesome things.

## If you want to be used of God...

### Let God speak through your voice

Matthew 10:20 says, "For it is not ye that *speak*, but the Spirit of your Father which *speakeeth* in you."

How do we use our voice? Do we use our lips to build, uplift, and edify? Or are we too often caught up voicing gossip, rumors, and dissension? Proverbs 14:1 states that "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." We tear down our house, church, or family by constant nagging, bickering, rumor-mongering, and gossip. Gossip is like mud thrown on a clean white wall: it may not stick, but it always leaves a dirty mark. For example, if we were to begin a rumor that old Mr. So-and-so was seen on Broadway

making love to a kangaroo, people may scoff. Mr. So-and-So may have an iron-clad alibi, and besides, he may not like kangaroos anyway. But you can take it to the bank that *someday, somewhere, someone* will meet old Mr. So-and-So and reflect, "Mr. So-and-So...let's see...your name is familiar...oh, yes! You were the guy down on Broadway with the kangaroo!" Get the point? We need to praise and uplift. God's church needs builders, not a wrecking crew.

Also, God wants to hear your voice *through prayer* (Luke 18:1). "Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). There is no better way you can use your voice. Colossians 3:16 advises, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

God also speaks His words through the teachers and ministers He sends. Do we hear their voice? Do we appreciate them? Or do we take them for granted? Thousand of people would give nearly anything to hear what *your* ears hear through the Church of God International. Unfortunately, it is a true saying that "familiarity breeds contempt." Some will nit-pick, fault-find, and complain because, perhaps, a minister "seems boring," or perhaps mispronounces a word or misquotes a fact or a scripture, and completely shut out the gist of his message. Stop and consider: how would you feel if God's servants were suddenly taken from you? Do we sometimes unintentionally undermine the inspiration God sends by misuse of our tongues? Or do we have the attitude of Isaiah 52:7: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

We need to realize God may even sometimes use *us* as His witnesses to give testimony if we are humble before Him! We are told in 1 Peter 3:15, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an *answer* to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." If you truly wish to be used of God, let him speak through *your* voice.

## If you want to be used of God...

### Let Him work through your hands

Matthew 9:37 reminds us that "the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." We might add, "Ooohhh, so very few!" Willing workers are needed in the Master's vineyard—people who are willing to be used of God to serve others. Christianity is a roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-involved religion. "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17). When you are willing to use your hands to assist in God's work—even if it's only your job to pay tithes or give offerings to God's work—God will notice, and you will be blessed. Consider Malachi 3:10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." We are told in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Will you accept God's challenge?

And if you are one of those fortunate enough to attend a weekly Sabbath service, be a doer, not just a taker. Chip in. Get involved. If you see that something needs to be done, just do it. Even if it is only picking up hymnals, or giving someone a ride to services, or writing a note or card of encouragement to someone who is sick or less fortunate than you. We are family, and that is what family is all about. It is true that many hands make light work, so

## Toronto steps up with Web site, Bible lectures

By Noel Scoburgh

**T**ORONTO, Ontario, Canada—The Toronto congregation of the CGI has stepped up its outreach program with the setting up of a Web site ([www.cgitoronto.org](http://www.cgitoronto.org)) and a public Bible study, held on April 20 at the Travelodge Hotel in the city.

The Toronto congregation did an admirable job in preparing for this opportunity to allow minister-of-record Bill Watson to spread the gospel. They prepared flyers as well as sent out invitations to complement those sent out by Tyler to those on the mailing list in the Greater Toronto area. A total of 66 people attended, 16 of whom were new visitors.

The many strands of truth expounded at the study were skillfully and harmo-

niously woven together by Mr. Watson. He touched on many truthful doctrinal subjects in the Bible. Some of them included defining God in our image, the truth regarding heaven and hell, the fact that Jesus was a Sabbathkeeper, that God is producing humans to be like Him, and that there is no secret rapture to heaven. What was quite striking was the indirect way these truths were approached, leaving newcomers with food for thought.

As a result of the public Bible study, several new faces are now regularly attending the Toronto congregation. Some of them will have already been baptized by the time this article is printed. Indeed we labor, but God gives the increase! Hopefully God will open a way for more frequent public Bible studies for the gospel of the kingdom to go out to all.

## New deaconess ordained

By Goldie Davis

**N**ASHVILLE, Tennessee—On Pentecost of 2002, Mrs. Kim West was ordained to the office of deacon by Mr. Hal Bryant and Mr. Marvin Wyke. She has shown an attitude of service and genuine loyalty to the people of our local congregation as well as to God's people at large.

She has taken on the very large responsibility of teaching our children. She is very dedicated to making children a part of our church.

Other attributes she has displayed in her willingness to serve includes continuously giving her time to help clean up at church, arriving early to make sure things are in order, and bringing snacks for others to enjoy after services. She has given time, energy, and money to decorate our meeting place so it

will be a joy to worship in it each Sabbath.

She has shown dedication and a huge willingness to help in any way. Hard work is no stranger to Kim.



Kim West

Kim is also grounded in the truth of God. She attended the Worldwide Church of God with her parents as a child. She left the church in her early years and found her way back to God's church several years ago. She is generous and kind, and is a joy to all who meet her.

Kim is a wonderful wife (just ask her husband Roger), mother, daughter, sister, and a great friend. She definitely has a good report as outlined in 1 Timothy 3.

Anyone who touches her life is the better for the experience. I know I am.

Congratulations sister-deacon. Cheers, and welcome to service in God's church!

## Construction of storage rooms earns one month's free rent

By Betty Register

**S**PRINGFIELD, Missouri—Recently, members came together for work and fellowship, including lunch.

The church was in need of extra storage, and the management of the building gave us permission to add a closet onto the kitchen.

The manager was so pleased with the church members' work, he gave us a free month's rent.

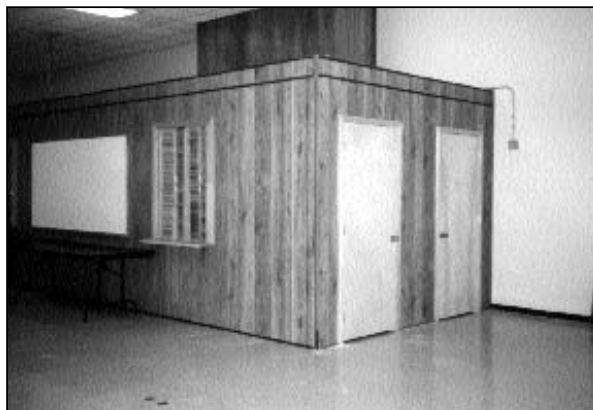
We have been meeting here at IBEW Hall since 1978.

We hope to be here for years to come. Anyone passing through Springfield is always welcome.



**HARD AT WORK**—(L to R) Don Mitchel, Daniel DeJarnette, David Beckerdite, Steve Milholand working on church storage cabinet.

**COMPLETED PROJECT**—The owners of the hall said that the men's work was so good, it was rewarded with a rent-free month.



## Christian in a Car

By Goldie Davis

**L**et's see if you who have been behind the wheel of a car can relate to this familiar scenario.

You tool along all by yourself in your car to work, school, a meeting, or while running an errand. Nine times out ten, you left a little later than you should have. Here you are in a rush. It's kind of like the country-western song that goes, "I'm in a hurry to get things done, I rush and rush 'til life's no fun." Anyway, there you are, all alone with your radio tuned to your favorite station, seat adjusted to your liking with seatbelt fastened, the windows rolled up with the temperature adjusted just so, and doing the speed limit (or a little above). Life is just ducky as you roll along.

Whoa! Here's a car coming over into your lane in front of you, or coming out of a side road, or slowing down in front of you. How dare they cut you off! Now your peaceful, self-centered world has been invaded. You cannot conveniently get around that car no matter how hard you try. Doesn't he know *you* were there first and that he should get out of *your* way? This has got to be the stupidest driver you have ever encountered. You are busily telling him off by calling him names, giving him "hand signs" and feeling much superior to him as you finally maneuver around him and speed off in your "getaway car," still murmuring about him, feeling pretty much justified in all your actions.

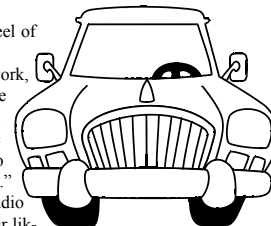
Are you justified?

Just what should you do since you call yourself a Christian? Let's analyze this and get some pointers.

- First, I have to remember that the person in front of me is not a car, but a person.
- Next I must treat them with dignity, as I would if that person were my mother, father, or someone else I respect. I need to think that maybe my actions in this situation, if met with patience, may lighten the stress of that person's day.
- I must try to remember how nice it is when someone treats me with courtesy in traffic and how upset I get if I am treated badly. Hate begets hate and kindness begets kindness.
- I must not call any names, no matter how frustrated or impatient I get. This is not for their benefit only; but mine as well. It demeans my character when I don't guard my tongue.
- I must realize that a few more minutes either way is not that important in the long haul. (If time is of the essence, I need to plan to leave earlier on a regular basis so I can take the time to be courteous.)
- I have to remember this is not my "getaway car" after I have committed these acts which tear down my character. Actually, I would not have gotten away with anything, as Jesus Christ sees all and knows my heart.

The car, which we have plenty of opportunity to use, is a great training ground to build good character. Practice these rules every day. God wants to give us the power that created this universe and more, so He has to be confident that we will not misuse that power. He is watching and evaluating!

I am convinced that if I can be a Christian in my car, all by myself, I can be a Christian anywhere. To work or home is just a few short miles, but these miles can be turned into eternal, good character.



# Let God think, see, hear, speak, work, walk, love through you

Continued from page 9

lend a hand. By analogy, God's church is compared to a bride, and, like a new groom who goes out of his way to help, He provides for and comforts His new bride, so we should do all in our power to be of assistance to others. So, if you indeed wish to be used of God, let Him work through *your hands*.

## If you want to be used of God...

### Let Him walk through your feet

Proverbs 4:26 advises, "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established." An essential part of our Christian armor is "*feet* shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15). "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:6). In other words, we ought to "walk the walk," not *just* talk the talk.

Your feet represent your walk, your life-style, the way you live your life.

Why not let God have your life? He can do more with it than you can, anyway. An old favorite hymn is entitled "*Wherever He Leads, I'll Go*." Do we? Are we really willing to follow Christ *wherever* He leads? Or do we sometimes get caught up in an impasse and say, "Whoa! Stop! That's enough! Why, if I keep the Sabbath and the holy days, I'll lose my job! If I don't keep Christmas and Easter, my family will think I've lost my sanity. And if I stop going out with my friends to some of those occasions, they'll think I've become a religious fanatic!" What, dear friend, is your sticking point? Where do you draw the line in your obedience to Christ? What *is* it that may cause you to compromise or rebel? Is it a habit, a secret lust, or some embedded custom that you refuse to give up? It is amazing to what extent our minds will go to rationalize our sinful thoughts and behaviors! Why? "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7). God will only bless you up to your last point of obedience because He cannot—He *will* not—

bless your *disobedience*. We must always remember that we are the clay and He, God, is the Potter (Isaiah 64:8). We are to yield to His leading and direction, and not be like one popular singer who crooned boastfully, "I did it *my way*!" Let's do it *God's way*, instead!

God seeks the lost, the hopeless, and the helpless. Do *you*? Do we go out of our way to help others in a right attitude? Or are we sometimes like the self-righteous Pharisee who crossed over to the other side of the street to avoid involvement (Luke 10:30-32)? "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). God needs your feet to go, to work, and to live for Him. Trust Him for guidance. Psalm 119:105 tells us, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

We are asked in Romans 10:15, "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the *feet* of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" If you would be used of God, set the example: allow Him to go through *your feet*.

## If you want to be used of God...

### Let Him love through your heart

First John 4:7 implores us, "Beloved, let us *love* one another." We are told plainly in Matthew 22:37,39, "Thou shalt *love* the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind...and thou shalt *love* thy neighbor as thyself."

Love is a built-in psychological need. Every person needs to love and to be loved. Even you. Even me. Even our leaders. And, yes, even our enemies. This writer must confess, however, that he sometimes has an ulterior motive when praying for his enemies. He knows that if God would answer the prayer that his enemies prosper and be in health—as we would have others pray for us—and the prayer that they would come to understand those things we understand, and come to live for and love God as we strive to do, then we will in time find that our ene-

mies are no longer our enemies, but our brothers in Christ instead! Brethren, pray for one another.

When God measures a man, He puts the tape around his *heart* instead of his head. God marks those who "sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof" (Ezekiel 9:4). Do we? We need to let God's love reach out *through us* to meet the needs of the world. In its final analysis, the gospel message is a message of *love*.

At baptism we **TOTALLY COMMIT**. We pledge before God and His angels that we acknowledge our sins, that we repent of them, and that we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. We are truly humbled as we come to recognize that we are bought with a price: the blood of Jesus Christ who bled and died for us—in our stead (1 Corinthians 6:20). We need to maintain that commitment, that fire, that zeal, and that dedication, and not allow ourselves to grow negligent, indifferent, or lukewarm. Jesus Christ Himself tells us to "hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Revelation 3:11).

In summation, if you will *do* these things, if you will

- let God *think* through your *mind*...
- *see* through your *eyes*...
- *hear* through your *ears*...
- *speak* through your *voice*...
- *work* through your *hands*...
- *walk* through your *feet*...
- *love* through your *heart*...

—that is, if you will totally commit your life to Jesus Christ and develop an uncompromising, passionate love for the truth—you *will soon find that you are being used of God!*

*This article is adapted from a sermonette given by the writer in Toledo and Bath, Ohio, in November of 2001.*

## The Armor of God program is aired weekly on these stations...

### RADIO

**JAMAICA—Kingston:** RADIO JAMAICA, 4:45 a.m., Thursday (Local)

### TELEVISION

#### NEWFOUNDLAND TIME (CANADA)

**ON, Toronto:** VISION (national cable Canada), 1:00 a.m. & 6:30 a.m., Sunday, EST

#### PACIFIC TIME (CANADA)

**ON, Toronto:** VISION (national cable Canada), 10:00 p.m., Saturday; 3:30 a.m., Sunday, PST

#### ATLANTIC TIME (CANADA)

**ON, Toronto:** VISION (national cable Canada) 11:30 a.m., Sunday

#### AUSTRALIAN TIME

**Brisbane, AUS:** Briz 31, 7:00 a.m., Sunday

#### EASTERN TIME

**FL, Tampa:** WTTA, Channel 38, 7:00 a.m., Sunday  
**GA, Savannah:** WTOG Channel 11, 6:30 a.m., Sunday  
**GA, Savannah:** WGSA Channel 50, 1:00 a.m., Saturday; 1:30 & 6:00 a.m., Sunday  
**IN, Indianapolis:** WTTV Channel 4, 6:00 a.m., Sunday  
**KY, Covington:** Public Access Channel 17, 6:30 p.m., Monday; 10:30 p.m., Wednesday; 9:00 p.m., Saturday  
**KY, Lexington:** Public Access Channel 14, 9:30 a.m., Sunday  
**KY, Louisville:** WFTE TV 58, 8:00 a.m., Sunday  
**MD, Rockville:** Public Access Channels 49 & 23, 2:30 p.m., Friday  
**MI, Detroit:** WADL Channel 38, 9:30 a.m., Sunday  
**NC, Raleigh:** WKFT Channel 40, 8:30 a.m., Sunday  
**OH, Akron:** WAOH Channel 29, 8:30 a.m., Sunday  
**OH, Cincinnati:** WBQC, 7:00 a.m., Sunday  
**OH, Cincinnati:** Public Access Channel 8, 7:30 p.m., Sunday

**OH, Cincinnati:** Public Access Channel 24, 12:00 noon, Tuesday

**OH, Cleveland:** WAX Channel 35, 8:30 a.m., Sunday

**OH, Cleveland/Columbus:** WMFD TV 68, 11:30 a.m., Sunday

**OH, Columbus:** Public Access Channel 21, Check Local Listing

**ON, Toronto:** VISION (national cable Canada) 1:00 a.m. & 6:30 a.m., Sunday

**VA, Roanoke:** WFVR TV 27, 8:30 a.m., Sunday

**VA, Lynchburg:** WJPR TV 21, 8:30 a.m., Sunday

### CENTRAL TIME

**AL, Mobile:** WBPG TV 55, 10:00 a.m., Sunday

**AR, Ft. Smith:** KPBI TV 46, 7:30 a.m., Sunday

**AL, Dothan:** WTVY Channel 4, 8:00 a.m., Sunday

**AR, Fayetteville:** KHOG Channel 29, 11:30 a.m., Sunday

**AR, Fort Smith:** KHBS Channel 40, 11:30 a.m., Sunday

**AR, Little Rock:** KLRT Channel 16, 9:30 a.m., Sunday

**AR, Springdale:** Public Access Channel 22, 9:00 a.m., Sunday

**IA, Davenport:** Public Access Channel 75, 8:30 p.m., Friday

**IA, Waterloo:** Public Access Channel 17, 8:00 p.m., Thursday & 8:00 a.m., Friday

**IL, Chicago:** WJYS Channel 62, 6:00 a.m., Sunday

**IL, Chicago:** WCPX TV 38, 6:00 a.m., Sunday

**IL, Moline:** Public Access Channel 75, 8:30 p.m., Friday

**KS, Wichita:** KSAS Channel 24, 8:00 a.m., Sunday

**KS, Wichita:** KWCV Channel 33, 1:00 a.m., Saturday

**LA, New Orleans:** WGNO Channel 26, 6:00 a.m., Sunday

**MO, Springfield:** Public Access Channel 26, 10:00 a.m., Sunday

**MS, Jackson:** WXMS TV 27, 10:30 a.m., Sunday

**MS, Tupelo:** WTVA Channel 9, 10:30 a.m., Sunday

**NE, Lincoln:** LCCTV, Channel 13, 6:30 p.m., Sunday

**OK, Oklahoma City:** KSBI Channel 9, 9:00 a.m., Sunday

**ON, Toronto:** VISION (national cable Canada) 1:00 a.m. & 6:30 a.m., Sunday

**TN, Jackson:** WBBJ Channel 7, 10:30 a.m., Sunday

**TN, Memphis:** WPTY, Channel 24, 1:35 a.m., Sunday

**TN, Nashville:** WUXP, Channel 30, 6:00 a.m., Sunday

**TX, Abilene:** KTXS Channel 12, 10:30 a.m., Sunday

**TX, Nacogdoches/Lufkin:** KLSB Channel 19, 6:30 a.m., Sunday

**TX, Tyler/Longview:** KETK Channel 56, 6:30 a.m., Sunday

**TX, Waco:** KWKT, Channel 44, 7:00 a.m., Sunday

### MOUNTAIN TIME

**AZ, Phoenix:** KAZT, Channel 7, 8:00 a.m., Sunday

**ON, Toronto:** VISION (national cable Canada) 11:00 a.m., Saturday; 4:30 a.m., Sunday

### PACIFIC TIME

**CA, Sacramento:** Public Access Channels 20 & 75, 4:30 p.m., Sunday

**ON, Toronto:** VISION (national cable Canada) 10:00 p.m., Saturday; 3:30 a.m., Sunday

**WA, Longview:** Public Access Channel 11, 9:00 p.m., Sunday

### SATELLITE (ALL TIMES EASTERN)

**CA, Burbank:** FOUR MEDIA, TelStar 5, Transponder 9, 2:00 p.m., EST, Thursday

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# Marangs report on 'wonderful trips' to Sarasota, Wichita, Waterloo, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Hastings

By Margie Marang

**O**n Thursday, February 21, our adventure began. We were on our way to Sarasota, Florida. It took two different airplanes to get us there. We had a wonderful flight and met a lot of wonderful people.

On the Sabbath, February 23, it rained all day, but that didn't dampen (pun intended) these people's spirit. There was one lady that drove two hours to come. It was her first visit. Her son bought her a car, so she could come to the meeting. We had 30 people at the meeting. Frank's sermon was on "Our Need for Each Other."

On the Sabbath of March 2, we traveled to Wichita, Kansas. This was the day Frank presented the charter to Max Davis, making the Wichita church an officially chartered church of the Church of God International.

On March 21, we made our way to Waterloo, Iowa, and stayed with Robert and Pansy Alcorn. Robert is the minister of the church in Waterloo. Their son, Allen, was the song director. Frank gave special

music. Pansy was the pianist. Frank also gave the sermon on "Our Need for Each Other." Fourteen people attended.

We arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, in cold and windy weather and six to nine inches of snow, which had been shoveled off the streets and sidewalks. This was March 26, and we stayed with Alex and Shirley Kennedy.

On March 29, we were in Lincoln, Nebraska. We had a round-table question-and-answer service with Kevin Mason, Kathleen Mason, and our only visitor, Randy Agena. We thought we had a successful meeting. Since then, they have all met with the Wichita church and planned to come as often as they can.

Then we traveled to Hastings, Nebraska, and had a wonderful time visiting with Agnes Cromer. She had written in and wanted a visit from a minister. It turned out to be another Bible study. We all came away feeling good about answering her questions from the Bible. We spent two-and-a-half hours with her.



**SARASOTA**—These are the people that braved the rain to come to services. The third lady from the right, standing, is the one who drove two hours to come to the meeting for the first time.



**WATERLOO**—Back row (L to R): John Lawless, Allen and Angie Alcorn, Pansy and Robert Alcorn, Larry Garbes. Front row: Jalene and Patricia Lawless, Ann and Andra Garbes, A. Nicheles, Frank Marang

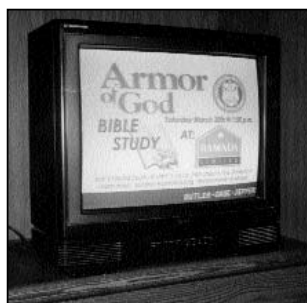


**WINNIPEG**—Photo taken on the First Day of Unleavened Bread.



**VISITING WITH AGNES (above)**—The Marangs spent two-and-a-half hours with Ms. Agnes Cromer.

**TV SPOT (right)**—Kevin Mason found a way to advertise Mr. Marang's upcoming Bible study.



**LINCOLN**—Kevin Mason, Frank Marang, Kathleen Mason, Randy Agena



**WICHITA CHARTER**—Max Davis is presented with an official CGI charter.

# Wichita church witnesses more baptisms

By Margie Marang

**W**ICHITA, Kansas—December 1 of last year was an exciting day for the Wichita church. First off, Frank gave the sermon about “The Testing of God’s People.” After services, and before the potluck lunch, Frank, with the help of Max Davis, baptized three people. Two people were from Lincoln, Nebraska: Kevin Mason and his sister Kathleen Mason. John Fowler, son of Jo Fowler and the late Bill Fowler, was also baptized.

Carman McCulley assisted with the laying on of hands.



Kathleen Mason



Kevin Mason



John Fowler

## Testimony of new member in Body of Christ

By Kevin D. Mason

**M**y parents raised us as Catholics. We were unaware of God’s plan for mankind. My father subscribed to the *Plain Truth* magazine in the early 1970s. Early in the 1980s, my parents came to understand that the Sabbath day was Friday sundown until Saturday sundown, and that it—not Sunday—was and is God’s day for mankind to worship Him.

Where my mother was employed, she had to work on Saturdays when a holiday fell on a weekday. If you didn’t work on Saturday, you would not be paid for the holiday. When my parents started keeping the Sabbath day and informed my mother’s employer she would no longer be working on Saturday for religious reasons, they fired her. After pursuing legal action against the company, they rehired her, but would not pay her for the holidays. This was acceptable with my mother. My mother believed she was obeying God and accepted the persecutions that came about.

In the late 1980s, I started keeping the Sabbath with my mother at a Seventh-Day Adventist church. I wasn’t so sure about this group, but I knew my mother took risks and was trying to obey God.

In 1991, my father died. I told my mother I wouldn’t leave her alone. She and I live together. During the years of 1991 and 1992, I started reading some of my father’s old Worldwide Church of God books and decided to look into many religions to find God’s true church. I believe God has answered my prayers through the Church of God International.

We stopped keeping Christmas, Easter, Halloween, etc., in 1992. I was surprised that the SDAs kept these holidays, and, though I wanted to be baptized, I delayed until I knew what repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands meant. I started requesting and receiving booklets and tapes in 1995. I came to believe that the Church of God International was being led by the Holy Spirit. In 1997, I counseled with minister Ken Register

and he showed me from the Holy Bible answers to my questions.

I was still putting off baptism for some reason unknown to me. Looking back, I believe Satan was a major factor. On December 1, 2001, my sister (who had been baptized in the past but without knowing what sin was or what took place at baptism), John Fowler, and I were baptized by minister Frank Marang in Wichita, Kansas. The church there welcomed us with open arms of kindness and fellowship; it was a blessing from God.

My mother has accompanied us to Wichita twice; the last time was on Pentecost 2002 when she received the laying on of hands by Frank Marang and Max Davis. We attend services in Wichita when we can. We are raising my sister Kathleen’s daughter, Shawna, in God’s ways, paths, and laws.

We’re all very grateful to the CGI and, of course, most of all, to Jesus Christ and God the Father. By them all things are possible.

## Bible study lecture comes to ‘Music City, USA’



Bill Watson

By Goldie Davis

**N**ASHVILLE, Tennessee—Our long-anticipated Bible study lecture came about August 10. We had 39 people in attendance at the Holiday Inn

Express Airport in Nashville, Tennessee. There were 7 new people. We also had several visitors from other churches such as Jackson, Tennessee, and Indianapolis, Indiana. We also had visitors from other splinter groups of the Church of God.

Mr. Bill Watson flew in Friday, so he was at worship services at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Mark Saulsberry led singing and Mr. Bill Russ gave a thought-provoking sermon entitled “Is Sunday-Keeping Legal?” In the closing prayer, Mr. Hal Bryant asked for the blessing on the food—both physical and spiritual—of which we were about to partake.

Right after services, Mr. Watson gathered us to talk informally about God’s work and the ideas Bill has in implementing new technology into the telecast. He explained a lot of the “how-tos” in preparation for the telecast and that his wife Margie does invaluable research along with other behind-the-scenes duties. He said we should be looking for some surprises in upcoming telecasts. He has already done an effective disappearing act at the end of a telecast regarding “The Rapture,” presented by Mr. Bronson James, so I can’t wait to see what he and Margie conjure up next.

Mr. Watson, in presenting the lecture factually, discussed the outline of the “Destiny of Mankind.” He didn’t pound on the desk or get the audience chanting after him; he methodically gave the facts, according to the Bible, on the destiny God has planned for us if we choose to do His will in total commitment. Oooooooh! That dreaded “C”

word.

This was a “think-for-yourself” session. Also included was a brief overview of the history of Israel and what it means for us today in the fulfillment of prophecy, which he emphasized is a sure thing, and that it doesn’t matter if you believe it or not.

Through the tireless help of Mrs. Kim West (our newly ordained deaconess) and her husband Roger, we did not have to go out to eat between services and the lecture, as luscious sandwiches, chips, fruit, juices, and cookies were provided. There was also plenty left for our guests who stay and visited. Remnants were found as late as 7:45 p.m. We had the hall from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Mr. Hal Bryant, our minister, accused us of wanting to get our money’s worth.)

Mr. Bill Russ took photos. (As you will notice, he very carefully maneuvered himself out of the photos by being the photographer.)

Mr. Bruce Johnson and his wife Faye were responsible for the advertising. He placed ads in the public service announcements section in several newspapers, including Nashville’s major newspaper, *The Tennessean*, and a few signs locally.

Thanks very much to Mr. Bill Watson, and a special thanks to Margie for letting us borrow her husband for the weekend.

I, for one, was very happy and spiritually pumped up—kind of like a mini-feast day. What a day!

# In Loving Memory...

## Ethel Boyd

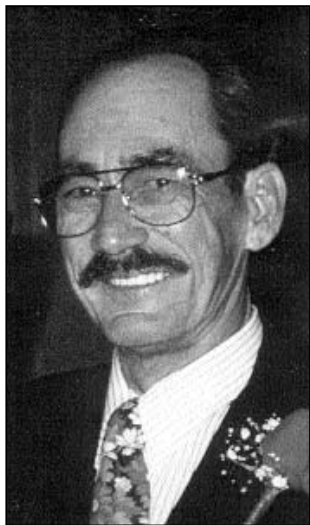
**J**ACKSON, Tennessee—Ethel Boyd, a longtime member of the Jackson, Tennessee, congregation, died April 8, 2002. Her surviving children are Raymond, Johnny, Bobby, Cathy Cates, Annie Christine Sterling, and Betty Foglesong. Mrs. Boyd had been a member of God's church for over 50 years.

At age 13, Ethel married John Boyd (now deceased). They had nine children. Mr. and Mrs. Boyd listened to the Radio Church of God and asked for baptism during a baptizing tour. They attended the Worldwide Church of God in Memphis for many years and later helped start the Jackson church, which later affiliated with the Church of God International.

Mrs. Boyd enjoyed cooking, gardening, sewing, and quilting. She had a wonderful sense of humor. Her grandchildren called her "Cooker-Woman" because she was always cooking for the family. She was quiet and unassuming and always there to lend a helping hand. She will be sorely missed.

—Goldie Davis

## Bob Davis



**N**ASHVILLE, Tennessee—Robert Wayne Davis was born December 10, 1945. He died on June 24, 2001. He was preceded in death by his father David Franklin Davis and one granddaughter, Shawna Lynn Pack.

He is survived by his wife, Goldie Davis; his three children, Tammy Natividad, Kimberly Miller, and Timothy Davis; and now, in counting, four granddaughters; his stepfather and mother, Ed and Marie Price; one sister, Charlotte Waid; and one brother, Kenneth Price. He is buried in West Paducah, Kentucky.

## Christina Fritts

**B**ELLA VISTA, Arkansas—On Thursday, July 11, many of her innumerable

friends gathered at CGI in Fayetteville to pay their respects to and celebrate the life of Christina M. Fritts, who passed away July 8 in a Tulsa, Oklahoma, hospital.

Christina was born May 22, 1917, in Dallas, Texas, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carson. She was a graduate of Tulsa High School and worked for Zales Jewelry in Tulsa.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Carl Eugene Fritts, a member of the CGI Board of Directors.

Christina was a longtime member of the Church of God International. She and Carl had no children, so she mothered all those around her. When a member missed church, she always called to make certain they were OK, and she was faithful in calling the sick.

The church was filled with lovely flowers. Her friends filled the church to capacity. Speakers related many precious memories and stories about Christina. Speakers were pastor Wayne Turnbull, ministers Charles Groce and Bronson James, and Mr. Benny Sharp.

Pallbearers were Archie Reynolds, Denny Ledford, Tyler Ledford, Kenny Peterson, Bill Watson, and Skip Martin. Burial was in Bella Vista Cemetery in Bella Vista, Arkansas, where she previously resided.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Carl in this time of sorrow. We will all miss Christina very much, but we are all looking forward to reuniting with her in God's kingdom when Christ returns to bring peace to a troubled and sinful world.

## Eugene Johnson

**N**ASHVILLE, Tennessee—Eugene Johnson died of heart failure on April 7, 2002, at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. He is survived by his wife Fern; sons John, David, Chuck, and Jared; plus grandchildren Derek, Caleb, and Kelah.

Gene was sergeant first class in the Army, working in preventive medicine. He retired from the Army in 1969 and moved his family to Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1970. He received his Associate Degree in Sociology from Roane State Community College and his BS degree from Tennessee Tech. He worked for TVA and then later for the Tennessee Department of Health and Environmental Services. He was baptized in 1975.

Gene retired in 1992 and enjoyed gardening and cooking. He was known for his delicious dishes, one favorite being tortilla soup. Gene was very generous and shared the produce from his garden.

—Goldie Davis

## James Pegram

**C**HARLESTON, South Carolina—On the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, 2002, we lost a dear member of our family. James (Jim) Pegram died shortly after 9:00 a.m. on April 3. At the age of 82, after surviving a stroke some years ago, living with diabetes and undergoing recent

colon cancer surgery, Jim developed pneumonia and ultimately suffered cardiac arrest and was revived. Jim had to be placed on life support. We held a brief service for Jim in the hospital just before life support was removed. He passed shortly thereafter.

Funeral services were held two days later and attended by those of us in the Charleston/Summerville congregation, whom he considered family. One of his last requests while in the hospital before he took a turn for the worse was that his holy day offering check be carried to services on the First Day of Unleavened Bread.

Amid all the physical difficulties Jim endured, I never heard him complain. Jim was a wealth of knowledge, and I, personally, will miss our conversations and the stories he shared about his life.

Jim wasn't able to drive in his later years but endeavored to be at services every Sabbath with his brother Fred Brown, Fred's wife Betty, and their daughter Sherry. Jim and Fred were separated as young boys and remained apart for 50 years until the determined Fred finally found his beloved brother. Their reunion was about 20 years ago, and the two brothers were never again estranged. Jim loved his church family, and his passing has left a void that this small group will never fill. We will miss him greatly. Good-bye, Jim. Another reunion awaits.

—Mike Nolen

## Gerald B. Roberts, Sr.

**N**ASHVILLE, Tennessee—Gerald B. Roberts, Sr., died on Tuesday, April 9, 2002, at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. His wife is Joan Roberts, of the Jackson congregation of the Church of God International. He was known as "The Birdman." Mr. Roberts was a native of Jersey City, New Jersey. He was the son of the late Austin E. Roberts II and Eleanor J. Cleary Roberts. By trade, Mr. Roberts was a retired truck driver and farmer. He was a resident of Olive Hill, Tennessee, since 1982.

Survivors, other than his wife Joan Roberts of Olive Hill, are one brother, Vernon Roberts of Florida; two sons, Gerald B. Roberts, Jr., and Austin E. Roberts IV, both of Savannah, Tennessee; two daughters, Suzanne Crum of Savannah, Tennessee, and Jennifer E. Burns of Waynesboro, Tennessee; plus one grandson.

—Goldie Davis

## Murial Sheridan

**A**USTRALIA—Murial (Sherry) Sheridan passed away peacefully after a short illness on July 31. Sherry was a longtime member of God's church and she will be sadly missed by her family and friends—in and out of the church. She was a wonderful woman with a smile and kind word for everyone. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.

—Tui Haupt

## Philip E. Waid



**P**ORT CHARLOTTE, Florida—Philip E. Waid, 67, of Port Charlotte, passed away on June 23. Phil was a longtime member of the Church of God International and a founding member of the Sarasota fellowship group. His life was honored at a memorial service on July 6 in Sarasota at a Sabbath service attended by all three Florida fellowship groups. Services were conducted by Marty Kerns.

Phil was born March 3, 1935, in Meadville, Pennsylvania. He came to Port Charlotte from Largo, Florida, in 1979. He retired from the Publix company after 33 years of service. Phil loved to travel, camp, and fish. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Jean; daughter Debbie Hammond of Hudson, Florida; son Raymond Waid of North Port, Florida; stepdaughter Carol Farias of Port Charlotte; brother David Waid of Pennsylvania; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He will be sorely missed by all.

—Jim Robinson

## Two Indy deaths

**Mr. Lester Williams**, a dedicated member of the church, died May 17 at the age of 85. The funeral was held May 23 at the Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. He dearly loved to be at Sabbath services, and of course the Feast of Tabernacles was the highlight of the year for him. He loved to meet new people and correspond with them through the year. He is survived by his widow, Alean, and a son, David, who lives in California.

**Betty Henry** died June 14 at the age of 77 after bad health set in and her heart finally just stopped. She, too, was very dedicated to God's church, and loved to be with the people. Her husband Walter died in 1998. Since Betty lived 120 miles from church, she was unable to be there every Sabbath. But she would tell us that her heart was always with us on the Sabbath. She is survived by 6 children, 14 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

Pastor Frank Denman officiated at services for both members. They are sorely missed, but we know that we will be seeing them again in the glorious "world of tomorrow."

—Frank Denman

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven...and the dead in Christ will rise first....Therefore encourage each other with these words.

—1 Thessalonians 4:16, 18



## Sixty-year wedding anniversary



**DWIGHT & FREDA CAVIN**, shown seated above, recently celebrated their 60-year wedding anniversary. The Houston congregation shared in the celebration. The Sharps and Groces from Tyler joined them as well. Mr. Groce honored the Cavins with a special-made certificate for their many years of loyal dedication to each other and to Jesus Christ.

### Sabbath School volunteers needed for KY site!

Teachers are needed for classes at the feast. This year there are three age groups: ages up to 5 is the first class, ages 6–12 for the middle class, and the rest will be in the teen class. If you can help out by teaching or assisting teachers—whether for the week or a single day—please contact Dawn or Howard Nitzberg A.S.A.P. at (865) 219-8955 or [Howard@Digi-TekUSA.com](mailto:Howard@Digi-TekUSA.com).

## For children at the Kentucky feast site...

Comes a colorful nature display entitled "Birds of Song and Garden."

The display, created by Nancy Miles, will be shown at the KY feast site this year. Ms. Nancy has also written a skit entitled "Show-and-Tell With Ms. Nancy and the Kids." The skit will be performed either on youth day or at the fun show. Any children who would like to dress for the skit may wear clothing with flowers and animals; or jeans and country blouses, shirts, and hats. However, I would like to stress that the special clothing is optional and all children are included regardless.

The advocacy program will also feature a poster display, original short stories, songs, and a choice each day for the children from Ms. Nancy's "choice jar." The jar includes small toys, stuffed animals, buttons, balloons, and sometimes cookies from Ms. Nancy's kitchen. So I'll see you all at the feast.

Love,

Ms. Nancy  
(618) 867-3100

## Latest Wichita baptism



**CHRISTOPHER J. CALLAHAN**, of the Wichita church, was baptized on April 27 by Frank Marang and Max Davis.

Congratulations, Christopher!

### NOTICE:

The festival planned for England this year by James McBride has been cancelled due to health concerns.

## What About Bob?

By Goldie Davis

**I**t is with such sweet sorrow that I write this article. As many of you already know, my dear husband Robert "Bob" Davis died last June 24, 2002.

Bob was a kind and gentle man, with a great sense of humor. He was strong willed and didn't mind speaking out if necessary. Bob was generous to a fault. I always told him that he could have \$1.00 or \$1000.00 on any given day and he would come home broke. He was always giving to others.

The aspect of his character that I admired most was that he was truthful and kind.

It has been a rough couple of years. Bob needed more and more attention as his emphysema grew worse. I have never considered myself to be much of a nurse; but as I kept telling Bob when he would see me have to do so much for us, "You ain't heavy—you're my brother!" I now know the true meaning of those words.

Bob was my spiritual brother and also the very "love of my life." He left me with a lot of good reasons to go on, and, indeed, that has not been easy.

My brothers and sisters have been so supportive. They loved Bob very much. My church family, which is my family "in deed," have taken care of me here in Nashville. Almost all of the members of the Nashville congregation came to Bob's funeral in Paducah, Kentucky.

Most of all, God has given me strength and peace of mind to go on because of all the prayers on my behalf.

Bob was baptized in March of 1993 after having attended church since August of 1992. He was very loyal

about coming to worship services until the last year or two of his life. It was very difficult for him to attend because he was on oxygen all the time. He always went to the Feast of Tabernacles with me. Those were very good times.

One thing about Bob is that he was so diverse in his accomplishments. He loved horses. He owned several in his life. He also loved boats. I don't even know how many he built. He built a very special sailboat in which we traveled down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, on from Metropolis, Illinois, to Memphis, Tennessee (Mud Island). We also lived on that 22-foot boat, named "Cool Change," in Tampa, Florida, for one year. We traded it in for another sailboat "Ishmael" (32 feet long) and lived on it for another year. That indeed was the adventure of my life to date.

Bob won Midwest trophies in ballroom dancing. He built a home from the ground up while working full time. He worked as a chemical worker for 10 years at Allied Chemical. He also was a plumber for about 10 years during and after his four years in the Navy in the Construction Battalion. He loved his country with a passion. He did two tours in Vietnam for nine months each and left with an honorable discharge.

Bob was done living. He was only 55 years old, but he had done so much. He was good with our relationship, his family, his friends, and, most importantly, his God.

He truly had finished his course and is awaiting the words he most desired, "Well done thou good and faithful servant!"

## High school graduate sees bright future ahead

By Orville Bumgardner

**C**ommencement Exercises for Central High School in Knoxville, Tennessee, were held Friday evening, May 17, 2002. Jason Nitzberg of the CGI, Knoxville Congregation had the honor of kicking off the program with a welcome speech to several thousand who came to see the more than two hundred graduates receive their diplomas. Jason gave an uplifting and humorous speech with the theme of "All is well that ends well."

For Jason the high school years certainly did end well. Jason was the Vice President of the Senior Class. As such he played a leading role in the student government. He was President of the Technology Student Association and Vice President of the Art Club. Jason was also active in the Senior Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Drama Club, and the Prom Committee. He graduated with a 4.0 grade average.

Jason says he is glad to be finished with high school, but is looking forward to a very different lifestyle. He will certainly have that while pursuing a major in electronics with an emphasis in computer technology at the University of Tennessee.

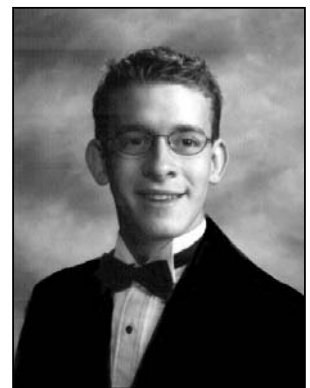
He received a four-year full scholarship from that institution, plus a \$1,000.00 grant from their Engineering Department.

Other one-time grants he received were \$1,500 from the "Class of 50" and \$2,500 from the Elks Lodge.

Working at Digi-Tek, a non-profit Computer Service Store in Knoxville operated by his father, will also be a part of Jason's busy schedule while furthering his education. He will live at home with parents, one brother, and three sisters.

Jason is very active in the Knoxville congregation of the CGI. He operates the sound system, records the church services, sends tapes to those not able to attend services, and helps in many other ways. He is working his way through the WCG Spokesman Club Manual series of speeches during our once a month speech class. A result of this training and the drama classes is that Jason is able to handle different situations dealing with an audience with a level of expertise that one would not normally expect from someone his age. Some who attended the 2001 Feast of Tabernacles at the Land between the Lakes feast site may remember Jason from his participation in youth day as the song leader.

Needless to say, Jason's parents and siblings are proud of his accomplishments to date, but it is also apparent that the membership of the Knoxville Congregation share that pride and appreciate Jason's hard work and dedication to making a contribution to God's Plan in particular and mankind in general.



**Jason Nitzberg**



## Springfield pastor relocates after 20 years of service

*Congregations said to be left 'in good hands'*



**Ken & Betty Register**

**By Betty Register**

**S**PRINGFIELD, MISSOURI—Mr. Ken Register and his wife Betty are leaving Springfield.

Mr. Register has been serving as pastor of the Springfield and Willow Springs, Missouri, churches. Sadly, the time has come for a change. The Registers have lived in or near Springfield for over 20 years, loving the opportunity to baptize, visit, and serve the brethren.

They have made many friendships that are hard to leave behind, but they will be back from time to time for visits.

The Springfield church gave the Registers a farewell cookout at the home of members Mike and Marilyn Meyers. They received a lovely crystal decanter and silver tray, inscribed with words of appreciation.

The Registers are longtime members, since 1953. They have two children (Nancy and David) and six grandsons.

Mr. Register and son David are both graduates of Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, and both serve in the ministry of God's church.

Mr. Register is a veteran of World War II.

The Registers will be making their home in southern California in the mountains near San Bernardino at Lake Arrow Head.

## Standley ordained deacon for Willow Springs

**By Betty Register**

**W**ILLOW SPRINGS, Missouri—On the Sabbath of June 15, Mr. Ted Standley was ordained a deacon. Mr. Standley is well versed in the Bible and is willing to serve the Willow Springs brethren in any way he can. We are sure God was looking down with a smile as hands were laid on Mr. Standley by

Mssrs. Ken Register and Don Mitchel, who helps serve in both congregations. The brethren of Willow Springs joined the Springfield members in a fellowship dinner to celebrate this happy event. May God bless Mr. Standley as he serves the brethren.

Now Mr. and Mrs. Register can leave with both churches in good hands.



**NEW DEACON**—Mr. Ted Standley, center, was ordained a deacon on June 15. Mr. Ken Register, left, and Mr. Don Mitchel, right, performed the ceremony.



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