



THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Official Newspaper of the Church of God International

Vol. 32, No. 2

"Put on the whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:13)

Summer 2011

Festival Information

"These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons ...The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD ...on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you ...it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein" (Leviticus 23:4, 34, 36).

THIS YEAR THE CHURCH OF GOD INTERNATIONAL IS HOLDING THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Harrison, Arkansas

FESTIVAL COORDINATOR: Ron Elkins
(870-653-6043) relkins17@gmail.com

Harrison, Arkansas is a great home for our newest Feast site, recently named by Norm Crampton as one of the best small towns in America. With a population of about 15,000 people, Harrison has that small town charm, with a town square, yet with the amenities of a city much larger. The location allows enjoying all the area has to offer—outdoor adventures such as canoeing (from beginner to expert); world class trout fishing; and hiking and rock climbing. There are many great lakes nearby. The first national river in the United States, the Buffalo National River, famous for its beautiful scenery, wonderful float trips, and good fishing, is only a short drive south. All of these attractions, plus numerous caves to explore, are only a short drive in the scenic Ozark Mountains, decorated with many oaks, hickory, dogwood, sweet gum, and maple trees displaying their hues of red, yellow, maroon, and gold in the fall. Branson, Missouri, the "Live Music Capital of the World," is a 30-minute drive to the north. Eureka Springs, Arkansas, aka, "Little Switzerland," is mere minutes to the west. Numerous caves are located nearby, and the huge Blanchard Springs Caverns is located approximately 60 miles to the east.

Lodging has been arranged at the historic and newly remodeled **Hotel Seville**, built in 1929. The new owners spent millions to completely remodel all of the rooms, adding a John Paul's Restaurant & Gathering Place, named after a popular former U.S. Congressman, John Paul Hammerschmidt, with the only bar in the county, and recreation room also. There is a free continental breakfast provided and a nice lobby to visit with family and friends. The Hotel Seville is located in downtown Harrison, 302 North Main Street, which is Highway 65 business route. This is directly across from the **Durand Center** where the church will conduct services and other events during the Feast. Rooms start at \$74.00 per night. *Please mention you are with the church.* You can call **870-741-2321**. You may visit their website at www.hotelseville.com to see their facilities; however, booking rooms online will not ensure you the church's best rates.

Other lodging is available at the **Holiday Inn Express** for \$79.00 per night with a deluxe continental breakfast including turkey sausage and bacon. This facility has an indoor heated swimming pool, sauna and hot tub, and high speed Internet. All suites have whirlpool baths, microwaves, and refrigerators. Located at 117 Highway 143 East, one block off Highway 65. Phone **870-741-3636**, or toll free **1-800-HOLIDAY**. Website: www.harrisonexpress.com

Also, rooms at the **Days Inn**, located at 1425 Highway 62-65 North (**870-391-3297** or www.daysinn.com), are \$55.00 per night with free deluxe continental breakfast and a restaurant adjacent to the motel. There is a guest laundry available here as well.

Cabins are limited in Harrison; however, many are located within a 20-35 minute drive and can be viewed at www.harrisonarkansas.org. Bed & Breakfasts are also available in limited number at this site.

There are three campgrounds located in Harrison. **Harrison Village and Campground and RV Park**, 2364 Highway 65 South (**870-743-3388**) or www.harrisonvillagervpark.com or e-mail, harrisonvillage@yahoo.com), only 20 miles from the Buffalo National River. Amenities available include (74) 30-50 amp, full RV hookup sites with table and designated grills and fire pits; easy access; pull-thru sites; and free WIFI and expanded cable TV. Tent camping spots are also available. There is a pool with pavilion, horseshoes, restrooms with showers, laundry facilities, group/meeting room, RV supplies, propane fill-ups, and gifts, snacks and ice for your convenience. Rates depend upon your personal needs. Ask for weekly rates!

Shady Oaks Campground & RV Park is said to be the shadiest campground and RV park in Harrison. It is located at 960 Highway 206 (**870-743-**

2343 or www.camptheoaks.com), has 30-50 amp, full pull-thru sites, tent camping with or without electricity, cabin fully furnished, pop-up trailer rental, pool, and pavilion with small kitchen for camp clubs or groups, and serving area for parties or family reunions, with plenty of picnic tables. Other amenities include a laundromat, grocery store, well-maintained bathroom facilities with showers, fire pits, WIFI, children's playground, volleyball, basketball, recreation pavilion with pool table, darts, ping-pong, shuffle board, and more. Ask for weekly rates!

Parker's RV Park (870-743-2267, www.parkersrvinc.com) is located at 3629 Highway 65 North in Harrison. They have (42) 30-50 amp, full hookup RV sites, 6 pull-thru. Amenities include 24-hour security, recreation hall with pool table, card table, horseshoes, limited store, laundry, large pavilion, propane refills, handicap restrooms, Branson ticket reservations, and arrangements for Buffalo National River float trips. Ask for weekly rates!

Much more information about lodging, restaurants, etc., may be obtained at www.harrisonarkansas.org or Harrison Tourist & Visitors Bureau (**888-283-2163**, or P.O. Box 940, Harrison, Arkansas 72602). Make your reservations early. Hope to see you there!

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

FESTIVAL COORDINATOR: Mike Nolen
(843-761-5211) tmnolen@homesc.com

You are invited to join us in beautiful Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for the 2011 Feast of Tabernacles. We will be meeting at **Ocean Dunes Resort**, which is part of the **Sands Resort** group. This resort offers numerous amenities on-site and is located within minutes of many restaurants, shopping, and recreational activities.

While there are several types of rooms available in the resort, we have blocked three types for the Feast. To receive the room rate for our group, there is a minimum five-night stay required.

Ocean front and ocean view doubles: These rooms are equipped with microwaves, small refrigerators, and coffee pots. The rate for these rooms is \$63.00 per night.

Tower II: These rooms are off the beach, but have a full view of the ocean. Most are equipped with a galley kitchen (be sure to specify), in addition to a living room and separate bedroom. The rate for these rooms is \$63.00 per night.

Villas: The villas offer two bedrooms, living room, and full kitchen. The rate for these rooms is \$111.00 per night. (Note: These rates do not include taxes and standard resort fees, which are additional charges.)

When making your reservations, please state you are with the *Church of God, International*. **Reservations: 800-599-9872.**

Additional accommodations such as two-and-three-room executive suites and beach houses are available at the nearby Sand Dunes and Sands Beach Houses. **Sands Resorts**, 201 74th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572 (**800-726-3783**) www.sandsresorts.com/resorts/oceandunes/

Kentucky Dam Village State Park

FESTIVAL COORDINATOR: James Pollitte
(606-742-2222) jamespollitte@kih.net

Kentucky is noted for its beautiful state parks and the convention facilities found in them. The auditorium is inside the Kentucky Dam Village Resort Complex, located 20 miles east of Paducah, Kentucky, just off I-24 at the Kentucky Lake Dam. The Resort has hotel rooms and cottages for our reservation. The new negotiated rates are very good, and the facilities are very comfortable and appropriate for our needs. Reservation numbers are **800-325-0146** or **270-362-4271**. Discounted rates have been arranged for members of the *Church of God International*. *Feast continued on page 2*

Feast, continued from page 1

Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the church. Check-in time is 4:00 PM, check-out is 11:00 AM.

Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park rates (per night):

- Village Inn rooms (hotel) — \$71.96
- One-bedroom village cottages — \$85.95
- Two-bedroom, 1 bath village cottages — \$118.95
- Two-bedroom, 2 bath village cottages — \$153.85
- Three-bedroom, 2 bath cottages — \$186.25
- 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath executive cottages — \$191.30

After you call in for reservations, you will be mailed a reservation form. This must be returned with one night's deposit at least 30 days prior to your arrival. *NOTE: This must be done to assure your reservation.* If all accommodations are full, ask the desk to look outside the block for the church.

This year the church has many free functions planned for the brethren. For example, currently planned events are a free Luncheon Buffet; a church Cookout/Songfest and Pool Party for teens and young people (weather permitting); a free Senior Luncheon with program and prizes; a Family Dance with catered party hors d'oeuvres and beverages; a Bible Study; a Talent Show; a concert by Buckaroo Bob's Neighborhood; and more. Please note that in order to make these functions free to the brethren, we will be accepting donations.

Camping: There are many campsites at the Resort and in the area. Sites range from developed family campgrounds to the "back country."

Fishing, Boating, and Biking: One of the largest inland lake marinas in the country with fishing, boat rides, sail boating, and over 200 miles of biking trails. Check out the beach on the lake, weather permitting.

Golfing: Also at the Resort is an 18-hole golf course, horseback riding, and hiking trails.

There are many exciting things to do at the Resort and in the area. The Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area is set on 170,000 acres of protected nature preserve between two of the largest lakes in the region, with hundreds of miles of shoreline. Also at LBL is an 1850s-era museum and working farm; the Elk & Bison Prairie, located along a gently winding road; Woodland Nature Station; and the Golden Pond Planetarium & Observatory to "gaze at the stars" and see a solar flare through a hydrogen refractor telescope. There are many fine restaurants in the area (Patti's 1880s Settlement at Grand Rivers and The Brass Lantern, for example), train rides, antique malls, Putt-Putt Golf, Forgotten Past Museum, and The Kentucky Opry Country Music Show. There is much more, and if that is not enough, Olde Paducah Historic City is only 20 miles west on I-24.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have problems with your reservation at the State Park, please contact Mr. Pollette.

St. Petersburg, Florida (Pinellas Park)

FESTIVAL COORDINATOR: Bill Watson
(330-225-0478) bilson@roadrunner.com

The *Church of God in Miami* and The *Church of God International* are again co-hosting the Feast of Tabernacles site at sunny St. Petersburg, Florida.

Services will be held every day at **Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center**, located at 4951 78th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Florida. It can accommodate up to 700 persons with a professional sound system, lighting and stage. It also has a smaller breakout room for the children's classes and young adults' activities.

Services will be in English, with simultaneous **Spanish translation** via wireless receivers for those in need of it.

We will have several activities, including a BBQ/Picnic at the Beach, a Dinner/Dance, Family Bowling Night, Fun/Talent Show, and Volleyball and Softball Tournaments. Additional activities are being planned.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There is a selection of hotels and motels, condominiums, and houses near the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center. We have been able to secure discounted prices at a variety of accommodations to satisfy everyone.

Hotels and Motels

La Quinta: 7500 Highway 19 North, Pinellas Park, Florida 33781; **727-546-5611** or **866- 527-1498**. The hotel is within walking distance of services (less than a mile). Prices for 1 bedroom with king bed or 1 bedroom with 2 full beds are \$42.00/ night. Price includes free Bright Side Breakfast, free high-speed Internet access, television with premium channels, in-room safe, hair dryer, coffee maker, iron and ironing board, and guest laundry facility. To make reservations, call **866-527-1498**, *identify yourself as a member of the Church of God*, and *mention the reservation block confirmation number 0638GRBSWI*. Reservations must be made *before September 21, 2011*. www.laquinta.com

Country Inn & Suites: 8050 US Highway 19 North, Pinellas Park, Florida; **727-545-5777** or **800-596-2375**. The hotel is a brand new property located less than a mile from services. Prices are as follows: King

Room \$69.00/night, Double Queen \$69.00/night, Studio Suite \$79.00/night. Prices include full hot breakfast with waffles, eggs, biscuits and gravy, cereal, Pop Tarts, fresh fruit, juice, coffee, tea, and more. Free wired and wireless Internet, 24-hour business and fitness center, heated swimming pool, *USA Today* newspaper every weekday, LG flat-screen TVs, plush pillow-top mattresses, guest laundry facility, free cookies, coffee and candy all day, fax and copy service. To make reservations, please call one of the numbers above and *mention you are attending with the Church of God group*. Please make reservations *before September 21, 2011*. www.countryinns.com/pnfl

Holiday Inn Harbourside: 421 Second Street, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida 33785; **727-595-9484** or **800-726-0865**; located 12 miles (approximately 23 minutes) from services. Prices for *single or double* rooms are \$79.00/night, and *suites* are \$89.00. The Holiday Inn Harbourside is a Key West Style Resort situated on 15 tropical acres on the bay just steps from the white sandy beaches. We will be having the Dinner/Dance and a BBQ Luncheon with the Volleyball Tournament at this hotel. To make reservations, call the hotel directly at **800-726-0865** or **727-595-9484** and *identify yourself as a member of the Church of God* to receive above prices. Reservations must be made *by August 30, 2011*. www.hiharbourside.com

Condominiums and Houses

There are lots of condominiums and private homes along the area of St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, Clearwater, Indian Rocks, Indian Shores, Redington Beach, and other nearby neighborhoods. The following companies have a vast inventory which you can see at their websites, or call them for more information.

Capalbo Rentals offers properties at very reasonable prices, with ample space for families. For more information, call Diane at **800-237-5960** and *tell her you are attending with the Church of God*, or visit their website at www.capalborentals.com.

Waterfront Vacation Rentals has over 160 listings to offer from dozens of properties, including private vacation homes and condominiums. Most are on the beach or the intercoastal. For more information, call Carrie Collister at **866-547-7368** or **727-398-7368** and *tell her you are attending with the Church of God*, or visit their website at www.waterfrontvacationrentals.com.

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NOTICE: *The International News* welcomes submissions of articles, features, church news, pictures, or manuscripts. However, it cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited materials. All materials submitted should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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Victoria, British Columbia, CANADA

FESTIVAL COORDINATOR: Eric Jantzen

(250-714-1117) ericjantzen@shaw.ca

We were once again able to secure one of the finest downtown hotels for our meetings and for reasonable, yet exquisite, room rates. The rates are the same as in 2010.

A variety of speakers will be available to provide you greater insight on God's holydays and plan of salvation, and to help you put sound biblical principles to greater use in your life. We will continue the focus on making a positive influence in the lives of our teens and young adults. There will be Sabbath School classes daily for the children in the room that doubles as our Hospitality Room for informal meetings and luncheons. During the week there will be a couple of Church Luncheons provided. *NOTE:* Activity and Speaking Schedule will be posted on our www.cgicanada.org website well in advance of the Feast, with updates from time to time.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEETING LOCATION

Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites is conveniently located in downtown Victoria, just one block from Victoria's vibrant inner harbour and the provincial legislative buildings. We are perfectly located near the harbour air and marine transportation terminals. On a leisurely stroll, guests will encounter many unique shops, world-class restaurants, whale watching and marine adventure excursions, art galleries, museums, theatres, horse-drawn carriages, waterfront walking paths, wind-swept beaches, and the many unique attractions that Victoria has to offer.

For the youth (and young at heart), activities include tree-top climbing, zip lining, and go-kart racing, as well as heart-to-heart talks on items affecting our youth. Seniors will also have plenty of opportunity for Bible Study and uplifting entertainment.

Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites is a 12-story, 4-Star, 3-Diamond rated hotel that integrates spacious accommodations with friendly, efficient service to provide guests with a comfortable and relaxing experience. They offer the finest in-house conference facilities, which will house all our church services and group meals. This downtown Victoria hotel offers a wide selection of spacious and comfortable guestrooms and suites. Please visit their website at www.harbourtowers.com for photos, room descriptions, hotel services and amenities, and additional information regarding our meeting and conference spaces.

Rates for this site are a reduction from their normal posted rates, and can only be obtained by e-mailing ericjantzen@shaw.ca or by calling Eric Jantzen at **250-714-1117**.

Hotel Room Reservation Process: Individual reservations from our group room block can be made by calling **800-663-5896**. The reservations cut-off date for our group is *August 31, 2011*. Please ensure you quote the group name "*Feast of Tabernacles*" to the reservations agent in order to receive our group rate and be counted as part of our group room block.

Victoria has many other motels and hotels for every price range should you wish to stay elsewhere, but we strongly encourage you to spend time together here at the Harbour Towers to enhance the fellowship for everyone.

Midland, Ontario, CANADA

FESTIVAL COORDINATOR: Murray Palmatier

(450-764-1186) murraypalmatier@yahoo.com

Spend the Feast in Ontario's summer playground area along the shores of Georgian Bay. Midland is known for its incredible natural beauty and outdoor activities like hiking, and also for its abundance of tourism facilities. However, the Feast is about spending time with the Family of God, worshipping and appreciating God's blessings together. Most of the group activities will be done within a 10-mile radius, and will allow for the whole church to eat, play, and fellowship together. As such, any location that displays the blessings of God is blessed indeed.

AREA ATTRACTIONS

- Discovery Bay
- Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
- Several Museums
- Gorgeous Beaches (cold water, though, at this time of year)
- Wye Marsh—great hiking, see real beaver dams, etc.
- Shopping, Theatres, etc.
- Little Lake Park—Great hiking, playgrounds, and beach volleyball courts
- Horseshoe Valley Tree Top walking, zip lines, trails, etc.
- Canada's Largest Corn Maze
- Simply enjoy nature by viewing the beautiful fall colours in the area.

• Local Restaurants: Lilly's Italian and several harbour restaurants are recommended in the area.

• Restaurants within a few meters are: Boston Pizza, Kelseys, Tim Hortons, and McDonalds. Swiss Chalet and many others are also nearby, so every taste and desire can be met.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The host facility, **Best Western Highland Resort**, has an attractive and comfortable meeting facility and an atrium for fellowshiping, regardless of the weather. They also provide free breakfasts. Three Church Luncheons are also planned for everyone, providing fellowship together at this site.

The guest rooms feature two queen size beds. The church will be taking up one wing of the hotel. The rooms are affordable and very clean. We strongly suggest you take a tour of the facility at www.bestwesternmidland.com.

CHURCH SERVICES

Church services are held right on the grounds of the **Best Western Highland Inn & Conference Centre**, 924 King Street, Midland, Ontario, L4R 4L3, Phone: **705-526-9307** or **800-461-4265**; Fax: 705-526-0099. Murray Palmatier, Feast Coordinator, will be working to ensure all your needs are met.

DIRECTIONS: Take Highway 400 north from Toronto, north of Barrie. Connect with Highway 93 (Exit 121) into Midland. Turn right on Highway 12. Travel east to the corner of Highway 12 and King Street.

RATES

(Guaranteed rates are good until *August 31, 2011*, so book early.)

Guest Rooms (check in October 12 and leaving October 20): 2 Queen Size Beds, Can **\$79/night** plus taxes (maximum of 4 per room); 3 adults/room, add \$10/night, 4 adults/room, add \$20/night (children 16 and under are free). To book rooms, call **800-461-4265** and *state that you are with the "Church of God International Conference Block."*

Midland has other accommodations that will be nearby, including independent cottages. Visit the tourism websites for more information. We strongly encourage you to spend time together here at the Best Western to enhance the fellowship for everyone.

Ballina, New South Wales, AUSTRALIA

Festival Coordinator: Herb Haupt

(0408-101-309) h-thaupt@skymesh.com.au

Services will be held at the Ballina Jockey Club in Ballina, New South Wales.

Ocho Rios, JAMAICA

Festival Coordinator: Ian Boyne

E-mail: iboyne@jis.gov.jm

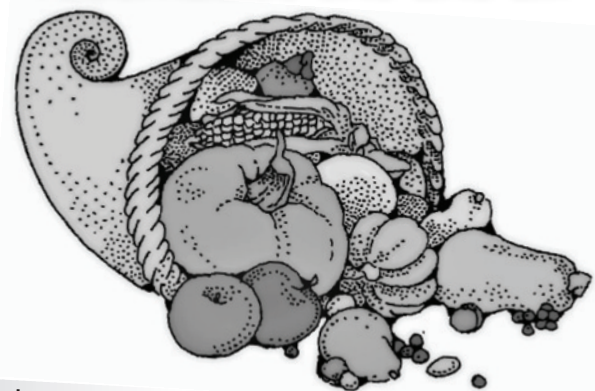
Services will be held at The Ruins in Ocho Rios.

Tagatay City, PHILIPPINES

Festival Coordinator: Rene Corpuz

E-mail: rene@cgiphils.org Website: www.cgiphils.org

Wishing you a happy, memorable, and spiritually profitable Feast of Tabernacles one and all! Ω



Zechariah 14:16 "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles."



Bill Watson

A World In Transition —Part 7

Jeremiah and a variety of other prophets have much to say concerning the end times. Many of their writings are very timely for the present; yet the majority of people today do not accept their “warning voices” to be specifically applicable for the contemporary cultures of the British Commonwealth nations, the United States, or the Jews in Palestine.

The world is fast approaching its appointment with destiny. It's on a prescribed course to achieve worldwide socialistic hegemony. The Bible is very clear about a 10-nation coalition that *combines* its power as though they have one mind with the Beast (the autocrat) for one hour. Understandably, this characterization illustrates this “socialistic globalization” will last for only a short period of time (Revelation 17:12–13).

But during that period, the Bible describes this Babylonian System will be extremely lucrative. The nations of the world will be beneficiaries of the massive size and scope of its huge social and economic reach. The whole chapter of Revelation 18 is dedicated to explaining the *effect of endowment* this system of commerce will have, and the worldwide *satisfaction* with it.

While in the course of John's description concerning the destruction of this Greco-Babylonian-Roman Mystery System, we learn just how economically beneficial it is for the people of the world who received its “mark.” Here's how John describes it: “How much she [the Babylonian System] hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously” (v.7)... “And the Kings of the Earth, who have committed fornication [political, economic, and religious intercourse] and lived deliciously with her” (v.9)... “the merchants of these things, which were made rich by her” (v.15)... “Alas, alas, that great city [Babylon], wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness” (v.19)!

All these scriptures speak to the *economic benefits* this system produces for the “Global Village.” It is a system that when it falls, the kings and merchants of the earth bemoan its destruction (Revelation 18:9–11).

How Does This Happen?

Since the beginning of mankind, *organization* has been the natural by-product of growth generated by the performance of humanity's work. *To organize* is the “consequence by necessity,” or the “natural evolution” from results produced through the working efforts of people and cultures, individually or collectively. With this in mind, the Bible illustrates and chronicles mankind's additional and specific penchant for needing to *politically organize*, also. However, this unfortunately has led to consistent injustices, abuse, suffering, anguish, and distress throughout history. Clearly, man's selfish nature has handicapped him from achieving the utopian results he desires so badly.

In Genesis 6, we are told God saw that mankind was very wicked and continually evil. It was so bad, God was grieved, and regretted He made mankind; so He decided to destroy humanity with a flood, saving only Noah and his family. However, it wasn't more than two generations this side of the flood that mankind began to repeat the patterns of evil that originally caused God such regret. The Bible explains that Noah's great grandson, Nimrod, from the line of Noah's son Ham, turned against God. We are told, “he was a mighty hunter before the LORD” (Genesis 10:9). When reading the Hebrew language, we understand that “mighty” means he was a tyrant, a powerful warrior, and champion of the people; while the word “before” in the Hebrew means “against, angry, or impudent.”

Upon examining this more closely, it becomes apparent that not more than two generations after the flood, a man named Nimrod, great grandson of Noah, a *political and community organizer*, because he was reputed to have built many city-states, began to repeat the patterns of evil that led

God to flood the earth years before. Understandably, from the Hebrew language, it's plain he (Nimrod) is an angry, impudent tyrant, whose will is set *against God* and everything He stands for.

Interestingly enough, we see this attitude of rebellion and ego egregiously illustrated in the story of the “Tower of Babel.” After recognizing this biblical background about the attitude and spirit of Nimrod, being one who is in *rebellion*

against God, we should now be able to clearly understand the Tower of Babel was nothing more than an expression of contention and arrogance toward God. It was all about mankind combining his power and influence through the socialization of his hegemony in an attempt to make a unified statement of *opposition* toward God and what He stood for; which if the truth was known, that is what really was behind this effort to build a tower to heaven. However, God was not going to have anything to do with this, and proceeded to confound the languages, thereby humbling humanity and setting back the progress of man's technological and social unification (Genesis 11:1–9).

The point is this: Man has been trying to achieve *world control* and *dominance* since the beginning. The problem is, he's been attempting to do this apart from God. And as so often is the case when something first begins, like the beginning of creation, or the beginning of the nation of Israel, or when the church initially started, it commences with the best intentions for our good; but disappointedly, often over time, mankind abandons God and we reap the sad results.

Presently, we see this coming to fruition today. The world's community of nations is coming “full circle,” beginning to *figuratively* speak one language (via technology and commerce). What was recognized as something *not to be allowed* by God during mankind's early history, the “Tower of Babel” is upon us once more, metaphorically; and this has caused the world to realistically pursue with renewed vigor the hope of political, social, and economic *globalization*! Ironically, Babylon, which represents mankind's original antagonism, arrogance, and opposition toward God, the genesis of his *organized rebellion*, is exactly what humanity revisits as his destiny in the last days. Remarkably, mankind *completes the circle* with this repetitious system that God labels “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

Paradoxically, this “Babylonian System” is being repeated again, evolving out of “necessity” because the world is becoming so interdependent and co-dependent on each other's technologies, economies, trade, and currency. But clearly, over the millennia of human history, we can see the repeated attempts for this kind of achievement has failed time after time. Whether we're looking back in history to Assyria, Arabia, Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Mongolia, or Rome; Alexander the Great, Caesar, Napoleon, Genghis Khan, Hirohito, or Hitler; the truth is, man is in constant pursuit of world dominance. Yet the Bible assures us mankind's final effort to accomplish this will result in failure once more! Although this time, there will be such tribulation and destruction that if the days weren't shortened, no human being would be left alive (Matthew 24:22)!

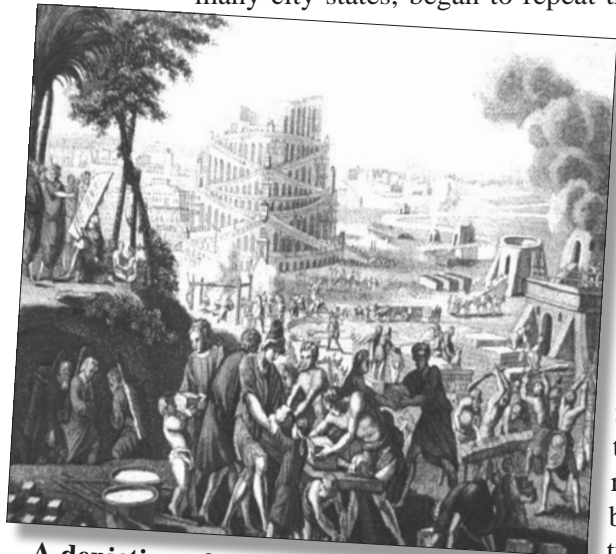
The Times, They Are a Changin'—AGAIN!

Mankind's scientific, technological, economic, political, religious, and social development is in constant progression. It's consistently and relentlessly fluid and dynamic. Therefore, the inclination for “change” in these fundamental categories generates an “evolution to organize,” which repeatedly leads to an effort to *centralize power*. This is what happened right from the start, two generations this side of the Deluge. And true to this trend today, we have a history that proves there's nothing more permanent than *change*; and the lust for power *through war* is relentless (James 4:1–3)!

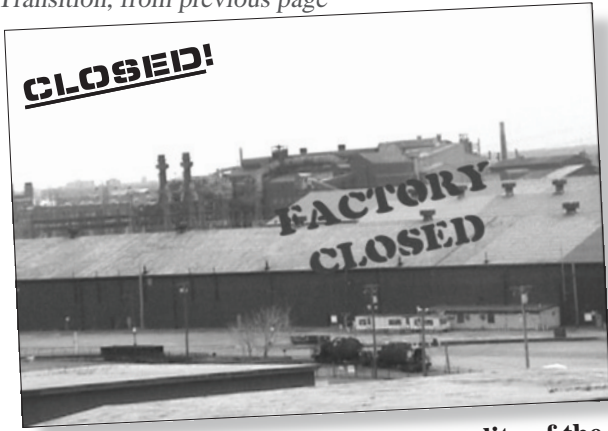
Presently, the world's economic problems are forcing a *worldwide social evolution*, or simply stated, “change” again.



IMF: Symbol of the International Monetary Fund: The Future World Central Bank?



A depiction of the ancient tower of Babel



Factory closed: An unfortunate reality of the USA's declining manufacturing base

nology and commerce, which results in *changing* (evolving) the social order and conditions around the world.

And though many don't realize it, these "changes" are already in the making and being explored by international organizations that are trying to stay "ahead of the curve" to provide policies of economic, political, and of course, social stability within the international community. Unfortunately, the Bible outlines a very painful and destructive future for much of the world's nations, in the course of their attempt to achieve these "changes" they hope would eradicate the cycles of political and economic destabilization so often repeated.

Obviously, because the pursuit of centralizing much of the world's economic wealth, including currencies, commodities, and eventually religious as well as political power, which all lead to structuring a *socialistic world governance*, the government of the United States, as we know it today, governed by its own and separate and sovereign constitution would no longer be compatible in such a geopolitical arrangement. Therefore, this incompatibility is bound to lead to a world without the United States and Britain in their present position of power and influence. This will cause the world to be considerably different. The "balance of power" they strategically provided to the International Community in a general sense for over 500 years will be at least minimized, if not totally eliminated.

Consequently, the "evolution by necessity" to serve the needs of a *globalized commercial system* in the fundamental categories mentioned previously, will likely serve to dissolve the usefulness of sovereign nations, including the United States. The Bible seems to corroborate this condition of *progressive social evolution* when it warns of a coming world dominant government, destined to be driven by a tyrant and false prophet, who are demon possessed, and will attempt to "mark" the masses for providing this Babylonian System a degree of control over the lives of people. At the same time, it will attempt to eliminate those who refuse this "mark." This will be a very perilous and devastating era in mankind's history, and brutally trying for those in God's church (Daniel 7:21–25; 12:6–7, Revelation 6:9–11)!

Events and Trends That Will Make the Transition Possible

We have already started down the "slippery slope" leading to the series of events and circumstances resulting in world conditions that will make possible the emergence of what the Bible calls "the Beast"! This Greco-Babylonian Mystery System, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations, causes the world to socialize into a globalized community of nation-states who will for a short time mutually prosper off the commerce generated from each other (Revelation 18). However, in the course of accomplishing this objective, there will be some *major adjustments*, developments, and unfortunately, *forcefully violent restructuring* to the present set-up of nations and work force throughout the world; and this is bound to be especially disturbing and hurtful for those nations prone to be more independent and who lean toward free markets, like the United States, Canada, Australia, Great Britain, and a few others.

As mentioned before, the present geopolitical circumstances are being scrutinized by many international organizations. Currently, a handful of major world institutions have been instrumental in exploring alternative methods of considering a better way of managing this evolving *interdependent global village* the world is "maturing" or "evolving" into. They are the United Nations, European Union, the Arab League, and the World Court and World Trade Organization (WTO) in

But this time it will be managed politically by implementing technology and science. This will result in changing the relationships of sovereign nations within the world community. The Bible describes a *globalization* that will be knitted together politically, religiously, economically, and scientifically, by tech-

combination with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). These are just a few of the more prominent ones that have already had an effect on this "world-order" we now are beginning to see manifest.

Admittedly, it's difficult to believe world conditions have come to this, but you cannot ignore or dispute the *facts of reality*. To help illustrate how some of these shifts have already occurred, consider what has happened to the United States. Today, it is virtually impossible to find something as simple as a toy that is made here domestically. Automobiles, electronic goods, appliances, and so much more, are currently made and assembled in many different countries. If you look on the manufacturing sticker of an automobile, for example, you may find it was assembled in one country, while many of the parts were made in a few others. Name brand or not, clothes and/or shoes in most cases are made outside of what was once the greatest *product-producing* nation in the world, the United States. Whether it's in the categories of steel, mining, computers, automobiles, motorcycles, aerospace, shipbuilding, oil production, or chemical manufacturing, much of the production capacity has been greatly reduced and moved offshore, outside of the U.S.

Since 2001, the United States has lost over 42,000 factories, of which 36 percent employed over 1000 people, and 38 percent employed 500 to 999. Dell Computers and Ford Motor Company have announced the closing of more factories. In addition, approximately 90,000 more industrial and small commercial plants are presently at risk of closing their doors over the next few years due to a myriad of reasons, not the least of which is government legislation for business regulation and corporate taxation. This unfriendly approach toward business is literally driving the manufacturing base out of the United States. And sadly, there doesn't seem to be any serious leadership initiatives to reverse these trends!

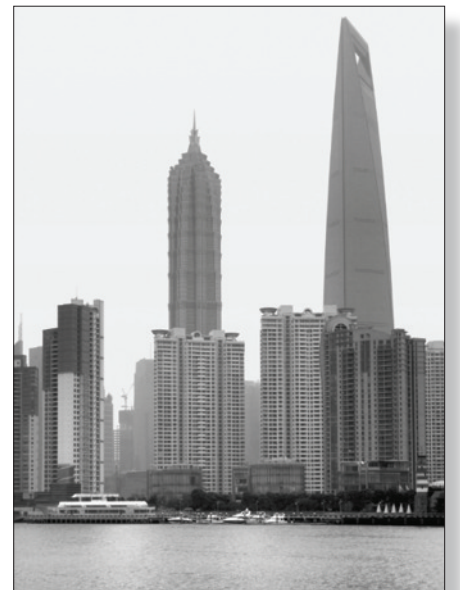
Additional statistics show the United States has lost in excess of 7 million manufacturing jobs since the present recession has commenced. Manufacturing employment within the U.S. computer industry is actually lower now than it was in 1975. With over 1 billion cell phones manufactured worldwide, the stunning fact is, the United States manufactured none! Even the Apple I-Phone is not American made; a Chinese company makes them in southeast Asia.

What once was a thriving and dominant position in the circuit board manufacturing sector within the United States, today is controlled by Asia also, who produces 84 percent of all circuit boards, worldwide. Industrialized cities like Kansas City, St. Louis, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester, New York, Boston, and Baltimore are today a shadow of what they once were in steel, automotive, chemical, and electronics manufacturing. The United States is in enormous trouble in these manufacturing sectors. It is far past the time and long overdue when the "wake-up" call should have been heard and answered!

As we have seen enormous amounts of manufacturing leave the United States, we are also presently experiencing the unparalleled increase of national debt in combination with the debasing and decline of the American dollar. Recently, China has been quoted as saying the time has arrived—the dollar is a "product of the past," and needs to be replaced by a global currency that is more secure. Both Moody's and Standard & Poor's have cautioned the United States on its credit rating. It's a known fact the U.S. has printed literally trillions of dollars over the past three years (tripling the money supply), and the rating agencies are now beginning to consider the *negative impact*, which simply means a *downgrading of U.S. bonds is likely to occur*! It has become plain to most of the world that it is *highly improbable* the United States will pay off its debt. The financial community is now beginning to *sound the alarm*. There is growing concern the United States could, very possibly, default on its debt!

This attention regarding the decline of the dollar's value is driving the "global village," *out of necessity*, to seriously consider a shift to a *world currency* that will replace the American dollar as the world's reserve note. If, or should we say *when* this happens, this international currency would be independent of all financial notes and become the new *substituted safe haven reserve denomination* for stabilizing world commerce, with the long-term goal of eliminating currency exchanges—a *One World Order global currency*!

Not surprisingly, it has been advantageous for the United States to be in the position of having *its* money considered the world's reserve currency. It has allowed us to print prodigious amounts of dollars without substantive bases for justifying it, because of the favor the dollar has enjoyed this side of World War II as a safe and secure investment



Shanghai city: Modern Shanghai's growing skyline



The dollar in a vise: The stress of a declining dollar

Transition, continued on next page

Transition, from page 5

(60 percent of all world banking reserves are constituted by the U.S. dollar). Unfortunately though, this has led to running up huge amounts of deficit spending and associated unfunded liabilities that now *exceed an accrued debt of over 90 trillion U.S. dollars* today.

Fortunately for the present, the United States government controls the printing of its money and is now monetizing its own debt through the U.S. Federal Reserve Central Bank. They are now buying U.S. Treasury Bonds to finance that debt (approximately 70 percent of the debt is being bought up by the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank). In other words, they are using borrowed funds from themselves to pay down their own debt, along with yields owed to other nations from previous borrowing! This clearly generates *more* debt (interest debt due to charges from the Federal Reserve) to pay down *existing* debt, which unequivocally is *absurd and completely irresponsible*.

Obviously, this is a recipe for disaster, and our “lovers” (allies) know it. This is a major reason why they (other nations) no longer are buying our debt (Treasures) at the same levels they were some years ago. This was a contributing factor to what caused the United States Federal Reserve Central Bank to step in and buy their own Treasures; they had to subsidize the lack of foreign countries who are no longer willing to loan the U.S. more money. This continued “debt service economy” has also led to the habitual routine of annually raising the national U.S. “debt ceiling” at the end of every year! It has yet to stop, and appears it won’t anytime soon. This simply goes to illustrate how the leadership of the United States refuses to hold themselves accountable to *force* the nation to live within its own means. The United States’ political leadership just won’t do it!

Unquestionably, borrowing from “yourself” won’t pay down the debt—it generates *more* debt. Basic economics tells us the United States is BROKE! Much of the rest of the world knows this, and is now beginning to distance themselves by stopping the “enabling.” For so many years these foreign nations, like China, Japan, Korea, South America, Europe, the Middle-East, etc., bought up the debt, which secured the ability for the United States to continue purchasing their goods and services. Instead, however, these *foreign nationals* (the Bible calls them “lovers”) are now investigating alternative options for a new standard reserve world currency, while investing their nation-state *sovereign funds* into hard assets, like commodities, real estate, electric power plants, production companies, aerospace, mining, etc.

For example, China has now become the second largest economy in the world, surpassing Japan. It has also become the world’s largest exporter of foreign goods, and is well on its way to becoming the biggest national consumer of energy as it aggressively pursues its plans for urbanization. Currently, China’s economy is about one-third the size of the United States, but many are saying that if China’s present economic growth rate is maintained, they will exceed the United States’ GNP by 2020, or sooner.

In addition, China is also on target to “urbanize” 400 million more Chinese within its borders by 2030. There are literally hundreds of billions of dollars earmarked to develop “green” environmentally friendly cities with infrastructure as well. This urbanization includes the intent to build 20,000 to 30,000 skyscrapers in the coming decades (this is no exaggeration). For example, future plans project Shanghai to be surrounded by ten additional satellite cities that will accommodate about half a million people each. Many are saying that China is positioned as the United States was in the early twentieth century, but with “State Capitalism” as their government model for securing their economic future and superiority!

Additionally, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been utilizing an international reserve asset called a *Special Drawing Right* (SDR). This has proven fairly effective in limited ways, and though it’s not a currency, does have a value based on a “basket” of four currencies—presently, the yen, euro, sterling, and dollar. A special allocation of these SDR’s was approved in August of 2009, increasing the amount from \$21.4 billion to \$204 billion (based on current value of the “basket of four”). Keep in mind, these are convertible, or exchangeable into actual hard currencies of member countries belonging to the International Monetary Fund network (IMF)—which, by the way, is “interest-chargeable” by the IMF. But here is the point: this illustrates the principle of how easily the IMF, or something similar, could be converted into a *World Central Bank*. Whether this specifically happens or not with these SDR’s is not important. Instead, what’s poignant is the illustration of how the *evolution* of the world community of nations is being motivated by *necessity* to consider



The present symbol of a
One World Order—the
United Nations

alternatives to create an *economic/currency change* that will soon affect the world in ways it never has, especially for the United States.

The world community is approaching “unchartered waters.” The Bible calls it the “times of the Gentiles” (Daniel 12:7; Luke 21:24–26). The implication is clear: the birthrighted nations of the world will no longer possess the *power* or *leverage of influence* that has been theirs to exercise for about the last 400 to 500 years. Their balance of power will be neutralized. They will become vulnerable to the “measured punishment” that God deems necessary from those nations He raises up as His rod of correction (Jeremiah 30:11–15). This will render the United States, this “Lion” among the Gentiles, a “non-factor,” as is obviously illustrated by *omission* in the writings concerning the last days by Jeremiah, Daniel, and John’s book of Revelation.

Therefore, it should become clear as to why the United States and Great Britain won’t be able to protect the Israeli Jews in Palestine: God will wound His birth-righted cultures with the wound of an enemy. Notice, “I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one” (Jeremiah 30:14). *Why would God do this?* Why would He allow this to happen to these modern day affluent, materially blessed and wealthy Israelite cultures? Listen to what Jeremiah says: “for the multitude of thine iniquity; because thy sins were increased. Why criest thou for thine affliction? Thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, *I have done these things unto thee*” (Jeremiah 30:14–15). Unless we repent as a nation and turn back to our Lord Jesus Christ, we will *not avoid* the “measured correction,” which is the punishment of Almighty God, reserved for these cultures!

Where Do We Go From Here?

We are on course for some really rough waters! There are storm clouds ahead that portend some very difficult and painful times are in store for many of us, specifically in the western part of the world. Figuratively speaking, there are sounds of thunder in the distance along with lightening in the sky forewarning us there is an approaching storm like no other in our recent history, this side of World War II. For many of us, it will be a *lesson in humility* when the idols of affluence are removed. Many of the pundits believe we will cycle out of this again, only to break through into the blue, flying high, fancy free, and footloose once more. Perhaps that will be true for a while longer, but long term, there are different trends and facts to ponder. This time the world and circumstances we find ourselves contending with are enormously and overwhelmingly unlike any other time in human history! There are particular circumstances building for the “perfect storm” that are coming together and gaining momentum.

As Daniel portrayed, *understanding the end times* would be reserved for a generation that would be living in a time of increased travel and a tremendous acceleration in knowledge and information. Paul mentioned it would be a time of intense self-absorption and secular humanism with a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. Peter warned there would be scoffers walking after their own lusts, saying, where is the promise of His coming? Jesus claimed many would come in His name saying He was, or they were, the Messiah. He added there would be rumors of wars, nations rising against each other, earthquakes, famines, and pestilences in different places, while the love of *many* would wax cold. These, He said, would be the BEGINNING OF SORROW, but remember—*this is just the beginning!*

Sadly, we see this confirmed everyday! You can’t help but to agree, there appears to be plenty of rumors of war, natural disasters, and the *love of many* has indeed waxed cold, especially after hearing multiple stories in the news about such gruesome and macabre acts of violence that human beings do to each other! It’s incredible what people do to each other over some of the most insignificant factors. It’s as though mankind has lost respect for the value of human life itself, including our children! It’s downright maddening!

Adding to this fact is the *saber rattling* from Iran, North Korea, Syria, and multiple régime changes and terrorist groups throughout the Middle East and around the world, who are determined to set up an Islamic Kingdom with the objective of tearing down the “Free Market System”—in particular, the United States of America. In addition, many nations around the world are very suspicious toward the United States and becoming concerned our “house” is unstable, disabled, and conflicted—and concerned with what to do about our deplorable social, economic, moral, and present-day political gridlock, and the duplicity of foreign policy. Much of the international community views the United States as untrustworthy, a politically and economically dysfunctional model, which is becoming dangerous for the stability of the rest of the world.

Undoubtedly, many of us reading this are well aware of these things. So, it’s natural to ask: What is it we can do during these times, as we begin to see so many troubling things around us? Jesus Christ has much to say about what we, *as Christians*, should be doing. Our Lord was very clear about His advice and what He expects of us. We will explore His instructions in more detail in our next installment.

Ω

TO BE CONTINUED...

How *Important* is Sabbath Fellowship *TO YOU?*

by Evan J. Chase

Do you know that God not only commands us to keep the Sabbath holy (Exodus 20:8; Leviticus 23:3), but also *commands us to assemble together on that day every week (Hebrew 4:9)?* Notice this is not a suggestion, not an optional activity—it is spoken by Almighty God. Obviously, if one is sick or has no group to fellowship with, one may not be able to assemble with other members of God's Church; but the rest of us are commanded by Almighty God to be at weekly Sabbath services. Is God just a strict school teacher who has to have His class in attendance for the sake of keeping them in line? Is learning to love others and have fellowship something you can do *alone*, or do you need to assemble with other believers?

There is a *vital* reason God *commands* us to attend Sabbath services if there is a congregation within an affordable distance from our homes. He not only loves us, but wants us to appear before Him in *celebration* of the Sabbath, to *learn* and become *one* with the brethren as Jesus Christ is One with the Father (John 15).

It is quite obvious, as we go through the Bible, that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are *people* centered. God's plan, made before the foundation of the world, is to make men and women members of His own family. He has also called us to be *people persons*—kings and priests (Revelation 5:10).

Another purpose of fellowship is for us to love and care about each other. This will ultimately be *vital* when we will be ruling and serving humanity after Jesus Christ returns to establish His Kingdom.

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25)

Can you imagine a mayor, governor, president, king, or priest *not* liking or being sympathetic with people? Those leaders are called despots! If one doesn't regularly attend Sabbath services, how can he or she learn to care for, interact with, and develop real love and compassion for begotten brothers and sisters in God's Family? Can it be done by oneself in the living room watching a DVD or listening to a CD sermon? Didn't Jesus Christ feel very strongly about us loving one another in a family relationship (John 15:12, 17:21)?

Will we be strong enough as a body to stick together as times get tougher?

As noted earlier, we are appearing *before God* when we attend Sabbath services. God's Law commands us to keep the Sabbath holy and honor our father and mother. Is it honoring the Great Father God of the universe to appear before Him in very casual attire? Would you attend a senate hearing, or a corporation board meeting in a t-shirt or other casual clothes—or would you

dress appropriately, with respect for the occasion? Jesus Christ even gave a parable about an inappropriately dressed wedding guest—and the symbolism in both physical and spiritual ways is quite compelling (Matthew 22:10–13)! Some people just don't like to get “dressed up.” Would you like to explain that to Jesus Christ someday (1 Peter 4:17)?

Do you realize you are utterly *unique* in the billions of people on this earth? Almighty God *chose you* for a place in His Kingdom (John 6:44, 65). Perhaps we should *show Him* our love and respect in an ever-growing manner. Ω

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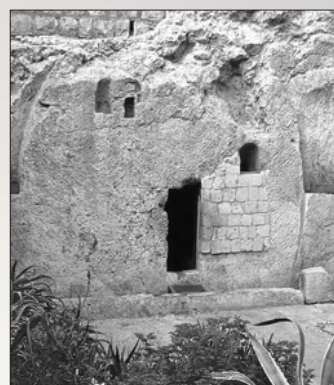
Shortly before His crucifixion, the murder-plotting religious leaders of Jesus' day demanded a “sign” that He was, indeed, the Messiah. He gave them a sign—a sign that religionists *disbelieve to this very day*: “For AS Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, SO [in like manner] shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:39–40).

Most of Christendom traditionally believes that Jesus was crucified on Friday afternoon (Good Friday), was placed in the tomb before sundown Friday night, rested in the tomb on the Sabbath (Saturday), and was resurrected on Sunday morning at dawn. Shockingly, either that tradition is *false*, or you have no Savior!

The sign Jesus gave was not *just* the fact of His death or even of His resurrection—no, not at all—but the **LENGTH OF TIME** He would be in the heart of the earth—the grave—before being resurrected. Yet millions deny that sign! Was Jesus mistaken? Did He lie? Do the math! Can *you* honestly squeeze 72 hours between Friday and Sunday? Can *you* explain this sign to others *right from your own Bible*? Prepare to be surprised!

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Idolatry and the Ten Commandments

by Oddeth Burton



Oddeth Burton

Idolatry is a theme that is consistent throughout the Bible and is so closely tied to the Ten Commandments given at Sinai. The New Testament teaches us that the law was added because of transgression (Galatians 3:19). What is transgression? We know that Adam and Eve disobeyed God, but can this disobedience be seen as idolatry? Paul, in Romans 7:7–8, states, “I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, ‘You shall not covet’” (all quotations from the New King James Version). How does the Word of God define covetousness?

According to Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:5, covetousness is idolatry. Covetousness in the Hebrew language is *be’sa*, the desire for dishonest gain or selfish desire. In Greek, the word is *pleonexia*, and means ruthless self-assertion. In essence, it is the worship of self, and is labeled idolatry. Idolatry can be defined as the placing of another in a position of authority in one’s life that the other does not deserve or merit. It is the placing of any force, person, or thing that becomes paramount or is given allegiance to in one’s life instead of the Highest Authority—God. It is an aberrant psychological condition that disables an individual from finding his/her own true course or destiny. It is the spiritual violation of the law (Romans 7:14), the idolatrous spirit of the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2) that was transferred to mankind’s first parents.

The command by God in Genesis 2:16–17 is as follows: “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Adam ate the forbidden fruit because he coveted the power of God, and not because he was convinced by Eve (1 Timothy 2:14). Adam coveted God’s power as Satan did (Isaiah 14:13–14), rebelling against the authority of God. Adam’s coveting of power is compared to the second Adam—Jesus Christ—who, according to Philippians 2:5, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God. Adam and Eve wanted to be equal with God and idolized their interest over the command of God not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It was the manner in which they wanted to attain immortality that was wrong—that of disobeying the spiritual command of God.

The sin of the first Adam stirred all forms of evil desires, as Paul explains in Romans 7; these evil desires are what the codified law encapsulates. In 1 Corinthians 10:7–11, Paul, speaking of the children of Israel who left Egypt, said, “And do not become idolaters as were some of them.... Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.” Again, why would Paul mention their deeds in relation to law? All these admonitions speak to some aspect of the codified law given to the children of Israel on Mount Sinai.

The first four commandments set forth the principles for guiding Israel’s relationship with Yahweh, while the last six commandments set forth the principles for guiding Israel’s relationship with the covenant community and, more broadly, the human family. In looking at the Second, Third, and Fourth Commandments, we will see in many ways extensions of the First Commandment, and thus the first four commandments set the stage for the final six commandments.

1. Exodus 20:3: *You shall have no other gods before me....* Not that there are any other gods (1 Corinthians 8:5), but God demands that nothing in life be placed before Him. They are called such not because they are so, either by nature or by office (Psalm 82:6), but because the corrupt hearts of men make and esteem them such. This commandment speaks to idolatry.
2. V. 4–6: *You shall not make for yourself a carved image—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....* This second commandment builds on the first; God is incorporeal, invisible, and can be realized only by a spiritual principle. John 4:24 declares God is Spirit and has no semblance of anything; therefore, making any image to represent Him in worship amounts to idolatry.
3. V. 7: *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.* God has a purpose for all that He does; therefore, taking the Lord’s name (making a vow) in vain is termed as swearing because mankind cannot

create what God has created (Matthew 5:33–37; Leviticus 19:12). The name of God must be held in reverence (Deuteronomy 28:58). It is idolatry that sees mankind belittling the name of God to suit his desires for belief and trust.

4. V. 8–11: *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God....* God has declared the Sabbath a day of rest because He knows what’s best for man, not the other way around (Mark 2:27). Worshipping on the first day of the week is not what the Fourth Commandment requires; it explicitly requires cessation of work on the seventh day. It is idolatrous to think we can choose a day of worship and rest because it is easy and convenient and that God will understand, or better yet, that the God of yesterday, today and forever, who changes not, will change the law to suit rebellious mankind.
5. V. 12: *Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.* This commandment to honor parents is broader in its scope than appears at first glance. It is not to be restricted to our literal father and mother, but is to be applied to all our superiors. Children are to honour their parents in the fear of the Lord (Matthew 19:27–30); forsaking parental guidance is seen as disobeying Yahweh and can be labeled idolatry.
6. V. 13: *You shall not murder.* Ezekiel 22:3–4 and 2 Kings 3:27 connect murder with idolatry; it is the character trait of the enemy (John 8:44). This command also prohibits all the degrees and causes of murder, such as rash anger and hatred, slanders and revenge, and whatever else may prejudice the safety of our neighbor or tempt us to see him perish when it is in our power to relieve and rescue him.
7. V. 14: *You shall not commit adultery.* Christ showed the spirit of the law in the New Testament when He stated that anyone who lusts after (unlawfully desires) a woman commits adultery (Matthew 5:28). That desire is selfish, idolatrous, and covetous.
8. V. 15: *You shall not steal.* Stealing always begins with covetousness and is therefore idolatry (Colossians 3:5).
9. V. 16: *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.* False witness has to do with slander and includes gossip (Proverbs 6:16, 19; Exodus 23:1), as it paints a negative picture of another person who is made in the image and likeness of God. Slandering is to report things of others unjustly. Those who participate elevate themselves above the other person in order to seek self-glory and gratification, amounting to idolatry.
10. V. 17: *You shall not covet your neighbor’s house....nor anything that is your neighbor’s.* Covetousness is termed the secret sin; it is a sin that can’t be discerned very easily. Satan coveted God’s position and what He has in store for humanity—immortality. Covetousness is idolatry (Colossians 3:5) and should not be part of the life of the child of God.

Just as the First Commandment is the foundation for all the other commandments, the Tenth Commandment is the conclusion of the whole. It is easy for us to see the last six injunctions of the law as pertaining to covetousness, but *all* violations of the law involve some unlawful desire, or covetousness. James 2:10 tells us that “whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” It is the one spirit that binds or breaks the law. All the laws stand or fall together and teach us how to express our faith in God with concrete acts of love in honour of God and our brothers. Zechariah 8:16–17 shows that the evidence of love for God is obedience to the law of love; it is God’s instrument for conforming us to the image of Jesus Christ. Romans 3:19 tells us that what the law speaks, it speaks in order that the whole world may be held accountable to God. All are accountable because all have sinned (Romans 3:23), which means we all have violated the law of God, that common standard for everyone (Romans 3:20). The spirit of covetousness is what broke the law in both the angelic realm and the human race. This spirit corrupts the good in us and hinders us from keeping the law as Christ did. Ω

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen” (1 John 5:21).

Why Would They Have Lied?

Skeptics, atheists, and agnostics tell us the Bible can't be trusted—that the Bible writers all lied. Is this true? If so, then why did so many give their lives for what they knew was a lie?

by Lloyd W. Cary



Lloyd W. Cary

We live in a dangerous and skeptical age. The Bible predicted this (2 Timothy 3:1–7; 2 Peter 3:3). If you go on the Internet, you will probably find as many sites and articles *against* Jesus, the Bible, and the Christian way of life as you will find *for* them. Sadly, most of the sites you find *for* Christianity are little more than spiritual baby food, a costless Christianity consisting of watered down “no-law,” “no-commitment” “make-me-feel-good” motivational pep-talks, music, jokes, and entertainment. Is this what the followers of Jesus Christ lived and died for?

To sum it up, the populace is being conditioned, misled, and blindsided by the media, society, the schools, colleges, and, yes, by many of the churches, to *disbelieve* the Bible! Writer James Dresden observed, “When a well-packed web of lies has been sold gradually to the masses over generations, the truth will seem utterly preposterous and its speaker a raving lunatic.” True to form, gainsayers claim, “The Bible is just a mish-mash of old legends, traditions, and folklore of a bunch of old Jews.” “We don’t see miracles today, so they never happened,” others allege. Still others gainsay, “The writers just out-and-out *lied*—it was a conspiracy, a farce to gain a following.”

What is the Truth?

What is the truth? Jesus said quite simply, “Thy word [the Bible] is truth” (John 17:17). He appealed to Scripture over 80 times, “It is written,” as though to say, “and that settles it.” Was He mistaken? Were Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, and Peter charlatans? Were they in it for personal gain? For political advantage, power, or popularity? Let us think deeply about this. The Bible claims the inspiration of God Almighty for itself (2 Timothy 3:16). If the writers were frauds and charlatans, we can dismiss what the Bible says. But what if what they said is *true*?

Most people lie out of fear, hope of personal gain, to impress someone, or to damage someone’s reputation. Would the authors of the Gospels and letters in the New Testament have a *motive* to fabricate their account? Think for a moment! Did they receive *any personal gain* from writing?

Obviously, if a motive can be established for inventing the testimonies, the trustworthiness of the document becomes more questionable. Conversely, if the authors had nothing to gain, or much to lose, the document’s credibility is greatly increased. So what happened to Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, and Peter after writing their Gospels and letters?

Persecutions of the Saints

Jesus Christ was actually the *first* Christian martyr. After many beatings, mockings, and scourgings, He died a horrible, excruciating death by crucifixion on a tree.

Stephen was the next martyr. He was stoned to death. *James*, son of Zebedee, the elder brother of John and a relative of Jesus, was beheaded for his faith in about A.D. 44. The disciple *Phillip* was scourged, imprisoned, and afterwards crucified in about A.D. 54. *Matthew*, the tax-collector and disciple of Jesus, was slain with a halberd in the city of Nazareth, approximately A.D. 60. *James*, half-brother of the Lord, at the age of 94, was beaten and stoned by the Jews, and finally had his brains dashed out with a fuller’s club. *Matthias*, of whom less is known than the other disciples, was stoned at Jerusalem and then beheaded. *Andrew*, brother of Peter, was taken and crucified on a cross, the two ends of which were fixed transversely in the ground—hence the derivation of the term “St. Andrew’s Cross.” *Mark*, write of the Gospel that bears his name, was dragged to pieces by the people of Alexandria at the occasion of celebrating “Serapis,” their idol. *Peter* was, according to tradition, crucified upside down because he said he was unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as the Lord was. The great apostle *Paul*, under persecution by Nero, was led out of the city where he, after his prayers, gave his neck to the sword. *Jude*,

the brother of James, was crucified at Edessa in A.D. 72. *Thomas*, called Didymus, was martyred by being thrust through with a spear. *Luke*, the author of the Gospel that bears his name, was allegedly hanged on an olive tree by the idolatrous priests of Greece. *Simon*, surnamed Zelotes, was crucified in A.D. 74. *Barnabas* was martyred in A.D. 73. *John*, the “beloved apostle,” was the only apostle who escaped a violent death. Together, united, they all testified that the Gospel of Jesus was true.

“And yet, notwithstanding all these continual persecutions and horrible punishments, the Church daily increased, deeply rooted in the doctrine of the apostles and of men apostolical, and watered plentifully with the blood of the saints” (*Fox’s Book of Martyrs*, p. 5).

The prophets of the Old Testament fared no better. We could go on to mention the ten great persecutions in which tens of thousands died, and down through the centuries where countless millions died for the name of Jesus Christ; but the point is made: *Why* would all these men, women, and children die for something they *knew* was a lie? It just wouldn’t make sense. The simple answer is, *they didn’t!* They knew and believed to the very depth of their beings—with all their hearts, minds, and lives—that the Gospel of Jesus was true from the beginning as recounted by His followers!

So we see no fame, fortune, or fanfare for those who knew and followed Jesus Christ, no lucrative book deals for these writers, no lofty retirement in famous vacation resorts. However, the testimony of these men did not end with the completions of their Gospels and letters. They are a part of that “great cloud of witnesses” mentioned in Hebrews 12:1–4. Their lives continue to proclaim the Gospel message even today. They lived in poverty, under the continuous threat of persecution, and at the end, most of them paid the ultimate price of an early death by martyrdom.

Why Be Truthful?

Truth is the standard our great Creator has set for all. His written Word, the Bible, states in Hebrews 6:18 that “it is impossible for God to lie.” The phrase, “Thus saith the Lord” appears 430 times in the Old Testament of the King James Version Bible alone.

Satan the devil is the original liar (John 8:44). He lied to Adam and Eve about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and mankind has been paying the penalty ever since. On the contrary, one of God’s very titles is the “God of Truth” (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:15; Isaiah 65:16). Jesus Christ is the very embodiment of truth—truth personified—

and He demands we worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all *liars*, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

Again we ask, what earthly motive could any of them have ever had for fabrication or even making the smallest change to the truth in their testimonies? They were living and writing for their Lord, looking ahead to their resurrection of glory in the Kingdom of God. Lying, exaggerating, spinning the truth, becoming famous, or gaining wealth was not on their agenda.

Would they have lied? No, not for all the gold and fame on God’s green earth! The question remains, *Do you believe them?* Ω

“When a well-packed web of lies has been sold gradually to the masses over generations, the truth will seem utterly preposterous and its speaker a raving lunatic.”

James Dresden

Would the men who penned these scriptures have lied?

- Thou shalt not bear *false witness* against thy neighbor (Exodus 20:16).
- Neither shalt thou bear *false witness* against thy neighbor (Deuteronomy 5:20).
- A faithful witness will not lie: but a *false witness* will utter lies (Proverbs 14:5).
- A *false witness* shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape (Proverbs 19:5).
- Speaking *lies* in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; (1 Timothy 4:2).
- I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them *liars* (Revelation 2:2).
- But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and *all liars*, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (Revelation 21:8).

Ω

What Do You Know?

(Are You Sure?)



Vivian Hall

The verb *know* may be defined as follows: “to perceive or understand as fact or truth; to apprehend clearly and with certainty...to have established or fixed in the mind or memory...to be cognizant or aware of...be acquainted with (a thing, place, person, etc.), as by sight, experience, or report...to understand from experience or attainment (usually followed by “how” or before an infinitive)...to be able to distinguish, as one from another” (from Dictionary. com).

Many things I “knew” turned out to be wrong—and letting go of one belief to embrace another (sometimes opposite) belief can be a harrowing experience. You most likely know exactly what I’m talking about; you have experienced it, too.

Have we believed and perhaps even based our salvation on things that are simply not true, though we were so sure of them at the time? If the answer is yes, then this tells us that we must be diligent in our study of Scripture and quest for truth.

It is not a good practice to question each and every statement our ministers make. By the same token, we cannot afford to gullibly believe that everything we hear is fact-based. We must be as the Bereans, who “received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Not long ago, I was shocked to find facts about my own family and myself that were in total conflict with what I had “known.” The facts about my history and heritage were different from what I had held as factual for many, many years. Fortunately, the emerging information did not change anything for better or worse. Still, what I “knew”—what I thought to be an indisputable fact—turned out to be error-based. It was a harrowing experience, to say the least!

Watching the news and our responses to what’s reported can be a real eye-opener. We humans do not hesitate to speak or act on things outside our expertise. We regularly play the “blame game,” wherein we say “they” did this or that. We are slow to admit that *we did also!* As the world notes a tragedy or disaster, we (along with the media) begin analyzing the cause and placing the blame. We would do well to remember Romans 3:23: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Yet, we glibly justify our own actions and condemn others. We “know” who is at fault; we “know” the solutions—but at the end of the day, at least some of what we’re so passionate about turns out to be either partly true or completely erroneous.

I recently heard a story that shows how costly our arrogant assumptions can be. There was a respected rich man who found himself in failing health. He had many valuable things, but no one person to leave them to. He decided, along with his lawyers, to leave instructions for an estate auction upon his death. Some weeks later the man died, and the auction was held following his funeral. After allowing some time for the possessions to be seen and checked, the auctioneer opened the auction. He said, “The first thing we will auction will be the portrait of the lovely lady in the elegant dinner dress in the silver frame I have here.” Those present looked at the picture and murmured in dismay. One said what many thought: “What would I do with that? I don’t even know that simple-looking woman!” The auctioneer opened, saying, “What can I hear for the portrait? Can I hear bids, 20...40...50 dollars?” None responded. “*Let’s have bids, please!*” he shouted. Still, the crowd was silent. Then, a poor ragged-looking man near the back door spoke. “Sir,” he said. “Can I bid five dollars? It’s all I have—five dollars.” The auctioneer shouted, “*I hear five dollars; can I hear ten?*” None responded. They knew it was a worthless picture. The auctioneer shouted, “*Going once, five dollars; going twice, five dollars; will none bid 25 dollars?*” The crowd remained silent. “*Going, going, gone to the gentleman by the door for five dollars!*” He paused and said, “This auction is now closed.” Someone in the crowd protested, “No, we want to continue and bid on the valuable stuff!” The auctioneer took out his notebook and read these instructions left by the deceased: “Hear ye all present. I, the property owner, being of sound mind to decree: the portrait in the silver frame is of my wife. It means more to me than all the other things. Whoever bids and acquires the portrait gets everything else for no additional cost, for it is the most valuable thing being auctioned.”

Never harbor opinions based on assumptions. There is much we *do not* know! (Proverbs 27:1; Ecclesiastes 11:2, 5, 6). Ω

You Can Know...

There is much I do not know! For instance...

1. What the future will bring
2. Who the two witnesses are
3. What each nation will do
4. What date Christ will return
5. How to predict the coming events

Do you know these things?

A minister gave us this advice: Do not panic; work out your salvation. Cement your relationship with God! KNOW you can be saved!

What is Best?

Did you watch the news today?
Hanging on to every word?
Did you believe what they said?
Or just parts of what you heard?
The world seems filled with tragedy!
These things affect both you and me!
Will there be many more tomorrows?
Is this the “beginning of sorrows”?
Do you know what is to be?
What will come next? Can you see?
Did you guess or will you just wait?
Do you even know your own fate?
The best thing we can all do...
Love God! Obey Him! This is true!
I know!

Vivian Hall

Eternally

Lord, unto you I pray.
By your love and wisdom
Please guide me each day.

Please let your mercy
Guide me through my sinful ways,
And the Holy Spirit enter in,
The rest of my days.

May on life’s road,
Every day and night,
Your glory and love
Be my delight.

May your wisdom
Daily I claim,
That your love and peace
Eternally remain.

Thank you, Jesus!

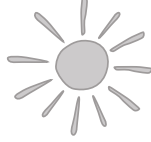
Lawrence Gardner



Church News



Zingers



- Funny how a \$20 bill looks so big when you take it to church, but so small when you take it to the mall.
- Funny how big an hour serving God looks and how small 60 minutes are when spent watching TV, playing games, or taking a lunch break.
- Funny how we get thrilled when a football (or March madness) game goes into overtime, but we complain when a sermon is longer than regulation.
- Funny how laborious it is to read a chapter in the Bible and how easy it is to read 200–300 pages of a best-selling novel.
- Funny how we believe what the newspapers say as gospel, but question nearly everything about the Gospel.
- Funny how we are rarely late to work or school, but are always late to church.
- Funny how small our sins seem, but how big “their” sins are.
- Funny how we demand justice for others, but expect mercy from God.
- Funny how much difficulty some have learning the Gospel well enough to tell others, but how simple it is to understand and explain the latest gossip to everyone.
- Funny how people want God to answer their prayers, but refuse to listen to God’s counsel.
- Funny how it is OK to blame God for evil and suffering in the world, but it is not necessary to thank God for what is good and pleasant.
- Funny how when something goes wrong we cry, “Oh Lord, why me?” but when something goes right we think, “Hey, it must be me!”

Oh wait—maybe all this isn’t so funny after all.

Ω

Submitted by Bella McCandless

Wonderful Weekend in Indianapolis, Indiana!

Our quarterly speaking schedule reflected that Bob Schofield from Australia would deliver the sermon. Also that Lloyd Cary would be here to give the sermonette. Little did we realize that we were going to have people from Australia; Cleveland, Ohio; Toledo, Ohio; Tyler, Texas; Danville, Illinois; and Louisville, Kentucky. As our starting time for services, 1:00 PM, approached, Ferrell and Barb Vincent and Bob and Sonja Scofield came in. Then to our surprise, Ben and Lois Chapman showed up.

Lloyd and Gail Cary showed up in the mix, and as if that were not enough, Charles Groce walked in pretty close to the last minute. Jack Stephenson was our worship leader, and called us to assembly close to on time. Even up to this point, we were already having a remarkable Sabbath, but by and by, it was time for the sermonette. Jack said, “Our first speaker is none other than the *Prophet Jonah* (Lloyd Cary).” Lloyd started out, “My name is Jonah, and you won’t believe what just happened to me!” And what a sermonette it was! He talked about how important it is to follow through with God’s calling and God’s orders. He graphically told how the whale looked with his mouth gaping open, and described his fear, and then the gunk and gook inside the whale’s belly. In telling about the whale vomiting him out on land, he reported, “I learned that even a whale can’t stomach a backslider!”

Then came the sermon by Bob Schofield, whose title was *Second Childhood*. His sermon was about comparisons. Our *first* childhood is when we grow up physically; our *second* childhood is spiritual, and requires constant overseeing and growth. Both messages were well received. We had food galore and fellowship afterward well into the evening.

A few of us had a good visit with some of the guests, and stayed until 7:30 PM, talking about old times and times yet ahead. It was the best Sabbath I can remember!

Ω

Submitted by Bobby Whitt

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it
is for brethren to dwell together in unity
(Psalms 133:1)!*

Due to inaccuracies in the previous issue, we are reprinting our article about Bella McCandless for our readers.



Honoring Bella Barbara McCandless

The Bath, Ohio congregation wishes to honor our eldest member with a little story of her life. Bella turned 100 years old this past May 12, 2011! It is this writer’s opinion Bella is a great lady, wonderful friend to many, and an inspiration to all who have had the pleasure of knowing her.

Bella was born on May 12, 1911 in Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Ohio to Belle Radway and William Kraph. It was a very sad time in her life when she lost her father, at the age of 11. Later, she lost her mother on her own birthday, May 12, 1957. She had a sister, Dorothy, who passed away on September 12, 2005. She spent her school years at Washington Park Elementary and South High School. Late in life, Bella married her husband, Gerald L. McCandless, who was a fireman. He passed away on August 15, 1978. They had two children: a daughter, Linda (and husband, Charles Rini), who gave them two grandchildren, Dana and Bryan; and a son, Jeff (and wife, Beverly), who gave them three grandchildren, Luke, Jason, and Amanda. Later, Jeff and his second wife, Jennifer, had one child, Jeb. Bellas’s son Jeff passed away on May 11, 2009. Bella also has five great-grandchildren: Remy, age 7; Makena, age 5; Blake, age 4; and twins Keenan and Dillon, age 4.

Bella came into the Worldwide Church of God and was baptized March 20, 1971. Later she became a member of the *Church of God International* on March 22, 1986. Bella has attended the CGI for 26 years, through all our ups and downs. I recall that Bella was still driving her own car to services when she was in her 90s. I also recall many years ago, Bella and her lady friends at CGI volunteering time to run a little table to loan out our cassette sermons to all who asked for them. I never dreamed she was later to become my best friend. Visiting Bella at her little apartment is quite a joy; it is so homey, and shows the love of her family with all their photos, Bella’s beautiful art work she can no longer do, and of course her own piano, which she still plays.

Bella says that some of her fondest childhood memories are of her sister and cousins. Her best memories of CGI are traveling to the Feast of Tabernacles with the Watson family. Her greatest desire now is to see the church grow. It was my pleasure to take Bella to the Feast on several occasions when neither of us were able to stay overnight. It was a delight to have her by my side.

Bella says she has no advice for living a long life—it has just been a gift of God. I asked her what she thought of all this new technology today, and she replied: “The old ways were *sooo* nice.” Bella may be getting up in years, but I feel she has been and still is a very strong person who is also compassionate, giving of herself, and is an inspiration to others besides myself. She has a way of making me feel closer to God. My own grand daughters think she is a very special lady, and I am quite sure our congregation agrees. *We all love our dear Lady Bella!*

Ω

Submitted by Diana Bownam



CONGRATULATIONS,
Bella, from all your
brothers and sisters
in Christ!

Church News

The Watsons Visit New CGI Congregation in Spanish Town, Jamaica



Spanish Town Board from left to right: Deacon Morris, Stacey Ann and Ricardo Hall, Anthony Morgan, Bill Watson, Pedro Hall, Madge Gooden, Mario Coleman

The *Church of God International*, Spanish Town, Jamaica, was blessed by the first official visit by the Regional Director for the Caribbean, Minister Bill Watson and his wife, Margie, on Sabbath, March 5, 2011. The minister's visit comes approximately seven months after the congregation received its Certificate of Confirmation of Affiliation in August, 2010, as a congregation of the *Church of God, International*. Being one of the newest CGI congregations, the visit not only gave the Regional Director an opportunity to acquaint himself with the congregation, but also served as an expression of love and appreciation from the Home Office of the support of this very caring and active group. Minister Watson's visit with his wife, Margie, was jam-packed with many events: dinners, meetings, tours, and the wedding of MAP candidate Pedro Hall and fiancé, Ms. Oddeth Burton. His visit lasted from March 1st through March 6th.

Encouragement and Expression of Appreciation

Minister Watson's sermon was centered on the theme *The Way to the Kingdom of God*, with emphasis on 1 Corinthians 13 and John 13:34-35, which characterized "love as charity," or active love with affection, as the epitome of one's Christian life. He encouraged the approximately 90 members and visitors to express love and charity towards one another in order to better carry out the mission of the church. Minister Watson further expressed his appreciation to the leadership and members of the congregation for seeing the need to be a part of something larger than their own local group, thereby reaching out to a larger organization, specifically in this case, the *Church of God, International*. It was good to recognize from them that they wanted to be part of a greater mission. The congregants, formerly an independent traditional Sunday worship group, were led to embrace Sabbath observance, and then, ultimately, the annual holydays, within the last six years. The latter was learned through the CGI Kingston congregation, served by Pastor Ian Boyne. Pastor Watson, in his approximately 45-minute presentation, also told the congregation that the vision of the *Church of God, International* was to hopefully use Jamaica as the platform to open other congregations throughout

the Caribbean. His message was well received by the Spanish Town church, who equally welcomed the new association.

Later in the afternoon, Minister Watson used the opportunity in a separate session, before the close of the Sabbath, to speak with the congregation about the history of the *Church of God, International*, and also engage members in a question and answer session. Much like a "town hall meeting" atmosphere with a conversational approach, he welcomed a variety of questions, from how the

CGI was organized, to how we differed from other Sabbath-keeping churches that came out of the WWCg. He even brushed up on prophecy, providing opportunity to address the concerns of those wondering about the future of the USA, and how its decline will eventually affect global geopolitics. It was a surprisingly pleasant realization to see just how informed everyone really was about such a wide range of subjects. As the sun was setting and the day came to a close, it seemed to end a lot faster than what some may have liked.



Brethren socializing between services

Fellowship, Tour, and Hospitality

Following the main service, Minister Watson and his wife fellowshiped with the brethren and were treated to the usual cooked lunch provided for members and visitors each Sabbath. It was encouraging for the couple to see the number of children and so many young people who were in attendance during their visit. It was a satisfying sign that the future of the congregation was on a secured path. The couple received a warm welcome from everyone as they enthusiastically met and greeted the children, youth, adults, and elderly among the congregation. A tour of the property and facilities was also extended to both Minister Watson and his wife, Margie, who were elated by the ABC Early Childhood Development Center, a government-recognized pre-school owned and operated by the congregation. The congregation is centrally located in one of Jamaica's most populated urban areas, Spanish Town, the capital of the parish of St. Catherine. Spanish Town is also the former capital of Jamaica. This school presently attends to over 30 youngsters who are served by three certified teachers and managed by a principal, all being members of the church. The

school has proved to be quite an advantage for the children who attend. They are well ahead in their development, preparation, and discipline for elementary school compared to those who do not attend preschool. It's well outfitted with plenty of items to teach the children basic reading and association learning.

Meeting With the Board of Management and Officiating a Wedding

A meeting preceded Minister Watson's visit to the congregation with the Board of Management at the Wyndham Kingston Hotel, Thursday, March 3. The meeting was used by the minister to become more familiar with the leadership of the congregation and to outline the *Church of God, International's* administrative structure and best practices. It was a very informative meeting, covering many important points of understanding, especially that of servant eldership and the approach of ministering to the congregants with this approach.

On the last day of his visit, Sunday, March 6, Minister Watson also officiated the marriage between the congregation's local representative, Pedro Hall, and his wife-to-be, Oddeth Burton. The couple remained for the reception and spent the warm afternoon up in the comfortable mountain area surrounding Spanish Town, with the city of Kingston also off in the distance. It was quite a beautiful outside garden-like setting for this very lovely couple's matrimonial vows. There were over 100 people attending the wedding. It was followed by a very entertaining variety of friends and relatives expressing their love, affection, and sometimes comical memories of the couple, while everyone finished their lunch off with dessert. It was quite an affair! Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves, including the Watson's.

We are also very happy and pleased to announce Pedro is currently enrolled under the Ministerial Apprenticeship Programme (MAP), and has since attended his first MAP meeting already in Cincinnati, Ohio this last April 1-3.

All in all, it was a very eventful visit. A lot was accomplished, and the Spanish Town congregation has been welcomed into the affiliation of the *Church of God International*, intent on sharing the work of Jesus Christ on the gorgeous island of Jamaica. Pastor Watson and his wife highly recommend a visit, if ever you have the chance to go to Jamaica! Ω

Submitted by: Ricardo Hall



Children from the Spanish Town congregation

Church News

5 Baptized, 376 Attend Holyday Services in Jamaican CGI

The unwavering focus of the Jamaican CGI on fulfilling Christ's commission to make disciples continues to yield fruit, as 5 new members were baptized by Pastor Ian Boyne and me on Sunday morning, April 17, 2011, at the Kingston YMCA.

Later that evening, 294 persons from the various CGI congregations kept the Passover on the island.

The First Day of Unleavened Bread services were attended by 354 persons, while the Last Day services were attended by 375 persons. The Kingston congregation, with an average weekly attendance of over 235, currently has the largest congregation of all the groups to come out of the Worldwide Church of God.

Passover and First Day Services

On the evening of Passover, 215 persons met in the Sagcor Auditorium in Kingston, 35 in Spanish Town, another 35 in Maroon Town, and 9 met in Ocho Rios.

The First Day of Unleavened Bread service in Kingston, held at the Fellowship Tabernacle, was attended by 230 persons. It was a jubilant celebration highlighted by fitting special music offerings and vibrant congregational singing led by worship leader Deacon Chris Hendricks. In Spanish Town, 74 persons turned up for the services, while 40 and 10 persons worshipped in Maroon Town and Ocho Rios, respectively.

Pastor Boyne used the occasion to remind members about the meaning of the unleavened bread symbol, and the importance of eating unleavened bread each of the seven days of the Feast. He also encouraged them to use the days to examine themselves and renew their commitment to living holy lives.

In his sermon, Mr. Boyne used the stories of Abigail (1 Samuel 25) and Rizpah (2 Samuel 3:7; 21:8-11) to demonstrate how seemingly insignificant persons can make a big impact in the church. His expositions also showed how important God regards covenants, promises, and commitments, and how we as believers should do the same.

During the second service, I delivered a sermon titled *New Beginning*, in which I showed that Passover, as a spring festival, was meant to be a time for new beginnings and spiritual renewal. In order to make this symbolism real, it is necessary to do three things.

The first is to hold ourselves to high spiritual standards, in accordance with the "little leaven" principle. The second is to affirm our belief in the divinity of Christ and His resurrection. Jesus warned against the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees, which related to these teachings. And third, we need to adopt new behaviours and practices in line with our Christian profession.

Last Day of Unleavened Bread Services

The Sagcor Auditorium, in the heart of Jamaica's commercial capital, New Kingston, was the venue where 315 persons from the Kingston and Spanish Town congregations joined in worship and fellowship on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread. Meanwhile, 43 persons met in Maroon Town, at the western section of the island, while 12 met in the tourist resort town of Ocho Rios.

The mood was festive as service conductor Deacon Chris Hendricks combined relevant hymns with exciting spiritual songs and choruses around the Passover and Unleavened Bread themes. Several items of special music also related to these themes were offered in solos and various ensembles, as well as by the choir.

Special welcome and well wishes were extended to newlyweds Pedro Hall, Spanish Town coordinator, who is enrolled in the Ministerial Apprenticeship Programme (MAP), and Oddeth Burton-Hall. They were married by Regional Director Bill Watson on March 6.

Indicative of the success over the years of training and developing new speakers and leaders, Pastor Ian Boyne enjoys the benefit of having several on whom to call. On this occasion, I delivered both sermons. (It is traditional that we have two services on the holydays.)

In my morning sermon titled *Spiritual Re-launch*, I delved deeper into the themes of restoration, renewal, and recommitment, which I started in my First Day of Unleavened Bread message titled *New Beginnings*. I used the example of Peter's transformation from an arrogant coward to a bold evangelist of the Gospel to show that it is possible for God's people to change and to grow.

Reiterating that the unleavened bread ritual was really meant to teach important spiritual lessons, I focused on four specific areas for spiritual renewal and growth. These included the areas of relationships, personal zeal, service, and moral purity. Brethren were urged to overcome the immobilizing force of inertia and to get started in doing what was necessary to grow in these areas, as a matter of urgency.

In the second message during the evening service, I continued with the theme by teaching specific steps to take in developing a sustainable spiritual growth programme. Combining biblical principles with proven success strategies, I showed the importance of time management, schedules, and structures, as well as establishing routines and measurement criteria to assess progress. Ω

Submitted by by Glenford Smith



Happy Day! Pedro Hall and Oddeth Burton cutting their wedding cake at the reception

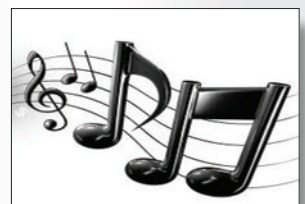
Attention all choir members...

If you would like to join in a quality choir at the Feast of Tabernacles this year, you are invited to come to the new Feast site in Midland, Ontario, Canada.

We are looking for a choir of about 20 to 25 members. Choir folders have already been handed to choir members in Toronto.

We will have a choir practice in Toronto on the Sabbath of June 26, after services. Please call or write me, and I will send you a choir folder for this year's Feast. Please pray and ask God for a successful music program this year.

Frank Klett
5940 Burdette St.
Toledo, Ohio 43613
Home phone: (419) 475-2554
Cell phone: (419) 787-5681



In loving memory...

Jacob Aaron Green



Jacob Aaron Green

Memorial services for **Jacob Aaron Green**, 17, of Tyler, Texas, were held on Monday, March 28, 2011, at Tyler Memorial Funeral Home, with Vance Stinson officiating.

Jacob was born October 26, 1993, in Tyler to Richard and Claire Green, and died on March 24, 2011.

He is survived by his parents, Richard and Claire Green; sisters, Mallory Green, Stephanie Webster, and Whitney Staples, all of Tyler; brother, Alex Rozelle of Tyler; grandmothers, Hilary Arnold and Sharon Hiberd, both of Tyler; grandfathers, Charles Hiberd of Tyler and Richard Green of Grandview; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Jacob played high school football and was affiliated with the *Church of God International*. He had many hopes and dreams for his life. He wanted to serve his country and make a difference in the world.

Jacob's mom and dad, Claire and Richard, said of their son: "Jacob was our precious boy, and it is going to be very hard living without him. He had a heart as big as they come, and was always there for friends and family. He loved life and tried to live it to the fullest. He was a good soul. He never got in trouble except for homework and cleaning his room... Even though he was a 17-year-old teenager, he always told us he loved us and did so in front of anyone. He wanted to be a marine and make a difference. We know that Jacob is just asleep and will remain so until the resurrection. He touched so many lives in the short time we had him, and we know that God will remember him." Ω

In loving memory...

Donna Ruth Hall Hoston



Grareside services for **Donna Ruth Hall Hoston** were Sunday, May 1, 2011, at Germany Community Cemetery near Grapeland, Texas, with Vance Stinson officiating.

Donna was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, on February 7, 1950, to John Elbert Hall, Sr. and Gloria Jean Thompson Hall. She died on April 26, 2011.

She attended both Booker T. Washington and Hirschi High Schools in Wichita Falls. After graduation, she attended college for two years and then joined the Air Force. She was in the Air Force for several years and later joined the Air Force Reserves.

Donna moved to Grapeland, Texas in the early 1990s to be near her dad. After moving to the "country" that she loved so much, she became a member of the *Church of God International*.

She was active in the community and many local organizations. She enjoyed reading, gardening, making preserves and pickles, and playing dominoes with her friends. She also enjoyed taking care of cows, horses, and her little dog, Lucky.

Donna had a down-to-earth personality and never met a stranger. She enjoyed the simple things in life that God gave to us. These are among the many memories that will remain precious to those who loved her.

Donna is preceded in death by her father, John Elbert Hall, Sr., and former husband, Eddie Hoston, of Montgomery, Alabama.

She leaves behind her mother and stepfather, Gloria and Robert Littleton; daughters, Jerri Dawn Hoston and Latonia Denise Hoston Bolton (Steven), all of Wichita Falls; sisters, Patricia Thomas of Moreno Valley, California, and Geraldine Hall Newsom of Houston, Texas; brother, John Hall, Jr. of Dallas, Texas; grandchildren, Devan, Daniel, and Dylan; and a host of uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

Donna was a person of faith. She leaves a beautiful legacy and a lasting impression on the family and many friends she met along the way. She will forever be loved, remembered, and deeply missed. Ω

Visit our Website!
www.cgi.org

Watch Sabbath Service Live On Your Computer!

You are invited to attend church services in Tyler, Texas via the Internet.
We invite you to tune in Saturdays:

Tyler, TX, 12:00 Noon, EST at www.cgi.org

Simply go to the website and look for the link to "Live Webcasting." Best results are achieved with a high-speed Internet connection. *Please be patient and be prepared to "retry the link" until you connect.*

Coming Soon! Sermon Transcripts on line!



How Fathers Change

- At 5 years: My Daddy can do anything!
- At 8 years: My Daddy knows more than anybody!
- At 10 years: My Dad doesn't know quite everything.
- At 13 years: Dad just doesn't understand.
- At 16 years: Pop is old-fashioned.
- At 21 years: My old man is out of touch.
- At 30 years: I wonder what Dad thinks of this?
- At 50 years: What would Dad have thought about this?
- At 60 years: I wish I could talk it over with my Daddy once more.

Ω

In loving memory...

The Passing of John Tuit

Shortly after returning from the Feast, the Hickory CGI was saddened to learn about the passing of our brother in Christ, **John Tuit**. John was an extremely intelligent man who was very innovative in his business dealings. He proved to be a man whose mind and heart was on obeying God. He had been in declining health for several years. We remember his sermons and his testimonies of what God had done in his life, and rejoice knowing he has something special waiting for him in the resurrection.

A group of the Hickory church attended the memorial service for John, and it surely was special! His wife and family participated by sharing their own special

memories. Paula shared first about how she and John met, and

his persistence in trying to win her heart. Their engagement was so special to them, and Paula shared all the specifics. She asked us to allow her to play Elvis' *Hawaiian Love Song* as her tribute to John.

Their daughters, Melissa and Anita, each took turns sharing special moments of their childhood. They pointed out that God was an important part of their home, and their dad and mom's relationship motivated their children. After special music, the Life Tribute Video was played to the music of *My Way* by Elvis.

John will truly be missed in our congregational meetings, and we look forward to the day Paula and the children will be able to meet with us again. You may contact Paula at the following address:

Paula Tuit

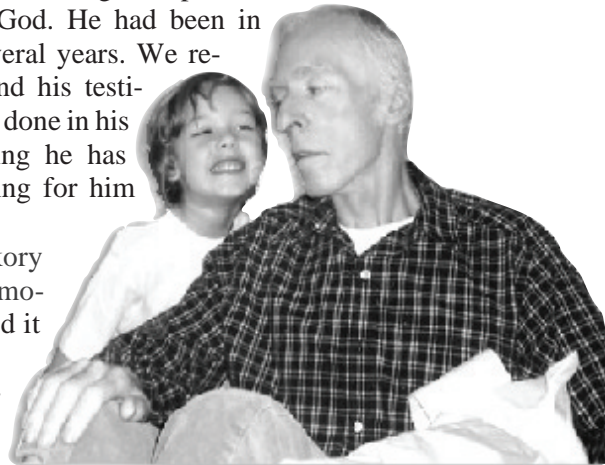
4660 Lauren Woods Court

Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27127

Paula was interviewed by the *Winston-Salem Journal* about Lewy Body disease of which John suffered:

<http://www2.journalnow.com/news/2011/feb/20/wsmain01-woman-seeks-to-expand-knowledge-of-lewy-b-ar-798612/>

Ω



Matthew Scheiber (left) and his grandfather, John Tuit, photographed in June 2010.

New Booklet!!!

The Book of Galatians

A verse-by-verse commentary
by Ed J. Szalankiewicz

Did Paul contradict himself?

Is the law of God "done away"?

Why is the book of Galatians so misunderstood?

Can you give an answer?

Request your free copy today!

CHURCH OF GOD INTERNATIONAL

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What's going on in your local Church area? Combined services? Public Bible studies? Potlucks? Church activities? Celebrations? Memorials? Visiting ministers? Birth or death announcements? Plans for getting *The Armor of God* on a free Public Access television station in your area? Let us know, and perhaps we will publish it under "Church News." We'd love to hear from you!

The editor

The Demise of Common Sense

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain
- Why the early bird gets the worm
- Life isn't always fair.
- Maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place: Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student. These only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student—but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home, and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his four stepbrothers:

1. *I Know My Rights*
2. *I Want It Now*
3. *Someone Else Is To Blame*
4. *I'm A Victim*

Not many attended his funeral, because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this message on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Submitted by Fred and Ruthie Weed



Holydays for 2011

New Testament Passover: April 17, 2011*

Feast of Unleavened Bread: April 19 - 25, 2011

Pentecost: June 12, 2011


Feast of Trumpets: September 29, 2011

Day of Atonement: October 8, 2011


Feast of Tabernacles: October 13 - 19, 2011

Last Great Day: October 20, 2011

** Observed at sundown.*



I'VE HEARD...



- A child of the King should bear a family resemblance.
- The church is a gift from God (assembly required).
- Church attendance is determined far more by desire than by distance.
- Exercise daily—walk with the Lord.
- Feel taken for granted? Imagine how God feels!
- If the church was perfect, would *you* be allowed to attend?
- Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read.
- You're on this planet for a purpose. Find it. Live it.
- Prayer moves the hand that moves the world.
- An ounce of example is worth a pound of advice.
- It's amazing how opinionated skeptics become concerning issues about which they know little or nothing at all.
- You cannot solve *spiritual* problems by *physical* means.
- Do not pray by heart, but *with* the heart.
- A chip on the shoulder indicates wood higher up.
- Don't worry about whether it's what you're used to. Be concerned about whether it's God's will.
- The Bible doesn't say to *wear* a cross—but to *bear* the cross.

- Do all you can and make no fuss about it.
- Satan will accept your service on a part-time basis, but God will not.
- A text without a *context* is a *pretext*. Do your homework.
- Smile often. Smile wide. If it hurts your face, you are out of shape.
- Sticks and stones may break a bone, but words can break a heart.
- Don't be so "open minded" your brain falls out!
- Be careful of the theories on which you base your opinions.
- Don't be so "broad-minded" that you become shallow.
- A day without prayer is a boast against God.
- Atheists have minds like concrete: all mixed up and permanently set.
- Never get upset at someone who knows more than you do. It's not his fault, but yours.
- Habit is stronger than reason... until you will to change it.
- Praying is learned by praying.
- The church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints.
- Many prayers are not answered because we are not willing to forgive someone.

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