



# THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The official newspaper of The Church of God International

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

2006



**E. G. Findlay**  
CGI, Jamaica

## Three Days and Three Nights

by E. G. Findlay

**I**n the face of many different interpretations of the scriptures, the Christian church today has much responsibility to preserve and teach what is factual. Much controversy has surrounded the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus predicted an exclusive sign to which speculations bear no relation. He indicated that those who desire a sign should not look any further than the actual fulfillment which Jonah's experience symbolized.

In His answer to the Scribes and Pharisees, Jesus said, "There shall no sign be given but the sign of the prophet Jonah: for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12: 38-40).

The average *Christian* will find it almost impossible to give an accurate account for the period of entombment; especially when it is believed that the crucifixion occurred on Friday and the resurrection on Sunday. It is impossible to arrive at a 72-hour time period (three full days and three full nights) in the tomb. Consequently, it is customarily argued that the term "*three days and three nights*" refers only to *parts* of the entombment period. This may have been true if Jesus had specifically mentioned three days or three nights, or any other portion of that time period. Jesus himself said, "*after three days I will rise*" (Matthew 27:63; Mark 8: 31). Please note, *AFTER*, NOT *DURING* THREE DAYS. Some commentators will argue that Jesus resided in Jerusalem for three days and three nights, so he would have been in the heart of the people during that period of time. Could this be the correct interpretation? Obviously not! Jesus was actually in the vicinity of Jerusalem for six days before the Passover; He was in Bethany, to be exact. This understanding is clearly outlined in the following scripture passages.

"Then Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany..." (John 12:1).

"And he was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priest and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him," (Luke 19:47).

"And he left them, and went out of the city [Jerusalem] into Bethany; and lodged there. Now in the morning as he returned into the city, [Jerusalem] he hungered" (Matthew 21:17-18).

"Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper," (Matthew 26:6). "...and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve. And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:" (Mark 11:11-12). "And after six days Jesus taketh with him..." (Mark 9:2).

"And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and *a night He went out*, and abode in the mount that is called the Mount of Olives. And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him" (Luke 21:37-38). It is very clear that Jesus was not in Jerusalem for *three days and three nights* throughout the final days of His ministry. He spent the days teaching in Jerusalem, and left each evening to spend the night in a small local hamlet (village) on the Mount of Olives. He returned to the temple in Jerusalem each morning to teach the people. He stayed away during the nights, because the chief priest, the scribes, and the chief of the people had planned to kill Him. Obviously His hour had not yet fully come.

### Christ Died on Passover Day—Nisan 14

Essentially, Matthew 12: 40 is clearly a prediction of the death of Jesus. Since he is Yahweh's Passover Lamb, He had to die on Passover day, Nisan 14. (Exodus 12:5-6, Leviticus 23:5-6; Daniel 9:27). While His death was to

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Lloyd W. Cary

## Are You An Intolerant Christian?

**"What Makes You Think You're Right?" How would you answer? Your response may depend upon whether you are culturally conditioned... or Biblically taught!**

by Lloyd W. Cary

### Confrontation with a Gainsayer

**S**everal years ago a co-worker asked, "What makes you think Christianity is right? There are many religions in the world—Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, and Islam, to name a few. Christians are always trying to cram their religion down everyone's throat. After all, don't all religions lead to the same place? Don't be so narrow-minded. You need to be more tolerant."

Have you ever been confronted with objections such as these? Are you an "intolerant" Christian? How would you respond? Your answer may depend upon whether you are culturally conditioned or Biblically taught. The Bible says, "The heart of the righteous studies to answer" (Proverbs 15:28). We are admonished to "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). Again, 1 Thessalonians 5:21 says to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Good advice!

### The Meaning of Intolerance

Before we can determine whether or not Christi-

anity is an intolerant religion, it would be good to understand what the word "intolerant" really means. The word intolerant can be best defined as "an active opposition to the views or opinions of others." Some synonyms of intolerance are: narrow-mindedness, bigoted, fanatical, prejudiced, and uncharitable. Are *you* viewed in this light? If so, we need to broaden our horizons.

A Christian is most often labeled societally "intolerant" when he refuses to accept or speaks out against such controversial subjects as "alternative lifestyles," cohabitation, or homosexual behavior. *Horrors!* Such "intolerant" stands are not considered to be "politically incorrect" by today's egalitarian standards. Paradoxically, those who argue that Christians should not be allowed to express their beliefs publicly—whether it be in print, on television, or person-to-person—are in fact the ones who are being intolerant, since *they* are unwilling to grant equal freedom of expression to Christian beliefs. Tolerance does not require "equal time" or *acceptance* of all ideas or beliefs as being true. The apostle Paul want to far as to say we should be "Holding fast the faithful word *as he hath been taught*, that he may be able *by sound doctrine* both to *exhort* and to *convince* the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, especially they of the circumcision: *whose mouths must be stopped*" (Titus 1:9-1).

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# Registers Celebrate Sixty Years

*CGI minister and wife celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
with members of local Springfield, MO congregation.*

**S**hortly after World War II, Kenneth Register married Betty West. The wedding took place in the small southeast Missouri town of Piedmont on August 25, 1946, and was officiated by an Army Chaplain Ken



**Ken and Betty Register  
Aug. 25, 1946**

had met while serving his country in the US Army under General George S. Patton in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division. He served three and a half years in Europe, and was among the soldiers who liberated the Buchenwald Prison Camp.

After the war, Ken and his father owned and operated a sign company, where they manufactured neon signs for businesses as well as road signs. He remained with his father in the sign business until the decision was reached to answer the "call" God had placed on their lives. Needless to say, this brought about a big change in Ken and Betty's lives.

Kenneth was baptized in 1953 and Betty was baptized in 1954 after hearing Herbert W. Armstrong on the Radio Church of God program they had been introduced to by Betty's father, Harrison West, who was himself a Sabbath-observing minister in Piedmont. Ken was accepted for enrollment at Ambassador College in 1955, and moved all they owned in a

26-foot camper/trailer to Pasadena, California, where they began their service to God.

Rearing their children according to Scripture and living their own lives appropriate to their calling has given them the benefit of seeing their children attend both Imperial School and Ambassador College, as well as the gift of seeing their grandchildren and great-grandchildren attending Sabbaths and feast day services with them.

Ken was ordained a deacon in the Worldwide Church of God in 1966 and Betty a deaconess in 1967. Ken served as an employee in the Canadian office of the Worldwide Church of God in British Columbia for three years. Western Canada will always be a second home to the Registers. They returned to the US in 1976 and settled in the small town of Gilroy, California, where they lived for six years. In 1979, they began attending the Church of God International services in San Jose, California, where they and 12 other members worshipped each Sabbath.

The Registers returned to the midwest in 1982, where they served together as Feast of Tabernacles coordinator for five years in Branson, Missouri, at the Roy Clark Theater. Ken was ordained an elder in the Church of God International in 1984 while coordinating the Feast. They have attended services in Springfield since their return to Missouri and have served the congregation here faithfully as pastor and deaconess. Ken is also a member of the Ministerial Council.

Their marriage has been a long and fruitful union in service side-by-side to God, His church, and their family. Ken and Betty are blessed with two living children. Their eldest son, David Register, is a minister in the United Church of God, and their daughter, Nancy Beckerdite, serves as deaconess of the Springfield, Missouri, CGI church and as Sabbath school teacher. Ken and Betty have six grandsons, one great-grandson, and a great-granddaughter.

What a tremendous life they have had and shared!—the people they have met and known—the things they have witnessed while in service to the Lord our God. May they enjoy as many more anniversaries as God will allow, and our love and prayers will be with them as they continue to serve God, His church, and their family. □



**Ken and Betty Register**

*In loving memory...*

**I** am writing to inform the Church of the passing of my father, **Mr Alvin May**. Both he and my mother, **Dorothy Charlotte May**, attended services and fellowship with your organization for many years. They were with the Worldwide Church of God in Victoria, then with Garner Ted in the *Church of God International*. I attended services in the Vancouver area myself. Alvin and Dorothy enjoyed their fellowship with guests at many different Feast sites!

Alvin recently passed away on August 26, 2006. He was predeceased by Dorothy on April 7, 2002. Alvin spent many years lovingly caring for Dorothy before she passed away. Theirs was a true love story! Both myself and their two grandchildren, Lauree and James, and their many friends, have been blessed by their example of true devotion to each other. They were truly best friends! This is submitted by their only child, a daughter, Sandy May Carmichael. Dorothy and Alvin are both very much missed by all. Thank you. □

*Sandy Carmichael*

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be in the afternoon of Passover day, He actually began to die slowly when He went into the garden of Gethsemane and, “being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Luke 22:44). He had already known the appointed time of His death and so He declared it unto His disciples; “Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified” (Matthew 26: 2).

Consequently, He made the decision to go to His death at that last Passover observance. There He ate the old Passover emblems for the final time. The bread and cup (wine) were instituted as the new emblems for this annual institution in the New Testament age (Luke 22:15-20). Following this observance, He led His disciples across the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane (which means the oil press). There He prayed and tarried until the Roman soldiers, led by the chief priests and elders of the people, took Him captive. He was led away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where He was tried and convicted by the Sanhedrin during the night and into the morning hours. Later that morning, He was taken to Pontius Pilate the Governor, who (without any evidence of conviction) sentenced Him to be crucified. He was severely mocked and beaten while being taken from the city to a place called Golgotha, (which means place of the skull), there they hung Him on the torture stake before the sixth hour (12:00 mid-day).

“Now from the sixth hour [mid-day] there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour [3:00 PM]. And about the ninth hour [3:00 PM], Jesus cried with a loud voice...” (Matthew 27:45,46). “Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded [gave] up the ghost.” (Matthew 27:50).

“When the even [evening] was come...Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed” (Matthew 27:57,59,60).

**Which Preparation Day? Which Sabbath?**

There still remains a major misunderstanding regarding the terms “preparation day” and “Sabbath.” The average professing Christian believes these days referred to during crucifixion week are the weekly Friday and Saturday. Hence they believe Jesus was crucified on Good Friday and resurrected on Sunday morning. Does the Bible show that? A careful study of early church history (before the *quarto deciman* controversy), will bring clarity to what is written in the Bible. One will discover that during crucifixion week, *there were two preparation days and two Sabbaths!* This will not be confusing to believers who understand and obey the doctrines of the church Jesus left on earth. Let’s go back to the Bible! Let’s go line upon line and precept upon precept. The first preparation day was the day before the Passover (John 19:14), when Jesus was in Pilate’s custody. On that same afternoon after He died, the body of Jesus was pierced and taken away before evening, “...because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day.) [NOT THE WEEKLY ONE]...” (John 19:31). They laid Jesus in a new tomb in the garden “...because of the Jews’ preparation day;...” (John 19:42). Remember Jesus was quoted repeatedly saying He would arise after three days. (Matthew 27:63; Mark 8:31). After Jesus was placed in the tomb, the ladies would have rested on that high day Sabbath, which is the first of two Sabbaths. PLEASE NOTE HERE, Matthew 27:62: “NOW THE NEXT DAY, which followed the day of the

preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate.” This next day mentioned above would not have been the weekly Sabbath, because the believers would not have done any servile work including buying and selling. *Now when the Sabbath was past*, the ladies, on the second preparation day “...bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him” (Mark 16:1). “And they returned... and they rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment” (Luke 23:56). This would have been the second Sabbath in that week. If Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, how does one account for a Sunday morning resurrection after three nights and three full days?

midnight (see Genesis 1:5; and Leviticus 23:32, last part). It would seem rather unrealistic to believe that a day begins in the middle of the night.

**Resurrection on Saturday Evening**

After the crucifixion on Wednesday, Nisan 14, the people rested on Thursday, Nisan 15, the annual high day Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (see Leviticus 23: 6-7). Friday, Nisan 16 would have been an ordinary preparation day before Saturday, Nisan 17, which is the weekly Sabbath. At this stage, one would realize that from 3:00 on Wednesday afternoon (Matthew 27:46 & 50) to sundown on Saturday (Matthew 28:1), a

## “The resurrection was *never* a Biblical authorization for the transfer of the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day of the week!”

**Literally—Three Days and Three Nights**

Let us think carefully for a moment. Astronomy today, with state-of-the-art technology, can predict accurately the time when the new moon should appear. With this kind of technology, we can watch for the new moon crescent on the correct evening as predicted by using astronomical data. In the early world, even long before the crucifixion, as well as hundreds of years later, the science of astronomy was not so highly developed. In spite of all this, Jesus accurately predicted the very day of his death. He, being the sacrificial Lamb, had to be offered exactly on Passover day, Nisan 14, (Exodus 12:5-6, Leviticus 23:5-6, Dan. 9:27 and Luke 23:44-46). *Three days and three nights* (72-hours) later, He had to be resurrected at the end of the weekly Sabbath. This particular event had to happen in order that Jesus could stand and serve as the new wave offering to Yahweh, to signify the beginning of the human harvest of the earth. This means that those who accept Jesus as the Messiah have accepted His resurrection and recognize the correct day on which to begin counting the days leading up to the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost). The counting of the Feast of Weeks in the year when Jesus was crucified (since Passover day fell on a Wednesday) was outlined so that he would have rested in the tomb Thursday, Friday and Sabbath (Saturday), *three full days and three full nights*. It is therefore clear that in the evening on Friday, Nisan 16, (the morrow after the annual high day Sabbath) when the Pharisees offered the wave offering, Jesus’ body would still have been in the tomb. Then He was resurrected in the end (evening) of the (weekly) Sabbath, Nisan 17, as the first day of the week (Sunday, Nisan 18) drew near. His death necessarily had to occur in a year wherein the Passover day, Nisan 14, must fall on a Wednesday, so He could remain in the tomb specifically for *three days and three nights*. Consequently, the wave offering was offered on the Sunday after the resurrection day (Saturday). This signified the first of the fifty days leading up to Feast of Weeks (Pentecost). After the resurrection, Jesus spent forty days showing himself to his disciples and reassuring them of their discipleship. He ascended into heaven ten days before Pentecost. It should be clearly noted that in ancient times, (before the original Hebrew time sequence was rejected), since creation, the beginning of a day is at sunset or sundown and not at

period of *three days and three nights* (72 hours) had passed. Please notice that the women would not have gone to the sepulcher on Saturday, because they had to rest according to the commandment (see Exodus 20:8-11, Leviticus 23:3 and Luke 23:56). Another arguable reason is that the Roman soldiers were not yet withdrawn from duty until a satisfactory estimation of the predicted entombment period had expired (see John 27:62-66). Therefore, early Sunday morning, (first day of the week) when it was still dark, Mary (Miriam) Magdalene came to the sepulcher. Surprisingly, she realized that the stone was already rolled away from the sepulcher (see John 20:1). The resurrection had already occurred the previous evening. Mary Magdalene, upon seeing Jesus, thought He was the gardener (see John 20:15). Why did she think so? He may have had the last wave sheaf of literal grain under His arm ready to offer to Yahweh. He needed to be sanctified in order to perform this priestly duty, by presenting Himself as the pure wave-sheaf offering and Passover Lamb in making the atonement for mankind. In doing this, he represented the first of the firstfruits of the human harvest of this earth (see Exodus 23:19 and 34:26). Therefore, He told her: “*Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father...*” (John 20:17). In similar reports, according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Mary Magdalene and the others came to the sepulcher with spices to prepare the body. As they walked, they wondered among themselves who would roll the stone away for them. Seeing the stone already removed, they marveled and immediately remembered that Jesus told them a few days before, saying, “*the son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.*” After resurrection, Jesus spent forty days showing Himself to His disciples and reassuring them of their discipleship. He ascended into heaven ten days before Pentecost.

The Bible shows us plainly that Jesus was resurrected at the very end of the Sabbath and it was on the first day of the week that this was publicly discovered (see John 20:1). The resurrection was never a Biblical authorization for the transfer of the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day of the week! It was on the first day of the week that Jesus could testify and prove his resurrection to others and began the count of fifty days for the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost). □

# Feast Reports, 2006

## Myrtle Beach, South Carolina



**T**his was a Feast beyond Feasts, this year of 2006. On the first day was a viewing of *Infuse* on tape, showing the beginnings on through to the happenings now. Many teens enjoyed *Infuse* this year, as there were several fun things to do.

*Mike Nolen*, Festival Coordinator, brought an intriguing offertory message on the first day, showing a cheerful giver by citing the scriptural account of Cain and Abel—one having a troubled heart and the other a buoyant heart.

The very cheerful *George Ramocan* from Jamaica gave a positive sermon about the church being a tremendous work, and how through faith in God nothing is impossible. He pointed out that there is room for learning and growth, and our sacrifices will help us be good teachers. The Feast of Tabernacles, he explained, is the place to examine and recharge. Afterwards, *Lloyd Cary* encouraged those who have doubts about the validity of the Bible to prove it by reading it.

*Mike Nolen* encouraged us to count it joy when we come through trials, noting that a person who endures temptations is blessed. He reminded us that God would not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to endure, and that through these tests we will learn to resist evil and persist in faith. Citing 2 Corinthians 4:5–18, Mr. Nolen encouraged the young adults to resist the temptations that are out there and become a light to the world.

*Rick Dubler* spoke on the reality of immorality and how we need to fear God and keep His commandments. He pointed out that children need the love that comes from God, and that God will strengthen and perfect those who endure suffering. *Mike James* stressed the need for strong family values that will produce strong bonds within the family of God.

To thank God, you just thank Him, *Doug Coish* says. He explained how we make a life by what we give—and praising God and giving Him thanks is part of that life.

*George Ramocan* spoke of how the fear and discouragement that can affect a Christian's walk with God can be overcome. He pointed out that even the prophet Elijah, a man who sought to do God's will and experienced the power of God in remarkable ways, encountered discouragement and fear, but overcame and went on to do what God asked him to do. Mr. Ramocan explained that we, too, can overcome and go forward, becoming better servants of God.

*Frank Denman* stated that salt is for preserving and flavoring. As those preparing to be leaders in God's Kingdom, he explained, we are to take care of (preserve) each other and add "flavor" to the world. *Tom Kaufung* related the importance of love, pointing out that vengeance belongs to God.

*Gene Morris*'s sermonette was saddening, yet it inspired hope for the resurrection. As many of you know, our son died recently as the result of a motorcycle accident. Endurance—withstanding hardships—was the key point in Gene's message. Hardships are a part of life, but the promise remains in spite of them. We will soon see our loved ones again—and what a joy that will be! *Dean Roberts* told the youth about a young man God chose to be a craftsman who would make the Ark of the Testimony and other items pertaining to the Tabernacle. The young man had a willing heart—the kind of heart all of us should have.

*Murray Palmatier* asked, "Does the Bible give us all the truth?" An intriguing scripture followed—John 21:24–25. Even though we don't have all the answers, Mr. Palmatier noted, we have been given what we need for now. *Roger King* gave us some historical highlights about music. He explained that words and music together could make a difference to its quality and feeling, and that there is power in music. He further explained that the emphasis of music should be on God and Jesus Christ.

*Jeff Reed* talked about us tabernacling with God and being a part of His

family. He brought out the fact that Christ became flesh and made His dwelling among us. All nations will one day go up, from year to year, to worship the Lord Almighty and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. *Tony Buchert* talked about his dad, who professed to be an atheist but was a good man who gave good advice right when he needed it. Tony said his father told him that family was important and that his job would take care of itself. Tony went on to say that our church is a family and God loves variety. We need to notice what we have, he explained, for everything was created for God and man, and God wants us—His family—to be like Him.

On the Last Great Day, *Loren Chamberlain* reminded us that God doesn't want to lose anyone and wants all to make it into His Kingdom. He reminded us that everyone will have an opportunity for salvation, and that we were chosen to become a strong foundation.

What a wonderful Feast we had! The special music and children's songs were great. The senior's, ministerial, and women's luncheons and the Bible studies were splendid. We had a nice family fun show and family dance. We had three baptisms (in the ocean!) and the blessing of the children. Everything turned out quite nicely, even though we had some rain. We had 320-plus people attend this Feast site.

Everyone have a good year, and we'll be back together again at the Feast of 2007. □

Submitted by Jo Morris

## Land Between the Lakes, KY



**T**hink back about our experience at the Feast. As we draw nearer to God's salvation plan for mankind, we watch events more closely throughout the world. Calamities have become almost common daily events so much so that we're not as concerned about them anymore. But something else is increasing as well, and it should not be overlooked. So let's count our blessings!

Among those who contributed to the Feast are the ministers with informative and inspiring messages. Bronson James opened with the reminder that we don't live in a Sabbath-keeping environment, but we must see our surroundings as God sees them and live by faith. In a later message he warned us to be careful how we build. Nathan Kelley asked "What have we done with our blessings that we take for granted?" Ferrell Vincent talked about the time Judea was taken into captivity when Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel told him about the "growing stone."

It was Bobby Whitt's message to be aware of the deception that has caused others to follow the "Sunday" doctrine as well as other *commandments of men*. Bob Tackett told us about the man who gave up and had a yard sale of his most *precious possessions*. Among the items he sold was the cross, he was tired of carrying it; one slightly used talent; armor that needed polishing, but he didn't have the time; and, one large bundle of Christian opportunities. He had one buyer—a *sinner*.

Jack Stephenson inspired us to encourage others and to be careful when we throw a lifeline, to be sure we are on solid ground. During the Bible Study, Marvin Wyke reviewed, from Deuteronomy, God's promised blessings *if we obey* and the promised chastisements *if we don't*.

Bill Russ got to the heart of why we're celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles. We are going through a *dress rehearsal* and painting a canvas. After James Pollitte listed the attributes of God and His willingness to give His all, he then asked "Are you willing to offer your best?"

Another important aspect of the Christian life is proper preparation that Mark

Skiba outlined for us. We are to learn, accept, and do, as this is our time to get ready for the Kingdom, and we pray daily that it will soon come.

Charles Groce tied it all up in a neat little package—*small things*. Do all that you can do while you can. The smallest kindness can be a blessing to someone else because *we are allowing God's spirit to work through us*.

Mark Schwartzkopf built on Mr. Groce's message by using the earthworm to demonstrate the harmony in God's creation. The nature of the earthworm's contribution to cultivate the soil causes *small things to multiply*. Of course, none of this would matter without God's plan. Clint Mahoney reviewed God's practical plan that has not changed. *It is a plan of salvation, redemption, and fulfilled promises*.

Fred Weed asked us to be faithful and true to our commitment. Marvin Wyke gave an overview of mankind and sin.

A Bible Study on *Achieving Salvation* by Clint Mahoney reviewed the covenants and the holy days. It is the holy days that provide a complete, compact picture of salvation. Could that be the same picture Bill Russ was talking about? Clint Mahoney pointed out that in Genesis there was the *tree of knowledge and the tree of life*. In Revelation only the tree of life remains.

On the Last Great Day, Ferrell Vincent talked about the "*Awesome Responsibility of God's Family*." Just as it has been from the beginning with Noah, then Abraham, and on throughout history, only a few have been chosen to carry out His work.

These men who *freely* give of themselves and their time week after week, year after year are truly *a blessing for all of us*.

The ministers would be the first to recognize that an event like the Feast needs willing hands to make it work. There are many. Anyone desiring transportation from the parking lot to the convention center door were met by Jack Stephenson's taxi service. Once through the door, Marilyn Kidd, Anne Whitt, and Barbara Owens greeted attendees at the registration desk. Did everyone register? The responsibility of the lighting, making sure all could hear the sermons, and the making of videos was delegated to the team of Lonnie and Mark Shoemaker and assisted by David Bumgardner, Mark Schwartzkopf, and Lonnie's wife, Donna. Mary Jane Wiley and Goldie Davis had interesting projects for the children in Sabbath School. Priscilla Hawkins cheerfully prepared and directed the choir, while Jeannine Winn Miller accompanied all on the piano.

There are more blessings to tell about. We had special music by Bronson James, Nathan Olgibee, David Shoemaker and the choir. There was a picnic, luncheon for all followed by the youth picnic, a senior luncheon (planned by Goldie Davis), fun show (produced by Bobby and Anne Whitt) and family dance (produced by Jeannine Winn Miller and Goldie Davis). Goldie Davis, that name has a familiar ring. Next year we really should find something for Goldie to do. Kateena LeForge gave a concert again this year. Her concert was versatile and if possible, better than last year. She included "Mary Did You Know" and "Four Days Late" to the delight of many in attendance.

Nancy Miles provided the young among us with an informative display and her Love Birds award went to Frank and Jerri Baker. Ruthie Weed once again provided a gift for all the ladies. Also her neighbor, who wasn't at the Feast, contributed gifts as well. By the way, Ruthie has already started on gifts for next year.

On Wednesday before Charles Groce's sermon, four children were blessed. Trevor and Dillon Gregory, and Izaya Lebron Gaston. There is an amazing story that goes with the blessing of Izaya. The following relatives of Izaya were present: parents, Charles and Amanda Johnson Gaston; grandmother, Barbara Johnson Shanks; great grandfather, James E. Lawson; uncle, Aaron Johnson, Westville, IL; and not present, uncle, Adam Johnson, Covington, IN. With the exception of the uncles, all are from Danville, IL. Now for the rest of the story. Izaya was born October 2, 2006. That isn't a typo. Four days old when brought to the Feast, five days old the first day of the Feast, and nine days old when blessed.

There's more. On Friday, Trevor and Dillon's parents, Matthew and Diane Gregory, were baptized. As I watched the boys taking pictures of the baptism, I think they were the most excited of all.

One more blessing! Every year there is a first for at least one of us. This year was a first for many of us. We met a special lady from Georgia. Her name is Dahlia Sikes. Dahlia was baptized forty-eight years ago and although she kept the Feast by herself, this is the first time she was actually able to attend at a Feast site. She is a delightful lady and all of us are looking forward to seeing her again.

Although there were two who were ill that we were aware of, Lloyd Cary (at Myrtle Beach) and Jimmy Woods, we have been told Lloyd was out of the hospital and back at the Feast in a matter of days; and, Jimmy Woods, who had been hospitalized in Benton, Kentucky, was later transferred to Jackson, Tennessee. Don Way suffered a fall while at the Feast and had to be hospitalized after returning home. We continue to keep all of them in our prayers.

We must once again thank Bob Tackett and James Pollitte, our Feast Coordinators, for putting together a blessing for all. Thank you for also being there to aide or assist whenever necessary.

This was a very satisfying Feast. There were other acts of kindness not mentioned here. Many others pitched in to do what was needed without assigned responsibilities. Much like a loving and blessed family. It's too bad so few have accepted this Feast and the plan that is unfolding. Mr. Groce has summed it up. "*No God, No Peace—Know God, Know Peace.*" *What a blessing!* 'Til we meet again. □

Submitted by Alice Edwards Lauria

## Kenya, Africa



**Mr. Isaac Gwaro Motanya and the members of Kenya, Africa**

**F**or the second time, we held the Feast of Tabernacles in our home. We had a camp, giving food and accommodation for ten people, and seventy people were staying in Marsh Park Hotel Kenya, where they were paying for accommodation, supper and breakfast. It was a time of learning and refreshment. Eighty blessed brethren joined with us.

As noted earlier, we had few facilities in the home where we kept the Feast, and for this we had to rent some facilities. Thanks be to God for a timely season for the Feast. Subject to the many blessings, we had no rain, hence a successful environment.

On 6th October 2006, evening visitors arrived from far places which made up 30 local congregations.

On 6th October, we all began the Feast by singing hymns which were chosen at random by those who were present. Every one turned in for a good night's rest in preparation for the first holy day service.

The first message of the Feast was opened by Mr. Isaac Gwaro Motanya, showing us the importance of the holy Feast for all the eight days long. The afternoon sermon was delivered to us by Mr. Matwetwe and Morris Otoki, which was entitled "Repentance." He basically introduced the elements of repentance into



**Isaac Gwaro Motanya and co-workers after holding the Bible Study.**

details. We had a Bible Ball this first night of the Feast. Kennedy presented it calmly.

On 7th, Eric Otara and Meshack Masanta sermonized the real "light" in a Christian way. He explained how we should always be ready to walk in the light out of the dark. The sermon was brought to us by Isaac Gwaro Motanya entitled "The Return of Christ." He explained to us that we should be patient enough and wait for His return. The day's activity took all of us to Manga Hill. The nice landscapes challenged the skills of the tapes we had.

On 8th, Mr. Charles Makori and Nehemiah Nyabuto gave a split sermon while Mr. Motanya gave the sermon of the day.

Mr. Motanya's sermon was entitled "Putting God First" in all we do. The love of God was manifest to us for we were thought to love others to become more like God. Our family day at this third day was the highlight of the Feast, where many games, sports, and activities were enjoyed. It was a joyous day which brought unity among the brethren.

On 9th, Jacob Ogari, Boaz O. Amkono and Richard Rambeka Okemwa sermonized on investing in God. They taught much about tithing and its importance.

On 10th, Isaac Motanya's sermonette was entitled "The Biblical Effect." It is very effective as it is changing our lives.

On 11th, Jacob delivered up a message entitled "Roman 3," and later on, the children's prayer was put on by all the youths, which brought a lasting impact on the crowd.

On 12th, Michael welcomed us into another year's Feast.

On 13th, we had a split sermon from Gideon Ong'ondi and Onsoti Oseko.

We thank God for those who kept God's Feast around all over the world. We all welcome visitors for next years feast 2007 Iif God allows. God bless you all abundantly. □

Submitted by Isaac Gwaro Motanya.

# Feast Reports, 2006

## Australian Feast Report

**H**ow do we describe each year's Feast of Tabernacles? "The Best One Yet!" The 2006 Feast held in beautiful "Down Under, Australia" was another superb time for our brethren to enjoy God's blessings each day and evening. We had the added joy of having Bob and Pansy Alcorn from Waterloo, Iowa with us. Bob shared the speaking schedule with Herb. We heard wonderful sermons from both of them.

To attempt to give a concise account of our times together could possibly take up an awful lot of time and space, but here goes.

On Wednesday evening, Herb and I set off for the Feast, and it was the first time I have hit and killed a kangaroo. God was with us, as the only damage was a pushed in front bonnet of the car and a headlight hanging out. Herb managed to get the headlight going OK, and the car hood stayed down for the whole Feast, even though it had a tendency to lift and flap about 2" every so often. There have been quite a few people killed from hitting kangaroos, so we know God was looking after us.

Thursday, Bob and Pansy arrived at the Ballina Airport from the USA via Sydney. We met them at Ballina Airport and drove them to their unit.

On Friday evening, to begin the Feast, we had a get-together at our new meeting place in Ballina, the Richmond Room, right on the Richmond River. It was a wonderful choice of venue, and everyone soon settled in with chairs, lectern, coffee, etc. all set up in no time. Then it was time to get together and have a quick hymn-along. A great blessing for us was having a piano player for the first time. Pansy played all the hymns for us for each service. It was really lovely to sing accompanied by live music.

Sabbath morning we had 10 AM services, with a great sermon from Herb, then a wonderful catered meal. In the afternoon, Bob gave us a very informative sermon on "Putting God Above All Else." We had plenty of good spiritual food and physical food on that day. We enjoyed a good gentle walk to the take-away shop that evening, Pansy, Bob, Herb, and myself, to get a small meal to eat in the unit. It was a great way to finish the first day of the Feast.

Sunday morning, people were still getting settled into their accommodations, so the morning was free. A few of us went to Shelly's On the Beach for morning tea, and to continue chatting non-stop. Afternoon services began at 2.30, and Bob gave another great sermon titled "The Kingdom Of God." All the brethren who could went out for dinner that evening.

Monday, 10 AM, Herb gave a very good sermon on "Endurance." Bob and Sonja Schofield took Herb, Bob and Pansy to see the Tea Tree Plantation and also Macadamia Castle, where you see wonderful Australian birds and animals. (I went to the shops to buy bits and pieces).

Tuesday, 10 AM, Bob gave a great sermon on "The Holy Spirit." Following the service, we all went to a family BBQ at the Fish Farm in Ballina, a wonderful new attraction we hadn't been to before. Most of us had a wonderful time fishing in the lakes, catching fish in between BBQ and still more chatting and eating. Quite a few of us went out for dinner at Shaw's Bay that evening.

Wednesday, 10 AM, Bob once again gave the sermon, "Faith, How Important Is It." In the afternoon, we had a Ballina River Cruise which was absolutely lovely; the weather was good to us, and we sailed happily up river for an hour, had afternoon tea on the boat, and then sailed back down again. It was a wonderful way to spend an afternoon, admiring all the birds and looking out for dolphins. Family Night at Sheffield's was the next event that day. We all went out to dinner and then to our units. What a fun filled night, with most of us playing a question and answers board game! Great hilarity was had by all.

Thursday, we were all down to "Shelly's On The Beach" café for breakfast, a tradition that we have had for 9 years now. After breakfast and walks on the beach, four of the men went off to their golf game—another tradition. (Very pleased to see Alex and Mercy's eldest son caddy for Herb. Thank you, Paul). Some of the women had a lovely time going around to the shops in Ballina. We had a lovely evening sermon by Herb about animals, entitled "Study All."

By Friday, the Feast was galloping along far too quickly for all of us. Another 10 AM service with Herb teaching us all about "Our Enemy—Pride." As always,

**"Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." (Leviticus 23:42 43)**

it it was a very informative experience for us all. We all drove to Alstonville to visit "The House With No Steps" and enjoyed a wonderful lunch and sight-seeing trip around this unique place. It is an industry operated by disabled people. They are the happiest of people going about their work, picking and packing their own fruit produce, from macadamia nuts to avocados and all the rest of the wonderful fruits Australia is so well known for. Also, they are in the hospitality industry with their extremely well-run restaurant and café, and their craft and produce shop. It's a must for all visitors who come to visit with us! We went back home to our units, then to the hall for a Bible Study to begin "The Last Great Day" conducted by Bob.

Now to the Last Great Day: Bob gave a wonderful sermon relating to the Last Great Day. After church services (and singing "God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again") we once again enjoyed a beautiful catered meal. None of us really wanted to leave and go our separate ways. We all agreed to meet for dinner at McGinty's Irish Pub that evening, a great way to end a truly wonderful 2006 Feast of Tabernacles!

As an added bonus, Bob and Pansy changed their flight to Sydney, enabling them to stay in Ballina until Thursday, which was the day Zoltan, Dianne, Danjard, and David and Carol (plus Herb and myself) were going home; so we added four extra days of sightseeing and visiting and enjoying each other's company. □

*Submitted by Tui Haupt*

## Wagoner, Oklahoma Report

**F**aith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Romans 11:1). There is, at every Feast, a theme that presents itself through sermons, sermonettes, conversations, and experiences. This year at the Feast of Tabernacles in Wagoner, Oklahoma, at the Western Hills Resort, that theme was faith!

It is no coincidence that these themes appear. God is in control of His household, and He always makes known to His children His instruction. If we listen to the sermons and sermonettes and pay heed to the instructions God is giving us, we will leave the Feast prepared for those battles we are sure to face the following year.

Ministers who speak at the Feast do not contact each other to compare notes. Nor does the home office send out theme notes to those ministers for them to follow. The ministers pray and fast and seek God for what He would have them to say. Men like Ron Elkins, Jim Arnold, Wayne Turnbull, Carl Fritz, Frank Marang, Orville Bumgardner, and Vance Stinson, are all ministers with one thing in mind: getting the Word of God out. This year that word was *faith*!

Sermons titled "The Kingdom of God," "A Study in Prophecy," "We Are Being Watched," "Are We Friends With God?" "A Special People to God," "A Roadmap to Salvation," "God's Permissive Will," "Seek Council and Go to God," and "The Resurrections" gave us vital information on preparing ourselves for what will come our way this next year. And hearing from young ministers in training like Denny Ledford and the teen Sabbath school and teen activities leader Daniel DeJarnette, who both gave uplifting sermonettes, inspired us to see better things in our daily living. Indeed Denny, "It is a good day to have a *great day*!" And wonderful special music was presented for our spiritual blessing and joy; for songs sung to the Lord are a joy for us. "The Joy of the Lord is our strength." The Feast, with all its services and family-oriented activities, teaches us the will of our Heavenly Father, which is to set aside our differences and work together as a family to get the Word out.

This year the Feast was even more special for us because our local congregation worked together to help a new couple attend their first ever Feast of Tabernacles, which culminated in the baptism of our very own Mr. John Paul Parker. This was a group effort that involved the entire church. But we are told in Scripture that the church is the Body of Christ, so it is only fitting that the only way to be a growing fruitful Church of God is by working together so others can see the joy in our fellowship and want to be a part of it. Our personal lives are to be a shining light in this dark and lost world to those we come in contact with every day. Over time, they grow interested in what it is that makes us different, and they come to our fellowship to see for themselves what it is. If our church family is in unity when those visitors arrive, they feel it and want to stay. If our church family is disgruntled and in strife, they leave; or worse, they never come to begin with.

One new member of our local church asked this question at the Feast this year, "Why can't every day be like these days?" The answer: They can—if we only have faith!

God willing, we will see you in Wagoner in 2007 to hear what the good Word will be. □

*Submitted by David Beckerdite*

## A Mini-Feast In Ohio

**D**ue to age, medical problems, finances, and transportation issues, some of the brethren in Bath, Ohio had to enjoy the Feast of Tabernacles at their local church site.

On the first day of the Feast in Bath we had an introductory tape by Bill Watson and Bronson James, which was an informative inspiration in itself. Tom Walker led the services in song, with Anson Walker giving the prayer. A very upbeat sermon tape from 2004 was given by Vance Stinson concerning the Feast of Tabernacles and why we must keep it.



Afterwards, a superb dinner was set out and prepared by Tom and Brenda Walker. Brenda, our artistic member, had a table set up fit for royalty. Everything was done up in gold and crystal place settings, tablecloths, and floral decorations.

And who prepared the dinner? None other than our own Tom Walker himself! His brother Anson said, "I helped, I stirred."

The meal consisted of a delicious meatloaf, side plates of chicken and turkey ham, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes and a great salad prepared by Brenda. Homemade rolls, cookies and a pie were provided by Dianna Bowman and a cake by Bella McCandless.

Those in attendance were Tom, Brenda, and Candace Walker, Anson Walker and his three children, Dianna, Rebecca and Shannon Bowman, Bill Shelton, Joann Shelton, Bella McCandless, and Tom Blose. The minister of the church we rent our hall from, Mr. Tom Myers, was a special guest.



The services ended with a delightful fellowship for all.

The Last Great Day turned out to be as exciting as the first. We had a new visitor, Nancy Blose, sister of Tom Blose. She is a high school teacher from Onley, VA.

Tom Walker led the service in songs, and Anson in prayer. We had special music by Rebecca Bowman, singing "Amazing Grace" a cappella.

We had a taped sermon from 2004 by Roger King, who always gives a rousing sermon along with some very good chuckles. His theme was about what the Last Day means to us.

After services we sat down to another exquisite meal. Set up by Brenda, side dishes prepared by her and husband Tom, and baked chicken/cheese with wine sauce by Dianna. Desserts were also provided by Brenda and Bella.

Our Feast day came to a close with great fellowship and praise to God that we were able



**Zoë Walker (she's the little one) and Rebecca Bowman**

to participate in these holy days.

Many thanks go out to the minister Tom Myers, of the Ghent Christian Church, who rents their fellowship hall to us; and to our own pastor, Bill Watson, for working with Tom and Brenda Walker in making it possible for us to meet and celebrate the Feast days. May God Bless you all!

Submitted by  
Dianna Bowman



**Bill and Joann Shelton  
Livin' it up!**

## DAHLIA, SWEET DAHLIA

**A Flower Waiting To Bloom**

**In the baptismal waters far, far away from our time,  
(some 48 years ago) there was written in the  
Book of Life the name of Dahlia Sykes.**



**Bronson James introducing Dahlia Sykes.**

**I**t was truly a pleasure and honor to meet a lady who has been so very faithful to our God for 48 years from baptism to this day!

She lives north of Atlanta, Georgia and was baptized by Mr. Bryce Clark and Mr. David Antion on a "baptizing tour" over 48 years ago. Her husband would not let her go to church all those years; but that would not deter her from studying God's Word and remaining faithful to Him in prayer and obedience. Her husband has recently become disabled to the point of having to be put in a nursing home.

She called Tyler and they put her in touch with Mr. Ferrell Vincent. She told Barbara and Ferrell Vincent that she wanted to go the Feast of Tabernacles, so she flew into Louisville from Atlanta, Georgia. She traveled to the Feast of Tabernacles and also stayed with the Vincent's at the Feast.

This was her very *first* Feast of Tabernacles, which was, in this case, also her very *first* church service in the Church of God.

Mr. Bronson James heard her story and introduced her to those attending the Feast at Land Between the Lakes, Kentucky.

For those who did get to meet her, I think they would agree she is truly a delightful person and pretty much one of a kind.

Dahlia: As you have been in our spiritual fold, welcome now to our physical fold as our sister in Christ. Thank you for your faithfulness and your good example of steadfastness.

May God bless you and keep you, Mrs. Dahlia Sykes. Love ya. Mean it. ☐

Submitted by Goldie Davis

### What You need To Know About "The Ten Commandments"

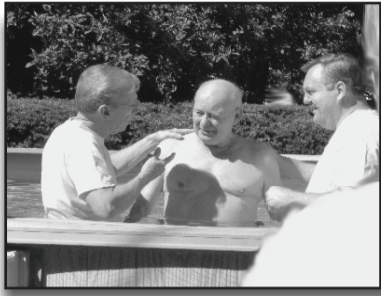
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# Church News



Wayne Hendrix, Nick Beavers, Lloyd Cary

## Baptism in Toledo, Ohio

**A**ugust 12, 2006 – Pastor Wayne Hendrix and deacon Lloyd Cary baptized Nick L. Beavers into the Family of God after Sabbath services on August 12, 2006. Eighteen members, along with eight friends and neighbors, attended this joyous event. The location was the swimming pool of member and treasurer Richard Majewski in Toledo. The water was a little chilly, but “most refreshing,” according to Wayne and Lloyd. Nick Beavers has been attending the C.G.I. services for several years.

Because of ongoing health and family problems, Mr. Beavers would appreciate the earnest prayers of all.

After the baptism everyone enjoyed a scrumptious picnic lunch. Val and Heather Flores, good friends and neighbors of Mr. Majewski, organized and manned the grills. A great time was had by all. Congratulations, Nick! □

*Submitted by Richard Majewski*

## Do You Believe in Miracles... Now?

**D**o you believe in miracles? If by chance you need to be convinced, read on. For about a year, Jan, a resident of Morehead, Kentucky, had been feeling tired and listless. She was told about a Maysville, Kentucky doctor, who in turn sent her to a Lexington, Kentucky doctor. After a number of tests and X-rays, it was determined that Jan had cancer in both lungs and one lymph node. The prognosis was not good. Without treatment, she was given only four months to live, and eighteen months with treatment.

Jan is the wife of Merrill Jones, a member of the Morehead, Kentucky congregation of the *Church of God International*. She was scheduled for radiation and chemotherapy treatment, because her doctor wanted to reduce the size so the remaining cancer could be surgically removed. Throughout the treatment she had MRIs and checkups, but the treatment was causing so much damage she had to stop about half-way through. Her throat swelled to the point that her esophagus opening was about the size of a pea, her stomach was badly “burned” by radiation and hardly functional according to her doctor. She was unable to eat or do much of anything, and a feeding tube was inserted for over ten weeks to provide nourishment. Eventually her throat healed enough for her to eat a little. During all of this, she fell and broke a rib. There were several trips to the ICU because of pneumonia, and her kidneys had shut down. Jan was close to death three times. It was during one of the two bouts with pneumonia that she suffered arrhythmia and Merrill was told Jan was dying. Merrill was asked if he wanted the doctors to “shock her heart.” Merrill called his pastor for counseling. As her husband and sons gathered around, Jan came to and said, “I want a drink” of water. At one point she had a heartbeat of 197, which is near levels of tachycardia and cardiac arrest, with a 103 degree fever, and the consideration of shock treatment that wasn’t used. It was during one of those periods in ICU, as Jan tells us, that she “saw a light about the size of a business card.” The card was blank and she asked God what it meant. He answered, “He would tell her later.” She took that to mean He had more for her to do in order to fill in the card.

We have a habit at Morehead of clustering around the door each Sabbath greeting each other with a handshake or hug, and a cherry “Hello.” This particular Sabbath was

no different as far as it goes, and yet it turned out to be very different. The door opened and in walked Jan and Merrill Jones. Jan had never looked better. For a few moments, we were surprised and speechless. Jan was sick and trying to overcome cancer, or so we thought. The last CAT scan that was done in late January/early February showed only a scar and *no* cancer. Jan’s Lexington surgeon, as well as other doctors, declared Jan’s recovery a MIRACLE. Jan’s healing is not one we can point to and say, “See, she can walk again or now she can see.” We don’t have pictures to show, but her doctors do. They have the CAT scans and MRIs. We can see a happy lady with a healthy appetite. There is undeniable proof that God touched her with His healing hand and took away the cancer.

If you have any intention of asking Jan about her miracle, be prepared to *listen* to a lady with praise and thanksgiving for our Savior. As stated before, the congregation was speechless that Sabbath, but we didn’t have to say anything. Jan was ready, willing and able to do the talking. “Praise the Lord” was a frequent phrase she used.

Jan often worships with us, as her health permits, even though she is a member of the Freewill Baptist Church and was anointed by her minister. She is most appreciative of all the well wishes, the prayers, and the visitors. It was during a visit by James and Carol Pollitte that James prayed one of the most beautiful prayers Jan had ever heard. Marilyn Kidd was a frequent visitor and took food for her. Ferrell and Barbara Vincent visited Jan at home and prayed for her. It was the compassion that she remembers most and not the pain of her suffering.

Jan still has some medical problems, but she doesn’t have to fight cancer in order to overcome those problems. And she will overcome with the help of continued prayers and her undeniable faith. She hasn’t forgotten it was God’s hand that healed her or to give Him the praise and glory.

During her illness and recovery period, the Jones’ business suffered, but it has now picked up and is better than ever.

On April 19, 2006, Jan learned she is *cancer free* and the scar is smaller.

Now tell me, do you believe in miracles...now? □

*The above events are as told by Jan and Merrill Jones.*

*Submitted by Alice Edwards Lauria*



## Sabbath Services and Infuse Meeting in California

See details by Mike James  
on page 15.



## CGI Campout at Rathtrevor Park, British Columbia

**J**uly, 2006– Eric and Angela Jantzen hosted our annual campout at 374 Hector Rathtrevor Park, situated on the inner inlet of Vancouver Island. Campers enjoyed a sun-baked sandy beach stretching out three quarters of a mile at low tide, and sparkling warm waters. Trailers and tents nestled cozily among old growth Douglas fir, hemlock, balsam, western red cedar, spruce, arbutus and maple trees. Brethren enjoyed six days of camping under spectacular sunny skies.

John Coish and his family from Kitchener, Ontario, joined Eric and Angela and brethren on Vancouver Island. Young and old relaxed in the sun, read good books at the beach, watched birds, fellowshiped around a crackling campfire, and ate meals of piping hot chili, salad, and garlic bread. Many participated in the many friendly hours of croquet played under the shade of giant trees where some held others hostage with their croquet mallets. Eric made stacks of delicious pancakes served with thick maple syrup and beef bacon for a few breakfasts.

Children rode bikes, played cards, roasted wieners and marshmallows, built castles in the sand, or simply blew bubbles into the air and then captured them. But most of



Blowing bubbles

all, they took pleasure in the companionship of other children. Going in groups, they also played 18-hole mini-golf just up the road.

Campers enjoyed many visitors who stayed a day or two or just for an afternoon. All joined in to partake of the leisurely camaraderie, conversation, and getting to know each other better. One of the games organized by John was a balloon throw in which everyone shared in the fun. It wasn’t over until Eric and John and a few others were sopping wet! □

All in all, everyone agreed—camping was a huge success, and everyone looks forward to the sixth campout.

*Submitted by Jean Jantzen*



Balloon toss

## Great Pentecost Celebration in Jamaica

**S**ome 215 brethren met in Kingston for Pentecost celebration on Sunday, June 4, 2006, combining their voices in rapturous praise as they thanked God for their special calling as firstfruits.

There were special songs and poetry readings from the brethren, as well as a choir performance as the brethren rejoiced in their calling ahead of the vast majority of mankind. In my sermon, I spoke on the *Da Vinci Code*, pointing out that indeed there had been a conspiracy against the truth, but that God had miraculously kept His church pure doctrinally.

Tracing the errors of Calvinism, Lutheranism, Marcionism, Ebionism, Gnosticism, and Pelagianism, I made the point that God had preserved the faith once delivered to the first-century church down to the twentieth century. "God divinely guided Mr. Herbert Armstrong into the fundamental truths of Scripture, and in human terms it is amazing how he avoided some of the major pitfalls and errors of churchianity," I told them. The brethren were literally on the edge of their seats as I went into church history, the process of canonization, and the heresies of the early centuries and post-Reformation period.

In the afternoon, George Ramocan spoke about the significance of the fifty days and why we needed to count the days. It was a fascinating presentation. At the end of the day, the brethren were stimulated and reinvigorated for work in the vineyard.

Meanwhile, reports coming from our associated congregations in Spanish Town and Maroon Town were laced with superlatives as God moved mightily among the brethren there. Approximately 30 met in Maroon Town and 50 in Spanish Town. So approximately 300 CGI-affiliated brethren met here for Pentecost. All rejoiced to be a part of God's true church now preparing to be reaped at the first resurrection. □

*Submitted by Ian Boyne*

## Two Ministerial Candidates Added to the M.A.P. Program

**G**ood news continues to come from the land of paradise: the island of Jamaica. Pastor Ian Boyne has recently sponsored two new candidates into the Ministerial Apprentice Program.

Over the last ten years, the Jamaican Church of God, International has exploded. Commencing from just a handful of people, today the membership and/or affiliation on the island is beginning to approach four hundred. This has been due, in part, to some recent associations with other Sabbath keeping congregations resulting from evangelistic efforts conducted by Pastor Boyne and sponsored primarily by the Kingston and Ocho Rios congregations.

Over the years, the combination of the Armor of God radio and TV programs, in conjunction with public Bible lectures and personal invitations, this work of God has presently become one of the fastest growing areas. It has resulted in many ordinations to the deaconate, but now most recently, two candidates for the M.A.P. program. They are Mr. George Ramocan and Mr. Glenford Smith. Both are long time members of God's church currently serving the congregations of Jamaica, both in the capacity of deacons.

Mr. Glenford Smith is married to his lovely wife Aldith and is an electrical

service as a senator in the Jamaican government. This has prepared him well for the service he has been providing to the brethren there in Jamaica and for the scheduled traveling he is doing, on behalf of the ministry as a speaker, conducting Church services and public Bible studies. He, like Mr. Smith, is multi-talented and has been quite beneficial over the years ministering to married couples with a program he generated, with the help of others, to educate married couples on how to enhance their relationships.



**George and Lola Ramocan, Ian Boyne, Glenford and Aldith Smith.**

Both these men are fine examples and additions to the M.A.P. program. We offer our congratulations to both of them and hope the best for them as they endeavor to embark on this road for greater service. Pastor Boyne has sponsored both of them, recognizing the need for additional ministerial help due to the growth Jamaica has been blessed with by God. It would appear this is very timely considering the trends of increased growth and additional potential presented for more new people throughout the Island. Jamaica is on the move! □

## Ministerial Conference Held at Fayetteville

**A** special morning assembly was held at the *Fayetteville Church of God International* building on August 5, 2006, with approximately 50 persons present. The worship service was opened with Denny Ledford leading the congregation in three hymns followed by Bronson James' testimony and music, "It Is Well With My Soul."



**Ministerial Conference in Fayetteville. Speaker, Art Hulet.**

Wayne Turnbull welcomed the congregation and introduced the morning speaker, Art Hulet. Pastor Hulet exhorted us to consider God's commandments. He started with Genesis 1:28, with comments on 2:16-17,24, and concluded with a glimpse of mankind's calling and destiny, focusing especially on verses 8, 39, and 40 of Hebrews chapter 11.

A time of fellowship followed, including a delicious meal, the baptism of Bonnie Robin Rich, and visiting together, greeting old friends and making new ones.

At 3:00 PM, the ministerial conference met with 20 ministers, ministerial candidates, and wives, noting that we must become aware of others' needs and provide to meet those needs.

The consensus is that we should hold services like these on a regular basis for the benefit of all.

Our congregation is blessed with seasoned servants. On September 2, 2006, we celebrated C. L. Osterloh's 80th birthday, and the following Sabbath we celebrated Carl Fritts' 92nd birthday. Each celebration included refreshments and good fellowship. □

*Submitted by Mary Ramer*



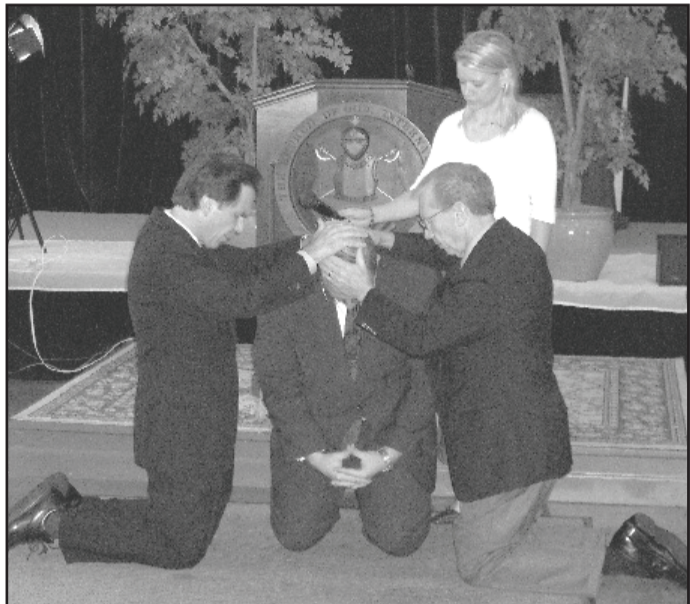
**George Ramocan, Ian Boyne, Glenford Smith.**

engineer by education. However, recently he is endeavoring to commence a motivational development company of his own. He hopes this will help him to have better control of his time, minimizing conflict and enabling him to serve the church more freely. Presently, he is serving the Kingston congregation as choir leader and music coordinator. Both he and his wife contribute greatly to the music ministry with singing and playing instruments. They are a fine example of Christian dedication and commitment evidenced by many years of faithful service to the people of God in Jamaica.

Mr. George Ramocan is also married to his lovely wife Lola and currently is a business owner serving the Jamaican people with automotive services similar to that of the Automobile Club (AAA) in the United States. Mr. Ramocan has an interesting history in Jamaican politics, which included many years of

# Tony Buchert Ordained Into God's Ministry

**T**he Church of God International continues to add ministers to its evangelistic work and consequently the ministry of Jesus Christ. It was last year at the Feast of Tabernacles when Mike James was ordained as the first graduate from the Ministerial Apprentice Program (MAP). This year, at the Feast of Trumpets, the CGI ordained its second graduate, Mr. Tony Buchert.

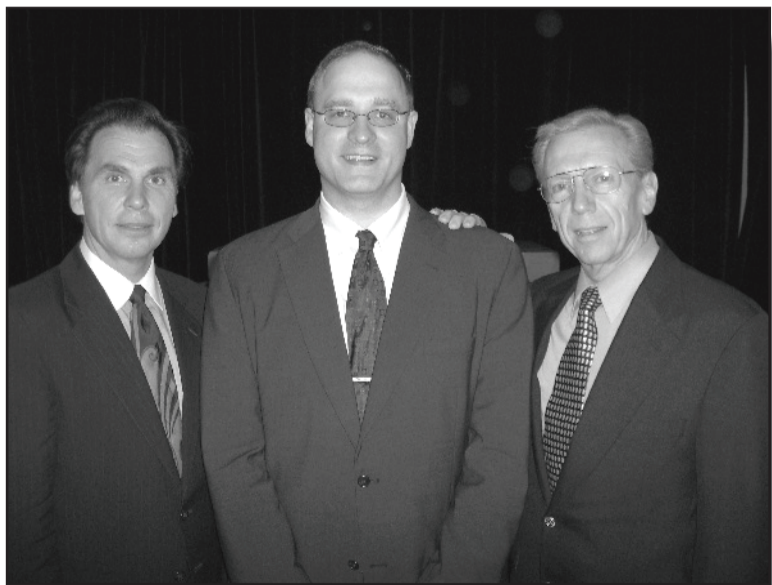


With over 100 people in attendance for combined services on this beautiful fall Holy Day in Bath, Ohio, brethren from Pennsylvania and Ohio witnessed this wonderful event. It concluded approximately two and a half years of *course work* that required written, speaking, witnessing and/or participating in assignments directly related to ministerial functions under the tutelage of Mr. Bill Watson.

Over the last eleven years, Tony and his lovely wife Angie have proven to be very helpful in serving God's people. Married for over twelve years, this dedicated team brings a lot of talent to the brotherhood of the ministry. Their dedication has proven to be a valuable stabilizing factor in the Columbus, Ohio area where they attend.

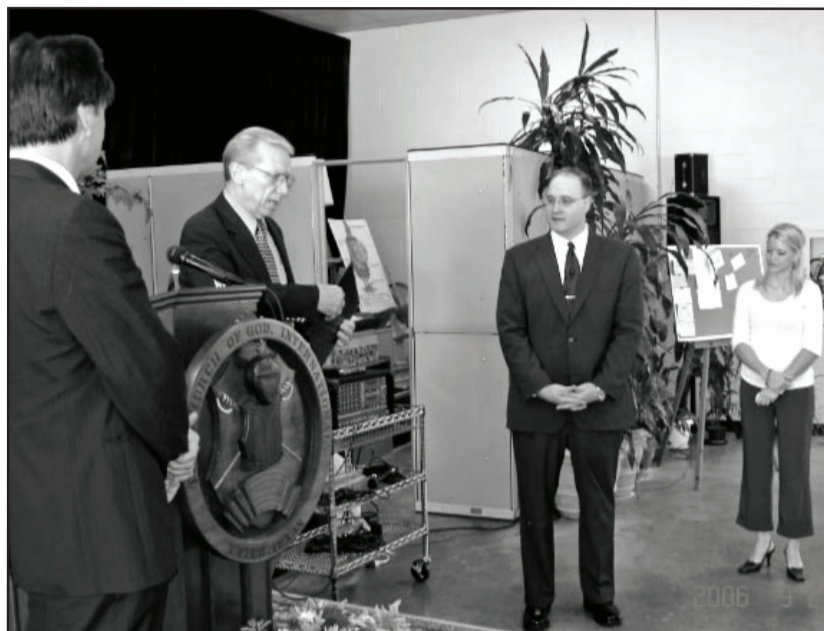
With the help of many fine people in the Columbus congregation, Tony has been able, in combination with Angie, to contribute valuable services in speaking, song leading, piano playing and Sabbath school teaching. Currently their involvement has expanded with additional responsibilities for Tony with the Infuse program and Angie, who now is responsible for the Feast of Tabernacles Sabbath School curriculum. Both are very blessed with multiple talents.

Tony currently works as an expediting supervisor for an air freight company while Angie is now entering her twelfth year of teaching for the public school district. Both are trained and certified scuba divers and maintain this as a mutual hobby, breaking away whenever they can to enjoy the isolation that comes from being "down under." As a matter of fact, for a time Tony was a search, rescue, and recovery diver when working for a law enforcement agency as well as a sheriff officer, but decided to resign because of ongoing conflicts with the Sabbath and Holy Days.



**Bill Watson, Tony Buchert, Wayne Hendrix**

Tony Buchert has proved to be a very hard working, dedicated individual for the people of God. The ministry of the Church of God welcomes Tony into the brotherhood and is pleased to announce this exceptional couple's addition to the ministry. May God reward them richly and bless their ministry with mutual blessings and benefits for those they serve. □



**Congratulations, Tony and Angie!**



**Angie and Tony Buchert**

## **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* program 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*

# Those Who Wait on the Lord Shall Renew Their Strength!

Isaiah 40:31

by Carolyn Gardner



Carolyn Gardner

**O**ne of my favorite quotations—one I have used over and over again—goes like this: “True courage isn’t the strength to go on; it’s going on when you don’t have the strength.” If you are at a place in your life where everything is going wrong, if you need help to find the strength to get through, or having been baptized with God’s Holy Spirit you feel guilty for feeling alone and afraid, then please read on, my friend. May the Lord instill in you the hope and light you need right now in your life.

There are some people who, for most of their lives, have been anxious, stressed out, or even depressed. But after receiving the Holy Spirit they felt healed in that they no longer suffered from these worldly afflictions. I was not so fortunate. Sadly, I thought it was because I didn’t have enough faith in the Lord to overcome these things. You can well imagine that this only added guilt to my feelings of anxiety and sadness.

Perhaps this describes your situation. Have you been baptized for some time and still find yourself still struggling with anxiety or worry? Do life’s difficulties still manage to get you down? The tragic part of all this is that it can sometimes lead people to question whether they received God’s Holy Spirit in the first place. After all, if a person did have God’s Spirit, he or she shouldn’t be suffering anymore—right? Wrong!

When we plant a seed in the ground, water it, and go to bed, do we expect to find a full-grown tree upon arising the next morning? Of course not! I believe this same analogy can be applied to those who have been baptized with God’s Holy Spirit. God provides us with the seed, and we provide the fertile soil in which it can grow over time and mature into a full-grown tree that produces spiritual fruits.

Growing in grace, knowledge, *and* faith in the Lord is a continual process. For some of us there are mountains to overcome; for others there are only pebbles. Is one a better Christian than the other, or more righteous? Not at all. For the time being, let’s not focus on the growth of others, but rather let’s focus on our own (Romans 14:12).

In times of despair I have turned to the book of Psalms. There I found a curious verse that literally jumped out at me. This is the verse: “Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait I say, on the Lord” (Psalm 27:14).

When I first read over this passage, I took it to mean that God will make me feel strong. All I have to do is sit back and wait. So I did. At first, I did feel a little more encouraged after reading that scripture, but when I had to go outside and deal with the things that were continually beating me down, I found that I didn’t have the strength anymore. What happened to it? What was wrong with me?

It took me a while to finally understand how the Lord really works with us to help us overcome, and when I began to understand His will, He was able to truly strengthen my heart. Even then, it was not an overnight miracle. It still took some time.

If you go to a gym and sit down at one of the machines, but don’t use it, and then move on to the next one, did you strengthen your biceps? In order to strengthen your muscles, you need to use them. What’s even more fascinating is that in order for a muscle to actually become stronger, it must first become weakened. Weight lifting is actually a process of producing microscopic tears in the muscle tissues. When we go to bed after a day at the gym, our body repairs those tears and actually strengthens the muscle. In many instances, the Lord uses this same process when He wants to strengthen us.

If I hope in the Lord, how will He strengthen my heart? To begin to answer this, I want to share with you a poem. It’s titled “Broken Dreams” and the author is unknown:

As children bring their broken toys  
With tears for us to mend,  
I brought my broken dreams to God  
Because He was my friend.  
But then instead of leaving Him  
In peace to work alone,  
I hung around and tried to help  
With ways that were my own.  
At last I snatched them back and cried  
“How can You be so slow?”  
“My child,” He said, “What could I do?  
You never did let go.”

At Passover we wash another’s feet, but at the same time we also have someone else wash our feet. It is good to be humble enough to get on our knees and serve others as we would serve Christ, but if we do not allow Christ to wash *our* feet, then we have no part with Him (John 13:8). As much as we are willing to help others, we must also be humble enough to stop and let Christ help us.

This is often the most difficult thing we can do because it means putting total

and complete trust in Him, but it is important if we want to allow God to strengthen us. How do we submit to His will? It begins by understanding how He feels about you and what He is willing to do on your behalf. God said to His people, “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them [other nations whom Israel would dispossess]; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you” (Deuteronomy 31:6).

In Isaiah 43, God says, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned nor shall the flame scorch you. Fear not, for I am with you” (verses 1–5).

In Isaiah 41, God says He will hold your right hand, saying, “Fear not, I will help you” (verse 13). While it is true that He is speaking to the nation of Israel, His promise extends to us (spiritual Israel) as well.

In the New Testament, we have Jesus’ own words of comfort: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heaven laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28–30).

Jesus further says, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of my Father’s hand” (John 10:27–29).

In Matthew 18, Christ asks, “What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. Even so it is not the will of our Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish” (verses 12–14).

We can begin to understand that we are precious to God, that He would search for us when we go astray to bring us back, hold our right hand when we walk through trials, and bring us true peace of mind when we share our burdens with Jesus Christ. To summarize what God is willing to do for us, Isaiah 40:29–31 tells us, “He gives power to the weak and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

So *why* do we need to wait on the Lord? Because only He can give us the kind of strength that we really need. We cannot possess this strength on our own, and sometimes it is only by having God-given strength and courage that we can not only overcome life’s obstacles, but also have peace while we are in the process of overcoming! No man-made or self-help remedy will ever be able to do this amazing feat!

There is a catch, however (isn’t there always?). If you want the Lord to hold your hand, you have to take it out of your pocket and hold it out to Him. We don’t have to be afraid that God will slap it back into our face because He clearly says He will always be there to take your hand when you turn to Him and ask for His help. It doesn’t matter how far from the straight and narrow path you have strayed, it is never too late to let God find you again and bring you back. The story of Peter coming to Christ walking on water illustrates this point well:

“But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, ‘Lord, save me!’ And *immediately* [emphasis mine] Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’” (Matthew 15:31–31).

Finally, it is necessary for us to wait on the Lord and to follow His lead, because in order to strengthen that which needs strengthening in your life and produce courage, He may need to take you through the valley of the shadow of death. In other words, He might lead you through situations you’re probably dreading, and He may need to take you to the place you don’t want to go. He has to do this in order for you to truly overcome and make it into the green pastures and still waters of peace. Sometimes there is *no* other way but through the valley. Just as the muscle must be weakened before it can become stronger, so we must also submit ourselves to God’s will and allow Him to walk us through the fire.

Fear not, fellow lambs, His rod and His staff will comfort you and He will neither leave nor forsake you, ever. He is the Captain of your vessel (your mind and body) and He knows better than anyone what you can and cannot handle. He will never give you more than what you are able to withstand (1 Corinthians 10:13).

No matter how bleak things look right now in your life, no matter how far you have strayed, no matter how much you are afraid of hurting, the Lord is there waiting for you to give Him your hand. You are precious to Him and He will guide you out of the wilderness and set your feet back upon the path of life, no matter how many times you have fallen.

“You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, to the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever” (Psalm 30:11–12). Amen. □

### Intolerant, continued from page 1

Certainly today's egalitarian society would excoriate Paul as being the very epitome of intolerance, injustice, and prejudice, and would undoubtedly take legal action against him!

Many professing Christians *are* intolerant and intolerable! Let us be honest. A great number of evangelical Christians, in their zeal and desperation to "get men saved" *are* over-enthusiastic, judgmental, and rude. Some go door-to-door. Others bombard the airwaves with continual haranguing for money. Still others are just blatantly strange. By association, many paint *all* professing Christians with the same brush. It would be well for some to give credence to other Scriptures which give the balance: "Give *not* that which is holy unto the dogs, *neither* cast ye your pearls before swine, *lest* they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you" (Matthew 7:6), and "Speak *not* in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words." (See Proverbs 23:9; 9:7 and 26:4-5). Christ even went so far as to say, "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet" (Matthew 10:14). As an aside, this was done when there was an absolute rejection of the gospel the apostles taught. It was a symbolic act, signifying that all responsibility for the stubborn household or city had ended. (Compare Mark 6:11; Luke 9:5; Acts 13:51.) The fact remains that Christians should *never* try to force their religion down someone else's throat. In fact, he cannot legitimately do so. "No man *can* come to me," Christ said, "except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44). Those who militantly attempt to "convert" others may well set up resentment and a sometimes insurmountable wall of resistance!

What, then, is the balance? Should we *not* be witnesses of the truth for fear of "offending" others? Must we be "politically correct" to the point of becoming mute? The disciples prayed that God would grant that they might speak His word with *all boldness* (Acts 4:29).

The perceived intolerance of well-meaning, but misguided, Christians is a direct result of misunderstanding some of the basic teachings of its founder Jesus Christ, who, today, would undoubtedly be described by many "do-gooders" as the *most* "intolerant" and "politically incorrect" man who ever lived! Although Jesus was loving and associated with all manner of people (Mark 2:16), He was *not* "tolerant" of sin, untruth, or their "alternative lifestyles." Jesus confronted immoral behavior at every opportunity and even had the audacity to tell people to *stop* practicing their sinful behavior! (John 5:14; 8:11).

As noted, Jesus declared, "no man can come unto Me, except it were given unto him of My Father" (John 6:65). And, "all that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). Because of unawareness of God's Master Plan as revealed through His Holy Days, most who tout the Christian's banner do not realize that not everyone is being called at this time. The time of their calling will be later, in the second resurrection (Revelation 20:5). Of those who *do* respond to the call, Jesus commanded His followers to "teach [or make disciples of] all nations... teaching them to observe *all* that I commanded *you*" (Matthew 28:19-20), and to "preach the gospel [the good news of Christ's soon-coming Kingdom on earth] to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Jesus did *not* tell them to "force" the truth upon all non-believers. He did *not* say to compromise with the world. Nor did He say to be tolerant of, or to

accept, all other religions as being true or equal to His teachings. He warned, "For *many* shall come in My name, *saying*, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:5). On at least one occasion He went on to make one of the most "intolerant" statements that any religious leader has ever made:

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6), and that He alone revealed the Father (Matt. 11:27; Luke 10:22).

## The primary reason Christians are often labeled "intolerant" today is because the politically correct definition of tolerance has changed over the years.

These statements alone, according to Jesus Christ, reveal that all other religions and religious ideas *cannot* be true! No religion other than Christianity claims that Jesus is the *only* way to God. Think! Jesus was either telling the truth and He *is* the only way to God... or He was a liar and Christianity is just another false religion. His claims were just that vital!

So, *is* it being unbending and narrow-minded to claim that Christianity is the *only* true religion? *Not if you believe your Bible and Jesus Christ!* Bible-believing Christians do not claim Christianity is the only way because they are arrogant, narrow-minded, unintelligent, or judgmental. They do so because *they believe their Bibles—they believe what Jesus said!* They believe Jesus Christ, who claimed to be God (John 8:58; Exodus 3:14), who forgave sins (Mark 2:5; Luke 5:20; 7:48), and who rose again from the dead after three days and three nights (Luke 24:24-29, 46; John 2:19). Jesus said that He was the *only* way, not just "a" way among many. There is no disputing that Jesus' teachings are restrictive in part. When all is said and done, we are left with three options: He was either telling the truth, He was mad, or He was lying. But since everyone—even His enemies—agrees that Jesus was a good man, how then could He be both good and mad, or good and a liar? And if Jesus was mad or a liar, you and I have no Savior and are lost in our sins (1 Corinthians 15:17). He had to be telling the truth. He is the only way. He is the greatest man who ever lived! He is the Son of the living God!

Christianity is not just "another religion" or set of man-made narratives; it is a way of life—*God's* way of life (Acts 19:9,23)—revealing a personal relationship with the Father and the Son. Christianity is trusting in Jesus and what He did on the stake (1 Corinthians 15:1-4), not on what we can do for ourselves (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Having said these things, we ask again, "Is Christianity intolerant?" The answer is a qualified yes... and *no*. Let me explain.

### The Intolerance of Christianity

Yes, Biblical Christianity is dogmatically *intolerant* about some things. It is very intolerant of gainsayers who say that Jesus is *not* the way the truth and the life, and that men can get to God through *them* or *their* religious systems of positive thinking or philosophical reasonings. It is also intolerant of those who state that there is *another* way, another gospel, or another name under heaven other than Jesus by which a person can be forgiven of his sins (Galatians 1:6-9; Acts 4:12). It is intolerant of those who say that they can enter into the Kingdom of God by *any other way* than through Jesus. Jesus likened these to thieves and robbers (John 10:1). Jesus was intolerant when He said that He is the one who reveals God the Father to mankind (Luke 10:22). Jesus was even more intolerant of religious hypocrisy when He condemned the religious know-it-alls and called them hypocrites, deceivers, blind, and a generation of vipers (Matthew 23:25-26,33).

Jesus was extremely intolerant of the buying and selling in the Temple and drove the people and animals out by force and overturned their money tables (John 2:13-16).

But Jesus was also intolerant of hatred and commanded us to "love your enemies" (Luke 6:27). Jesus was intolerant of ignorance when He taught the people truth (Matthew 5). Jesus was intolerant of prejudice as demonstrated when He told the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). We do not see evidence of a weak, effeminate,

namby-pamby, compromising Savior on *any* of these issues!

Yes, true Christianity is

intolerant of these things because its founder, Jesus, was intolerant of them. We are to put on the very *mind* of Christ (Philippians 2:5)—we are to make His thought *our* thoughts. We are to love what He loves and hate what He hates. Christianity is intolerant of false gods and false gospels (Galatians 1:8-9). *Why* is it so intolerant? Because true, Biblical Christianity is fashioned after Jesus, its founder and prototype. It is intolerant because there *is* a sin unto death (1 John 5:16-17) and Jesus, who was God in flesh (John 1:1,14; Colossians 2:9), who died for our sins (1 Pet. 2:24), has made the only way to forgiveness a reality: through Him alone (John 14:6) and without Him comes damnation (Romans 6:23).

### The Tolerance of Christianity

It is said that it is difficult for the tolerant to be tolerant of the intolerant. To be truly tolerant is to put the Golden Rule into practice. Many who cry for "tolerance" are in reality opting for special privileges. Tolerance does *not* mean that we automatically accept every one else's beliefs as being equal or true. As Christians, we do not even *have* to entertain their false convictions. "If there come *any* unto you, and bring not *this doctrine*, receive him *not* into your house [into your mind], neither bid him God speed" (2 John 10). Truth must not be sacrificed at the altar of pretended "tolerance." Genuine Christianity is the prime example why all religions cannot be true. Contrary to secular teachings, all religions do *not* teach the same things and therefore they cannot all be true. Things different are not the same! Virtually every world religion other than Christianity teaches that a person can become acceptable to God on the basis of something *they* do—of *their* beliefs or actions in life. In contrast, Christianity teaches that *no* person, no matter what they do, can become acceptable to God through their own actions. The Bible teaches that acceptance by God is based upon the completed work of Jesus Christ, through belief that *His* sacrifice makes us acceptable. We are saved by His grace, not by our works, lest any should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

A Christian cannot logically accept other belief systems as being true while maintaining his own belief system, since they are openly conflicting theologies. Christianity and other religious creeds cannot all be at the same time true, since they teach conflicting beliefs of how one becomes acceptable to God.

The primary reason Christians are often labeled "intolerant" today is because the politically correct *definition* of tolerance has changed over the years. Smooth, non-offending words (Isaiah 30:10) are often a smokescreen used to obscure the truth rather than act as a beacon to reveal it. Truth very often angers those whom it does not fully convince. Unadulterated truth is so stubborn it doesn't apologize to anybody. We never read of Christ or the apostles apologizing for the truth... and neither should we! God's Word is Truth (John 17:17).

On the flip side of the coin, Bible-based Christianity is *very* tolerant. It teaches us to be endlessly

forgiving (Matthew 18:21–22), to be loving, patient kind, honest and wholesome (Galatians 5:22–23; Philippians 4:6–8). We are to even love our enemies (Matthew 5:44)! Jesus taught us to care and to heal and to be living examples of kindness and truth in the world. Yes, Jesus was *intolerant* of religious hypocrisy and bigotry. He was very intolerant of false teachers. He was intolerant of pride, rebellion, sin, covetousness, adultery, lying, cheating, stealing, fornicating, Sabbath breaking, and murder. He was intolerant of husbands treating their wives poorly. He was intolerant of pain and was saddened by suffering. Yet, at the same time He demonstrated the greatest love, patience and forgiveness to those who were guilty of all these things. He forgives all sin repented of. “Go,” He says, “and sin no more” (John 8:11). We are assured, “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us” (Psalms 103:12). That’s a lot of forgiveness! “I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (Isaiah 43:25). “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18). God’s forgiveness is complete and all embracing.

The whole issue of whether or not Christianity is intolerant lies in who Jesus is, what He declared, and what He did. If what Jesus said and did is *true*, then Christianity is *not* intolerant. It is simply true and it is the *world* that is intolerant of *that truth*!

It is *true* that Jesus lived. It is true that Jesus walked on water (Mathew. 8:26–27). It is true that Jesus healed the sick (Matthew 8:5–13). It is true that Jesus calmed a storm with a command (Mark 4:39). It is true that Jesus raised the dead (Matthew 9:25; John 11:43–44) It is true that Jesus claimed to be God (John 5:18; 8:24, 58; Exodus 3:14). It is true that Jesus was killed on a torture stake (Luke 24:20). It is true that Jesus rose from the dead (Luke 24:39; John 20:27). These are not feeble claims made by deluded people who wanted to gain power and fame (2 Peter 1:16). These are the declarations of Christ Himself and of those who followed Him, suffered for Him and died for Him.

Either it is all true... or it is not. The Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35). We are not free to pick and choose. Either Jesus performed miracles—or He did not. Either Jesus rose from the dead as He said—or He did not. Based solely and completely on who Jesus is and what He did, based upon what witnesses saw and died for, Christianity is *the truth* and by necessity all other religions that disagree with Jesus are sadly mistaken.

Jesus said, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him *in spirit* and *in truth*” (John 4:24). *Truth is, by nature, intolerant of falsehood*. They are opposites. If Christianity is not true, then Jesus was not God, then Jesus did not do miracles, then Jesus did not heal the sick, then Jesus did not walk on water, then Jesus did not die and rise from the dead after 72 hours. If Jesus did not do all these things, then those martyrs who gave their lives died for a lie that they *knew* was a lie. But, if He *did* do these things—and He did!—then Christianity stands alone from all the other religions in the world. Only Christianity has the person of Jesus, and Jesus said that He *alone* was the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). What precious truth!

Turn to 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 and read of the very *personification* of tolerance: “Love suffers long, and is kind; love envies not; love vaunts not itself, is not puffed up, does not behave itself rudely, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, keeps no record of evil; rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” Nothing can be more tolerant than this kind of love!

Peter came to Christ, and asked, “Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I *forgive* him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:21–22). What can be more loving, tolerant and forgiving than that?

The bottom line is that Christianity is only as “intolerant” as Jesus is true.

Who, what gives us the right to be right? God’s Word does! We are to live by every word of it (Matthew 4:4). It is the very essence of Truth. It was true from the beginning and always will be (Psalm 119:160).

Back to the question at the head of this article: “Are *you* an intolerant Christian?” The answer is easy: *yes*... and *no*. We are to have the mind of Christ, and consequently are to be tolerant of those things Christ is tolerant of... and intolerant of those things He is not tolerant of. Isn’t that clear?

And that, dear reader, is the way it ought to be. □

### Inspiring M.A.P. Seminar Held in Erlinger, Kentucky

**A**nother lively M.A.P. Seminar was held at the Cincinnati Airport in Erlinger, Kentucky August 18–20, and what a session it was! Classes were given on sermon delivery, the importance of delivery, and servant leadership. Denny Ledford delivered a valuable session on the importance of personal insurance.

The Friday evening to Sunday afternoon meetings were headed by Mr. Charles Groce, Mr. Benjamin Chapman, and Mr. John Coish, and involved each and every M.A.P. member. Emphasis was put not only on the brain, but on the heart. All were required to give three sermonettes based upon our Statement of Beliefs and were evaluated by all. Fun, food, fellowship and “iron sharpening iron” were enjoyed by all.

Of those in attendance were Charles Groce, Ben Chapman, John and Myrna Coish, Alex and Shirley Kennedy, Max Davis, Murray and Lissa Palmatier, Frank and Jerri Baker, Eric and Angela Jantzen, Shane and Hilda Pye, Lloyd and Gail Cary, Jeff Reed, Tony and Angie Buchert, Bill and Kay Russ, Denny Ledford, and Jeff and Carolanne Patton.

On the Sabbath, several others, including many from the Morehead and Ft. Thomas congregations, were in attendance. Shane Pye delivered a split-sermon entitled, “Broken and Spilled,” followed by Jim Paterson with “Christ the Unexpected.”

Everyone is eagerly looking forward to the next exciting M.A.P. Seminar. □



M.A.P. Sabbath Services at Erlinger, KY



### List of Values

- 1) Greatest handicap—fear.
- 2) Best day—today.
- 3) Easiest thing to do—find fault.
- 4) Most useless asset—pride.
- 5) Greatest curse—sin.
- 6) Greatest mistake—giving up.
- 7) Greatest stumbling block—egotism.
- 8) Greatest comfort—work well done.
- 9) Most disagreeable person—the complainer.
- 10) Worst bankruptcy—loss of enthusiasm.
- 11) Best teacher—one who makes you want to learn.
- 12) Greatest need—common sense.
- 13) Meanest feeling—regret at another's success.
- 14) Best feeling—forgiveness.
- 15) Greatest knowledge—God.
- 16) Greatest book in the world—the Bible.
- 17) Most wonderful thing in the world—love.

\* \* \*

CHECK US OUT ON

THE WEB!

WWW.CGI.ORG

Log on to [www.cgi.org](http://www.cgi.org) and...

- Browse the latest issue of *The International News*!
- Read the weekly “Pastor’s Panel” column!
- Listen to or view *past* editions of the Armor of God Program!
- Download lessons of our Home Bible Study Course!
- Watch our weekly *Armor of God* Telecast!
- Listen to sermons!
- Read our online literature library!
- Make prayer requests!
- See our free Infuse Magazine and Youth activities!
- Find local congregations!
- ... and much, *much* more!

# Infuse News

**Mission Statement:**

Teaching Biblical Principles to help young adults establish and maintain their relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ; empowering them to share the gospel and meet the daily challenges of life.

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your Inner faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:16-19).

**Objectives:**

- A.

Magazine

i.

Increase readership

1. Offer magazine subscriptions on-line

2. Contact each local congregation and offer home delivery of the magazine.

ii.

Use a company to do the mailing

1. David Dial will now print and home office will begin mailing magazine as of the Fall 2006 issue.

2. Ann Alpert will find out what format the magazine needs to be printed in and contact Jordana McVey

iii.

Color magazine, slick appearance

1. Charles Groce will obtain a quote for printing in two colors

2. Magazine will increase in quality as is feasible

iv.

Increase writers

1. Request Ministers who have not as yet contributed to Infuse Magazine write one article within the next two years. Mike James will be in contact with the Ministers.

v.

Available in libraries

1. Jordana McVey will start with local Library; waiting for ISSN number.

B.

Feast of Tabernacles

i.

Possible Theme FOT 2007: Family

1. Teaching young adults how to have a good marriage.

2. Teaching young adults how to rear their children.

3. Teaching young adults how to continue in their faith while keeping a good relationship with family who are not believers.

4. Setting Goals and planning for one’s future.

ii.

Additional sites

1. A second Infuse site in three years if resources for a complete Infuse program are made available.

2. Required leadership training of those who will coordinate second site.

iii.

Advertise in local newspaper in Myrtle Beach beginning 2006 to invite community to our services.

iv.

Jeff Reed will prepare a video to be shown at every Feast site educating the congregation on Infuse.

C.

Retreats/Other Events

i.

Events for consideration

1. Camping

2. Canoeing

ii.

Video courses

iii.

Online assignments

D.

Website

i.

Increase hits

1. Through advertising

ii.

Audio Podcasting

1. Make each issue of Infuse available in audio to be downloaded off the Infuse website. Volunteer reader needed. Please contact Noni McVey at noni@cgi.org

2. Future plans for an Infuse podcast which would be approximately 15–20 minutes consisting of a sermonette, current events, announcements etc.

iii.

Jordana McVey will make a music playlist of songs sung at the Feast of Tabernacles available on the website.

iv.

Offer subscription for the Infuse Magazine by capturing addresses.

E.

Advertising

i.

\$300 per month will be spent on Google/Yahoo Infuse ads

ii.

Jeff Reed will create ads to appear on the Armor of God

iii.

Jordana McVey is researching AIR 1 Radio Station

iv.

Jeff Reed will create regular Infuse announcements to be shown on each DVD.

1. Commercials for Feast of Tabernacles

2. Commercial for Website

3. Commercial for Magazine

4. Commercial for Retreat

v.

Request that all websites of local CGI congregations add a link to the Infuse website.

vi.

Advertise regularly in the International News.

vii.

Advertise regularly in Ministers Chronicle.

F.

Members

i.

Share the plan

1. Print strategic plan in International News

2. Request Ministers to present plan to their local congregations

3. Show videos and DVDs created by Jeff Reed, which educate members about Infuse and upcoming Infuse events.

ii.

Funding

1. Educate the members that their generous offerings and tithes have supported the growth of Infuse.

iii.

Create opportunities for members of all ages to participate in Infuse by using their God-given talents.

1. Create an Infuse Board consisting of young adults to plan and execute the Infuse Feast of Tabernacles.

2. Infuse liaison at each local congregation to keep the members informed about Infuse.

**Next Meeting:**

December 2006.

Location is to be announced.

Purpose is to create an Infuse Board, plan the retreat and Infuse Feast of Tabernacles.



# Infuse News

## Infuse Charts Course

by Mike James

**D**uring the weekend of July 28–29, the Infuse staff held a planning meeting in San Jose, California. Noni McVey, the founder of the Infuse program, organized the planning session. Elders present included Charles Groce, Bill Watson, Loren Chamberlain, Tony Buchert, and Mike James. Ministerial candidate Jeff Reed also attended. Others present for the meeting included Dana McVey, Elizabeth McVey, Jordana McVey, Tyler Barnett, Patricia Chamberlain, Angie Buchert, Margie Watson and Ann Alpert.

Much of what was discussed at the meeting is provided in the Strategic Plan, which is provided with this article. Further details to some of the items in our strategic plan are given here. To begin, I want to reiterate what *Infuse* is, who the target is, and what we are working to accomplish.

The *Infuse* program was created to equip young people with the tools needed to take on the task of ministry and to have ownership of their church. One of the vital ways to ensure our young adults stay with the church is to provide an avenue for strong participation in the activities of ministry and to mentor those who have a passion for it. *Infuse* provides both the opportunities and mentoring needed to allow that to happen.

Our target consists of young adults in their late teens to early 30s, although we do include younger teens as part of *Infuse* and welcome them to any of our activities. But we don't want to exclude anyone, so everyone in the church can have some part in what *Infuse* is doing. The *Infuse* approach is not a quick fix to a long-standing problem within the Church of God, but rather a commitment to our young adults to identify their talents and to empower them to put these talents to use for the glory of God and getting a work done.

The *Infuse* program is a place in which the young adults of the church can begin to take on tasks that will assist them in becoming the future leaders in the church. These tasks can be anything from providing a presentation to organizing a volleyball tournament. There is also an educational aspect with *Infuse* whereby in our *Infuse* Feast services, retreats, magazine and website we promote the beliefs of the church.

A detailed explanation of the Strategic Plan (SP), which was formulated in San Jose in July 2006 follows.

### Magazine

Most of the items pertaining to the *Infuse Magazine* in the SP are self-evident. We are always interested in finding new writers. If you feel you would like to contribute please contact Noni McVey at Noni@cgi.org.

### Feast Site

*Infuse* hopes to be present at other Feast sites in the future. We are working toward that goal by training young adult leaders who can help make that happen. We ask for your patience as we reach for this goal.

### Retreats/Other Events

In June of 2006 *Infuse* completed its first retreat in Ohio. The event was a

success, and we plan on having a retreat once a year. Along with a retreat, we would like to provide another event during the year where the young adults can get together for fellowship and spiritual growth. With that in mind, we are planning a 5–7 day camping and/or outdoor activity for 2007. This will provide one more opportunity for those who are not able to attend the feast site or retreat.

Other ideas we have in mind include video/tape courses on Biblical topics like books of the Bible, parenting, marriage, prophecy, comparative religion, public speaking, Israel, etc. These courses could be used by anyone in the church. This may include homework and testing. These courses could be used to prepare some of our young adults for the Ministerial Apprentice Program and prepare our church membership for evangelistic efforts. We are also considering the possibility of reviving the concept of Imperial Academy. Some of you may recall when the church provided one to two week sessions of Biblically oriented courses that were provided to the church from the home office.

### Website

As many of you who visit the church website know, *Infuse* has a link to the church website. One of the new ideas addressed at the San Jose meeting was providing short oral presentations on our website that can be downloaded by those interested. We are planning on providing short (15–20 minute) podcasts on Biblical topics that can be accessed by anyone visiting the website.

### Advertising

*Infuse* has been provided with \$300 a month for six months to look at the return on that investment through Google/Yahoo ads on the Internet. If the rate of return is worth it, we will continue this sort of advertising for the church. We are also looking at the possibility of radio advertising on a Christian based national station. The use of videos to promote *Infuse* events is also underway. Jeff Reed has taken the lead in creating short videos to promote the various facets of *Infuse*.

### Members

All of our church members have a stake in *Infuse*. We want your help with *Infuse*. If you have ideas or concerns, please contact Mike James (mhjames6043@yahoo.com or 301–916–6767). We are planning on creating an *Infuse* board that will work with me in overseeing and planning *Infuse* events from year to year. The *Infuse* board would be selected from those participating in the *Infuse* program. Also we are going to set up *Infuse* liaison's with each church group to make sure the membership is kept abreast of *Infuse* activities from month to month.

Our next *Infuse* meeting will take place in early 2007. The planning of the themes at the *Infuse* Retreat and Feast of Tabernacles will be addressed along with our planned camping/outdoor activity. If you have any questions at all please contact Mike James at MHJames6043@yahoo.com □

# Age of Indifference

by Ferrell Vincent



Ferrell Vincent

**A**s we look into the Holy Bible and observe the promises our God has made to the forefathers of Israel, we have to know that we are living in the greatest country that ever existed on this planet earth. All nations have been and are now being blessed by this nation as no other nation has ever done in our history. The constitution of this nation is the greatest ever devised by man for man. Most everyone was convinced it was written by the help of God, and I believe that idea still remains in the minds of the majority.

With the increase of knowledge and technicalities in wording of principles, it seems the constitution is rapidly becoming a piece of controversy. The right to teach and discipline our children is being taken away by those who are responsible for upholding our God-given rights. God has commanded we teach our children about Him. Now man endeavors to put a wedge between our Creator and those who diligently seek to serve Him. It seems the god of this world has used the power of the increase of knowledge to convince the world that his way is the way to go.

He has fostered off to the world the idea that his way is more compatible with human nature, and it certainly is.

A few years ago the world was flooded with magazines containing pornography, and there was great controversy over whether it was a freedom of speech or rebellion against godly principles. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to know who won the controversy. Today anyone who has television can sit and watch what was portrayed in the porno magazine, in his own living room. Obviously we live in a physically, mentally and spiritually sick world.

By taking away the right of the parents to discipline the children, we have caused the children to take shelter in the system that has been devised to control the children, causing the children to threaten the parents with the fact that they can and will go to the authorities if they, the parents, discipline the children, forcing the families to accept policies set by the god of this world; and it's done so subtly, it isn't recognized by the vast majority.

The apostle John recorded Jesus as referring to the deceptive power of this world and describing who he is and declaring that he has no part with Jesus and those clinging to His way of life. John 14:30 states, "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in me." So is it any wonder that those in responsible positions would yield to the pressures of such a powerful being as one being described as the ruler of this world by our Savior? Our Savior, through the apostle John, gave us some more information about this powerful being and told of his proclivities and what his endeavors are. In Revelation 12:9, John wrote: "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he is cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." So Satan the Devil is at large in this planet earth in an unseen form, except to those who know what his endeavors are.

His work is to cause disruptions, disagreements, and confusion in higher places. It now trickles down to the lower levels of our schools and homes. It's like a disease or a germ that's in the air and is very contagious. We scuffle with indifference on the job and in the schools and it tears at the nervous system and causes good decent people to become irritable and disagreeable with each other. And after being exposed to that type of situation over a long period of time, it becomes a fixed habit that becomes part of us and, yes, sometimes it shows up in the church.

The Apostle Paul told of what causes these indifferent attitudes. In Ephesians 6:12, Paul wrote, "For we do not wrestle against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual host of wickedness in the heavenly places." Paul had seen both sides of the picture, knowing he had served Satan in trying to destroy the Church of God. And then he had become converted and worked for Jesus Christ. His decision and mind set had become, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38). With a mind set like that, we'll be able to recognize and bring into subjection any attitude of indifference that might raise its head. The most needed thing in the church today is prayer—the adhesive type that binds us together in one mind and spirit so that nothing can drive a wedge between us. Not even the one who specializes in cunningly creating indifferences. Let us stay on top of ourselves and be on the lookout for the germ of indifference. This planet earth is saturated with it. And it's a killer. □

# Is There No Balm In Gilead?


by Frank Denman



**Frank Denman** The prophet Jeremiah had appealed to and rebuked God’s people for their sins, and the dangers to Jerusalem as the people worshipped idols instead of the true God. He warned them of the desolation to come, and spoke as if it had happened. But false prophets insisted the people were in no danger, which caused Jeremiah problems in getting the message from God to the people. Sort of like today, when the ministers in God’s church are warning our peoples of God’s wrath to come, politicians and some of the world’s church leaders say, “All is well, pay no attention to the prophets of gloom and doom.” We read in Jeremiah 8:20, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” Look at our peoples today; most are totally unaware of the *curses* that come when a nation does not obey God. And they look for peace, and there is no peace. Then in verse 22 read, “Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?” Why is it people today, like their forbears, wonder why things are going bad, why so much crime, killing, and wars, and they still haven’t turned to God! No, there is no balm in Gilead, the healing hand of God is the balm, and our land is refusing it. God in verse 13 told Judah they would be utterly consumed if they did not turn to Him and leave the idols that cannot save.

Our TV program, the *Armor of God*, is proclaiming a message to the world, and particularly to our peoples, of the dangers of not heeding God’s Word, of seeking the comforts of our age instead of the healing power of God. As Jeremiah was warning the people of Jerusalem of the impending desolation of Jerusalem, so God’s ministers are warning the people today of the desolation that can come to our land for leaving God out of our lives, and living for the comforts of the times.

Finally, look at Jeremiah 8:12. “Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.” As God warned the people thru Jeremiah, so are His ministers warning Israel today. □



## infuse wants to hear from you

**Is Infuse meeting your needs?**  
Please take a few minutes to answer our survey. It's your opportunity to tell us what you like, what needs improvement and any ideas you have.

The survey is available online at <http://infuse.cgi.org>

Or request a copy from Mike James by writing to 11271 Valley Bend Drive Germantown, MD 20876

## Ten Things to Pray For...

- Health enough to make work a pleasure.
- Wealth enough to meet your needs.
- Strength to battle with difficulties and overcome them.
- Grace enough to confess our sins and forsake them.
- Patience enough to toil until much good is accomplished.
- Charity enough to see good in your neighbor.
- Love enough to move you to be useful and helpful to others.
- Faith enough to make real the things of God.
- Hope enough to remove all anxious fears concerning the future.
- All of the above to enable you to enter into God’s soon-coming Kingdom.

\* \* \*



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