

# Servants' NEWS

Vol. 3, No. 4

A newsletter for servants of the Almighty Eternal Creator, wherever they may be

June 1997

## How To:

### — Be An Overcomer

By Norman S. Edwards

Most brethren who have had the **spirit of God** for a while have no question in their mind about the need to overcome sins and problems. We all can see misery and devastation to mankind as governments, business, and individuals seek to take things for themselves. We can feel the hurt in our own lives when individuals do not treat us according to the righteous standard of Scripture. Hopefully, we can also see how our own sins have hurt others and ourselves.

All believers are not alike in their sins. "The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them" (1Tim 5:24). Whether all sins are obvious to others or not is really not that important. We do not have to justify ourselves to others. It is our Savior, the Messiah who will be our judge (Matt 12:36; Rom 2:16; 14:10; 2Cor 5:10; 2Tim 4:1). He will judge with complete righteousness, no one will be able to "pull a fast one" and hide their sin from Him (Is 11:3-4). However, since each believer does have different kinds of sins and problems to deal with, **we need to realize that different approaches may be required to overcome different kinds of sin.**

This article covers specific things that we can do to overcome all sins, and other things that we can do to help overcome specific sins.

#### Facing the Problem

The first step to solving **any** problem is to recognize and admit the problem. Sin can be extremely deceptive:

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil

**Continued on page 16**

### — GROW In Patience

By Richard A. Wiedenheft

Ours is the age of instant everything. We want what we want and we want it now. We have instant coffee, condensed books, microwave ovens, fast cars, fast check-out, and fast-food. Almost any- and every-where we go, we have telephones, CD-players, TV's and now computers. Patience is just not one of our cultural virtues.

We may have instant this and quick that—but we don't have much patience, and our relationships are in shambles—because if there's one thing that requires patience, it's relationships. In this regard, the Apostle Paul set a fantastic example:

"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Phil 4:11-13; NIV throughout).

We, too, can learn the secret of contentment.

#### Accepting Oneself

One of the basic prerequisites for being patient with others is to learn to be patient with oneself—to accept oneself. I don't mean acceptance in the sense of approving of everything that you are or do. I mean acceptance in the sense of recognizing what you are—the good as well as the bad, the strengths as well as the weaknesses. Paul urged the Romans to think of themselves with sober judgment (Rom 12:3).

**Continued on page 19**

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Always Be Ready
- 3 Immortal Soul... Got One?
- 5 Local Congregation News

- 7-15 The Leaven of Herod...  
Articles related to the  
Oklahoma City bombing

- 22 Letters and Responses
- 28 Feast '97 Sites and  
Information Form

# Always Be Ready...

There was a time when I heard what I would consider a “major heresy” among Church of God people once or twice a year. By “major heresy” I’m not talking a “doctrinal disagreement” about how to apply one of the commandments, or how to calculate a Holy Day. I’m talking about something that strikes at the very **core** of one’s belief system.

Unfortunately, now that I open the mail for Servants News, I am exposed to a major heresy almost once a week—sometimes more often! If I wanted, I could probably collect all these and open up my own one-stop-shopping store called “Heresies ‘R’ Us”!

It seems that our Enemy uses a standard “method of predators” when introducing such heresies. Just as a lion or hyenas will often “target” those on the edges of a herd, or the young, or the feeble, or the injured; so the peddlers of heresy have been finding opportunities as the churches are more and more fragmented. **They are currently targeting the disillusioned, the discouraged, the disenfranchised, the spiritually weary, the rejected and the lonely.** Those who should have been shepherds among the people of God have all too often simply fleeced the flock, rather than protecting it with the Truth. And those who should have been out searching for the lost, helping the little ones grow up, the injured ones to heal, and the spiritually burned-out to be refreshed, have instead worried about which group they will join, and what salary and benefits will be available.

Unfortunately, most people in the Churches of God have had little time to prepare to deal with heresy. The “theology” of many of the corporate churches has all too often been “theology by booklet.” Knowledge of the Truth has been fragmented up into little bite-sized doses of “fact,” rather than integrated into a whole. Just as one cannot understand the lessons of history by memorizing dates and names, so one cannot understand the Way of life provided by our Creator through Jesus Christ, Yashua the Messiah, just by memorizing “bits” of the Law or verses in the writings of Paul. In the sterile environment of the institutional churches, most folks didn’t need to “fear” getting “contaminated” with heresy coming from “outside”—they were effectively isolated by a mind-set which rejected anything not coming from the local pulpit or the central headquarters publishing company.

There was no program or training for the average member to help him or her learn to hear heresy and then use the scriptures to refute it. Ministers, and to a lesser degree deacons and Spokesman’s Club members, were trained to deal with heresy, **but the object was to “protect” the “membership” from all heresy.**

Just as a child raised in a bubble will be even more vulnerable if he is ever exposed even to the germs in his own home, so the children of God who were raised in such a bubble are now susceptible to infectious heresy unless they begin to acquire the necessary internal “resistance.”

The fallacy of this “protecting” became evident when the source of the heresy began to come from **within** the institutions. Many have left the false security of the institutional churches once they have realized that heresy can arise anywhere. But it is easy to become lulled into a sense of false security “out here.” If anyone is so confident that they are now “mature” and can’t be “fooled” again, they do not realize they are **still** not effectively equipped to deal with heresy.

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you

Continued on page 21

# Servants' NEWS

Vol. 3, No. 4

June 1997

*Servants' News* is a ministry to help others understand the Creator's will, obey Him, and teach others. We believe that the Bible contains the foundation of knowledge about our Creator and that He is actively working through people today. Our focus is to help the Sabbath-keeping brethren who believe Yeshua (Jesus) is the Messiah, but we realize that the Eternal works with many groups and individuals.

We believe the gospel should be given freely—you may copy this newsletter and give it to others. *Servants' News* has nothing to sell and has no financial ties with other organizations, but is supported by those who personally decide to help this ministry. We do not have IRS tax exempt status, but the IRS accepts some charitable deductions without such status (see IRS Publication 557, p. 16, col. 1).

**Editor & Publisher:** Norman S. Edwards  
**Production Editor:** Norman Arthur Brumm  
**Associate Editors:** Tim & Jeanice Davis, Marleen Edwards, Robert & Christine Feith, Missi Lara, Jon D. Pike  
**Technical Services:** George Dewey  
**Office Administrator:** Pam Dewey  
**Contributors:** Many! Thanks to everyone!

*NOTICE: The people listed above do not necessarily endorse every article in this newsletter.*

*Servants' News* accepts articles for publication. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope for items that you want returned. We are happy to print corrections for any significant errors. Address articles, letters and subscription or literature requests to:

*Servants' News*  
PO Box 220  
Charlotte, Michigan 48813-0220

Phone: 517-543-5544

Fax: 517-543-8899

E-Mail: 75260.1603@CompuServe.com

Internet Address:

<http://www.best.com/~oasis7/sn/>

Subscription and literature requests **may** be sent to the following addresses. Contributions received at these locations will be used for duplicating and mailing.

**Canada:** Servants' News, R.R. #2, Hastings, Ontario, K0L 1Y0

**Scotland:** Steve Little, 14 Roman Camp, Broxburn, West Lothian EH52 5PJ  
Phone: 01506 853822

**Australia:** Dale Heslin, 9 Alice Jackson Crescent, Gilmore, ACT 2905

Most scripture quotations are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.

Circulation: 2100

*Servants' News* is published monthly except for combined March/April and September/October issues. Subscriptions are free to people who request the publication and are genuinely interested in it. The Publisher reserves the right to refuse subscriptions. *Servants' News* is published by Norman S. Edwards, 202 Pearl St, Charlotte, Michigan 48813. Periodical postage pending at Charlotte, Michigan. Postmaster: send address changes to Servants' News, PO Box 220, Charlotte, Michigan 48813-0220

# Do You Have an IMMORTAL Soul?

## What is Man? What Happens at Death?

By Richard A. Wiedenheft

The nature of human life and death has been discussed by philosophers and theologians for centuries. To some, man is merely a glorified animal, destined to live out his physical existence and then face the extinction of death. To others he is an immortal soul held captive by a physical body until death, at which time the soul is finally liberated to receive its reward (or punishment); to still others the soul of man comes back, reincarnated as another man or animal. But the final word on what man is and what happens at death belongs to the Creator Himself—as revealed in his word.

### Creation of Man

The first chapter of Genesis reveals that man was specially created by God in His very own image and likeness: “Then God said, Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them” (Gen 1:26-27). Man was shaped in the image of God, but he was not composed of the same substance as God. God is spirit; God is immortal; He possesses self-inherent eternal life. Man, on the other hand, was formed from the elements of the earth as an inert, physical corpse of organic matter lying on the ground—until God breathed into him the breath of life. At that point man became a “living soul” (Gen 2:7).

The precise nature of a “living soul” is at the heart of the discussion about what man is. To modern, orthodox Christian ears, the word “soul” denotes something that is immortal and conscious after death, something that goes to heaven or hell. But the Biblical usage of the word is quite different.

### Living Souls

The Hebrew expression translated “living soul” in Gen 2:7 is *nephesh*; it is used in several other places in Gen 1 and 2 as well as throughout the Old Testament—and in many of these passages it refers to animals. The Englishmen who translated the King James Version of the Bible rendered *nephesh* as “living creature” in Gen 1:21 where it refers to sea animals; they ren-

dered it “living creature” in verse 24 where it refers to land animals. In verse 30, this same Hebrew expression is used to describe all living things on the earth. In Gen 2:19, Adam was asked to name every “living creature”—again, the Hebrew expression is *nephesh*. So, when we are told that Adam became a “living soul” we are not informed that he was given any inherent immortality or a soul (in the modern sense of the word).

### Mortal Man

Every indication in the Old Testament is that, of and by himself, man is mortal creature, subject to decay and death; indeed, God told Adam after he had sinned, “for dust you are and to dust you will return” (Gen 3:19). There is no reference here to a conscious, immortal soul going to heaven or hell or limbo when the body goes to the grave. Rather, the indication is that when the body returns to the dust, the conscious man, the “living soul”, ceases to exist.

Of course, it was not long before Satan appeared on the scene contradicting God’s warning about sin and its deadly consequences. Tempting Eve with the forbidden fruit he said, “You will not surely die...For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Gen 3:4-5). In a sense, the modern concepts of the immortal soul and reincarnation convey the same idea—that man is inherently immortal—that he won’t really die. Ezekiel stated just the opposite: “...the soul that sins, it shall die” (Ezk 18:4, 20). So, whatever a soul is, in the Old Testament sense of the word, it can die.

Solomon, the wisest king of Israel, wrote about the fate of humans, “As it is with the good man, so with the sinner...The same destiny overtakes all...For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even the memory of them is forgotten” (Eccl 9:2-5).

To be sure, Solomon, was writing from a human, temporal perspective—in a very melancholy mood at that; nevertheless, he corroborated the statements of Genesis—that death is the cessation of

conscious life. The Psalmist wrote that the dead do not praise God, that they “go down to silence” (Pslm 115:17; compare with Pslm 6:5; 146:4).

The idea that death is merely a separation of a conscious, immortal soul from the body came not from the Bible but from Greek philosophy. Notice what Plato wrote in *Phaedo*:

The soul whose inseparable attitude is life will never admit of life’s opposite, death. Thus the soul is shown to be immortal, and since immortal, indestructible...Do we believe there is such a thing as death? To be sure. And is this anything but the separation of the soul and body?...being dead is the attainment of this separation, when the soul exists in herself and separate from the body, and the body is parted from the soul. That is death... death is merely the separation of the soul and body.

An interesting philosophy—very much in harmony with the modern concept of the soul; but it is nowhere taught in the Old Testament. Even modern theologians who believe in the immortality of the soul admit frankly that it is not taught in the Bible. Consider what the *The New Catholic Encyclopedia* has to say about the Hebrew word *nephesh* or *nepes*:

*Nepes* comes from an original root...to breathe, and...thence, breath of life. Since breath distinguishes the living from the dead, *nepes* is used in regard to both animals and humans... After death, the *nepes* goes to sheol [Hebrew word for grave]. The above summary indicates that there is no dichotomy of body and soul in the Old Testament...other words in the Old Testament such as spirit, flesh, and heart also signify the human person and differ only as various aspects of the same being. The notion of the soul surviving after death is not readily discernible in the Bible. The concept of the human soul itself is not the same in the Old Testament as it is in Greek and modern philosophy...The soul in the Old Testament means not a part of man, but the whole man—man as a livingbeing (*The New Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1967, art. “Soul, Human, Immortality of”).

In the whole of the Old Testament,

there is simply no support for the idea that a conscious immortal soul goes to heaven or hell (or some other place) at death. Rather, all indications are that conscious life ceases until the time of a future resurrection—as the prophet Daniel recorded “Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt” (Dan 12:2). “As for you (Daniel), go you way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance” (Dan 12:13). Both verses compare death to a sleep, an unconscious state, which is to continue until the time of the resurrection.

### The “Soul” in the New Testament

In the New Testament, the word “soul” is translated from the Greek *psuche*, which is virtually equivalent to the Hebrew *nephesh*. There is no indication that the soul of the New Testament continues in a conscious state following death. Rather, the evidence is that *psuche*, like *nephesh*, refers to a living mortal being who can die. Consider several verses.

Mark wrote that Jesus came to “...give his life [*psuche*] as a ransom for many” (Mk 10:45). Isaiah had written that Jesus “...poured out his life [*nephesh*] unto death” (Isa 53:12). Clearly Jesus’ *nephesh* or *psuche* was given up, it was poured out, it ceased to exist; it was not merely separated from His body as Greek philosophy would have one believe. John, in the book of Revelation wrote that when the second angel poured out his bowl, “...every living thing [*psuche*] in the sea died” (Rev 16:3).

Consider the following statement from The New Catholic Encyclopedia:

The soul in the OT means not a part of man, but the whole—man as a living being. Similarly in the NT, it signifies human life: the life of an individual conscious object (Matt 2:20;6 :25; Luke 12:22-23;14:26; John 10:11,15,17; John 13:37; Acts 27:10,22; Phil 2:30; 1Thess 2:8).

Recent exegetes...have maintained that the NT does not teach the immortality of the soul in the Hellenistic sense of survival of an immortal principle after death (The New Catholic Encyclopedia, art. “Soul, Human, Immortality of, In The Bible.”).

### Eternal Life is God’s Gift

The Greek concept of the immortal

soul assumes that individuals already possess eternal life—that the only question is where this eternal life is spent after death. In stark contrast, many Bible passages portray immortality strictly as a gift to be given by God. Paul refers directly to the fact that God alone has immortality (1Tim 6:16). In a well-known statement to the Romans, Paul insists that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. In other words, the normal consequences of sin is death; but immortality, the opposite of death, is something that man does not have of and by himself; it comes only as a gift from God (Rom 6:23).

John echoes Paul’s statement. “And this is the testimony. God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1John 5:11-12; compare with 1John 3:14-15). Jesus, referring to Himself, prayed to the Father just before He was crucified, “For you granted him (Jesus) authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent” (John 17:2-3).

If man is inherently immortal and his life continues eternally beyond the death of the body, these passages don’t make sense—unless, of course, one redefines death as separation of soul and body, a definition not supported in the Bible. If, however, death is the absence of life and consciousness, these statements make very good sense.

### Death Compared to Sleep

Throughout the Bible, death is compared to sleep. Notice a couple of Jesus’ statements:

“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going to wake him up” (Jn 11:11).

“The girl is not dead, but asleep” (Matt 9:24).

Matthew records that at the time of Jesus’ death, “... the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many” (Matt 27:52,53).

If these saints were already experiencing the bliss of heaven, it would have been cruel to bring them back to frail human existence to live and then die again; but if they were truly asleep, unconscious, it would have been a bless-

ing to them and to all who were witnessed to by their new lives.

The Apostle Paul referred to dead Christians as sleeping until awakened by the last trump at the resurrection (1Cor 15:51 and 1Thess 4:14;5:10). Daniel wrote of both believers and nonbelievers as sleeping—until they are resurrected: “Mutitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, and others to shame and everlasting contempt” (Dan 12:2). Notice that the focus is on the resurrection—not on a reward in heaven or punishment in hell experienced by a conscious immortal soul at death.

### A Spiritual Element in Man?

What then is man? To be sure he is a special, glorious creation, made in the very image of God—with the potential of living for eternity in God’s kingdom. Certainly, there is a dimension of his being that separates him from animals—it is a spiritual dimension, a capacity to understand spiritual, eternal, godly things. Several passages of the Bible indicate what might be called a “spirit in man”—a spiritual ingredient that makes a man human, that turns an animal brain into a human mind, that gives him the capacity to reason and plan and to consider spiritual questions. Paul refers to a “man’s spirit” in 1Cor 2:11. Solomon, Ecclesiastes, wrote “...the spirit returns to God who gave it” (Ecc 12:7). Perhaps this “spirit in man” is what the Holy Spirit unites with when a person experiences conversion.

On the other hand, these passages are far from definitive. It’s possible Paul was simply referring to “a person’s very self, or ego” (Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich, under *pneuma*);and Solomon could have been referring to a man’s breath. But if there is a spiritual essence in man, and I believe there is, it is not conscious apart from the body. It is not an immortal soul. And regardless of whether a person is a Christian or not, his “spiritual essence” returns to God at death—perhaps waiting like a computer record to be plugged back into a conscious body at the resurrection—thus preserving the personality and character of the individual.

The important fact is that, although man does not possess an immortal soul, he can receive eternal life through accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Then he enters the heavenly kingdom of God and receives the promise of eternal life—which will be given when Jesus returns to this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. 

# Local Congregations



## Uncovering Our True Identity in Messiah, 5 City Conferences

First Fruits of Zion, a Messianic Jewish group, is sponsoring a conference on the relationship between the Torah (the fundamental Hebrew scriptures) and the Messiah (Yeshua or Jesus). While *Servants' News* probably does not agree with everything taught at these conferences, we are sure that most Sabbatarians will learn things that they have not known before. Each conference will run from Friday through Sunday, costing \$55.00 per single or \$85.00 for two. Single days are available for \$25.00. Special meals and Israeli entertainment are available from \$12.50 to 20.00. The schedule is:

July 25-27, **Los Angeles, CA**  
August 1-3, **Seattle, WA**  
August 8-10, **Toledo, OH**  
August 15-17, **Denver, CO**  
August 22-24, **Boston, MA**

For more details and registration information, call 800-775-4807.

## Missouri Spring Feast Meeting

On April 25-28, the Eldon, Missouri Church of God Fellowship hosted a "mini-conference" at the Lake of the Ozarks State Park (Friday evening through Monday night—the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, Hebrew calendar). About 50 persons participated in the event, some camping in the rustic cabins of the private campground, while others stayed in nearby motels.

The purposes for the occasion included praising our Creator, fellowship, presentation of Biblical subjects, making new friendships, and enjoying recreation and rest. Worship services included traditional Sabbatarian music and modern praise music. The musical ensemble included guitars, a keyboard, and brass instruments. The young people sang "Hey Jonah" for the last day. Bible classes were provided for all ages

on the weekly Sabbath and holy day.

A lot of family activities were available. Volleyball was the most popular attraction for the older youths and adults. Other activities were: campfires, sing-a-longs, card games, etc. Excellent buffet-style meals were provided for all by the Mayhew, Sash, and McCulley families.

Speaking sessions were all followed by audience questions and discussions. The speakers and subject included:

**Norman Brumm** spoke twice, once on **Unity Does Not Require "Political Oneness"** and on **the Definition and Meaning of Putting Out Leaven**.

**Jim Cowan** spoke on the **Hebrew Wedding Ceremony** and how it is helpful in understanding many Biblical statements and prophecies. While the wedding ceremony is not explained in any single chapter, nearly all of the details of wedding ceremonies recorded in the Bible are in agreement with the Hebrew practice. As many young people look forward to their wedding with great anticipation, so Christ also looks forward to His marriage to His Church. The covenant between Christ and the Church is like a marriage contract. The phrase "you were bought at a price" (1Cor 6:20) is a reference to paying "the bride price." In the Hebrew wedding, it was the groom's job to prepare a bridal chamber at his father's house: "In My Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). The Hebrew groom was not allowed to go and get his bride until his father said it was time: "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Matt 24:36). Jim Cowan's talk included many more similar parallels.

**Norman Edwards** spoke on **The Need to Learn and Be Able to Teach** others as they are ready to learn.

**Wes Gordon** spoke twice, the first shorter presentation was **What did Christ Write in the Sand?** His second presentation was **The Five Elements of**

**Covenants** as applied to Biblical covenants. They are: **Transcendence**—the issue of who is ultimately in charge. In most Biblical covenants, it is the Eternal. **Hierarchy**—the structure of people involved in the covenant. People need to know who will represent the one in charge and who they will "report to." **Ethics**—the rules and terms of the covenant. **Sanctions**—the penalties that will be enforced if the rules are broken. **Continuity**—the manner in which the covenant can change or end. Wes Gordon went on to explain some of the scriptures relating to the covenants and the changes made between the "old" and "new" covenants.

**Dannel Roberts** spoke on the **Biblical Story in the Stars**. He talked about the constellations and how their origin might be from the Eternal, **not** from paganism or mythology (Job 9:9; 38:31; Isa 13:10; Amos 5:8). Much of the information came from E. W. Bullinger's book *Witness of the Stars*.

**John Sash** spoke on the **Chronology of Christ's Death**. His explanation of Christ's last supper is different than most Sabbath-keeping groups. The most straight-forward reading of the synoptic gospels indicates that the disciples asked about preparing the Passover meal on the 14<sup>th</sup>—the day that the Passover was to be killed (Matt 25:17; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:7) Most writers (including this one) have had to conclude that these statements have very generalized or symbolic meaning in order to place the "last supper" on the early night part of the 14<sup>th</sup> and our Savior's death the next afternoon. John Sash's presentation places the last supper at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> and our Savior's death on the 15<sup>th</sup>. He did have an explanation for the scriptures (primarily in John) that appear to conflict with this. (*Servants' News* intends to give this view more study.)

**Greg Walburn** spoke on the **Puzzle of the 613 Commandments**. He

explained how these Torah commandments are classified: some are applicable only to Priests, some only to Levites, some only to people living in the Land of Israel, some only to men, and some only to women. He gave some traditional Jewish explanations of how they are observed.

**Ron Wilson** spoke on **Law and Grace**. He spoke of the difficulty experienced by some people who grew up with the belief that God loves them only if they adhere to a long-list of partially humanly-devised laws. A lively discussion followed.

## Changes Continue in WCG

We continue to receive numerous reports of changes in the WCG. We visited a local congregation ourselves a few weeks ago. We cannot explain every change in detail, but we will summarize the major ones. We would like to start by saying that we heard private statements in the late 1980's from Joseph Tkach, Jr. and Michael Feazell that they intend to make the WCG into a "mainstream Christian denomination." Obviously, that would mean accepting the Trinity, Sunday-worship, Easter, etc. The idea sounded so ridiculous to WCG members at the time, that no one would believe us when we said it—so we decided to stop saying it.

Two years ago, the WCG explained their doctrine on worship time: God can be worshipped on any day and local congregations are free to set service dates and times based on the local needs of members—nevertheless, they were Sabbath-keeping by tradition. While many of the WCG members still strongly believe in the Sabbath, others do not. The WCG Geneva, Ohio congregation separated itself from the WCG and became a Sunday-keeping church last April.

In May, Jeff Molnar, pastor of the Dallas WCG congregation, announced "Beginning Sunday, June 15, Pentecost, we will begin to hold our weekly celebration service on Sundays at 11:00 AM" Why? He answers in a letter:

Our primary reasons are these:

1) Evangelism—remove the Saturday barrier as we try to reach out to the masses of un-churched in Dallas.

2) Family attendance—on any given week it seems that 1/3 of our congregation is absent do to children's ballgames, school activities, work, etc.

Secondly, are we "discarding" the sabbath? No, "we" aren't, but we do

very much believe the position of the WCG (and the Bible) that the weekly 7th day sabbath observance is no longer binding on Christians. Jesus Christ is our sabbath rest on all days. In Him we find "rest for our souls" (Matt. 11:28-30) at all times.

While we at *Servants' News* disagree with this approach to the Sabbath, we do agree with some of the other changes made within WCG church services. When we visited the Flint, Michigan WCG congregation, we were impressed by the involvement of the membership in their services. They used modern lively praise and worship music in their services—we believe this is more in line with the descriptions of worship music found in the Psalms. They had a time when people were invited to pray for others in need. A team of members selected a short but very powerful video which served as the "sermonette." The attitude of the people was largely friendly and diligent to serve the Eternal. Yet some people clearly were having trouble with their headquarter's doctrinal changes.

The changes at headquarter's have truly been massive. Ambassador College, Imperial Schools, The World Tomorrow Broadcast, the Good News magazine, and the distribution of Herbert Armstrong's works are now gone for good. The "child, lion and lamb" symbol has been replaced by a Protestant cross. The *Pastor General's Report* has been replaced by a new publication, *Crossroad*. Only the Worldwide News (the church newspaper) and the field ministry survive in roles similar to their previous ones.

The "Plain Truth Magazine" has survived in name, but is utterly unlike the Magazine that was produced for over 50 years. It is now a separate organization ("Plain Truth Ministries"), has a subscription price and plenty of advertising. "Christian products," other ministries, and even gold investment have been advertised. A substantial portion of articles are written by people who have never been associated with the Worldwide Church of God.

Joseph Tkach, Jr. is in complete control of the organization, both legally and as a matter of practical fact. This is amazing when one considers that he was not even regularly attending the WCG when Herbert Armstrong died in January, 1986. Michael Feazell, believed to be the architect of many of the WCG's doctrinal changes, appears to be easing out of the WCG administration. A recent Worldwide News announced that

Feazell's duties in Church Administration were being absorbed by his staff and Joe Tkach, Jr. Mike Feazell has been seen attending the nearby Sunday-keeping Lake Avenue Congregational Church on more than one occasion.

What is the new mission of the greatly-reformed Worldwide Church of God? Apparently, it is to help bring their Sabbath-keeping off-shoots back to "mainstream" Christianity. This has been informally announced at various WCG congregations. Also, various off-shoot congregations have reported WCG members beginning to visit with them for the first time in two years—trying to rekindle friendships and establish new relationships.

We believe these rekindled relationships will be good. Brethren on both sides will have a chance to discuss the Bible and learn from each other. **WCG members need to see that the Eternal works outside the WCG. Others need to realize that the Eternal still loves and works with people in the WCG.** We need to be lights to those people, not sources of confusion or hostile debate. This sounds like a good time for brethren everywhere to know their Savior, their Bible, and why they believe what they believe.

—Norman S. Edwards

## The Feast of Tabernacles at Ocean Shores, Washington

To the best of our knowledge the feast site at Ocean Shores will be the first of it's kind. We are providing a site where people can gather together and learn from one another (both Messianic and Christian). We are doing our best to bring special speakers in that should inspire and educate all of those who attend. This year's speakers include : Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, Eddie Chumney, Ken Westby, Doug Dolly ... and more.

Ocean Shores is located on the Washington coast. We hope to attract around 500 (the site will accommodate 1000). We have prepared a housing packet that we can send you. Let us know the address you would like us to send it to and we will send it right out.

Rick Richardson (SCGI)  
P.O. Box 111  
Auburn, WA 98071-0111  
e-mail: lifenet2@aol.com  
Phone: 1-800-333-5208  
Fax: 1-253-351-2973

A great many sermons and articles have been composed to explain the “leaven of the Pharisees.” Our Savior clearly explained that the “leaven of the Pharisees” was “hypocrisy” (Luke 12:1), “...for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do to be seen by men...” (Matt 23:3-5). “For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. And I say to you, My friends, ‘do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do’” (Luke 12:2-4).

The Pharisees were dangerous from two standpoints: 1) They taught a hypocritical form of self-righteousness that was not really righteousness at all, but often fooled the common people. 2) They were often able to enforce punishments on others for not going along with their false-righteousness. Some brethren may see some church organizations as modern-day Pharisees, inflicting rules and regulations on the members to which the ministry and leadership are not subject. Members who do not comply with these rules are sometimes punished—cast out of their church organization and ostracized from 20 or 30 years of acquired friendships.

### But what is the “Leaven of Herod”?

The Bible does not specifically answer that question, but if we look for clues, it seems that the “leaven of Herod” is little different than the “leaven of the Pharisees”—it is the “leaven of the State” rather than the “leaven of the Church.” The governmental leaders were supposed to administer justice on behalf of Rome—and they made a great show of pretending to be just. And of course, they insisted that the common people follow the law. But were they just themselves? Notice this story about Herod:

For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife; for he had mar-

ried her. For John had said to Herod, “**It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.**” Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; for **Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man,** and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee. And when Herodias’ daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, “Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you.” He also swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom.” So she went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist!” Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” **And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her.** Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother (Mark 6:17-28).

Even our Savior publicly referred to Herod as “that fox” (Luke 13:31-32).

Was it lawful for Herod to execute a just person for no reason? No. But did Herod do it anyway? Yes. He probably did what leaders usually do when they want to punish an innocent person: invent a charge—treason or maybe even **terrorism**. Our Savior and

# Watch Out!

*Beware of the Leaven of the Pharisees and the Leaven of Herod.*  
—Mark 8:15, NAB

the Apostle Paul were the victims of similar false accusations before governments (Matt 26:59; Acts 21:27-29; 23:27-30; 24:2-13,26; 25:7-9).

**We do not see any New Testament example or commission to reform the human governments of this world.** That is not the job of the Ekklesia (church) of believers. Nevertheless, we must watch and be aware of “the leaven of Herod”—the corruption in our human governments. Just as we have seen that leaders of church organizations sometimes serve themselves more than they serve their members, we should also not be surprised to find government leaders serving themselves rather than those who elected them. It is a mistake to blindly trust a human government—to assume that whomever they say “is good” really is good, and whomever they say “is bad” really is bad. How many people refused to hear the message of Jesus or the early apostles because they “were in trouble with the civil authorities?”

Also, there are numerous prophecies of corrupt leaders in both “church” and “state”:

There is a conspiracy of her princes within her like a roaring lion tearing its prey; they devour people, take treasures and precious things and make many widows within her. Her priests do violence to my law

**Continued on page 12**

## OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING TRIAL COMMENTS

- 7 General Comments from *Servants’ News* Editor, Norman S. Edwards
- 8 Did the Federal Government Have Prior Knowledge of the Bombing?
- 11 Rest of Bombing Story A Mystery, from *Rocky Mountain News*
- 13 Oklahoma Representative Launches Separate Grand Jury Investigation

# Did the *Federal Government* Have Prior Knowledge of the Oklahoma City Bombing?

By Ian Williams Goddard

Evidence is overwhelming that federal authorities were aware that a terrorist event was going to take place in Oklahoma City before the bombing of the Murrah Building occurred. In fact, two law suits have been filed against the federal government on the behalf of bombing victims for failing to give warning to victims of the bombing.

In the first suit, attorney Richard Bieder will represent at least 44 victims.<sup>1</sup> In the second suit, filed in the District Court of Oklahoma County (4/18/97), O.J. Simpson's defense lawyer Johnnie Cochran will represent over 300 people who suffered losses in the bombing. About that suit the Associated Press reported:<sup>2</sup>

More than 300 people joined the lawsuit against the government. They claim the [ATF] had prior warning of the April 19, 1995 bombing and that officials of the day care center in the federal building knew or should have known about the attack.

Indeed, the shocking claim by victims and family members that the federal government had prior knowledge of the Oklahoma City bombing is supported by an overwhelming body of evidence.

## **Evidence of Prior Knowledge**

The ABC program *20/20* recently reported (1/17/97) on its investigation into the claim that the federal government had prior knowledge of the Murrah Building bombing.<sup>3</sup> The *20/20* program opened with the question asked by anchor Tom Jarriel: "What did authorities know or expect before the explosion that federal workers and the children arriving at the Murrah Building did not know or were not told?" Jarriel continued, stating that:

For seven months *20/20* has looked into just that question and we have found solid facts which tend to support... suspicions [of prior knowledge]. Our investigation uncovered eyewitnesses and government documents which show a lot of unusual activity was going on behind the scene shortly before the explosion occurred.

*20/20* interviewed several eyewitnesses who saw the Oklahoma County Bomb Squad truck across the street from the Murrah Building shortly before the blast. The *20/20* investigation even discovered and displayed several local publications in which witnesses reported having seen the Bomb Squad before the blast. These publications include:

*WORKIN' INTEREST*, Parker & Rassley Petroleum USA Inc.

*THE PANOLA WATCHMAN*, a local newspaper

*MASS MEDIA*, an interoffice newsletter that reads:

MASS MEDIA Special Edition of the Oklahoma County Assessors Newsletter By J.D. Reed

As usual, I pulled into the parking garage about 7:30 and made my way into our office building.

Although it was unusual to see the Oklahoma County Bomb Disposal Unit parked outside the courthouse, I assumed it was routine business and thought no more about it.

The Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department claims that the large Bomb Squad truck with trailer, which was used later that day to remove the unexploded bombs found inside the Murrah Building,<sup>4</sup> was outside prior to the bombing because a deputy was using it for "routine errands."

One eyewitness, Claude Fritz, told *20/20* that he saw paramilitary Bomb Squad personnel searching the outside of the courthouse across the street; he said that prior to the blast "the presence of law enforcement was in the air, it was everywhere downtown that morning."

In fact Fritz witnessed several fire trucks speeding toward the Murrah Building with sirens blazing moments before the blast. When another ABC program, *EXTRA*, contacted the Oklahoma City Fire Department to ask them about Fritz's claim, the Fire Department told *EXTRA*: "We can't really confirm or deny that claim."<sup>5</sup>

*20/20* established, contrary to official denials, that the Oklahoma City Fire Department received a call from the FBI five days before the bombing (04/14/95)

warning them that "there were some people coming through town they should be on the lookout for."

Perhaps most shocking, the *20/20* investigation discovered that someone had called the Executive Secretariat's Office at the Justice Department in Washington D.C. to report the Murrah Building bombing 24 minutes before the blast. *20/20* quoted on screen the official government document reading:

The Department of Justice... received a telephone call...twenty-four minutes prior to the bombing.... The caller said, "The federal building in Oklahoma City has just been bombed."

*20/20* anchor Tom Jarriel then noted that "no action was apparently taken" by the Justice Department in response to that strange emergency call minutes before the blast.

With early warnings and with the heavy law-enforcement presence around the Murrah Building that morning, it's surprising that the vehicles seen by witnesses speeding away from the Murrah Building seconds before the blast were not noticed by the law-enforcement officers.<sup>6,7</sup>

## **The Judge Who Knew**

U.S. District Judge Wayne Alley, whose office was in the federal courthouse across the street from the Murrah Building, told Oregon's largest daily newspaper, *The Oregonian*, that he had been warned to take "EXTRA precautions" several days before the April 19th blast.

Judge Alley told *The Oregonian* (04/20/97): "Let me just say that within the past two or three weeks, information has been disseminated... that indicated concerns on the part of people who ought to know that we ought to be a little bit more careful." He said that he was told to keep an eye out for "people... wandering about in the courthouse who aren't supposed to be there, [and] letter bombs. There has been an increased vigilance." By an amazing stroke of good luck, Alley did not show up for work on April 19th.

The forewarnings that Judge Alley received were reserved for only a select few. And indeed, Alley was an important official, so much so that on August 10, 1995 he was assigned to be the judge in the Oklahoma City bombing case.

The defense tried for months to have Alley removed from the case, but to no avail. Then the defense discovered Alley's statements in *The Oregonian* and submitted them to the court on November

30, 1995. Within 48 hours, on December 1st, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals removed Alley from the case, ruling that because his office was across the street from, and damaged by, the blast, he could not be considered an impartial party in the case.<sup>8</sup> Yet no mention was made by the federal court of Judge Alley's forewarnings.<sup>9</sup>

### **ATF Cleared Out of Building?**

While at least 10 ATF [US bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms] agents were at the Murrah Building moments after the blast,<sup>10</sup> it seems that the ATF office inside the building was empty at the time of the blast. The ABC program *20/20* (01/17/97) interviewed a man who, while looking for his wife at the Murrah Building, ran into an ATF agent who said that he had survived the blast because "We were tipped by our pagers not to come in to work today."

That same individual, whose wife was injured in the blast, had been interviewed previously along with two other witnesses by NBC's affiliate in Oklahoma City, KFOR television (09/12/95). The second witness, the boss of the first, told KFOR viewers that he had overheard the account of the first witness just cited. The third witness, a rescue worker, had also been informed that there were no ATF agents in the building that day. All three witnesses spoke to KFOR, just as the first of the three spoke to *20/20*, in shadow, for fear of ATF reprisal.<sup>9</sup>

Their fear of the ATF was well-founded: just ask former ATF agents Diane Kipel and Mike Casali, who were targeted for harassment and intimidation by the ATF after blowing the whistle on theft by ATF agents during raids in Chicago. As a result, they lived in constant terror for months, even keeping their children and themselves away from windows in their home through which they feared they would be shot by ATF snipers.<sup>11</sup>

### **ATF Covers-Up Prior Knowledge**

In response to charges that the ATF had prior knowledge and had cleared its agents out of the Murrah Building before the blast, the ATF scrambled to cook up a cover-story: the ATF claimed that its agent Alex McCauley along with DEA agent David Chickendance, had survived the blast while inside an elevator that fell five stories. After the free-fall, the two forced the elevator doors open and proceeded heroically to rescue many other survivors—or so the ATF story went.

Not taking the ATF story at face value, *20/20* interviewed elevator maintenance crewmen Oscar Johnson and Duane James of Midwest Elevator, who said that the ATF's story was "pure fantasy." The crew had inspected the Murrah Building elevators shortly after the blast on April 19 and found that all the elevators were in perfect condition and could not possibly have fallen as the ATF claimed.

Furthermore, according the Midwest Elevator, not only could the two federal agents not have fallen or have opened the elevator doors, but they also could not have survived a five-story fall without sustaining traumatic injuries, and subsequently they could not have proceeded to rescue other people.<sup>9</sup> The ATF must have been pretty desperate to have fabricated such a fantastically false fable. By the way, according to *20/20*, DEA agent David Chickendance won the National Policeman of the Year Award for his "heroic" part in that fraudulent federal fable.

### **Prior Warning From ATF Agent**

The following evidence of prior knowledge by the federal government to the Oklahoma City bombing, perhaps the most important in this case, revolves around two undercover operatives, Carol Howe and Andreas Strassmeir. Many investigators believe Strassmeir is the elusive John Doe 2.

ANDREAS STRASSMEIR is the son of the German politician Gunther Strassmeir, often referred to as the "architect of German reunification." According to his lawyer Kirk Lyons, Andreas Strassmeir was trained in military intelligence operations at the Bundeswehr Academy in Hanover, Germany. His close friend Dennis Mahon, leader of the militant racist-group White Aryan Resistance (WAR) in the U.S., says Strassmeir was a member of Germany's elite counterterrorism unit, GSG-9.<sup>12</sup>

Strassmeir told Oklahoma City attorney John Michael Johnston that he did undercover counterterrorism work while in Germany.<sup>12</sup> Strassmeir later told London's *SUNDAY TELEGRAPH* reporter Ambrose Evans-Pritchard that he came to the U.S. looking to do undercover work for the Department of Justice or DEA, but he said such top-secret employment was not acquired.<sup>13</sup> Private investigators Glenn and Kathy Wilburn, whose daughter Edye Smith lost her two children in the bombing, believe they

have established not only that Strassmeir is John Doe 2, but that he was also an undercover federal agent whom they identify in their law suit as a "U.S. federal informant with material knowledge of the bombing."<sup>13</sup>

CAROL M. HOWE, a 26-year-old resident of Tulsa, OK, was a Miss Teenage America semi-finalist and honors student who became active in the militant racist group WAR. In 1994 Howe became an undercover agent for the ATF. She had infiltrated the Christian Identity white-separatist commune "Elohim City" in eastern Oklahoma and made more than 70 reports during 1994-95. According to *NBC News*: "The government acknowledges in federal documents that she [Carol Howe] was their informant."<sup>14</sup>

Howe's reports, which she submitted to her ATF boss, Angela Finley, exposed detailed plans by some Elohim City residents, such as Andreas Strassmeir, to blow up federal targets including the Murrah Building.<sup>15</sup>

During Howe's infiltration of Elohim City, she also saw Timothy McVeigh and the government's star witness and longtime McVeigh friend, Michael Fortier. At Elohim City, McVeigh was known as "Tim Tuttle," an alias he frequently used. Yet after gathering such explosive intelligence, according to the *Associated Press*, the ATF then fired Howe just days before the bombing because her reports had suddenly become "unreliable."<sup>14</sup>

Howe's "unreliable" reports focused on Andreas Strassmeir. Howe was not aware that Strassmeir was apparently also a federal operative, which would explain why the FBI, even with Howe's reports in hand, did not pursue the John Doe 2 look-alike Strassmeir after the blast. The FBI merely noted in a summary of Carol Howe's reports:

Strassmeir has talked frequently about direct action against the U.S. government. He is trained in weaponry and has discussed assassination, bombings, and mass shootings. Strassmeir and Mahon [leader of WAR] have taken three trips to Oklahoma City.<sup>16</sup>

This evidence not only proves (a) that the ATF and FBI had prior warning of an action against the Murrah Building by a group of people associated with Timothy McVeigh, and yet did nothing to stop it, but (b) after the bombing, the FBI did not pursue Strassmeir, a prime suspect fitting the John Doe 2 profile down to the scar on his face.

At the request of the ATF, the

Oklahoma State Patrol did put out a "be on the lookout for" alert for Strassmeir after the blast.<sup>17</sup> But Strassmeir was never apprehended, and the alert was quickly suppressed and denied.<sup>18</sup> Strassmeir, who had been in the U.S. with a passport that had expired in 1991, was allowed to return to Germany many months after the bombing in early 1996<sup>14</sup> in an apparent effort not to avoid authorities, but private investigators.

Furthermore, after first calling John Doe 2 (JD2) "the most wanted man in America," the FBI acted to suppress all official investigations of JD2. As an internal FBI memo now proves,<sup>19</sup> the FBI suspended their search for JD2 very early in the investigation—contrary to their claims that they were still looking for JD2 at the time.<sup>20</sup>

The FBI went so far in their effort to suppress information about JD2 that they even censured grand jurors who asked questions about JD2, such as former Oklahoma City bombing grand juror Hoppy Heidelburgh, who headed the grand jury's investigation before being thrown off the jury for his persistent investigation into JD2. Heidelburgh had reached the conclusion that JD2 was an undercover federal agent.<sup>21</sup>

In an effort to fabricate the facade of investigation, the FBI finally contacted JD2 suspect Strassmeir by phone in Germany but only after McVeigh's attorney Stephen Jones condemned the FBI for not following up on leads. When Strassmeir was interviewed by the German publication Report Baden-Baden, he said that when the FBI called him by phone they assured him that "They would cover for me."<sup>22</sup>

### In Conclusion

This extensive body of evidence indicates not only that the ATF and the FBI had prior knowledge of an impending terrorist act on the Murrah Building, but that the FBI is guilty of the obstruction of justice by aiding and abetting the escape from justice of a prime suspect, John Doe 2, who may have been a federal operative involved in the worst act of mass murder in U.S. history.

This evidence further suggests that some element within the federal government may have actively participated in the mass murder in Oklahoma City, which resulted in massive new powers being given to the federal government through "anti-terrorist legislation" spurred on by the bombing of the Murrah Building. 

## Endnotes to Goddard Article

- 1) REUTERS: Families of Oklahoma City Victims to Sue U.S.. March 19, 1997. Also see: <http://www.cnn.com/US/9703/19/okc.bomb/index.html>
- 2) ASSOCIATED PRESS: 300 Families Sue Government, Day Care and Chemical Company. April 19, 1997. [http://xenocide.nando.net/newsroom/ntn/top/041997/topstory\\_17914\\_S1.html](http://xenocide.nando.net/newsroom/ntn/top/041997/topstory_17914_S1.html)
- 3) ABC's 20/20, 01/17/97. <http://jbs.org/okc/mretruth.htm>
- 4) CNN reports videotaped, April 19, 1995.
- 5) EXTRA: Prior Knowledge. 11/20/96. ABC program.
- 6) THE WASHINGTON TIMES: U.S. Experts Begin Search for Killers. by Micheal Hedges, April 20, 1995. Reports that a van with 3 men was seen speeding away.
- 7) OKBOMB! By Jim Keith. IllumiNet Press, 1996, p.11 & 19. Reports van and McVeigh's car w/ two inside were seen.
- 8) ASSOCIATED PRESS: Appeals Court Removes Oklahoma Bombing Judge. by Paul Queary, 12/01/97. <http://www.arlington.net/archives/12011995.arc/news/daily/topstory.htm>
- 9) THE NEW AMERICAN: Evidence of Prior Knowledge. by William F. Jasper, ay 13, 1996, pp. 31-35. <http://jbs.org/okc/priorevd.htm>
- 10) OKBOMB! By Jim Keith. IllumiNet Press, 1996, p.71.
- 11) TIME MAGAZINE: ATF Under Siege. by Erik Larson, 07/24/95, pp.26-7.
- 12) THE NEW AMERICAN: More Pieces to the OKC Puzzle. by William F. Jasper, June 24, 1996, pp. 4-8. <http://jbs.org/okc/mrepiece.htm>
- 13) THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH: Did agents bungle US terror bomb? by A.Evans-Pritchard & A.Gimson, 5/20/96. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk:80/et?ac=000111151604876&rtmo=3307311a&atmo=3307311a&pg=/et/96/5/20/wbungl19.html>
- 14) DIGITAL CITY DENVER: Federal Agent Knew of Bombing. Figure. by Ryan Ross, March 26, 1997. <http://denver.digitalcity.com/bombing/pages/art0021.htm>
- 15) McCURTAIN DAILY GAZETTE. J.D. Cash. February 11, 1997.
- 16) THE NEW AMERICAN: ATF Informant Says Cover-Up. by W.F.Jasper, March 17, 1997, pp. 17-18. <http://www.jbs.org/okc/atfinfrm.htm>
- 17) GERMANY ALERT: ATF Sought Son of Top Kohl Aide After Oklahoma Bombing. April 7, 1997. <http://chantry.com/ga/970407.htm#ATF>
- 18) DIGITAL CITY DENVER: Federal Agent Knew of Bombing Figure. By Ryan Ross, March 26, 1997. <http://denver.digitalcity.com/bombing/pages/art0021.htm>
- 19) FBI memo calling off all inquiry into John Doe 2: <http://denver.digitalcity.com/bombing/pages/doc0001.htm>
- 20) DIGITAL CITY DENVER: FBI Memo: Bomb Suspect Search Suspended. By Ryan Ross. <http://denver.digitalcity.com/bombing/pages/art0009.htm>
- 21) MEDIA BYPASS: OKC Grand Jurors Claim 'Cover-up.' Nov.95. & <http://home.earthlink.net/~alto/hoppy.html>
- 22) REPORT BADEN-BADEN: Another Trial of The Century. by Klaus Weidmann and Thilo Brethauer, 04/14/97. Posted by David Hoffman

## Recommended Books on the OKC Bombing:

- OKBOMB, by Jim Keith, 1996, Illuminet Press.  
 OKLAHOMA CITY, DAY ONE, by Michele Moore, 1996, Harvest Trust.  
 THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING AND THE POLITICS OF TERROR, by David Hoffman, 1997, Feral House. Due out fall 1997.

## OKC Bombing Internet Information Sites:

- <http://www.nebonet.com/headhome/dadmisc/okcbomb.htm>  
[http://www.yahoo.com/News\\_and\\_media/Current\\_Events/Oklahoma\\_City\\_Bombing\\_Trial/Latest\\_News\\_Stories/Archived\\_Articles/](http://www.yahoo.com/News_and_media/Current_Events/Oklahoma_City_Bombing_Trial/Latest_News_Stories/Archived_Articles/)  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/oklahoma/okla.htm>  
<http://www.chicago.tribune.com/news/okcity/okcity.htm>  
<http://www.kwtv.com/news/bombing/bombingpage.htm>  
<http://www.involved.com/ewolfe/okc/index.htm>  
<http://www.future.net/~thetruth/okc.html>  
<http://denver.digitalcity.com/bombing/>  
<http://www.kwgn.com/okc.htm>  
<http://www.jbs.org/okc>

Despite prosecution, nagging questions about conspiracy theory remain.

Americans learned Monday that Timothy McVeigh is guilty of bombing the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, but they still don't know the full story.

The trial was a search for justice, not necessarily for the real story.

The prosecution of McVeigh left many nagging questions about the worst act of domestic terrorism in U.S. history.

Restricted as much by choice as by U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch's rulings excluding certain evidence and lines of questioning, lawyers on both sides honed their presentations to the narrow question of McVeigh's guilt or innocence.

Prosecutors made it clear from the outset that their job was to convict McVeigh—not necessarily answer every question about the bombing conspiracy.

They achieved their goal.

But now, a nation once captivated by the search for John Doe 2 is left to wonder whether there ever was such a man at the heart of the conspiracy.

The clues are tantalizingly strong and, without resolution, continue to feed conspiracy theories. These mysteries remain:

### **Renting the Truck**

Two witnesses who work at the Ryder agency in Junction City, Kansas, where the bomb truck was rented, testified that two men came into the office that day.

A third employee—the one whose memory was once deemed the clearest and provided the descriptions for the famous sketches of suspects John Does 1 and 2—wasn't called as a witness. He also says two men were there.

And a fourth employee, also never called at the trial, told the FBI two men arrived to pick up the truck. He said they arrived in a Jeep Cherokee.

All this conflicts with the prosecution theory that McVeigh walked alone 20 minutes in the rain to get the truck.

With all the witnesses sure there were two men, neither of whom was co-defendant Terry Nichols, then who could this John Doe 2 be?

### **McVeigh at Denny's**

A waitress at a Junction City Denny's restaurant testified she seated McVeigh and two other men for brunch on Easter Sunday, three days before the bombing. Again, Nichols wasn't among them; he was at home with his wife.

One of the men had long dark hair, similar to that of star witness Michael

Fortier. Phone records in the case indicate no activity on Fortier's Kingman, Ariz., home telephone from April 14 until April 22.

This was in the midst of the most crucial period of the entire conspiracy. Who were those two other men having Easter brunch with McVeigh?

### **Dreamland Motel**

Lea McGown owns the Dreamland Motel in Junction City. McVeigh stayed there for four nights before the bombing, registered in his own name.

One night, she said, she walked by his room and heard three male voices inside, one of them McVeigh's. She said she remembers this because McVeigh had paid a discount rate for a single room, and she would be upset if he had other guests.

Who were those other people?

McGown was not called to testify at the trial. The prosecution didn't call her perhaps because she told agents she saw McVeigh in a Ryder truck the day before the bomb truck was rented. The defense likely didn't call her because she did, in fact, see McVeigh in a Ryder truck.

### **The Botched Bomb**

When McVeigh and Nichols tried to blow up a small ammonium nitrate bomb in a milk jug in October 1994 outside Kingman, Ariz., they failed miserably, Fortier testified.

In that tiny device, the booster went off and sprayed unignited ammonium nitrate all over the desert sand.

But in Kansas six months later, the government claimed, McVeigh took just a few hours the day before the bombing in Oklahoma City to mix nearly 5,600 pounds of ingredients into the same type of bomb.

On April 19, 1995, the bomb exploded so efficiently that the FBI laboratory could find just a few unignited crystals of ammonium nitrate at the crime scene. And McVeigh cleaned himself up so efficiently that no ammonium was found on him or his car.

How did he go from being unable to blow up a milk jug to cleanly igniting a Ryder truck full of explosives? The government says McVeigh learned the for-

# Rest of Bombing Story a Mystery

by Lou Kilzer and Kevin Flynn.

Reprinted with permission from the *Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Colorado, June 3, 1997, page 3A.

(Daily circulation: 326,000).

mula from *Homemade C-4*, a bomb-making book published in Boulder.

But the formula for such a bomb in *Homemade C-4* reads nothing like the way prosecutors said in court the bomb was built. The book calls for a slow, careful process of grinding and baking ammonium nitrate in small, coffee-can portions at a time.

### **Other Threats**

A paid federal informant infiltrated a racist compound in Oklahoma in 1994 and told her government contact that people there were talking about bombing federal facilities and the need to take action against the federal government.

One of the men she said was talking this way was a German illegal alien named Andreas Strassmeir. He is the person McVeigh is alleged to have called from Arizona two weeks before the bombing, immediately after McVeigh called a Ryder agency in Arizona, according to phone records the government put into evidence.

Despite this information, the FBI never interviewed Strassmeir before he fled to Berlin in January 1996. Why?

The government successfully argued to Matsch that the informant, Carol Howe, should be prevented from testifying.

Why?

### **Eyewitnesses**

Tulsa banker Kyle Hunt is certain he saw McVeigh driving a big yellow car in downtown Oklahoma City, several blocks from the Murrah Building, a half-hour before the blast.

Hunt said two men were with McVeigh in the car—one with long dark hair similar to the unknown person with McVeigh in the Denny's restaurant. The men in the yellow car were tailing a big yellow Ryder truck and appeared to be lost in downtown's one-way street maze.

Hunt told the FBI McVeigh glared at him when Hunt caught his eye, ready to

offer directions.

Hunt is only one of several people who claim to have seen McVeigh that morning in downtown Oklahoma City. All but one say they saw him with other men. None of these eyewitnesses was called to testify at the trial.

Why?

**Philippine Connection**

Nichols traveled often to the Philippines, where he married a mail-order bride. McVeigh's defense team interviewed a jailed Filipino terrorist, Edwin Angeles, who said he met with an American matching Nichols description in 1992 on Mindanao, the hotbed of Islamic terrorism against the Philippine government.

Angeles also claimed in his videotaped statement that his associate, Ramzi Yousef, participated in the meeting. Yousef is the alleged mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

In November 1994, a month after the milk-jug bomb failed in Arizona, Nichols set up a two-month trip to the Philippines, where his wife was finishing school. Nichols left behind a letter for McVeigh indicating he might not return alive and that he should "go for it."

While Nichols was in his wife's hometown of Cebu City, Yousef also showed up there. He boarded a jumbo jet in Manila, planted a small bomb under his seat and got off the plane in Cebu City. The flight continued and the bomb went off en route to Tokyo, killing a Japanese tourist who had taken Yousef's seat. The plane landed safely.

Yousef has been convicted in this crime, which authorities say was a practice run for a plot to bomb 11 U.S. airliners over the Pacific Ocean in a single day.

Did a meeting between Yousef and Nichols really happen? Matsch barred McVeigh's lawyers from presenting evidence about a possible Philippines connection, ruling it irrelevant to the charges against McVeigh.

**Spotlight Calls**

One mystery that no one has yet explained involves dozens of calls, lasting only seconds, to the company issuing the telephone calling card used by the conspirators.

On the surface, the calls were merely made to determine account balances. But often the balance was called for repeatedly, only minutes apart. Sometimes a dozen consecutive calls were made to the

balance number.

The defense believed that the calls may have been used to connect the caller to a second, untraceable line. The issue, however, did not come up at McVeigh's trial because neither side could clearly work the evidence in their favor.

The records indicate, as McVeigh's lawyers contended, that a third person had access to the card.

The computer records show that on Feb. 17, 1995, several calls were made on the Spotlight card by McVeigh from the Hilltop Motel in Kingman, Ariz., to gun show promoters and to his father in New York.

The same day in Junction City, Nichols placed two calls from a hardware store.

But that evening, two calls totaling less than a minute were made from a pay phone east of Des Moines, Iowa, both made simply to check the credit balance on the Spotlight card.

Who made those two calls?

Terry Nichols' trial, expected to begin in August, might answer some of these questions.

But it's unlikely that America will ever get the full story unless Timothy McVeigh talks. 

**"Watch Out!" from page 7**

and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey; they shed blood and kill people to make unjust gain (Ezk 22:25-27).

We have reprinted these three articles on the Oklahoma City bombing because they seem to represent a middle-of-the-road point of view. The vast majority of the press coverage of the Oklahoma City bombing places great emphasis on the sufferings of the victims and how much the various government agencies are doing to reduce that suffering and convict the guilty. At the opposite extreme, some writers view the bombing as just a small part of a massive conspiracy by the rich to establish a "New World Order"—a hierarchical World Government. We have been continually amazed at the ability of the mass media to apparently ignore important facts. On the other hand, we have also been amazed at the number of different conspiracy theorists

who ask us to accept their theory which contains a rather large number of unprovable assumptions.

***Servants' News will not stop its purpose of teaching the brethren in order to become a political news magazine.*** We do not intend to write on this bombing again unless there are some extremely significant developments. But we believe some of our readers are not aware of how far our nation has departed from the path of truth and justice. It is not clear to us whether individuals in the Federal government actually planned the bombing, or simply failed to stop it and are too embarrassed to admit it. But it is very clear to us that the Federal government is hiding a lot of important information, and that to some degree, the popular news media is cooperating. McVeigh's trial raised more questions than it answered. Are we expected to believe that a single, mixed-up individual could make one of history's most powerful ammonium nitrate bombs in just a few hours with little or no assistance? Why were no private explosive-investigators ever allowed on the property to determine the exact cause of the blast? Why did two different seismometers show that there were actually two blasts?

Why were the vast majority of the FBI, CIA, and BATF employees and their families not in the building on the day of the blast? Was it a coincidence that the "Anti-terrorist Bill" was stalled in the Senate? The original version of that bill gave the President the authority to secretly jail anyone for up to 10 years if he considered them a terrorist. Is that unconstitutional? Probably so. But how could you plead your case if you are held in a secret jail? Does anyone believe that our current president is honest enough to be trusted with that kind of authority?

Again, we at *Servants' News* do not believe that it is the job of Believers to solve the Oklahoma City bombing or the problems of our governments. Could these issues become a matter of life and death? Yes. But remember, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matt 16:25). Our job is to become righteous individuals and to preach the Gospel to others (Matt 5:48, Mark 15:16). But we should not be ignorant of Satan's schemes (2Cor 2:11, NIV) and we should be praying "Thy Kingdom Come"! (Matt 6:10, KJV).

—NSE

# Oklahoma Representative Launches Separate Grand Jury Investigation of Bombing

The following is a reprinted letter from Oklahoma Representative Charles Key. He is not a wild-eyed conspiracy theorist, but a man elected to office by his district in the State of Oklahoma.

Rep. Charles Key  
State Capitol Bldg.  
Room 508  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
(405)521.2711

Committees:  
Criminal Justice  
Education  
Banking & Finance  
Wildlife

House Of Representatives  
March 12, 1997

Dear Concerned Citizen:

My name is Charles Key and I'd like to share some personal and inside information with you.

I'm an Oklahoma State Representative. I humbly ask you to spare a few minutes to read some things that you have probably never seen before on TV or read in the newspapers about some shocking events associated with the Oklahoma City bombing.

Regardless what city or state you're from, you will likely be affected more than you may ever know by that bombing and pending trials.

On April 19, 1995 when I heard the news (and literally heard the explosion) of the Murrah building I was dumbfounded.

As the realization sunk in that so many people and children were killed, I, along with millions of others watching news coverage, felt that indescribable, overwhelming sensation in the pit of my stomach.

Yet, as the "story" unfolded, my spirits were lifted as I saw example after example of sheer human compassion and an outpouring of unblemished, unconditional love flow forth in a far greater degree than I had ever seen in any venue of life, including and especially in political circles.

Put more bluntly, that sacrificial selflessness and unity was the very antithesis of the type of behavior that so typically embodies politics.

How refreshing it was to see people helping people without the proverbial ugly political head rearing up asking, "What's in it for me?" or "Why should I do that?"

As the weeks passed, I saw God-breathed compassion by the citizens of Oklahoma and from many other states who joined in to help. Those memories will never leave my mind and nothing can eradicate the great amount of good that was done by those thousands of acts of kindness.

(—end of page 1—)

— NOT PRINTED AT STATE EXPENSE —

As a matter of fact, it is that very visible love that helped

me hang on for the two tough years that followed. (I hope you will take the time to read more about those years in the following pages.)

Over the next few weeks, inconsistencies began emerging. Stories kept changing and although I couldn't see the emerging political angle, I could sense it.

Consider the following facts which caused me to become initially concerned.

**Fact #1:** The initial A.P.B. (All Points Bulletin) was for Middle Eastern John Does in a brown pick-up truck. The Jordanian brought back from London who had apparent bomb making materials in his suitcase and other John Doe suspects who were described as Middle Eastern.

**Fact #2:** Those Middle Eastern reports quickly vanished. Why?...

**Fact #3:** The 1200 pound ammonium nitrate bomb "grew" continuously from 1200 to 2400 to 4800 pounds.

**Fact #4:** The early reports told us about explosives inside the Murrah Building. Remember how the rescue effort was "put on hold" while the bomb squad entered the building to search for and take out those intentionally placed internal explosives? Then those reports were described in detail by local U.S. Congressmen and bomb experts interviewed in studio by the media.

**Fact #5:** Those reports also disappeared or were explained away as dummy or 'for show' items.

**Fact #6:** Those who dared oppose the REVISIONIST NEWS ACCOUNTS, were ostracized, mocked, discredited, dark-cornered, etc. I know, I was one who dared to be politically incorrect.

(—end of page 2—)

**Fact #7:** The ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) had field agents assigned to the office at the Murrah Building. Yet, on the day of the bombing, not one of those agents were killed. They were mysteriously, uncharacteristically absent from the building that morning.

At some point it became painfully apparent that there was more wrong than right with the federal investigation. That is when I had a very tough decision to make. Should I sit and do nothing and remain in my comfort zone simply "playing the part" of the caring politician for the photo op's? Or should I really do the right thing even if it meant giving the phrase "politically incorrect" a whole new dimension?

It didn't take long after discussing it with my wife to determine that I had to do the right thing—no matter what the consequences were to be.

Having come to that conclusion, I decided to go forward to search out the truth and tell it to a waiting world.. Little did I know the onslaught I was about to embrace.

Before I go on to tell you what I did that I believed was right, allow me to tell you what some in the establishment news media and political circles claimed I was doing wrong.

Major media has launched unheard of attacks against our desire to conduct constitutionally sound and proper investigations. The Daily Oklahoman and the Tulsa World have published nine separate editorials viciously attacking me, Glenn Wilburn and all those who have stood up and demanded all of the truth about this terrible crime.

An editorial from the Daily Oklahoman entitled, "DROP IT, MR. KEY" even had the audacity to say;

"As we argued when Key first set out on this course, the Legislature and its staff had no business investigating the bombing. It was, and is, poorly equipped to do so. The same can be said of a panel of local citizens...."

The same day Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson issued a personal attack saying that I was proposing a "wasteful witch hunt" and was pushing "the worst kind of paranoid conspiracy pandering."

People in powerful positions have repeatedly attacked those of us who have been scrutinizing the federal investigation. Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating was a former FBI agent himself and spent most of his career in the services of Federal Departments of the Treasury, Justice and HUD (Housing and Urban Development). At one time in his career his responsibilities included the overseeing of the ATF and other federal law enforcement. Gov. Keating went so far as to say that "raising questions would not bring one whit of intelligence to the process." He later escalated his attacks saying those of us who were raising serious questions were "howling at the moon" and "off the reservation."

(—end of page 3—)

All of these people are literally robbing the victims family members and survivors—and all of us—the opportunity and right to know the truth.

For nearly two years the negative media coverage seemed unending. And although I never vowed not to do any fundraising, going hat in hand was about the last thing I wanted to do. After all, I wasn't searching for cash, I was searching for answers. I shudder to think what sort of creative headlines would have appeared had I operated an active fundraising campaign in the wake of that tragedy.

In retrospect, I now believe I may have done a disservice by not fundraising.

First, had I acquired cash reserves for the very worthy cause I was working on, it would have aided tremendously in fighting the formidable disinformation and smear campaign waged by "faceless forces" that appear to have pockets of unending depth and the mass media at their beck and call.

Second, had I done fundraising, my own family and others wouldn't have gone into debt by this largely self-funded effort.

#### WE NOW FACE OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE

Glenn Wilburn, who lost two grand children in the tragedy, and I filed a petition in November, 1995, to have a local county grand jury impaneled to investigate the bombing. This independent grand jury would be fully autonomous of the federal investigation, and would double in the capacity of a watchdog of the federal investigation.

Here in Oklahoma, we are very fortunate to be one of only two states that have a constitutional guarantee that the people of a county can cause a grand jury to be impaneled whenever they feel there is a need simply by circulating a petition. It is and always has been a common occurrence in our state. In fact there are county grand juries meeting as I write this letter.

The Presiding State District Judge, Dan Owens, tried to stop us from petitioning to impanel the grand jury and we were forced to appeal his actions to a higher court. That is where the latest and some of the most intense criticism has come from recently. One year after our appeal, we finally got a written opinion from the Court of Appeals in the Tulsa district. On December 24, 1996 the court ruled not only in our favor, but they did so unanimously.

But wait—there is more. Not only was it unanimous, but the court issued the decision "For Publication." That means that it was such a clear-cut case in regard to the state constitution, statutes, and previous case law, that it constituted a precedent-setting case to be used in lawbooks, most likely for many years to come.

Yet, why is there such extreme opposition to keep this independent grand jury from being allowed to assemble? I believe the answer is because some in our federal law

(—end of page 4—)

enforcement agencies (i.e. ATF and FBI) had prior knowledge that certain individuals were planning to bomb the Murrah Federal Building! I believe that because of at least four reasons:

1) Six different individuals have come forward and reported seeing the bomb squad in the immediate vicinity of the Murrah Building early on the morning of the bombing.

2) The Oklahoma City Fire Department received a call from the FBI the Friday before the bombing and was told to be on the alert for a possible terrorist attack on a government building.

3) Bruce Shaw, who had frantically come to look for his wife inside the smoldering building, was told by an ATF agent, "You won't find any ATF agents in the building because they were warned on their pagers not to come in this morning and they're now in a debriefing." This conversation was corroborated by his boss who accompanied Bruce to help him find his wife.

4) Carol Howe, a paid informant for the ATF has recently come forward to confirm that she informed the ATF that two individuals, Dennis Mahon and Andreas Strassmier, were planning to bomb the federal building in Oklahoma City. She also said that the likely date for the bombing was April 19!

Prior knowledge on the part of some individuals in the federal government may also be why the federal prosecutors barred every single witness to John Doe(s) from the Federal Grand Jury. Of the more than 20 witnesses to one or more John Doe(s), none—not even one—were allowed to tell the Grand Jury what they saw. Additionally, when the prosecution's list of witnesses was

unsealed several weeks ago, we found that the one witness who will be allowed to testify in the trial to McVeigh being in the company of a John Doe can't describe in any way who he saw. Indeed, the best witnesses who can positively place McVeigh in downtown Oklahoma City that morning saw him with one or more individuals and are able to describe to some degree what that person or persons looked like. Those witnesses will not be allowed to testify at McVeigh's trial.

Incredible? Did you hear that right? Yes, you did. As bizarre as it sounds, Federal Prosecutors were not allowing any of those witnesses to be seen or heard by the Federal Grand Jury. This gives "blind justice" a whole new meaning.

To make this even more clear, the Federal Grand Jury wanted to interview both the eye witnesses and the sketch artist who drew the John Doe composites but they were flatly refused by the federal "authorities." Clearly they were blatantly deprived of their basic Constitutional rights as grand jurors. Why?

Just what is it that they are trying to accomplish? Or, perhaps more pointedly, just who are they trying to protect? And what all are they trying to hide?

(—end of page 5—)

Let's not forget, elected officials are supposed to be the servants of the people and not the other way around. Just what's going on??? And how are they getting away with it?!!!!

Our efforts to impanel a county grand jury are important for numerous reasons. One of the reasons that concerns me most is that I fear that the record of McVeigh's trial will comprise the "official story" of what happened. If the evidence of prior knowledge and other perpetrators is not presented in this case, I fear that the government will be successful in shaping the official story to permanently exclude that evidence.

The 1993 New York World Trade Center bombing is a case in point.

Because certain tapes implicating the role of the FBI in allowing the attack to take place were ruled inadmissible in court, many people do not know that the FBI indeed had knowledge prior to that bombing and could have prevented it—yet they allowed the plot to continue resulting in the deaths of six innocent people.

Unfortunately the transcripts of that court case have become the "official story" of what happened in that bombing.

Another reason that I feel that the

OKC bombing case is important and directly effects you is that the government has gone to a new level of operating out of the bounds of the law and is becoming more and more arrogant.

A few weeks ago, ABC was getting ready to run a major story on the prior knowledge issue. The Justice Department became aware of it and contacted some of the executives at ABC. After acknowledging the validity of the story they put extreme pressure on ABC not to air the report saying, "The people couldn't handle the truth."

I don't know about you but that kind of arrogance sickens me and leaves me with a eerie feeling. The government must not be allowed to get away with yet another botched job! The Government must be held accountable.

The good news...

In spite of the seemingly impenetrable and insurmountable forces acting against us, on February 18, 1997 the Oklahoma State Supreme Court miraculously ruled in favor of allowing the independent local county grand jury and against the Federal Government's attempt to quash the rights of the people.

Now the forgotten families, survivors, and victims who died from the blast will have their right to a County Grand Jury and a full, open and truthful investigation.

(—end of page 6—)

The bad news...

Any day now the courts will give us the formalized written order to begin passing the petitions to impanel the independent jury, but we're just about stone broke.

For nearly two years, I never conducted so much as a single fund-raiser to properly investigate this worst terrorist act in the history of both our state and the nation. I also know how tapped most people are these days, but I believe at this point, I don't have much of a choice.

We now need funds to secure copies of voluminous government documents, and to pay independent investigators, as well as money to print, publicize and distribute signature forms to complete the legal requirements to impanel the County Grand Jury. In short, this effort is now bigger than what I can handle fiscally or physically. May I count on your help?

Enclosed is a simple straight forward form asking for whatever financial assistance you can afford to give. Please do what you can. We will put you on our mailing list to keep you up to date on the

petition drive and signature gathering process.

The clock is about to begin and we have limited time by law to gather signatures. And you know that the big players within the Federal Government are not likely to help us. That is why I am counting on you.

Thank you for being patient and open-minded enough to read this letter. Together we can get the truth out, make a real difference and God willing, see justice prevail. May I please count on your help?

Sincerely,  
Rep. Charles Key

P.S. Elements within the federal government and in the establishment media have done virtually everything in their power to block an independent county investigation of the Oklahoma bombing tragedy. On February 18 the Oklahoma Supreme Court cleared the way for the people to investigate the Federal Government and their investigation of the bombing. Next week we must begin obtaining signatures.

Will you please stand up and be counted? PLEASE FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED REPLY CARD AND SEND IT BACK TO ME RIGHT AWAY. It only takes a few moments, and it will make a real difference in the effort to uncover the truth about the Oklahoma bombing.

Thank you for your time and concern.  
(—end of letter—)

Since the writing of this letter, the necessary signatures have been obtained. The Jury will be selected and is expected to begin meeting in June or July. It remains to be seen if there will be any interference with jury selection or obtaining evidence in the investigation. We understand that a video tape showing the evidence collected to date is available. You may obtain more information by writing:

Oklahoma County Grand Jury &  
Bombing Investigation Fund  
Post Office Box 75669  
Oklahoma City, OK 73147

*Servants' News is not in the business of raising funds for political objectives. We printed the entire letter (including the appeal for funds) in order to accurately convey the author's entire message. We did not include this because we feel it is the most worthy cause to which one could contribute—we have not taken any time to investigate how much money they have collected and how it is being spent.*

**"Overcome" from page 1**

heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Heb 3:12-13).

As the above scripture indicates, the encouragement of other brethren is often very helpful in recognizing sin in our lives. When we have a sin that we find difficulty overcoming, it often helps to talk to someone else about it (not your entire congregation or the entire world.).

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9).

**Confess your trespasses to one another,** and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:16).

There is not a need to confess all of our past sins that are over and forgiven, but ongoing sins that we are trying to overcome. It is easy to convince ourselves that certain sins are not important or that we are making "adequate progress" in overcoming them. It is a little harder to convince an outside observer who may see very little progress.

**How Can We Overcome Sin?**

The above scriptures are the foundation: confessing the sin, praying for forgiveness and asking the Eternal to cleanse us from sin. Any attempt to

overcome sin without this will be more difficult than it should be. We will go on to show how to overcome five major types of sin:

**• Sins Due to Bad Habits**

These are sins that have come about primarily from neglect, not from some great trauma in our lives. Examples include: procrastination, staying up too late, eating too much, driving too fast, forgetting to return borrowed property

Writing down a plan to replace a bad habit with a good habit is an effective method. Your plan may not succeed perfectly, but it will certainly be better than making no effort to overcome bad habits. After achieving a certain amount of success, a new plan can be made.

**• Sins Due to Ignorance of the Truth**

Speaking of His people in the latter days, the Eternal says: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children" (Hos 4:6). It is easy to see how the sins mentioned in this chapter are destroying our nations today: "By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, They break all restraint, With bloodshed upon bloodshed" (Hos 4:2). But do brethren with the holy spirit suffer due to lack of knowledge?

We may not have many of the flagrant sins mentioned above, but we probably do suffer in our relationships with other people—especially with other brethren. Brethren often **expect** other brethren to treat them in some special way because they are brethren.

This author once

**Do We Need to Overcome Sin?**

Since salvation is by grace, some people believe that it is not necessary to overcome sin—that Christ does all of that for us. If we read only a few sections of the Bible, we can easily reach that conclusion. If we put all the scriptures together, we find that our Savior gives us the power to overcome (the Holy Spirit), but that we are very much involved in asking for that power, and carrying out the process of our own overcoming.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life (Eph 2:8-10, NRSV).

They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him (Titus 1:16).

James shows that our salvation and faith are intricately linked with the physical works we do:

14 What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? **Can faith save him?**

15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give

them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works (Jms 2:14-18).

Yes, it is the power of our Savior in us that gives us the ability to do good works. But if those works are absent, something is wrong—wrong with us.

Therefore **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God (Rom 6:12-13).

Finally, in the "letters to the seven churches" in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 we find a very important phrase repeated to every congregation. Each one says "to him who overcomes" or "he who overcomes" and then specifies a reward (Rev 2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21). The rewards are all different, but it appears that overcoming sin and Satan is necessary to obtain any reward.

on time, etc. Recognizing that these sins **are sins** is much of the problem. But specifically, these bad habits need to be replaced by good habits: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom 12:21).

heard a long-time pastor seriously advise that members of his congregation not enter into business transactions with each other because his experience showed that the result was usually bad feelings between the parties. Yet this

same pastor believed that he (and the converted people in his congregation) would be kings and priests responsible for teaching others how to live in the Kingdom of God. There is much that all of us can learn from both Old and New Testaments about how to live at peace with each other and ourselves.

Lack of knowledge applies to other relationships. Some people are sick, but do not apply what the Scripture says about health. Others are poor, but do not seem concerned about what the scripture says about this subject.

David frequently meditated on the law of the Eternal (Pslm 1:2; 119:97), yet he still had to pray: "Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults" (Pslm 19:12). When we see difficulty in our lives, we need to pray and ask for the Eternal's intervention, but we also need to study to gain the knowledge that may prevent the problem. In Proverbs 8, where wisdom is personified, she (wisdom) says: "I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me" (verse 17).

#### • **Sins Due to Evil Influence of Others in the Past**

These sins usually begin in our formative years and are very hard to overcome later. Most often, they come from those who raised us, but sometimes from people with whom we lived in early adult life. Examples are: intolerance, fear, drunkenness, vulgar language, sexual immorality, homosexuality, anger, violence, abuse of others, etc. People who have grown up around this kind of behavior or suffered under it have a great tendency to repeat it. Sometimes, such problems are so strongly imbedded in a person that they believe they cannot overcome them—but the scripture says otherwise:

He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Rev 21:7-8).

We must learn to forgive the people who treated us so terribly in the past. Our Savior forgave the soldiers who executed him (Luke 23:34). He realized that they were caught up in an evil sys-

tem—that they either had to carry out orders or face death themselves. We do not need to be the judge of those people who ill-treated us in the past. We must realize that there is nothing we can do to change the way we were treated in the past. Knowing whether our past problems were mostly our fault or mostly someone else's fault will make little difference. The only hope is that we change ourselves now.

When we leave the other people out and begin looking to our Savior and ourselves, overcoming is possible. The "parable of the minas" ("parable of the pounds" in KJV) gives us insights for this situation (Luke 19:10-26). The last man in the parable did nothing with his mina because he felt that he was treated unfairly. We should never conclude that we cannot overcome because our situation is so much more difficult than our fellow believer's situation. Even if it is, our Father has promised to give us extra help to escape from it:

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it (1Cor 10:13).

#### • **Sins Due to Evil Influence of Others Now**

These are different from the previous category in that the bad influence is still affecting us. Bad influence may be TV, movies, games, magazines, books, cars, clothes or other possessions. Also, the bad influence may be people: friends, those we work with and, in some cases, our parents or spouses.

If our problem is with things, we can usually just make a great effort to take the offending things out of our lives. However, the ultimate goal is to learn the right use of things—and it may not be possible to take some things (like cars or clothes) completely out of our lives. It is usually effective to first regulate, and if that fails, eliminate. For example, if you know you are wasting too much time watching TV, set a limit to how much you will watch each week—set a paper and pencil near the TV to keep track. If you cannot keep records and stick to your schedule, then just stop watching all together—put the TV in storage if necessary.

The issue of people is even more complex. We cannot simply run away from everyone who might possibly cause us a problem. We are to help those who are weak in the faith:

Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things" (Rom 14:1)

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins (James 5:19-20).

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted (Gal 6:1).

According to the last verse, we should not try to help someone else if their sin will adversely effect us. For example, a former alcoholic should be able to help another struggling alcoholic. But if the two get together to share their experiences and end up drinking a couple of bottles of whiskey, the "former alcoholic" must realize that he or she is not helping and switch to a different plan.

A similar approach, as we described above for "things," can be used. Yet, it must be done with much more love and sensitivity. (Your TV will not care whether you watch it or not, but people will notice how you treat them.) If you believe that your relationship with a certain person is causing you to sin, try the following three-step approach: evaluate whether you should continue a relationship with this person; if the answer is yes, then regulate that relationship; and if all regulation fails, then separate from that person as much as possible.

**Evaluating** a relationship is a very subjective thing. If a person who is encouraging you to sin is not a relative, business associate, neighbor, or long-time friend, and if that person has no interest in the Bible or changing his or her life, then the simplest solution may be to drop that relationship. It is better to lose an acquaintance than to continue to sin. With family, neighbors, and other relationships, you cannot simply walk away. If the problem is with another believer, you have a duty to go to them and tell them how they are

offending you (Matt 18:15-17). If your problem is with an unbeliever who does respect your understanding of the Bible, you do not want to walk away from someone whom the Eternal may intend that you teach. After thinking through the facts, you can pray for the Eternal to show you whether or not you should continue the relationship.

**Regulating** a relationship is the next step if your "evaluation" says to continue the relationship. You may be able to take care of the problem yourself. For example, "I will continue to be that person's friend but if they ask me to go out drinking, I will simply say, 'No.'" In other cases, you may have to tell the person about your self-imposed restrictions. Suppose that a friend has a severe problem with anger that affects you when you are with them. You may have to tell them, "I want to continue to be your friend, but if you get into your angry mood, I will have to leave you because it has a negative effect on me."

This may sound simple, but if the person who "drags you into sin" is a parent, in-law, or even your spouse, you will have to be very careful in presenting the issue to them. **The key is not to tell the other person how bad they are, but to tell them how you are affected and that you want to overcome your problems that occur when you are together.** If the other person takes your decision to heart and tries to clean up his or her own problems, praise the Eternal! But if this repentance does not occur with your friend, then realize each person is responsible for themselves, and you have done your part by your good example.

Are there any Biblical examples of "regulated relationships"? Yes! They are called covenants. In both the Old and New Testaments we find numerous cases where the Eternal tells people that if they will do certain things, He will be with them, if not He will leave them. Even our Savior regulated our relationship: "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven" (Matt 10:32-33).

**Separating** may be necessary if the other person refuses to cooperate with your regulation or if the regulation fails. The goal of any separation is for a

person to get away from the negative influence long enough to establish positive habits and then to take those habits back to a resumed relationship in the future. But if any relationship is in a continual pattern of violence, immorality, or some other major sin or abuse, then the people should separate so that the sin may stop.

If the person in question is your spouse or other immediate family member, we recommend much counsel and prayer before making a decision to separate. This article does not cover all of the essential issues for such a difficulty. Nevertheless, "separation" is shown by the scriptures to be the "last resort" to save a troubled marriage (1Cor 7:11).

When it appears that a sin has been defeated, it is safe to resume the relationship, probably in a self-regulated manner. Even after the old patterns are broken, the recommendations of the previous section will probably still be helpful.

• **Sins Due to the Influence of Satan and his Demons**

To some, this may seem to be a minor or even non-existent source of sin, but the New Testament clearly teaches otherwise:

And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one (Matt 6:13).

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Eph 6:12).

...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices (2Cor 2:11).

There are other examples of the influence of Satan (Mark 4:15; Luke 22:31; John 13:2; 1Cor 7:5; etc.) The problem can even happen to people "in the church":

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? (Acts 5:3.)

When many people think of "demon possession" or "demon influence" or "Satan's influence," they often think of raving maniacs performing super-human feats of strength or self-

mutilation. Some demons described in the Bible were clearly that way (Matt 17:14-21; Mark 5:1-20; Acts 19:13-16). There is a tendency to think that everyone who has or has had "demon problems" should be avoided by righteous believers and not given any responsible part to participate in bringing others to righteousness. However, that was not our Savior's attitude:

Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance (Luke 8:1-3).

We must realize that some evil spirits were of a much more docile nature, some causing sickness, blindness, or lack of speech (Luke 13:11; Matt 12:22; 9:32). Some demons invent false doctrines (1Tim 4:1-3). When we examine the vast amount of completely opposite teachings that exist among Sabbath-keeping brethren, one can only conclude that the false-doctrine demons must be very busy today!

When James gives a formula for overcoming, he stresses both drawing close to the Eternal, **and resisting the Devil:**

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded (James 4:7-8).

We should not be ignorant of the work of Satan and His demons. Several times, our Savior gave power to his servants to cast out demons (Matt 10:1; Mark 3:14-15; 6:12; 16:17; Luke 10:17). The Bible never lists dealing with demons as a "spiritual gift" or something that only certain brethren can do. If we have illness, evil thoughts or other difficulties that seem to have no physical explanation, we need to pray for intervention and deliverance, and then command—in the name of our Savior—that Satan and his demons leave. This should never be done to try

to “show our spirituality” or to “beat up on the devil,” but to put out sin and to become righteous.

**Conclusion**

When sins and problems prove particularly difficult to overcome, one effective solution is usually fasting. The voluntary abstinence from food for a period of time can be a great benefit to defeating sin: “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? (Is 58:6, NIV). Fasting produces a humility and trust in the Eternal above physical things. It allows a person to look at him- or herself in a way that is difficult otherwise. The passage about resisting the Devil that we quoted above continues like this:

Lament and mourn and weep!  
Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge (James 4:9-11).

Our Savior said that his disciples

would fast after He left the earth (Matt 9:15). When they could not cast out a particularly difficult demon, he said: “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting” (Mark 9:29). In addition to spiritual closeness to the Eternal, fasting gives us a sense of physical control over our bodies. This is particularly helpful to those suffering from eating, substance-abuse, or other bodily-related difficulties. The first day (sometimes two days) of a fast can be particularly difficult, but after that one usually has a much greater feeling of control over oneself.

Most health food stores will have a number of books on how to fast. We highly recommend you read and follow one of these books or seek the help of other qualified professionals before you undertake a long fast. It is true that Moses had neither food nor water for 40 days and 40 nights (Ex 34:28), but the Eternal has made no promise to sustain believers who attempt a similar fast. Fasting is not penance—it is not something miserable we do to make the Eternal do what we want. We should not tempt our Father (Deut 6:16). Most of the spiritual benefit of fasting can be achieved by simply going without food. This author is aware of many individuals who went without food for a few to as many as 20 days without significant physical difficulties. But

each person is different. You must take responsibility for seeking and following competent advice in this matter.

To some degree, overcoming major sins and fasting seem like a lot of work. Is it not easier to slide along and hope we can improve gradually? The Apostle Peter had an interesting perspective:

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives (2Pet 3:10).

Hebrews chapter 11 details many of the individuals faithful to the Eternal throughout the ages. The conclusion of the matter is found in the first two verses of the next chapter.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb 12:1-2).

**“Patience” from page 1**

This means to have a realistic picture of ourselves—recognizing that we are far from perfect, that we have and do make many mistakes, that we have many shortcomings. As James put it, “We all stumble in many ways” (James 3:2).

It is by recognizing our own imperfections that we can have patience with those of others. If we recognize that we have suffered illness, we can be patient with others who are ill. If we see our mistakes in rearing our children, we can have patience with others who are struggling with theirs. If we admit our own anger, we can bear the anger of others. If we recognize that we have spoken unkind words, we can accept unkindness in others.

Remember, acceptance doesn't mean approval—in oneself or in others. But just as God loves us and Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners, so we should love and support and be patient

with those who are yet sinners—and that includes ourselves.

**Symptoms of Non-self-acceptance**

Self-acceptance is essential for patience. Hence, it is important for us to recognize some of the symptoms of a person who does not accept himself—primarily so we can evaluate ourselves. But we can also look for these traits in others—to help us understand why they may not be as patient as we would like.

• **Have to win arguments**

Some people always have to have the last word. Typically, women complain of this trait in their husbands: “He won't ever admit he's wrong”; “We can't have a fair fight”; “I always have to do the apologizing.” One who can't admit he's wrong has difficulty accepting his own imperfections and will tend to be impatient with others.

• **Poor listener**

This person finds it difficult to be

quiet while others talk. Either he can't admit that he doesn't know more about the subject than everybody else, or he can't stand to let someone else have the spotlight. Perhaps he has an exaggerated view of his own importance. He doesn't accept his own ignorance, so he won't be patient with ignorance in others.

• **Can't take correction**

This person can't admit that he's done, said or been wrong. When confronted with mistakes, he justifies his actions, lies about them, excuses them, or simply withdraws—condemning the shortcomings of those who would dare to criticize him. Job had this problem. He was so sure of his own righteousness that he accused God of injustice. Such a person, who cannot accept his own shortcomings, will have little patience with others. (Later, Job repented of his error.)

• **Seeks to control others**

This person gets ego-satisfaction by

controlling others—either by commands, psychological pressure, brute force, or by manipulation. He finds it difficult to take orders (to do so is to admit weakness). Typically he is a man who finds it difficult to give his wife any freedom or space; he seeks to control his children even as they become adults; he finds it difficult to delegate authority or to watch someone else do something differently than he would do it. Such a person simply can't accept himself as a human being with shortcomings and imperfections.

• **Grandiose aspirations**

Some people believe they have a unique calling from God. They think of themselves as modern prophets and deliverers. Their sense of identity is wrapped up in having a special pipeline to God. Not being able to accept their own humanity and similarity with other humans, they have difficulty accepting others—especially others who doubt their special calling.

• **Materialism and activityism**

Many people escape from accepting themselves through acquiring or doing. They are into buying clothes, jewelry, cars, tools books. Or they are into doing things—perhaps even ministering to others. But they're always in motion—going and doing or going and buying. They can't be content with what they have and who they are. They certainly aren't going to be patient with others who are different, or who have less, or who do less. In fact, they may be jealous of others, but they won't be patient with them.

In all these various symptoms of non-self-acceptance, there is one common factor: not seeing oneself with sober judgment, **not being able to accept oneself where he is right now.** And a person who doesn't accept himself, won't be patient with others!

If you would aspire to become more patient with others, you must first become patient with yourself. This doesn't mean that you approve of your shortcomings. But it does mean that you fully recognize them! It means that you accept the fact that you are in the process of personal growth, that you are in the process of becoming more like your Savior—and that you have a long way to go. Only when you accept yourself as one more pilgrim on the road of sanctification, can you be

patient with others who are pilgrims on the same road.

**Saved By Grace**

The Bible makes it clear that there is one means and one means only for us to escape the condemnation of eternal death and come into a right relationship with God—and that means is God's grace. Our sins are forgiven by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We are translated into the kingdom of God through believing in Him! No deed of righteousness, no acts of obedience, no works of service could ever pay the price of our eternal life.

A person who clearly sees his own sins and who recognizes the magnitude of God's grace will find it easy to be patient with other sinners. On the contrary, a person whose spiritual identity is rooted in being at some level of perfection or knowledge will have a tough time being patient with others who don't measure up. On the contrary, if we fully recognize our utter inability to save ourselves, if we know we are the recipients of God's great patience toward us, it will be much easier for us to be patient with others.

**Accepting Others  
Where They're At**

It's virtually impossible to see things from another person's point of view—but that's one of the most important keys to patience. There is much truth in the Indian saying that one should not criticize another unless he has walked several miles in his moccasins. We really don't know what someone else is going through unless we have walked his walk, borne his burdens, felt his hurts, and lived his life.

Our tendency is to condemn what we don't understand; to stand in judgment of something that is new or different; to be impatient with those who don't know what we know. If we would be patient, we must accept the fact that people are different. They have different values different aspirations. Sometimes people with the same goal have different ideas about how to attain it.

For example, I'm very achievement oriented. I want to get things accomplished and see tangible results. My wife is concerned about relationships

and feelings. I've always believed that feelings are of little consequence, but she can become so overwhelmed with feelings that she simply has to express them. What a challenge it has been over the years for me to learn to see the importance of feelings—and to take time to listen to them. And it is only because I've been married to someone with deep feelings that I've learned to be patient with others whose feelings boil over from time to time. My wife, on the other hand, has had to learn to be patient with my impassiveness and rational approach to everything.

When you see someone doing something that irritates you or frustrates you, ask yourself, "What would I do if I were in his place?" or "Have I ever done that?" How many times have I seen a driver do something stupid in traffic—and then remembered a time when I'd done the same thing myself.

When we look at our own actions, we tend to judge by our intent. Even when we fail, we excuse ourselves by saying, "Well, I meant well." **But when it comes to others, we tend to judge by action only. How unfair. We should judge others the same way we judge ourselves.**

**You're Not Always the Target**

When ancient Israel complained about not having food, Moses was able to be patient with them because he recognized that they were really angry with Yahweh (the Eternal), not with him (Ex 16:7-8).

Consider the man who has a bad day at the office. When he comes home, he yells at the dog who barks, curses the door because it sticks, kicks the cat who's in the path, and scolds his wife because she forgot to put salt on the table. She will find it much easier to be patient if she can just remember, "I'm not the target; he's just venting his work frustrations." This doesn't justify his actions, but it can help his wife to be patient with him.

**Experience Trials**

None of us wants to go through difficult times, yet experiencing trials is precisely what we need to grow in character in general—patience in particular (Rom 5:3). Daily frustrations as well as major traumas in life can teach us to trust God and to be patient. When

we look back to see how we learned valuable lessons through trials, we can be patient with others who are going through trials. When we see that we did not always behave properly when we were under duress, we can be patient with others who are acting improperly as they endure difficult times. But a word of caution: If you pray for patience, God may send you a trial!

**It's Not the Last Chapter**

One of the hardest things to realize when we're going through a tough

time, is to realize that it's not the last chapter of the book. When Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, he could have despaired—but he didn't. It wasn't the last chapter. When he was imprisoned, he could have despaired—but he didn't. It wasn't the last chapter. When he was forgotten by the butler, he could have despaired—but he didn't. It wasn't the last chapter. Finally, he became the ruler of Egypt and was reunited with his family. That was the last chapter of his life on earth.

If we're tempted to become impatient **with ourselves** anywhere along

life's way, we should remember, "It's not the last chapter." If we're tempted to be impatient **with others** anywhere along life's way, we should remember, "It's not the last chapter" of their life either. We are all still in process. God is working a wonderful work in our lives. "...For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (Heb 13:5). "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" (John 10:27-28). 📖

**"Be Ready" from page 2**

think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! (1Cor 10:11-12, NIV.)

Combating heresy requires more than just citing "booklet sound-bites." It requires the ability to study, use concordances and other Bible references, and to allow the holy spirit to lead you to understanding.

If someone asks you "what you believe," do you find yourself **listing** facts? "I believe in keeping the Sabbath," "I believe in immersion baptism," "I believe that we are living in the time of the End." While all of those things are true, they should not be the **foundation** of what you believe.

Even more importantly, if someone asks you "why" you believe what you do, do you find yourself just quoting something you read in a booklet or talking about other "notable people" who also believe it? Do you **really** know "why" you believe the things you do?

In the past, we dealt mostly with minor heresies—usually a misinterpretation or misapplication of one or more scriptures. They were still based on a fundamental belief in the scriptures of the whole Bible as the source of truth.

But there is a new kind of **major heresy** abroad among the people of God now. (It's not really new, of course, but it's new to the vast majority of COG brethren.) Notice this **exact quotation** from a letter we received at the *Servants' News* office a few weeks ago:

"When you became a part of the body of Christ, you left the Eternal and joined his ex-wife Lucifer."

The rest of this letter, and the several articles the author had written and included, declared that Jesus Christ of Nazareth

was Satan the Devil in disguise, and that Satan was female and had been created by God as His wife!

This was written by a woman who had been a member of the WCG for **20 years**. She left there in 1995, and, after a short stint in the PCG, has been on her own with a tiny home fellowship since then. It doesn't appear she was influenced in "discovering" this "new" doctrine by some false teacher—she came up with it on her own by poring over Strong's Concordance for hours at a time. She is now busily out there attempting to promulgate this "astounding new truth" among the very "body of Christ" she condemns. And she already has a few "believers."

Perhaps her conclusion seems pretty wild-eyed to you, and you feel you could never "buy into" such a piece of nonsense. Having read her "documentation" on this belief, you might be right—I could not make any sense out of it.

But she is not the only one "out there" promulgating similar ideas. There are a number of folks who are "bringing in damnable heresies, denying the Lord that bought them" (2Pet. 2:1). And not all of them are incoherent. Some are using very persuasive "logic" and "research." **And they are seducing long-time Christians into rejecting their Savior, and rejecting the inspiration of the New Testament.**

I believe that our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ can be one line of defense against such heresy, if we will **actively** participate in the process of "iron sharpening iron" to help each of us grow in knowledge of the Truth. The Truth **isn't** just isolated doctrinal facts. We need to understand the very foundations of our belief system. The following

questions are important:

**Why** do you believe the **whole Bible** is inspired by God and contains the Truth necessary for salvation?

**Why** do you believe in Jesus Christ (or Yashuah the Messiah) of Nazareth as your Savior?

Do you know **how** and **when** and **by whom** the books of the Bible were written?

Do you know **how** the books of the Bible were preserved and transmitted so that we have them for our use today?

Do you know **how** and **when** and **by whom** the English translations we use were made? If you prefer one translation over others, do you know **why**?

If you find the kinds of questions above somewhat overwhelming, you are certainly not alone! These issues cannot be answered in a day's study. I would venture to guess that the **average** COG member would find him/herself fumbling for an answer if "put on the spot" by an unbeliever, false prophet, false teacher or "wolf" who was asking such questions.

But if you are not able to answer such questions, you may be leaving yourself open to deception by such wolves who are already out there prowling and devouring the sheep of God.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready** to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear (1Pet 3:15).

—Pam Dewey & Norman Edwards

*The above article reflects primarily Pam's experience with some of my observations, admonitions and editing added to it. We hope to include more articles in Servants' News on these basic subjects in the future. We would be glad to hear from anyone writing such articles. —NSE*



We print a representative sampling of our mail—both positive and negative. We do not include names unless we are fairly sure that the writer would not object. To avoid any difficulty, writers should specify how much of their name and address they would like us to print. We include our response to each letter in this type-style. We have selected a title for each letter for easy reference. If writers supply their own title, we will be happy to use it.

### Stone Cut Without Hands

**LETTER:** June 10, 1997  
Norm,

In *Servants' News* (May 1997) an article appeared under my name entitled *Stone Cut Without Hands* which argues that the geographic shape of the Italian Peninsular is an end-time sign for God's people concerning Daniel's 'Fourth Kingdom'. During the editing process certain words were inserted which do not accurately reflect my thinking on the subject, and indeed create the impression that these geographic features were a product of random coincidence. In the second last paragraph it is stated: "Obviously, though, we cannot be certain from geography alone that this is exactly what the Eternal meant." In fact, I believe that God fashioned the Italian Peninsular at the first with precisely this purpose in mind—that it should be a stunning sign for those who expect an end time resurrection of the ancient Roman Empire. One which immediately precedes, and is destroyed by God's coming kingdom.

—Dale Heslin, Canberra, Australia  
dale@pcug.org.au

**RESPONSE:** We are sorry for the mix-up. When editing, we try to make some articles, especially prophecy articles, less dogmatic. We went a little overboard here. There are a few other viewpoints of the fulfillment of Daniel's "Fourth Kingdom" and we did not want to presume that the reader had that understanding. Nevertheless, we do not know of any better explanation for the Fourth Kingdom—most "Church of God" groups and many standard protestant sources believe it is the Roman Empire.

We thought that if we had no other historical or Biblical clues to the location of the

Fourth Kingdom, it might be a bit much to conclude it was Italy from shape alone—the Bible does not tell us to look for geography nor do we find any countries shaped like other parts of Nebuchadnezzar's statue. But when we put the prophecies together with the history of the Roman Empire and then add the geography, it makes a good case indeed!

—NSE

### Thanks for Joe Good Article

**LETTER:** June 13, 1997

On behalf of all the people who contributed to making Joe's visits to east Texas successful (and there were a lot of people who really worked hard), **thank you** for printing the article about Joe Good in the most recent *Servants' News*! Everyone was glad to see it in print - finally. We want to get the word out about Joe and your newsletter is the best medium to reach independent thinkers. Keep up the good work - you are a bright light in an otherwise dark world. Shalom,

—Veronica Smith, Tyler, Texas

**RESPONSE:** Thanks for writing the article. As you can see, we took out a few things simply to shorten it, rearranged a couple of paragraphs to make it flow a little better, and corrected a tiny bit of punctuation. But there never would have been an article if you did not write it in the first place. (Actually, the article you sent was quite good—we often work through articles that need much more help.)

**We would like to encourage *Servants' News* readers to write short articles on local events that would be of interest to other readers.** Even if a reader feels like he "can't write," it would still be helpful to send us the important details of an event along with your overall impression.. With our limited time, it is much easier to turn this kind of information into a story than it is to create a story by telephone interview.

Thanks again.

—NSE

### Holy Days Under New Covenant?

**LETTER:** March 9, 1997  
Dear Norman Edwards and Staff:

[Paragraph about return card removed]

In the last year and a half or so, I have read most, if not all, of each one of the *Servants' News* issues that you have sent. While reading the various articles, I have learned a lot about the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) that I did not know because I was never a member, although I have had

some contacts with the WCG. My father received the Plain Truth magazine in the 1960's; I attended two or three functions of the WCG in the San Francisco Bay area in 1974-75; I talked with two former WCG men while attending the Seventh Day Baptist church in Little Rock (1977-1991); and I met for nearly a year (May 95 to May 96) in the Mountain Home area with a small group of former WCG members who had forsaken any association with Seventh Day Sabbaths, having been erroneously influenced by Dale Ratzlaff and the book he wrote, *Sabbath in Crisis*, and by a man who was a "preacher" near, I think, Atlanta, Georgia.

Many of the articles have messages with which I can empathize, articles such as *Why Does Our Father Let Us Believe Error?* And other articles explaining tolerance for truly born again Christian believers who have not matured in some areas.

Some of the articles and announcements have to do with "feast" days and associated gatherings. The reasoning behind such days and gatherings in these last days (from the day of Pentecost to our present time; Acts 2:16,17) is not clear to me. Clearly, from the time that the Lord instructed Moses to command the Israelites to meet together, to "appear before the Lord God", at the tabernacle, and later the temple, for the feasts (Exodus 23:14-17) until the "veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom" (Matthew 27:51), these feast days were to be attended, primarily "to appear before the Lord God" whose presence and dwelling place on earth was in the Holy of Holies within the tabernacle and then within each of the temples that followed.

From the time of Christ's resurrection onward until our time and onward until He returns again, we know that everything that pertained to the earthly tabernacle and to each of the earthly temples, which were copies of the heavenly things (Hebrews 8:4, 5 and 8:23, 24), has been removed. And, as the writer of the letter to the Hebrews mentioned, Christ now has taken His seat in the true sanctuary, the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched, not man (Hebrews 8:1, 2). Also, we know from 1Cor 3:16,17 (second person plural); from Ephesians 2:19-22; and from 1Peter 2:4, 5 that those who belong to Christ are being built into a temple, "a dwelling of God in the Spirit." Considering all the Christians through all the twenty or so centuries since Christ the Lord ascended into heaven, that temple being built is not localized in geography nor in time. Consequently, a gathering at a specific location identified with the presence of the Lord, as in the time of Moses, is no longer possible. His church is worldwide and His temple

being built is worldwide and centuries long. Thus His presence, His Spirit, is no longer localized but is worldwide and centuries long.

In light of the foregoing summary, it seems to me that just as the representational, earthly temple has been removed in favor of the real, heavenly temple so the representational physical gatherings of the feast days of Moses time have been removed in favor of the real spiritual gatherings of the church for spiritual sacrifices, prayers, communion (Lord's Supper), fastings, edifying, ministering, etc., all performed by the new priesthood of believers (1Peter 2:5, 9) at the direction of the real High Priest, Christ Jesus, who presides from the real heavenly temple.

Incidentally, on another topic, I appreciate your non-incorporation thinking and resulting actions. Although your organization is not a church body, perhaps your explanations for not incorporating according to legal precepts and state laws will encourage church congregations also to not incorporate, thus avoiding superimposing a human organizational structure on the Lord's organizational structure of the local church. Very likely, the Lord's organizational structure will vary noticeably from one congregation to another depending upon His purposes for a particular congregation and for the needs of the members of that congregation.

Thank you for devoting time and effort and resources to understanding many of the various aspects of the Lord's work in our time and region.

—Daniel Johnson, Arkansas

**RESPONSE:** Your analysis of the Old Testament feasts is largely correct: most of the instruction for Holy Days is about how many sacrifices to give. If the commands to give the sacrifices no longer apply, do we still need to observe the days? I believe we do. There was also instruction to assemble and to teach (Deut 31:10-13). Must we assemble in Jerusalem? Twenty times, the book of Deuteronomy gives the feast location like "the place which the Lord your God shall choose." It does **not** say "in Jerusalem." or "at the temple." **I believe the Eternal did this because he wanted these days to be kept whether one could go to the temple or not.**

It is significant that the holy spirit came on a holy day, Pentecost, at a gathering that was **not at the temple** (A crowd had to gather—there would have already been a crowd if they were meeting in the temple on Pentecost—Acts 2:1-6.) To me this confirms the importance of assembling on Holy Days even after our Savior's death.

Furthermore, there are many New Testament scriptures about keeping the Holy Days. The book of James was written to "the twelve tribes scattered abroad," about 60 A.D., yet it is clear that many believers were still meeting in synagogues (James 2:2—see Bible margin or interlinear). Whether the Believers and the Jews continued to meet in the same or separate synagogues, there is no historic reason to believe that they did not continue their practice of locally observing Holy Days. Only the wealthy could afford to travel to Jerusalem.

Finally, much of the meaning of the Holy Days is yet to be fulfilled, and there is a great need among the Eternal's people to come together to concentrate on His way and to fellowship with others of like mind.

—NSE

## Tithing Comments

**LETTER:** April 26, 1997

Dear Servants of God:

A friend loaned me *Servants' News* and would like my name to be included for receiving at publication each time.

*Servants' News* is very informative, timely, interesting, church news, challenging, and biblical subjects explained.

I enjoyed the letters and responses and feel that the letter from Pat Moody, Wash., gave very good advice and certainly rings a bell for a lot of us.

On the subject of tithing expressed, felt very interesting and varied information given to be considered.

We are told in the scriptures that "what is not of faith is sin", therefore I feel that the decision to tithe be left up to the individual. Personally, I no longer feel tithing is necessary in this gospel age, but is a matter of giving as the holy spirit leads each one in the body of Christ. If we are free in Christ, we are free indeed. **If we are subject to a ten percent tax, we are in bondage, and not free indeed.** Many I have known of, use their receipt to receive back the 10 percent from the IRS. How tragic.

A Jewish rabbi was asked regarding tithing and he stated, "We have no temple and we have no Levites. All given is purely voluntary." Certainly that statement says a lot, I feel.

As I am an isolated believer, celebrated Passover alone at home.

Sincerely in Yahshua's name,

—An Arkansas servant.

**RESPONSE:** Thank you for your encouragement. As with most other issues, there is a diversity of opinions among Jews on the subject of tithing: Some give 10% to poor people, some give 10% to "do good works,"

and some give on a completely voluntary basis. However, the New Testament gives clear commands to help the poor and to support the preaching of the Gospel.

We see nothing wrong with using every available law to reduce the amount of taxes sent to our wasteful governmental systems. However, giving **only** for the purposes of a tax deduction is the wrong motivation.

—NSE

## Liked "Modern Bible Translations"

**LETTER:** April 30, 1997

Dear Norman and Pam,

A very good article about the KJV only mindset. (SN Mar-Apr 1997, page 1.)

In my studies of manuscripts, translations, versions, etc., I came to a general conclusion that even though I use the KJV as my base for study, no work [Bible translation] has been so perverted that God is limited [unable to use it] to transmit His overall message to mankind.

He said His words are spirit and life. Also, nothing is impossible for God. And He promised His words, **meaning**, would never pass away.

I believe that even if a work is toyed with, and that is all we have, that we would be following the basic rules of obedience for salvation to attain the Kingdom of God by God's direction, line upon line, precept upon precept.

Thanks again for a fine article.

—Bill Phillips, Ohio

**RESPONSE:** Most people throughout history have had access to only one translation. Most believers have never had a way to investigate the original Greek and Hebrew. The Eternal has not given every believer perfect or even equal access to His written word. Yet, salvation is possible.

Does that mean that we can use whichever translation we like and forget about trying to figure out the original meaning? No, since we have multiple translations, interlinears and concordances available to us, we are expected to use them. "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." (Luke 12:48).

—NSE

## New Covenant Sabbath & Holy Days

**LETTER:** May 6, 1997

Dear Sir:

I just recently became a subscriber thanks to learning of your work through a

good friend who was an elder in UCG. Thank you very much for the work you are doing and the balanced approach you give to the scriptures and to Christian living.

[Literature request omitted]

I was a part of WCG from 1981 until last year when I left and joined with the United Church of God. I'm still trying to understand the New Covenant as it relates to the Sabbath, Holy Days and Unclean Meats. When WCG chose to join "mainstream" Christianity, that meant to me they would soon have to teach heaven and eternal hell-fire torment.

I believe wholeheartedly in the return of Christ our Saviour to set up his Kingdom on this earth, the resurrections, that the wicked do perish, so I had to leave. I have heard both sides of the arguments on whether the Sabbath is commanded, and the Holy Days, and for now I choose to observe the Sabbath and Holy Days and am still trying to study their place in the New Covenant.

Thank you again for the work you are doing and a contribution is enclosed to help with the costs.

Sincerely,

B.B.—North Carolina

**RESPONSE:** Do not feel alone. Many times we have realized that we do not know as much as we once thought we did. This is especially true when studying issues such as the Biblical calendar and the timing of some Holy Days. Some people give up and say "since I cannot be sure I am doing the right thing, I just will not do anything." We are saddened. Your approach is better: make a temporary decision now based on your current understanding, and then study to make a more permanent decision in the future.

May the Eternal bless your studies.

—NSE

## "Discontinued Literature" & Baptism

**LETTER:**

March 21, 1997

Norm,

In reading the page on "discontinued literature" in the latest *Servants' News*, you stated "Conder does not believe that we receive the Holy Spirit from being baptized in the name of Jesus or Yeshua." In the studies I have done, it is my understanding we do not receive the Holy Spirit by baptism, but through the laying on of hands. John's baptism was the baptism of repentance and before the Holy Spirit was sent at Pentecost, in the form of fingers of fire. (Was this to represent the hands used later?)

Acts 8:16-17 states there were those who had been baptized but had not yet received the Holy Spirit until hands were laid on them, v 18. Simon saw this and wanted

to buy that power.

**RESPONSE:** Our effort to give a brief summary caused us to be technically wrong. We should have said that Conder does not believe we receive the holy spirit through the process of repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands. He believes that the New Testament is a clever hoax, and since there is no general promise of the holy spirit in the Old Testament, he does not believe it is generally available.

**LETTER:** Also, when you say, "they don't believe the temple sacrifices are necessary to atone for sins," do you mean just during the Old Testament times until Christ died? Didn't Christ end the need for animal sacrifices? Didn't His sacrifice and shed blood atone for all of our sins—once and for all?

Rom 12:1 says we are to be living sacrifices now, and there is no longer a need for a Levitical Priesthood because we are the Royal Priesthood and Jesus Christ is our High Priest.

**RESPONSE:** We do not believe Levitical sacrifices are necessary today, and Conder does not either. But since Conder also rejects the sacrifice of Jesus, we cannot figure out how Conder believes his sins are atoned for.

**LETTER:** Several scriptures state we are to be baptized in the name of Jesus, such as Acts 2:38, 8:16; 10:48; etc; but, Matt 28:19 says we are to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Was this scripture added or which way is correct? I thought the Father, Son, Holy Ghost was a trinity idea.

Worldwide Church of God is baptizing this latter way, but I thought I was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, back in the early 60's. Could you please explain?

Thank you very much, and may God be with you all in your Christian walk.

Sincerely,

—BC, Idaho

**RESPONSE:** We printed an article on this issue, page 2, Dec 1995. While nearly all Greek manuscripts contain the "trinitarian" formula in Matt 28:19-20, two other sources do not. The church Historian Eusebius quotes these verses as: "Go and make all nations disciples in my name, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Shem Tob's Hebrew Gospel of Matthew says: "Go and teach them to carry out all the things which I have commanded you forever." If these versions are right and the commonly used Greek New manuscripts are wrong, why did the Eternal allow such a thing?

It is for the same reason that He has allowed other problems, like the Trinitarian formula added to 1 John 5:7-8. Those who

corrupted His words will be judged for doing it, but those who had to learn from the corrupt word never knowing its error will have no sin (Rev 22:18-19, John 9:41).

Finally, the Bible records the names of the Father and Son hundreds of times (though there is debate on exactly how to pronounce them). But there is no name of the "holy spirit"—so how can you baptize in that name? From the many examples of baptizing in the name of Jesus (Yeshua), we conclude that His name is sufficient—it is His blood that cleanses us. However, we see nothing wrong with mentioning the Father, and asking for the power of the holy spirit.

—NSE

## Count Feasts from Equinoxes?

**LETTER:**

May 14, 1997

Dear Mr. Edwards,

Thank you so much for your publication of the *Servants' News*. We truly enjoy reading every article that you have in print.

Enclosed is [amount deleted] to help your efforts towards this.

We also have a question we would like to ask. Is there any reason why the Spring and Fall Equinox could not be used to start the count of days for God's Holy Days; the first day of the fall equinox would be the Feast of Trumpets and the 10th day would be the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. The first day of the Spring Equinox would be the first day of the sacred year from which you count the Passover. These two Equinoxes have no bearing on the new moons, but determine the length of the year and the two solstices for mid-summer and mid-winter. The lunar calendar can be the Jewish calendar or the calendar we use today for business. There is no guessing with the equinoxes and it makes no difference how many days are in between the equinoxes. They still happen each year.

Thank you so much.

—G.R., California

**RESPONSE:** From a strictly functional point of view, you have described a workable system. The equinoxes can be determined fairly accurately from almost anywhere on the planet. Your system would allow the entire world to keep the Holy Days in the same season and on the same day (provided that they agree when to start counting Pentecost). Crescent moon sightings, postponements, 13th-months, and many other problems would disappear.

The difficulty with this proposed system is that it is **clearly not** what was used in the Bible. While there is much argument as to exactly when Biblical months and years should begin, there is no argument that the

Holy Days are to be kept on specific days of months. Furthermore, there are Scriptures that require events in months other than the first and seventh. The second passover must be taken in the second month. Prophecies, such as Haggai 2 specify events to take place "in the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month" This is one day before the Feast of Dedication, which Jesus apparently observed (John 10:22). The only meaningful way to observe these days is with a calendar with lunar months.

I think these are the only two good reasons for adopting a calendar system:

1) *You have studied calendar systems and are convinced that a certain one is what the Eternal intends us to use.*

2) *You have not been able to determine which calendar the Eternal intends us to use, so you keep a system used by the brethren with whom you fellowship.*

The system you describe cannot qualify under point #1. Also, since nobody (as far as I know) is using it, it does **not** qualify under point #2, either.

Thank you for writing about it. We would be interested in hearing about anyone who is actually using this system.

—NSE

## More Organizational Control

**LETTER:**

May 4, 1997

Dear Mr. Edwards,

I just received my package from the *Servants' News* yesterday (Saturday) and the timing couldn't have been more perfect. I needed a lift. My wife and I had just returned from Sabbath services where a heated discussion had taken place in a congregational meeting to discuss problems the local church is having. **The main problem seems to be control by the minister and the home office at UCG-AIA.**

In an exchange of letters and talks with the local minister, I withdrew my membership from AIA, but wanted to retain membership in the local congregation. It's all very involved. I have served the brethren here since 1970-71 (beginning in WCG) in many ways from parking cars at the beginning to giving sermonettes, opening and closing prayers, etc.

**RESPONSE:** We receive a number of telephone questions about memberships in organizations: "Is it all right to have one?" "How do I get rid of one?" We would like to point out that memberships in most hierarchical churches have little or no meaning—especially today. Years ago, the WCG would not accept a person as a member

unless they were baptized by the WCG—a few exceptions were made for other groups' baptisms. Today, most congregations will accept a person as a "member" if they attend and claim to have been baptized. The new member will not be asked to sign anything, renounce membership in other churches or make any promises. Some groups will add a person to their membership roles without the person's knowledge.

Membership in a church organization has no real spiritual meaning—people are baptized into the Body of our Savior, not into a church organization. The church organization can become defunct, but your membership in His Body continues. Also, organization membership has little physical meaning. In the WCG and GCG, there are no legal "members." In the UCG, the legal "members" are those in the General conference of elders. "Spiritual members" have no legal status or recognition. Nearly every church organization will let you send money to them whether you are a member or not. Most will let you attend services without membership. The only thing of significance is that some will not send you certain publications or allow you to attend Passover services unless you are a member.

As long as you are not asked to make promises that you do not intend to fulfill, we recommend a practical approach toward membership in church organizations: If you need to be a member to receive certain publications or benefits, then become a member. If you have to get off of a membership list in order to stop getting certain publications or prevent other difficulties, then ask to be removed. If you are not experiencing any of these problems, do not be concerned whether the organization counts you as a "member." Be concerned that your Savior counts you as a member of His Body.

**LETTER:** We have a Planning Committee here with bylaws, and a procedure in which to amend them. I was the duly elected Secretary of the committee, and served better than a year in that position.

After seeing the divisiveness of church organizations: "these are our churches," or "those are their churches," I made a proposal for a bylaw change. Change our name from United Church of God (city withheld) to: (city withheld) Church of God. I also made a proposal to keep all the tithes locally for local purposes, sending them outside the local area only with 100% congregational approval. (It seemed right because not all wanted to support AIA, and we would circumvent a person's wishes by every ¼ sending a subsidy to AIA from the local account.)

During this same earlier March meeting,

I gave the minister my resignation from AIA. To make a long story short, he removed me as Secretary, all giving of sermonettes, opening and closing prayers, song leading as well as committee head of the Information Committee (I produced our local bulletin and maintained the bulletin board.) **He said I must be a member of AIA to serve locally.**

**RESPONSE:** While I have **never** heard it explained in a sermon or sermonette, "punishment by removal of visible duties" has certainly been an unwritten law in the WCG spin-offs. When someone has done something wrong, or just offended a local minister, he or she would almost always find themselves removed from duties visible to the congregation.

**LETTER:** While some would tell you that I resigned my duties here locally in order to visit other congregations, (which I did do later after leaving AIA, and then rescinded my local resignation by request of other brethren) what the minister would tell you or the congregation is he had discharged me from all duties at least one day earlier in a letter before he received my fax with my resignation from local duties.

**RESPONSE:** We do not know exactly how your organization is set up, but if it requires a person to be voted out of office, your minister's "dismissal" had no meaning—you were still the Secretary. When organizations are ruled by **law**, rather than the whims of hierarchical leaders, a pastor simply may not be able to dismiss an elected position. However, once you resign and your resignation is accepted, I would think your position legally ends.

**LETTER:** He didn't mail me the letter, he gave it to me in the parking lot after services after receiving my fax. I sent copies of our correspondence to some of the brethren and **some of them were disturbed by his actions**, yet some think it's all right because they say they want the hierarchical government in place in AIA. One brother told me in this open meeting Saturday before all present, he wouldn't be ruled over by me. My question to him was when did I ever rule over him by serving him or the congregation? **I didn't know that serving was ruling.** It hurts to have those with whom I have served and known for years to say such things, but I guess people have their loyalties.

**RESPONSE:** Do not despair. All of these situations will be judged by our Righteous Judge in the end.

**LETTER:** We have only a small congregation here, with 38 on the membership list and dwindling fast. I can no longer fellowship in such an atmosphere., nor can others

with me in like mind. We have decided to meet next Sabbath elsewhere. We don't know how many will be there. We know of 5 and possibly as many as 10. With all this, can you steer us to an organization (even an independent church organization) that is willing to provide us with videos and audio tapes to be used on the Sabbath? **I hate to see this division in the Body of Christ, it tears at my very soul.** May we all come to see the damage we are doing to the Body, myself included, before the world turns on His people.

Thanks for your time, I know you are probably short of it, and keep up the good work you are doing.

A brother in Christ,

—West Virginia

**RESPONSE:** I hate to see division also, but it is happening. I pray that we can all learn lessons from it, so that we do not have to repeat the problems over and over again. There is a list of sermon tape ministries on page 4 of the Sept-Oct 1996 *Servants' News*. In addition, we have found that it works well to read through the Bible in an organized manner in services—stopping for explanation and comments. It is amazing how much the Eternal can teach in this manner.

—NSE

### Appreciates *Servants' News*

**LETTER:**

May 3, 1997

Dear Norman:

Thank you for *Servants' News*. I find its whole approach very balanced, thought provoking and enlightening. Although I may not agree with every article I do find you have a lot of truth and a mature way of presenting it.

Please find enclosed a donation to help cover costs.

—M.H., England

**RESPONSE:** Thank you for taking that approach. We pray for understanding and study as much as we can. Yet, we do not believe that the Eternal has guaranteed that all of our understanding will be correct. If we print something that our readers disagree with, we hope that they will tell us about it rather than simply ignore us. There are many cases where we have been corrected by or learned from our readers. Sometimes it takes a while before we can study and understand what they say and then change our view. Also, we receive much "correction" with which we never do agree. But we would rather receive 1 good corrective letter and 10 bad ones, than no corrective letters at all.

—NSE

### When Does God Join a Marriage?

**LETTER:**

January 13, 1997

Dear Sir,

Thanks for your effort to serve and inform. You and your staff are doing a good job.

I am not sure why I have such interest in the articles, *Marriage and Divorce* and *Joined Together*, since we have been married fifty years. I guess it is a hard-line "mind-set" from WCG dating from 1958 until 1978 when I left.

More than one "spiritual widow" was shipped to San Diego by ministers who had determined they were not bound and it would be in their best interest to relocate. In fact, one with four children lived with our family for a period of time, in a three bedroom, one bath house. "Great fun."

Who and how is it determined if God "joined" a male and female? Divorce, "from the beginning, it was not so?"

If they become "one flesh" when both were unbelievers, how does this change when one becomes a believer? From what I hear about re-marriage of divorced people, is based on 1Cor 7:15 NKJV "under bondage"; yet, in verse 11, it states "remain unmarried". Verse 39 says "bound by law as long as her husband lives."

Yet, one can conclude from Matt 19:9, that if the divorce is for sexual immorality, he/she is free to remarry

You state there will be more articles on this subject, looking forward to them.

Above all, I do not condemn those that have re-married after being divorced. As I admitted at the beginning, I may have a "mind-set" that is wrong.

Sincerely,

—D.G., California

**RESPONSE:** We dealt with the issue of divorce and remarriage at length in our May 1997 *Servants' News*. However, your question of "When Does God Join a Marriage?" is a good one. We asked ourselves, "Does the Eternal join..."

...converted people who both intend to marry for life?

...people who want to live by the Bible, but do not have His spirit within them?

...people who have no religion, but intend to stay married until they die?

...people who think they are Christian, but plan to stay married "only if it works"?

...couples who just live together without any definite plan for the future?

...couples who plan to stay together, but also plan to have other sexual relationships?

...promiscuous people during the first time they have intercourse, no matter what?

We do not have specific scriptures telling

us exactly which marriages the Eternal "joins" and which ones he does not. But fortunately, for the converted person, we do not really need such answers. For converted people planning to marry, they can ask and know that the Eternal will join them in the future. For converted people who were already married, they can ask the Eternal to join the present marriage, unless they are no longer bound as specified in 1 Corinthians 7.

We hope that our May 1997 article answers most of your questions. Please let us know if it does not.

—NSE

### Is the New Testament Valid?

**LETTER:**

April 18, 1997

Dear Norman Edwards,

Thank you for your response to our e-mail following our attendance with you at the Dallas Calendar Conference. We've reconsidered our thinking, and now agree with the view you related in Dallas; that until the temple is rebuilt, and/or, the Sanhedrin is re-established, the Hebrew calendar should be followed for reckoning of Holy Days. This is especially true in light of a more weightier issue that needs attention. Churches seem to be focusing on all the wrong things, what needs to be of concern is the validity of the New Testament.

To research this subject will require a number of factors. First-it will take an in depth study (skimming won't work). Second-one will have to put Christian prejudices aside, and take an honest look at the evidence. Scripture references should be from the Holy Scriptures, and not from any Old Testaments that were modified to fulfill the New Testament. Here are a few of the questions that need answers:

**RESPONSE:** We know of very few Old Testament mistranslations intended to harmonize with the New—we would like to see your list of such problems.

**LETTER:** 1. Is it possible that Satan, 'the god of this world', is capable of a fraud that could deceive the whole world?

**RESPONSE:** Nearly the whole world (Rev 12:9), but not the very elect (Matt 24:24). If you reject the New Testament, you have very little information about how Satan deceives individuals.

**LETTER:** 2. If, according to the Holy Scriptures, Israel will be worshipping at the feet of Baal in the end time:(Jer.23:23-27) where is Israel, and what is the Baal religion?

**RESPONSE:** Israel is spread across the world in too many countries, and the Baal religion has taken on many forms. The Catholic Church is by far the most power-

ful, and her greatest hold is over Gentile countries (Italy, Spain, Poland, South America, etc.), not Israel!

**LETTER:** 3. Why is the life history, doctrine, and activities of the saviour of the New Testament so similar to Mithraism, the competitive 'other' belief during the 300 plus years that it took to develop the New Testament.

**RESPONSE:** Mithraism has more similarity to Greco-Roman mythology than it has to Christianity. It has **much** more similarity to false Christianity (Sunday, Dec 25th, etc.) than true Biblical worship. The manuscripts giving information on Mithraism are few and very diverse. It seemed to mix with local religions wherever it went. It certainly borrowed from Christianity. While the New Testament did not take its final form until the 300s AD, virtually all of the early NT manuscripts contain the same essential message as other versions of the same books. You can get a very good idea of the New Testament manuscript variations by reading the footnotes of a NKJV Bible—there is not much that would change anyone's theology.

**LETTER:** 4. Why is it so difficult to establish who really wrote the 'four gospels', and when? Were there any eyewitnesses?

**RESPONSE:** Why is it impossible to establish who originated, taught and wrote about Mithraism? Leaders through the ages have destroyed or distorted history for their own purposes. Also, consider that converted writers are more interested in telling the truth than promoting their names. We continually receive articles at *Servants' News* where people do not include their own name.

**LETTER:** 5. Does all our knowledge of the conversion and ministry of Paul depend on the writings of his Gentile companion Luke?

6. Same question for the Acts of the Apostles and nativity of Jesus.

**RESPONSE:** —No, we have Paul's, Peter's, and Matthew's words, too (Gal 1; 2Pet 3:15; Matt 1:18-25).

**LETTER:** 7. If the 'sin of Adam' is passed on through all mankind, how did Mary avoid passing the 'sin of Adam' on to Jesus?

**RESPONSE:** No scripture says the 'sin of Adam' was **passed** to mankind. It says that "all have sinned" and sin leads to death. (Rom 3:23; 6:23) We die as Adam died (1Cor 15:22). Jesus did not sin.

**LETTER:** 8. If Mary was a close cousin (probably a sister) of Elizabeth, who was of the daughters of Aaron (Levites), why is Jesus considered of Judah? According to the NT, Joseph had no physical part in the conception (Luke 1:5)!

**RESPONSE:** The Greek probably means "cousin." Mary could have had a Jewish father and a Aaronite mother who's brother was Elizabeth's father. That would make Mary and Elizabeth cousins yet conform to the Old Testament marriage laws

**LETTER:** 9. Three major religions developed from the descendants of Abraham—Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Why does only one—Christianity, require multiple deities?

**RESPONSE:** Islam has not been as monotheistic as they would like you to believe. Rushdie's famous book, *Satanic Verses*, explains the polytheistic sections that used to be in the Koran. While Christianity identifies a Father and a Son who is the "firstborn of many brethren" (Rom 8:9), they are all "one" in purpose (John 17:22). Pagan religions have multiple gods in competition with each other.

**LETTER:** 10. If, according to the NT, the veil to the Holy of Holies at the time of the 'crucifixion', was "rent in twain" to supposedly give direct access to God the Father, why was it necessary to have a human resurrected god to act a go-between—especially when the Holy ONE of Israel says 'He shares His glory with no other?' (Is. 42:5)

**RESPONSE:** If the King of England has a servant, does that mean he "shares his glory with another"? Obviously, the Eternal did not lose any of his glory when Aaronites served as high priest or when the veil was rent and Jesus received that office.

**LETTER:** 11. Could the Jews have legally done most of the things they were accused of at the 'trial and crucifixion'?

**RESPONSE:** Were the things they did according to law? No. Did they do them? Yes. One need only look at the Salem witch trials, to the lynching of blacks, to our legal system today to see that leaders often consider themselves above the law.

**LETTER:** 12. Why does Josephus, the main Historian of that era, omit such dramatic events such as the mass slaughter of innocent babies after the birth of Jesus (especially since he recorded most all events in Herod's life)? How did the Persian astrologers with their entourage find the 'manger' without those loyal to Herod, knowing where they went, and the dramatic opening of the graves and mass resurrection at the time of 'the crucifixion'?

**RESPONSE:** Josephus probably did not record these events for the same reason that the Egyptians did not record their slaying of the Israelite babies, and for the same reason that the Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians and others did not record their miraculous defeats at the hands of the Eternal. It is

embarrassing to publicly acknowledge great evil works, or to acknowledge that there is a God who is working against you. Most American historians either ignore or are slow to acknowledge atrocities America committed or miracles where the Eternal delivered us in war (though there certainly were some—see the booklet *We Have a Guardian*).

**LETTER:** Mr Edwards, there are many other questions, but you need to ask several questions of yourself before you research them.

1. Are you willing to accept the results? i.e. loss of friends, financial support, and status in Christendom?

**RESPONSE:** I am willing to accept what I and the holy spirit in me understand to be the results, not what someone else tells me "must be the results." We have already published several "not so popular" articles that we believe are true—and we have lost some friends and support because of them. We will do that again if necessary.

**LETTER:** 2. Is your 'faith' in the integrity of the NT authors, compilers, and editors, such that you are willing to risk the outcome?

**RESPONSE:** My faith is in Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah—that He has preserved enough of the writings that we may live a life pleasing to the Eternal. I worship the "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." I believe that our Savior has done some "good works"—as defined in the Old Testament—through me. If we assume that Jesus does not exist, then these are my good works—I do not mind being judged for them.

**LETTER:** 3. Do you know where you want to be when the Holy ONE of Israel rejoins the House of Israel with the House of Judah?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, I want to be helping to feed my Master's servants (Matt 24:25-26)

**LETTER:** We will continue to monitor the *Servants' News* (that is if we continue to receive them) to look for developments. A year ago we wouldn't have dreamed that we would be writing a letter such as this!

Sincerely,

—Bob & Margaret Rose

P.S. We don't want to hear anything about Josh McDowell!

**RESPONSE:** Thank you for your letter. We would hope that you would complete your study before trying to convince others to believe only partially-thought-out ideas. Are you willing to risk the outcome? "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matt 18:6).

# Festival Sites By Geographic Region

## North West (USA/Canada)

Anchorage, Alaska, Global Church of God, 907-262-7059  
Anchorage, Alaska, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Edmonton, Alberta, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Global Church of God, 619-675-2222  
Kelowna, British Columbia, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Ocean Shores, Washington, Seattle Church of God, Independent, 800-333-5208  
Penticton, British Columbia, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Redding, California, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Seaside, Oregon, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Sis-q-Meadows, Oregon, Omega Praise Fellowship, 541-855-7220  
Sunriver, Oregon, The Churches of God, 415-726-3005  
Vernon, British Columbia, Global Church of God, 619-675-2222

## South West (USA/Mexico)

Acapulco, Mexico, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Albuquerque, New Mexico, Church of God Ministry (Lon Lacey), 505-822-8709  
Flagstaff, Arizona, Global Church of God, 619-675-2222  
Kahuku, Oahu, Hawaii, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Lake Tahoe, California, independant fellowship in Sacramento 800-808-2560.  
Lihue, Hawaii, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Palm Springs, California, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
San Diego, California, Global Church of God, 619-675-2222  
San Diego, California, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Snowmass, Colorado, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Vail, Colorado, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110

## North Central (USA/Canada)

Chatham, Ontario, The Churches of God, 519-351-7978  
Chicago, Illinois, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Rapid City, South Dakota, Triumph (Bill Dankenbring), 818-797-0075  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, United Church of God, 818-294-0800

## South Central (USA)

Branson, Missouri, United Church of

God, 818-294-0800,

Corpus Christi, Texas, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Hot Springs, Arkansas, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Kerrville, Texas, Global Church of God, 619-675-2222  
Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, Cornerstone Publ. (Jim Rector), 903-792-1352  
Lake Texoma, Oklahoma, The Churches of God, 417-833-9208  
San Antonio, Texas, The Churches of God, 210-333-7229

## North East (USA/Canada)

Burr Oak State Park, Ohio, *Servants' News*, 517-543-5544  
Fernwood, Pennsylvania, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Granby, Quebec, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110, French language only.  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Lexington, Kentucky, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Louisville, Kentucky, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Mont-Orford, Quebec, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Niagara Falls, Ontario, Global Church of God, 619-675-2222  
Paducah, Kentucky, Global Church of God, 619-675-2222  
Rockville, Maryland, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Saratoga Springs, New York, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
St. John's, Newfoundland, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Toronto, Ontario, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110

## South East (USA & Carribean)

Caribbean Cruise, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Clearwater, Florida, Global Church of God, 619-675-2222  
Chattanooga, Tennessee, Global Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Daytona Beach, Florida, The Churches of God, 904-673-8324  
Destin, Florida, The Churches of God, 904-581-2820  
Gatlinburg, Tennessee, United Christian Ministries (Ray Wooten), 888-985-9066  
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, End Time Assembly of God, 800-768-0137  
Jekyll Island, Georgia, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Kissimmee, Florida, Christian Educational Ministries, (Ron Dart) 903-509-2999  
Lewisburg, Tennessee, Church of God Fellowship of Nashville, 615-896-9365  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Worldwide Church of God, 818-304-6110  
Orlando, Florida, United Church of

God, 818-294-0800

## INTERNATIONAL

### Africa

Naro, Moru, Kenya, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Uvongo, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
George, South Africa, Global Church of God, 27-11-664-6036  
Zimbabwe, South Africa, Global Church of God, 27-11-664-6036  
Mutare, South Africa, United Church of God, 818-294-0800

### Australia & Pacific

Aberdare, NSW, Australia The Churches of God, 011-6149-912525  
Bagio City, Philippines, Global Church of God, 63-2-892-6459;  
Kambah, ACT, Australia 2902, Global Church of God, 61-6-231-8166  
Eden, VIC, Australia, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Launceston, Tasmania United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Naku'alofa, Tonga United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Nelson Bay, NSW, Australia, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Noosa Bay, QLD, Australia, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Penang, Malaysia, Global Church of God, 60-3-930-1187  
Perth, WA, Australia, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Taupo, New Zealand, United Church of God, 818-294-0800

### Central & South America

Esquipulas, Guatemala, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Maitencillo, Chile, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, United Church of God, 818-294-0800

### Europe

Hengelhof, Belgium, Global Church of God, 32-71-218-190  
Billinghay, Lincs, England The Churches of God, 011-441526-860508  
Cheltenham, England, Global Church of God, 01-332-835498  
La Colle-sur-Loup, France, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Lido di Camaiore, Tuscany, Italy, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Sundvolden, Norway, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Wezuperbrug, Drenthe, Netherlands, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Weymouth, Dorset, U.K., United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
Winterberg, Germany, United Church of God, 818-294-0800  
York, Yorkshire, U.K. United Church of God, 818-294-0800, 

*If you know of other sites not listed here, please call or write Servants' News.*

# Feast of Tabernacles '97 Information Form

Please fill in any of the blanks you wish and then send this to the appropriate site of your choice to receive site information. If other households are interested, please copy this form or request more from Servants' News.

## Personal Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail or Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

## Festival Site Choice:

Burr Oak Resort and Conference Center  
Route 2, Box 159, Glouster, Ohio 45732  
Tel: 614-767-2112 Fax: 614-769-4878  
**Location:** Northeast of Glouster on St. Rt. 78.

Mail form to: *Servants News*  
*PO Box 220, Charlotte, Michigan 48813-0220*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Other festival site, please fill in name)

**Total people attending:** Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ 11-18 yearolds: \_\_\_\_\_ 10 & under: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you are not sure how many will attend with you, please give your best estimate now and let us know if it changes significantly. Do not include people who have been included on someone else's form. If you will not attend for the entire 8 days, please let us know.)

**Interest/Commitment Level:**  Undecided right now.  Probably will come.  Definitely planning to!!

## Service and Activity Interest:

- Festival Planning
- Activity Organizer
- Parking Assistance
- Family Day Activities
- Singles Activities
- Anointing/Counseling
- Choir Director/Music Coordinator
- Pianist (Preferred Hymnals): \_\_\_\_\_
- Choir (Part): \_\_\_\_\_
- Instrumentalist (instrument): \_\_\_\_\_
- Special Music (selection): \_\_\_\_\_
- Set-up
- Clean-up
- Ushering
- Senior Activities
- Song Leading
- First Aid

- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Variety Show (Please describe act below.)
- Message Presentation (Please state topic, type of presentation, amount of time, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Purpose of this Form

The purpose of this form is to let those who are planning for the Feast better plan for you (not to grant "approval" for Feast attendance). It is unpleasant to attend an activity that is unequipped to handle the number of people attending it. It is also unpleasant to plan an activity, only to have very few people attend.

### Festival Site Choice:

This form was made for the *Servants'*

News site. Other groups usually have their own form, but would rather receive this form from you than none at all.

### Interest/Commitment Level:

For the planning committees, please be sure to indicate the number of people who may attend with you.

### Service and Activity Interest:

Some of these categories may not apply to other sites. Also, more people may volunteer to serve in a specific area than are needed. Call if you have questions. 

## Register for Burr Oak, Ohio Feast Site Now!

At press time, there were only 14 reserved rooms left at the Burr Oak Lodge. These rooms will not be reserved much longer. The lodge normally fills up during the beautiful fall color season. Call *Servants' News* for information. For reservations, call 614-767-2112.

# Partial Literature List

All items are free upon request. All back issues of *Servants' News* are available as well as a **Complete Literature List**.

Our goal is to bring worthwhile information to as many as want it at the lowest practical cost. The loose-leaf format used by *Servants' News* and most of the literature below is inexpensive and makes copying easy (most literature is public domain). You might wish to hold the pages together with a 3-ring binder, staples, brads or a paper

## Items Appearing For the First Time:

### Mature Literature

**A Rebuttal to the Worldwide News (12/19/95) Article by Ralph Orr entitled *United States and Britain in Prophecy*** by Steven M. Collins, 8 pages.

**Sermon Transcripts for the Deaf order form** by Kevin McMillen, 1 page. Free CEM sermon transcripts for the deaf.

### Late News:

## Unity Conference for the Assembly of Yahweh, Seventh Day

All Sabbath-keeping brethren are invited to the Unity conference August 1, 2, 3 in Cisco, Texas for a time of fellowship and doctrinal discussion. For more information, call Sam Gramm, 517-663-3724.

## Items Featured This Issue (always available):

### Basic Literature

**The Bible Sabbath: Seventh Day or First Day?** (From the Bible Sabbath Association) 2 pages. Basic Sabbath tract.

**Christian Bible Study Guide** by F. Paul Haney, 4 pages. An overview of Bible study and 77 points to consider.

**Does the Bible Permit Christians to Eat "Unclean" Meat in New Testament Times?** by Steven M Collins. 14 pages.

**Christian Educational Ministries Correspondence Course** by Ron Dart. First lesson from SN. Others free from CEM.

**God, I've Got a Problem** edited by Jerry Laws, 54 pages. Bible help for the depressed, tempted, guilty, worried, lonely, afraid, bored, disappointed, bitter, doubtful, proud and dying.

**God's Purpose for Your Life** by Fred McGovarin, 40 pages, half-size booklet. A "first booklet" for people just becoming

interested in the Truth. It introduces Hebrew names (Yahweh and Yashua) for God and Jesus.

**Hebrew Holy Day Calendar.** (Business card size.)

**International Bible Learning Center Catalog**, 2 pages. Best source of Sabbatarian college-type Bible courses on video.

**The Key to the Book of Revelation** edited by Tom Justus, originally by Herbert Armstrong. 12-page 9"x4" booklet.

**Lazarus and the Rich Man** edited by Tom Justus, originally by Herbert Armstrong. 16-page 9"x4" booklet.

**The Resurrection of Christ—Is It a Fact?** by Don Hudge. 2 page tract for those skeptical of the Bible & resurrection.

**Why Do You Observe Sunday?** edited by Tom Justus, originally by Herbert Armstrong. 16-page 9"x4" booklet.

## Highly Recommended Items Listed Every Issue:

### Mature Literature

**Assembling on the Sabbath** by Norman S. Edwards, 16 pages. An exposition of the scriptures regarding our need to fellowship on the Sabbath and how to do it.

**Biblical Calendar Basics** by Norman S. Edwards, 10 pages. Introduction to the issues about the Biblical and Hebrew calendars (beginning of months, years, postponements etc.)

**Did Christ Reorganize the Church?** by Herbert W. Armstrong in 1939, 8 pages. Very different than his later approach: Christ never set up a hierarchical government.

**The Heart of the Matter** by Jim Rector, 31 pages. Our calling is to spiritual growth, not just attendance, socializing, politeness or legalism.

**How Do We Give to the Eternal?** by Richard Tafoya & Norman Edwards, 36 pages. Biblical study of giving and tithing.

**How Does the Eternal Govern Through Humans?** by Norman S. Edwards, 34 pages. How the KJV translators altered Scriptures about government to please King

James and an analysis of what the Bible says about how we should govern in today's congregations.

**The Worldwide Church of God Splits: Their Triumphs and Troubles** by Alan Ruth, 56 pages. Facts and analysis of the last 20 years of "Church of God" history.

### Study Resources and Information

**The Christian Beacon** Sample 24-page issue of free quarterly newsletter of encouraging articles for Sabbatarians.

**Giving and Sharing Order Form** by Richard Nickels. 3 pages. Has many excellent free items, low prices on hard-to-find religious books, and fine literature on floppy disk.

**The Journal: News of the Churches of God** edited by Dixon Cartwright. One free sample issue. Best single source of news about Sabbath-keeping groups. 16 pages.

**Servants' News & Norman Edwards Statement of Receipts and Expenses**, 2 pages. (Always sent to contributors.)

**Servants' News Complete Literature List & Index**, 30 pages.