

Christian Church of God Newsletter

Spring Issue 2017



When God created mothers

When the good Lord created mothers, He was into His sixth day of overtime, when an angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

The Lord replied, "Have you seen the specs on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; Have 180 moveable parts ... all replaceable; Run on black coffee & leftovers; Have a lap that disappears when she stands up; A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointing love affair; And six pair of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pair of hands? No way!"

"It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord. "It's the three pair of eyes that mothers have to have."

"One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks 'What are you kids doing in there?' when she already knows. Another in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't, but what she needs to know, and of course the ones in front that look at a child when he goofs up and say, 'I understand & I love you,' Without so much as uttering a word. "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already, I have one who heals herself when she is sick ...can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger ...and get a nine year old to stand under a shower. Not only

Hello Brethren,

In May and June we have Pentecost on June 4th celebrating the birth of the New Testament Church with the coming of the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus, Mother's Day on May 14th, and Father's Day on June 18th. On the second weekend of the month of May, we make a special effort to show our mothers the depth of our love, respect, admiration and appreciation for the most important job on the face of God's green earth. You cannot dishonor and disrespect your mother and be right with God. If your mother is still alive, don't miss the opportunity to love and honor her and men, let us not forget our wives! It is our mothers and wives who civilize us men!

Some years ago I found this and have shared this with most of you. I still love it.

Eternal Perspective

25You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. **26** And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26 (MSG)



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When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

These indelible words of Isaac Watts materialize into the imagery of two works of art bearing the same title: "The Shadow of the Cross:
The first is a scene inside Joseph's carpenter shop; Jesus, as a teenager, is working alongside his earthly father and pauses from his work to look out the shop window. He is standing with his arms outstretched, which casts a shadow behind him in the form of a cross.
The second painting depicts Jesus as a little lad, running with outstretched arms to his mother, the sun on his back, casting the dark shadow of the cross upon the path before him.



The book of Isaiah is full of the artistic words of the prophet's revelations about the Messiah coming as Redeemer and Savior. Such as "1 Who believes what we've heard and seen? Who would have thought GOD's saving power would look like this? 2 The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. 3 He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum. 4 But the fact is, it was *our* pains he carried— *our* disfigurements, all the things wrong with us. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. 5 But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him— *our* sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole." Isaiah 53:1-5 (MSG)



" . . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed." — James 5:15-16. / "You've kept track of my every toss and turn through the sleepless nights, Each tear entered in your ledger, each ache written in your book." —Psalms 56:8 MSG)

Francis Carlson: Has been diagnosed with Chiari Malformation (portion of brain protrudes into spine).
Amber Clark: Grandchild of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.
Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.
Elisabeth & Simon Desmond: Health & family issues.
Velvet Green: Suffers from schizophrenia.
Harry Gonzales: Diagnosed with Lupus and debilitating arthritis..
Shannon Stephens: Daughter of Darrell & Linda Sehorn, diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, which is very debilitating.
Truman Summerford: Martha McClenagan's brother, has advanced neuropathy that has him confined to a lift chair, bed, or wheel chair. He also has lung issues and is on a ventilator.

IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR.

Celebrations

Birthdays:

James Vines	4/26
Damaris Green	4/29
Glennis McAlister	5/4
Linda Sehorn	5/16
Jeff Booth	5/19
Joe Kirkpatrick	5/19
Thomas Vines	5/19
James Bailey	6/2

Anniversaries:

Glennis & Weldon McAlister	4/24
Shannon & Russ Stephens	5/20
Bill & Jackie Ballew	5/24
Jeff & Linda Booth	6/1



Happy
Mother's
Day

pentecost

Sunday, June 4th 11:45 a.m.

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. * And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. . . . Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

can she think, she can reason and compromise."

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek of the mother. "There's a leak," she pronounced, "I told you that you were trying to put too much in this model."

"That's not a leak," said the Lord, "it's a tear."

"What is it for?" asked the angel.

The Lord replied, "It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness & pride."

"You're a genius!" shouted the angel.

With a somber look on his face, the Lord said, "I didn't put it there."

It is our duty to "honor" our mother and father. We give special honor and appreciation for the other half of God's family team on Father's Day, a uniquely American day set aside to give special honor and thanks to our Fathers, not just for giving us life... but for teaching us life. Since June 19th of 1910, America has been setting aside the third Sunday of June as Father's Day.

We, along with our savior Jesus Christ, lovingly call our God Father and fatherhood is a special responsibility made in the image of our Heavenly Father. He chooses to be called our Father and expects the Christian male to follow His example of love, strength and leadership. It is not likely that a child will find a Father in God unless he finds something of God in his father.

Father's Day has become a day to not only honor your father, but all men who act as a father figure. Stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers and adult male friends are all to be honored on Father's Day. The demasculinization of the male species and the killing off of the masculine side of God is a dangerous and disturbing trend. The masculinity of men and the femininity of women is something all should encourage and foster, not attack and demean in favor of "gender neutrality", for both are attributes of God and these God-given traits were created, not so men and women could compete against and detract from one another, but rather to complement and bring out the best from each gender. That is why our Heavenly Father said at Creation that it is not good for the man to be alone and so He created a helpmate, thereby creating marriage and family,

the environment He chose for mankind to bring up children in a Godly fashion.

The absence of fathers in so many modern families is contributing to the surge in crime, illegitimate babies, immorality and poverty in our nation.

Eph 3:13 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width length depth and height — 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Let us then honor our Mothers, not just in May, but every day. And let us honor our Dads most importantly our Father who dwells in Heaven and lives in our hearts!

Bless you Mothers & Fathers,

Jeff Booth



Who is This King of Glory?

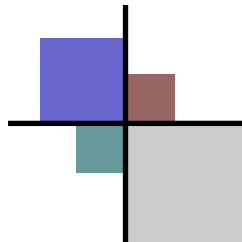
GOD claims Earth and everything in it, God claims World and all who live on it. **2** He built it on Ocean foundations, laid it out on River girders. **3** Who can climb Mount GOD? Who can scale the holy north-face? **4** Only the clean-handed, only the pure-hearted; Men who won't cheat, women who won't seduce. **5** GOD is at their side; with GOD's help they make it. **6** This, Jacob, is what happens to God-seekers, God-questers. **7** Wake up, you sleepyhead

city! Wake up, you sleepy-head people! King-Glory is ready to enter. **8** Who is this King-Glory? GOD, armed and battle-ready. **9** Wake up, you sleepyhead city! Wake up, you sleepyhead people! King-Glory is ready to enter. **10** Who is this King-Glory? GOD of the angel armies: he is King-Glory. —Psalms 24:1-10 (MSG)



When the Sabbath was over, just as the first day of the week was dawning Mary from Magdala and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. At that moment there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from Heaven, went forward and rolled back the stone and took his seat upon it. His appearance was dazzling like lightning and his clothes were white as snow. The guards shook with terror at the sight of him and collapsed like dead men. But the angel spoke to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here - he is risen, just as he said he would. Come and look at the place where he was lying. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead. And, listen, he goes before you into Galilee! You will see him there! Now I have told you my message." ~Matt 28:1-7 (Phillips NT)

Then Came the Morning ...



Heartbeats⁸

Editorial
Jerry McClenagan

Guard your heart more than anything else, because the source of your life flows from it. ~Proverbs 4:23 (GW)

AS YOU READ THE FINAL CHAPTER of the Bible, how does it leave you? Fulfilled? Hopeful? Disturbed? Angry?

There is room for a variety of responses, isn't there? We constantly face a changing world—ecologically and culturally.

There seems to be no end to challenges: socially, spiritually, financially. You name the issue, the problem, the dream, the conflict, and a cornucopia of ideas will overflow the room.

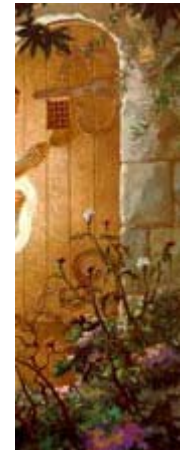
But I see hope in those final verses of Revelation. The Central Figure of the Book announces that He is returning—with solutions to the issues and problems that plague this world.

20 He who testifies to all these things says it again: "I'm on my way! I'll be there soon!" (Rev 22:20, MSG)

I believe Him! I've read the Book. I've watched the Master do His wonders, face the challenges in the world. I've watched Him die! I've seen Him arise from the dead. I've heard the angel announce "He is not here! He is risen! He's alive forevermore! Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Rev 22:20)

Listen. He speaks to you, you personally. He wants to fellowship with you—now and forever.

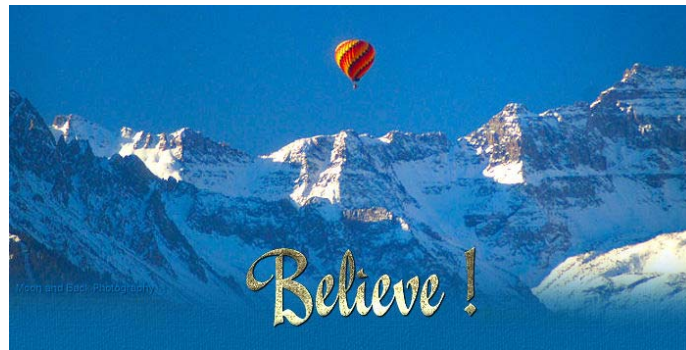
20 Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me. **21** The victor: I will give him the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I also won the victory and sat down with My Father on His throne. Rev 3:20-21 (HCSB)



IN HIS BOOK *THE DARKNESS AND THE DAWN*, Charles Swindoll says, "It is safe to say there has never been a more unfair, illegal, or shameful set of trials conducted in the history of jurisprudence than the six trials that led to the crucifixion and death of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this, however, there is a paradox: From those acts of injustice the justice of God was satisfied. As men poured out their wrath upon Christ at His trials and His death, God's wrath against sin was completely released upon Christ at the cross. All the wrath of God was poured out on Christ at that moment when He bore our sins in His body on that cruel cross. As a result, the only thing that separates lost humanity from God is rank unbelief."

After Jesus' ascension Peter preached to the great crowd gathered and about 3,000 became Believers. The Holy Scripture can direct anyone to join this group of Believers:

"...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim 3:15 (NKJV)). Read all of Acts 2 for an introduction to the Christian Faith. Don't ever forget the pivotal verses: John 3:16-18. With the words of Swindoll above, note Romans 5:8-10, "8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."



But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:8-9, NKJV.) Compare Peterson's paraphrase: 8 So what exactly was Moses saying? The **word that saves is right here**, as near as the tongue in your mouth, as close as the heart in your chest. It's **the word of faith** that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us. This is the core of our preaching.



Let Christ's teaching live in your hearts, making you rich in the true wisdom. Teach and help one another along the right road with your psalms and hymns and Christian songs, singing God's praises with joyful hearts. And whatever you may have to do, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, thanking God the Father through him. Col 3:16 (Phillips NT)



Come, everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise!² For the LORD Most High is awesome. He is the great King of all the earth. Psalms 47:1-2 (NLT)

The Power of Pentecost

12

20 Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the Yes of Jesus. In him, this is what we preach and pray, the great Amen, God's Yes and our Yes together, gloriously evident. 21 God affirms us, making us a sure thing in Christ, putting his Yes within us. 22 By his Spirit he has stamped us with his eternal pledge—a sure beginning of what he is destined to complete. (2 Cor 1:20-22, MSG)

This Holy Day season of reflection and renewal focuses on the saving, redeeming work of our Lord and Savior.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain!

Fifty days after Passover, on Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Believers—the means, the power to release all the “yeses” of God. As Jesus said, “¹⁴ He will honor me; he will take from me and deliver it to you. ¹⁵ Everything the Father has is also mine. That is why I've said, ‘He takes from me and delivers to you.’” (John 16:14-15, MSG)

Are we any closer than those original apostles to accepting what we are proffered? Are we captive to No when God keeps saying “YES”?

God is able to

- **Turn a blockade at the Red Sea into a path of escape!**
- **Turn a blazing furnace into a revelation of His glory!**
- **Turn the Cross into radiant Life!**

**Christian
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