



CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD NEWSLETTER

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4 & 5 April/May 2008

My Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

On the evening of April 18th we will gather to celebrate the Lord's Passover, or is it the New Testament Passover, or is it the Christian Passover, or is it the Lord's Supper, or is it the Communion of our Lord? Just what should we call it? How about all of the above?

As we assemble to partake of the holy sacraments instituted by our Savior the eve of His crucifixion, it is not to debate the "proper" name of the service, nor is it to argue which day is "the right" day, nor is it to parse over the "appropriate" time on our wristwatches. Of all times, this is no time for legalism or debates.... it is the time for peace & reconciliation.

Mark 14:22 *And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.*

23 *And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.*

24 *And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. (KJV)*

2 Tim 2:14 *Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. KJV*

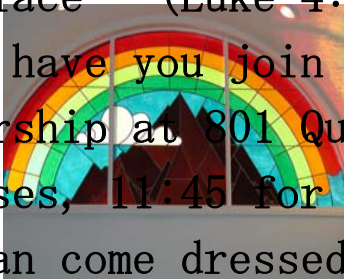
It is the time to come together as one in Christ Jesus... to partake of the broken body & shed blood of our Passover Lamb... to join as the uni-



A WORD FROM THE

Jesus: “My house was designated a house of prayer for the nations”₂ (Mark 11:17, MSG). / “[Jesus] came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place” (Luke 4:16, MSG).

We would love to have you join us each Saturday for study and worship at 801 Quail Creek Drive – 11 a.m. for classes, 11:45 for singing and preaching. You can come dressed to the ‘nines’ or more casual if you choose. What we really like to see is a spirit of friendliness, an attitude of sincerity, and a willingness to ‘search the



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Our sermons broadcast
on

KGRO Radio 9:05 AM
Sunday.

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The Quester

Solomon looked up, a slight glimmer of understanding on his face.

“Don’t misunderstand, Solomon, your work pleases me: your building of homes, vineyards, gardens, parks and orchards; your foresight to build reservoirs to hold the water to irrigate your plantations; the great herds and flocks; the silver and gold; the cultural arts; the men’s and women’s choirs and orchestras.

“The results seem quite good to me—all an extension of my creation. The results are blessings to you and others, even though your motivation isn’t always right.”

Solomon smiled through his tears. He needed to be encouraged as well as corrected.

“It is a good feeling to accomplish all of this. I have accumulated more livestock and material acquisitions than anyone else ever had: gold, silver, treasure—”

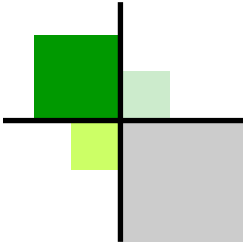
“But a man’s life doesn’t consist of the abundance of possessions.”

“I guess mine does: the great choirs and musical instruments; wine flowing from the orchards; women by the dozen.”

“I see . . . wine, women and song, to you, equates to fulfillment and satisfaction.”

“It does!” At this self-defensive remark Solomon dropped his head, then admits: “At least up to a point. I suppose what really rankles me is that it doesn’t last. I can’t take any of it with me through the doors of death. (See Eccl.. 2:18)

“What you have failed to see, with all of your wisdom, is that pleasure is not derived from making money if you do not share it. It is in giving that you retain it, laying up treasure in heaven. . . . But let’s reserve that discussion for tomorrow. I see you’re tired.” (Proverbs 17:1, LB; Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; 6:1-2; 2:2-11, 24-25, LB; 1 Corinthians 13:3; Luke 12:16-21.)



of a bird!' (Prv 23:4-5, LB)."

"Some think you contradicted yourself when you encouraged your readers to exert effort to excel in financial matters. How do you explain that?"

"For one thing, I was full of ambition and energy; my creative self wanted only the best in life. Perhaps I overdid it, and as a result I guess I experienced burnout, which developed into cynicism about life."

"Is that why you blurted out ' . . . I hated work.'? Were you cynical about life or had you begun to understand a balance between diligence toward financial success with right priorities?"

Silence engulfed Solomon.

The Lord continued, "You were experiencing the innate desire to be creative—a natural impulse I built into human nature. Which you affirmed: 'It is pleasant to see plans develop.' (Prv 13:19a, LB)

"But what you, and millions of others who will take your advice, will not learn is that this inherent inclination has to be held in check, guided into channels that please God. Otherwise it leads to what you concluded: 'That is why fools refuse to give them up even when they are wrong.' (Proverbs 13:19b, LB.) The emotional enjoyment of making plans can cloud one's judgment to the point of unwillingness to give up on a bad idea. Especially one that is driven by greed and pride."

"So it seems that this 'work' I came to 'hate' became such an obsession with me that I denigrated it totally."

Both of them looked at the manuscript in Solomon's hands. The statement was like a cloud covering the sun in winter. Solomon read from the parchment once more: "'So now I hate life because it is all so irrational; all is foolishness, chasing the wind. And I am disgusted about this, that I must leave the fruits of all my hard work to others . . .—how discouraging. So I turned in despair from hard work as the answer to my search for satisfaction. For though I spend my life searching for wisdom, knowledge, and skill, I must leave all of it to someone who hasn't done a day's work in his life; he inherits all my efforts, free of charge. So what does a man get for all his hard work? Days full of sorrow and grief, and restless, bitter nights. It is all utterly ridiculous' (Ecclesiastes 2:17-23, LB)."

He rolled up the parchment and sighed heavily.

"It is in this dark valley, Lord, that I find myself. I've quit laughing, turned to drink, practice folly, pour all my energy and resources into a great public works program. But it all seems so useless; nothing seems really worthwhile."

"You've become bitter over the shortness of life, the inevitable death sentence." The Messiah laid a tender hand on his shoulder. "I remind you that your attitude, like those before you, gave vent to this curse of death. And I also remind you of my promises to perpetuate your father's throne, to give my faithful servants a future beyond this vale of tears."

Prayer Requests

3



" . . . 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.

IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR. jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net

Sheri Bartlett: Julia McKinney's daughter, having serious health problems.

Debbie Blodgett: Friend of Candace Sellers, has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.

Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.

Bob Fink: Larry Lyles' daughter's father-in-law, prostate cancer which has metastasized to the bone.

Velvet Green: Gary's wife, schizophrenia.

Je Keishalyn Henley: Daughter of Velvet and Gary Green, is incarcerated and having health problems. Pray for an early release.

Anna Law: Lupus & kidney failure. She is in need of kidney transplant.

Dollie Meil: Cerebral palsy. She is growing weak.

Kathryn Scott: Friend of the Baileys; severe MS, losing use of arms and swallowing ability.

Ray Sehorn: Brother of Darrel & C.B. is in failing health in a nursing home in Iraan, Texas.

Wilson Stewart: Diagnosed with prostate cancer, numbness and difficulty swallowing.

Jeanne Vincent: C.B. & Darrell Sehorn's sister, breast cancer which has metastasized to the bone.

Janet Voss: Completed chemotherapy treatments for ovarian cancer. Her cancer is in remission.

Ron Vorheis: Admitted to a nursing home in Claude. Suffering from macular degeneration, heart arrhythmia, and bleeding ulcer.

Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

Helen Shaklee	4/8
Audrey Strahn	4/8
James Vines	4/26
Glennis McAlister	5/4
Linda Sehorn	5/16
Jeff Booth	5/19
Joe Kirkpatrick	5/19
Thomas Vines	5/19
Janet Voss	5/27
Damaris Green	5/29

ANNIVERSERIES

Glennis & Weldon McAlister	4/24
Shannon & Russ Stephens	5/2

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VORHEIS
FAMILY ON THE BAPTISMS OF
BECKY PILLOW ~ 2/23
LEAH CARRUTH ~ 2/23
JEREMY VORHEIS ~ 2/23

Condolences

TO CHRISTY SERSA AT THE DEATH OF HER
MOTHER.

TO THE CRYER FAMILY AT THE DEATH OF
JAKE (J.T.) CRYER, WHO PASSED AWAY THIS PAST
MONTH.

Christian Lord's Supper/Passover/Supper

FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH /
FOOTWASHING CEREMONY ~ 7:30 P.M.
SACRAMENT SERVICE ~ 8:00 P.M.



FIRST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD
~ SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH
LAST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD
~ SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH
C.E.P. BIBLE CLASS ~ 11:00 A.M.
HOLYDAY WORSHIP SERVICE~11:45A.M.

The Quester

By Jerry McClenagan
Continued from March
'08 newsletter



This serialization of a forthcoming book, THE QUESTER, is creative nonfiction based upon my research into the writings of Solomon and the words and life of Jesus. I use not only the traditional KJV, NKJV and NIV, but have relied heavily on *The Message* to give a contemporary flavor to the ancient proverbs of Solomon as well as the NT quotes by and about Christ.

SCENE FIVE

Well-done work has its own reward. —Solomon (Proverbs 12:14, The Message)
Put your mind on your life with God. The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires your total attention. —Jesus (Luke 13:24, The Message)

The glowing embers of the campfire provided not only heat for the chilly night, but enabled them to cook the salmon to perfection. They laughed and continued their repartee as they ate. The berries had provided a slight reprieve for Solomon's hunger through the afternoon. Now, he was ravenous. The time had passed quickly, and the euphoria of his Lord's presence had curtailed his physical hunger for several hours.

"Lord, our discussion of health and wealth, and this wonderful meal, has brought to mind one of my proverbs," he said as he unrolled his scroll. "Here it is: 'A dry crust eaten in peace is better than steak every day along with argument and strife.' The journal I'm working on now includes this analysis of life (he pointed to his most recent work): 'One thing, at least, is good: it is for a man to eat well, drink a good glass of wine, accept his position in life, and enjoy his work whatever his job may be, for however long the Lord may let him live. And, of course, it is very good if a man has received wealth from the Lord, and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and to accept your lot in life—that is indeed a gift from God. The person who does that will not need to look back with sorrow on his past, for God gives him joy.'"

"Wise words," Jesus said. "If, Solomon—and I emphasize *if*—one heeds the emphasis on what the Lord allows; if God gives the health and wealth. And, if that person settles into contentment in whatever circumstance he finds himself, then 'God gives him joy.' But the risk is in becoming addicted to money, trusting in riches. Didn't you write that warning?"

Solomon thought for a moment. "Yes. I said, 'Trust in your money and down you go! Trust in God and flourish as a tree!' (Prv. 11:28, LB) And I wrote how 'the rich man thinks of his wealth as an impregnable defense, a high wall of safety. What a dreamer!' (Prv. 18:11, LB) I also wrote, 'Enjoy prosperity whenever you can, and when hard times strike, realize that God gives one as well as the other—so that everyone will realize that nothing is certain in this life.' (Eccl.. 7:14, LB) Then I penned: 'Don't weary yourself trying to get rich. Why waste your time? For riches can disappear as though they had the wings



Heartbeats

Editorial
Jerry McClenagan

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Prov 4:23 (NIV)

I've just completed piloting another intense writers' seminar. This one was focused on Christian/ Inspirational works: poetry, articles, books, and devotionals. Attendees came from New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, and Georgia. The keynote speaker, Cecil Murphey, hails from Atlanta. He has written over 100 books, some ghost written for such as Franklin Graham and Ben Carson. The most recent bestseller is Don Piper's "90 Minutes in Heaven."

In a humorous way, Cec commented that this book outsold "23 Minutes in Hell" by huge margins. He theorized that non-Christians were buying the "Heaven" book, hoping they might be included, and that Christians were buying the one on "Hell" simply out of curiosity.

But his most memorable instruction chal-

lenged all of us who wrote because we perceived it as a calling: "You should want to improve your writing to be the best that you can be."

A lesson for each of us: Whatever talent or opportunity God has given you, you need to apply yourself so that it will be the best possible gift to God. Let it not be said of any of us as it was to Israel's priests: "But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?' "By saying that the Lord's table is contemptible. When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong?" (Mal 1:7-8, NIV)

"GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER!"



"And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?"
(1 Cor. 15:30)



Periodically, we will have Bible trivia to which we invite your response. You may e-mail me at: jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net or mail me: J. McCLENAGAN, 6808 CLOUDCREST, AMARILLO, TX 79124.

THE FOCUS FOR SEVERAL ISSUES WILL BE ON THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.

1. The historical book of Joshua records the Jewish conquest of the land of Canaan under Joshua, successor of this leader / Who was _____?
2. A vital part of this conquest was the mobilization of this organized group of Israel / What was _____?
3. Joshua was promised this before he proceeded in this task / What was _____?
4. The events of this book of the Bible cover this approximate number of years / What is _____?
5. What the few men were called who were sent in before the invasion / What are _____?

Hymns for Him Hymns for Him

Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ . ~ Ephesians 5:19-20, Msg.

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!
6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

THANKS

A PART OF OUR MISSIONS OUTREACH PROGRAM IS TO WORK IN CONCERT WITH OTHERS. THE RECENT VISIT AND PRESENTATION BY BILL HICKS,, DIRECTOR OF THE CHURCH OF GOD (7TH DAY) GLOBAL MISSIONS,, HAS INSPIRED US TO LEND A HAND TO THEIR MISSIONS EFFORTS. THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED \$500 TOWARD THEIR WORK IN SPREADING THE GOSPEL.



LORD AND MASTER, I WILL TAKE TIME THIS SEASON TO LOOK AT MY HEART MIRROR AND EXAMINE MYSELF IN RESPECT TO . . .

" I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. " ~Gal 2:20

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. ~James 1:23-25 (NKJV)



A WORD
cont.

6

fied Body of Christ!

1 Cor. 10:16 *The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? (KJV)*

2 Cor. 3:6 *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. (KJV)*

This sacred service is to be kept in the spirit of God's sacrifice & with heart-filled gratitude for the most wonderful gift any has ever received.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (KJV)*

God lost a son, Jesus lost a life, and we found life eternal. This Holy Day season, let us not forget the reason for the season... Jesus Christ.

John 6:33 *For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. (KJV)*

He is the bread without leavening, the bread of life that we are to partake of this Unleavened Bread season. He is how we put away the leavening of sin.

1 Cor. 5:8 *Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (KJV)*

In Him only do we find justification, sanctification & salvation. Jesus is our Passover.... Jesus is our Bread...Jesus is our life! Happy Holy Days!

In the Service of our Lord,

Jeff Booth



***'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!'* ~ Rev. 5:12**

chuckles

7



A cheerful disposition is good for your health;

gloom and doom leave you bone-

TODAY'S MEDIA

A man is walking by the zoo when he sees a little girl leaning into the lion's cage. Suddenly, the lion grabs her by the cuff of her jacket and tries to pull her inside to devour her right in front the little girl's screaming parents.

The man runs to the cage, hits the lion square on the nose with a powerful punch. Whimpering from the pain, the lion jumps back letting go of the girl, and the man brings her to her terrified parents, who thank him endlessly.

A reporter has seen the whole scene, and addressing the man, says: 'Sir, this was the most gallant and brave thing I saw a man do in my whole life.' 'Why, it was nothing,' said the man; 'really, the lion was behind bars and I knew God would protect me just as He did Daniel in the lions den long, long ago. I just saw this little kid in danger, and acted as I felt was right.'

'I noticed a bible in your pocket, Are you a Republican,' said the journalist.

'Yes, And I'm a Christian and was on my way to a bible study,' the man replies.

'Well, I'll make sure this won't go unnoticed. I'm a journalist, you know, and tomorrow's paper will have this on the front page.' The journalist leaves. The following morning the man buys the paper to see if it indeed brings news of his actions, and reads, on first page:

'Right Wing Republican Christian Fundamentalist Assaults African Immigrant and Steals His lunch.'

~ Contributed

