

Chart your
course



with PEACE

Christian Church of God Newsletter



From the PASTOR'S DESK



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Hello My Friends,

As most of you know, Victor Shaklee, my wife Linda's father, died November 21st in Rochester, Washington at the age of 84. Linda, her sister Vickie and I spent Thanksgiving traveling to the Pacific Northwest to be with the family. His is yet another passing of our "greatest generation", those World War II heroes to whom we owe our freedom and liberty. His was a military honors funeral graveside on a snowy afternoon there in Washington. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Curley, his two daughters Linda & Vickie, his son Terry and five grand-

children. We offer our heartfelt thanks to you who sent flowers, cards and prayers our way. Please keep the family in your prayers, especially Curley, who has a huge adjustment to make, for she and Vic were truly the embodiment of Jesus' words, "...they are no longer two, but one." (Matt 19:6 TEV)

These moments, even when one has had a long, rich and full life, remind us of our mortality.

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such

(Continued on page 6)

*"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
Jesus / John 14:27 (NKJV)*



2

Praise the Lord.
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.
—Psalm 150:1

“So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath” (Acts 13:42, NKJV).



"And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jeremiah 3:15, NKJV).

YOU ARE WELCOME TO MEET WITH US EACH SATURDAY
11 A.M. Christian Education / 11:45 A.M. Worship Service
801 QUAIL CREEK



Inside this issue:

<i>Announcements</i>	8
<i>Medicine of Mirth</i>	7
<i>Prayer Requests</i>	3
<i>The Church at Peace</i>	5
<i>Celebrations</i>	4
<i>Guest Column</i>	10
<i>Pastor's Desk</i>	1

Special points of interest:

- *His Powerful Word*
- *The Peace of Christ*
- *Peanuts for Life*
- *Our sermons broadcast on KGRO Radio 9:05 AM Sunday. www.pan-tex.net*

Our Home Page: www.christianchurchofgod.org

His Powerful Word¹¹

God means what He says. What He says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey.

~ Hebrews 4:12, The Message

PEACE BEGINS WHEN WE accept it from God. 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ' (Rom. 5:1, KJV).

It continues as we place ourselves in His hands of grace, focusing our thoughts on things that contribute to our peace. (Phil. 4:6-8)

Each individual is responsible to 'depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it' (Ps. 34:14, NKJV). 'And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness' (James 3:18 NLT). 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God' (Matt. 5:9, NKJV). 'If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men' (Romans 12:18, NKJV).

When we broaden our horizon to include men and nations around the world it seems to be an insurmountable challenge. The psalmist said, 'I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war' (Ps. 120:7, NKJV). 'They speak peace to their neighbors, but evil is in their hearts' (Ps. 28:3 NKJV). We pray to God for that peace, for 'in its peace you will have peace' (Jer. 29:7). Paul encouraged us to pray for world leaders so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour (1

Tim. 2:1-3).

For we recognize that peace must ultimately come from God: 'He makes peace in your borders' (Ps. 147:14, NKJV).

But even God cannot force individuals to be at peace with themselves and those around them. 'There is no peace for the wicked' (Isa. 48:22, NKJV). But He can restrain them when He chooses to intervene for the righteous.

And one day He will. To Israel God said, 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then . . . I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land' (Lev 26:3-6, NKJV). 'He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore' (Isa. 2:4, NKJV).

The peace that 'begins with me' at the foot of the Cross, 'peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,' (the one who said 'that in me you might have peace,' John 16:33), will ultimately engulf the world under His glorious reign as the 'Prince of Peace' (Isa. 9:6).

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH!

Gene Shelburne

LOUSY THEOLOGY

Are ministers like me the culprits behind the skewed theology so many Christians have embraced?

Theology like that expressed by the grieving San Antonio mother whose 30-year-old daughter was fatally pinned between two vehicles in the parking lot.

Police say the victim spent that Saturday evening with her killer in a downtown bar. After she rejected his romantic advances, lawmen say the angry suitor intentionally ran her down.

"I don't understand it," the victim's mother told reporters, but I am a Christian and I have to accept God's plan."

God's plan? What did God have to do with any of that? Did God choose the victim's companion? Did God fill him with livid lust? Did God tell her to go to that bar?

Since when does God get the credit for inciting rage and passion and murder? My Bible points to Satan as the source of such evil.

Would you agree that any theology which credits God with Satan's works must be seriously flawed?

Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel tells in one of

his books of a unique trial he witnessed in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II.

Among the camp prisoners were seven rabbis who put God on trial. For three days, Wiesel says, the rabbis called fellow prisoners as witnesses. One by one they indicted God for ignoring their prayers and leaving them in hopeless misery. The jury found God guilty.

So did the anguishing mother who stood with me beside the bed of her precious four-year-old daughter who had just lost a futile battle with cancer.

This dear lady loved God, and she wanted to assure me that her faith was still intact. To do so, she borrowed the misguided words of Job when he lost his own children. "The Lord gives, the Lord takes away," she told me through tears. "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Surely God honored that kind of faith both in Job and in that modern mother. But the Almighty must have also shed a tear when he heard them blaming him for what Satan had done to their offspring.

Blaming God for what Satan does is lousy theology. We *can* see God's hand in tragedy if we focus on the Cross and see God using Satan's worst to bless us. We can see him in our own tragedies, not causing them, but giving us the hope and strength we need to endure. ~ The Christian Appeal.



PRAYER REQUESTS: "... 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.



- Sheri Bartlett: Serious health problems. Julie McKinney's daughter.**
 - C. D. McKinney: Heart arrhythmia. Julie's husband.**
 - Sandy Booth: Ovarian cancer. Jeff Booth's sister-in-law.**
 - Amber and Dylan Clark: Cerebral Palsy. Betty Clark's grandchildren.**
 - Vickie Crevoi: Chronic Progressive MS. Linda Booth's sister.**
 - DeAnne DeLuna: Breast Cancer. Larry Lyles' stepdaughter.**
 - Velvet Green: Schizophrenia. Gary's wife.**
 - Randy Gnessett: Lung transplant. Friend of Candace Sellers.**
 - Anna Law: Lupus and kidney failure.**
 - Dollie Meil: Cerebral Palsy.**
 - Glenda Rankin: Hodgkins Lymphoma. Rudolph Rankin's niece.**
 - Ted Rankin: Back surgery, now in therapy, but ongoing vision problems. Rudolph's son.**
 - Kathryn Scott: MS, critical stage. Friend of the Baileys.**
 - Emma Searl (less than one year old): Spina Befida, staph infection.**
 - Jaycee Sellers, recovering from pneumonia and Acute Distress Syndrome.**
- IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR.**

Our Sympathy TO THE CHILDREN, LINDA BOOTH, VICKIE CREVOI, TERRY SHAKLEE, AND THE WIFE, CURLEE, OF VIC SHAKLEE, WHO DIED NOVEMBER 21st AT THE AGE OF 84. HEARTFELT THANKS TO YOU WHO SENT FLOWERS, CARDS AND PRAYERS. PLEASE REMEMBER CURLEY IN YOUR PRAYERS. "BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN: FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED." ~ MATTHEW 5:4



Let There Be
Peace On Earth

CELEBRATIONS

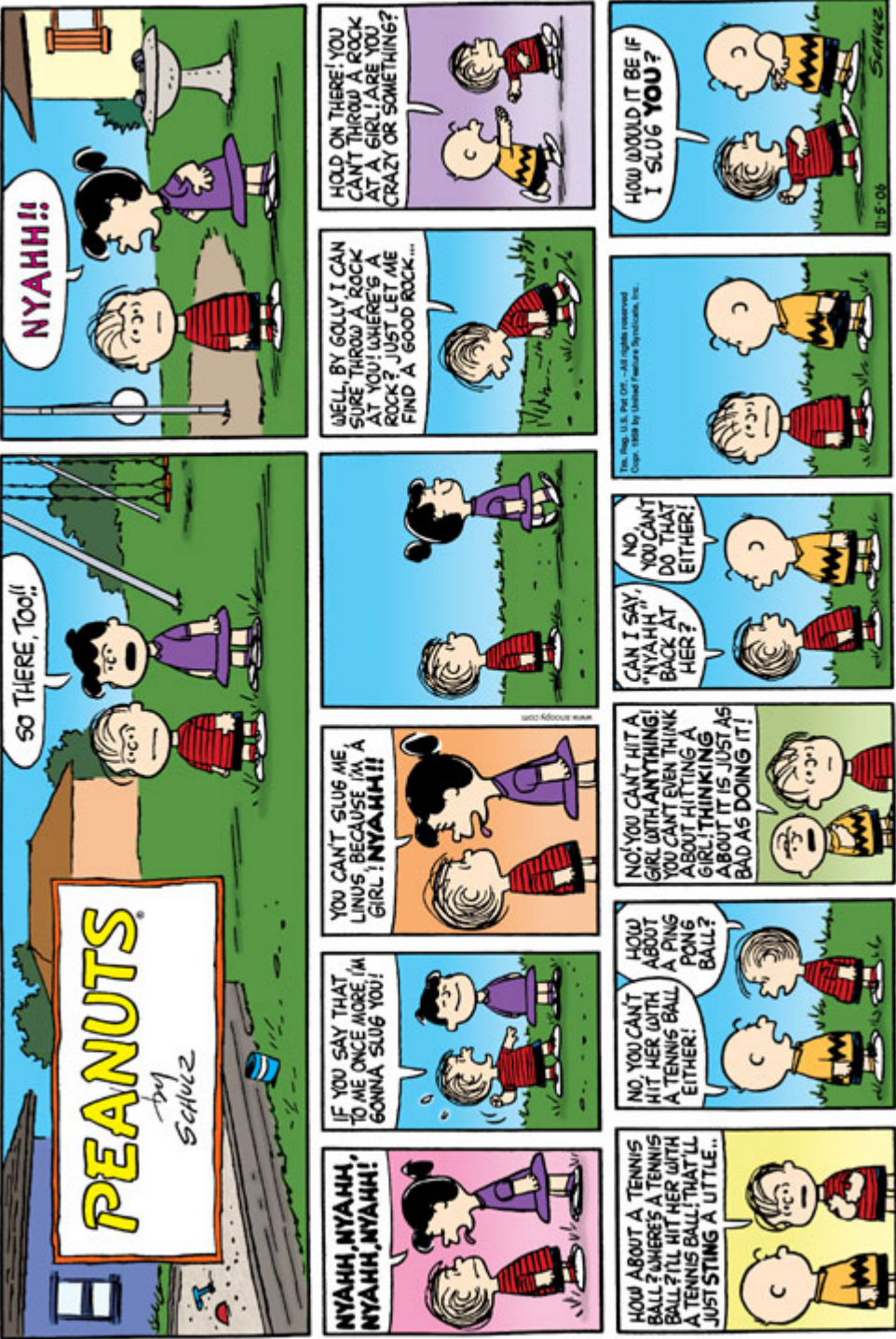
Birthdays:

Darrel Sehorn	12-17
Arthur Carlson	12-20
Darrell Baker	12-29

Anniversaries:

Teresa & Steve Cryer	12-27
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Peace on earth



And Let It Begin With Me

This month's Guest Column (pg. 10) by Gene Shelburne is reprinted from the October 2006 issue of 'The Christian Appeal,' a monthly magazine of which Mr. Shelburne is the senior editor. Visit the web site at www.christianappeal.com. This issue is entitled 'Seeing Things God's Way.' In our newsletter this month, with an emphasis on 'Peace,' I thought it appropriate to reprint Gene's devotional essay in view of comparative translations of Luke 2:14. A few: "peace on earth, goodwill toward men;" "peace to men on whom his favor rests;" "peace among men in whom he is well pleased;" "peace to those who have his good will." The question is raised, Does God pronounce His peace on all men of the earth or only on those with whom He is pleased? The answer may lie with each of us: one can create their own turmoil and unrest, and God can't force His peace on them. Or, they can receive God's peace by living within His will. To do that is to understand and yield to His will. And to recognize that Satan is the source of bad things. That leaves us with a choice, as 'free moral agents.' LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH AND LET IT BEGIN WITH ME is an individual choice. {see pg. 11}

The Peace of God

which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. —Philippians 4:7, NKJV

Endeavoring

5 to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ~ Ephesians 4:3

THE CHURCH AT PEACE

How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along! It's like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard, Flowing down Aaron's beard, flowing down the collar of his priestly robes. It's like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion. Yes, that's where God commands the blessing, ordains eternal life.

~ Psalms 133:1-3 (MSG)

It is a pleasant thing for the saints and people of God to agree together; for the same word which is used here for "pleasant", is used also in the Hebrew for a harmony of music, such as when they rise to the highest strains of the viol, when the strings are all put in order to make up a harmony. . . .As to brethren in spirit, they ought to dwell together in church fellowship, . . . oneness in Christ Jesus; oneness of object and spirit —these we must have, or our assemblies will be synagogues of contention rather than churches of Christ. . . . Christian unity is good in itself, good for ourselves, good for the brethren, good for our converts, good for the outside world; and for certain it is pleasant; for a loving heart must have pleasure and give pleasure in associating with others of like nature. A church united for years in earnest service of the Lord is a well of goodness and joy to all those who dwell round about it.

—Treasury of David, The



From the
PASTOR'S DESK

6

a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." (James 4:13-16 NKJV)

Even 84 years is not enough, we want more! When death comes we can feel cheated, even angry. We want more, we think there should be more and we're right! We want life and God couldn't agree more. He has a name for the endless fullness and of richness of life we crave; the Bible calls it the Kingdom of God. It is salvation...it is eternal life. It is the answer to the following prayer, author unknown:

Prayer of Faith

We trust that beyond absence there is a presence.

That beyond the pain there can be healing.

That beyond the brokenness there can be wholeness.

That beyond the anger there may be peace.

That beyond the hurting there may be forgiveness.

That beyond the silence

there may be the word.
That beyond the word
there may be understanding.
That through understanding
there is love.

Jesus, in whom we have salvation and eternal life, left us with a promise. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:1-3 KJV)

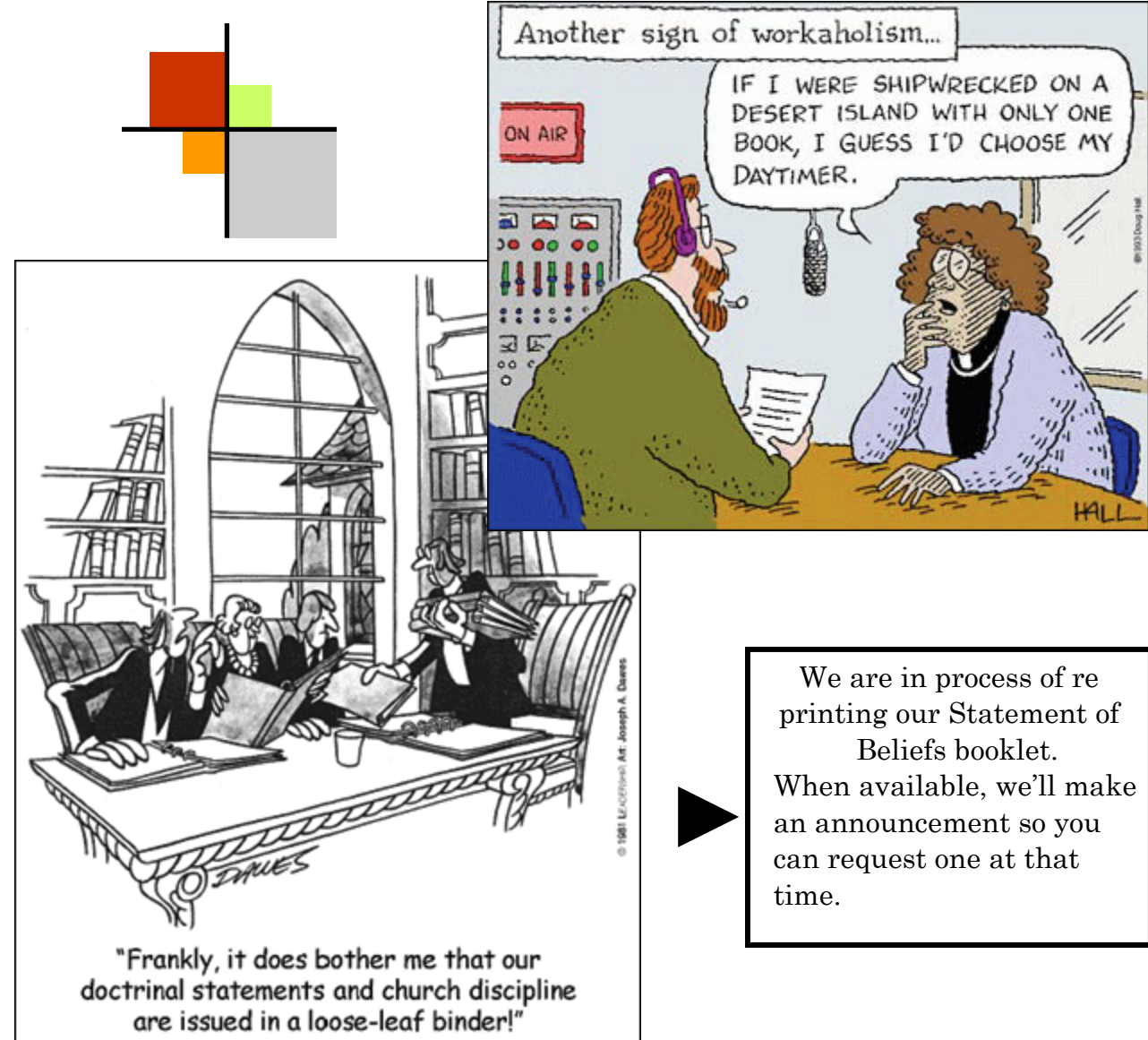
Sometimes it takes a loss to remind us of what we have had. We shouldn't wait until someone is gone to eulogize them, let them know now. Let us each be grateful for the gift of family... connected by birth. Let us each be grateful for the gift of brethren...connected by the Spirit of God. Let us each be grateful for the gift of friends... bound by choice. These gifts we share and at death, when we lose a loved one, we suffer a loss, but we are not without hope, so our parting is not "goodbye", but "til we meet again"!

In His Service,
Jeff Booth

chuckles

7

A cheerful disposition is good for your health;
gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.



We are in process of re printing our Statement of Beliefs booklet. When available, we'll make an announcement so you can request one at that time.