



CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 12
December 2008

Hello My Brothers & Sisters
in our Lord, Jesus Christ,

We in these United States
of America have a new
President-elect. As we
await the peaceful transition
of power from George W.
Bush to Barack H. Obama, I
just wanted to say a few
words about the Biblical in-
junctions for Christians re-
garding our leaders. For
some there is sadness for
an election lost, for others,
the majority, there is jubila-
tion for an election won.

While we are citizens of
these United States, as
Christians, we are indeed
citizens of a higher govern-
ment, the Kingdom of God.
Perhaps we should see our-
selves, as do some, as
“resident aliens” - as mem-

bers of a colony of heaven
in the middle of an alien,
earthly culture.

Heb 11:13 *These all
died in faith, not having re-
ceived the promises, but
having seen them afar off,
and were persuaded of
them, and embraced them,
and confessed that they
were strangers and pilgrims
on the earth.*

14 *For they that say
such things declare plainly
that they seek a country.*

15 *And truly, if they had
been mindful of that country
from whence they came
out, they might have had
opportunity to have re-
turned.*

16 *But now they desire
a better country, that is, an
heavenly: wherefore God is
not ashamed to be called*



A WORD FROM THE

Jesus: “My house was designated a house of prayer for the nations” (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 Scriptures whether these things are so’ (Acts 17:11). We want your fellowship with us to be a pleasant experience.



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Inside this issue:

<i>Prayer Needs</i>	3
<i>Chuckles</i>	7
<i>Celebrations</i>	4
<i>A Word from the Pastor</i>	1
<i>Heartbeats</i>	8
<i>Peanuts for Life</i>	5
<i>The Quester</i>	9

CHECK THIS MEDIA

Email:
CCofGod@suddenlink.net

Our sermons broadcast on
 KGRO Radio 9:05 AM
 Sunday.

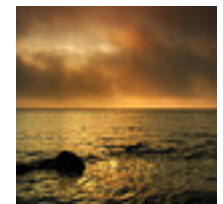
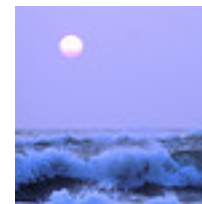
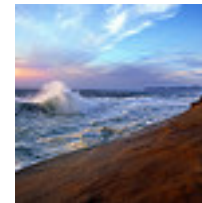
www.pan-tex.net

The Quester

for God’ (Prov. 16:6, TLB). ‘The Lord delights in the prayers of his people; he hears the prayers of the righteous’ (Prov. 15:8, 29).

“I have opened up the way for man to approach the Heavenly Father, Solomon. As their Savior and High Priest, I give anyone who comes to the Father with this kind of reverence and humility open access into the Holiest Place of the Heavenly Temple. (See Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:18-23)

“And as I told a woman thirsty for my Water of Life: ‘Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. . . . But the time is coming—it has in fact come—when what you’re called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter. It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration’ (John 4:21-24, MSG).”



‘The wise man learns by listening . . . If you profit from constructive criticism you will be elected to the wise men’s hall of fame. But to reject criticism is to harm yourself and your own best interests. . . .In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery. . . . It is an honor to receive a frank reply (Prov. 21:11. Note 15:31-32; 28:23; 24:26, TLB. Also note 25:12; 27:5-6, 9; 29:5-6).’

Jesus nodded in agreement. “They appreciate it *if* . . . if they really want to learn; if they really want to improve; if they aren’t so self-conscious that they lose their “other-consciousness”—especially their God-consciousness.”

As they walked by the azure lake, Jesus picked up a stone and hurled it into the placid water, creating ripples, as he continued:

“The teachable person can in turn teach others so that it becomes an ever-widening circle of learning; it is this ripple effect I had in mind when I told my disciples: ‘Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’ (Matthew 28:19-20, NIV).”

“From what you have told me, Great Teacher, this principle has been effective through the ages. It is such a pleasant thing to observe the ‘pleasant teacher;’ their words are ‘a fountain of life,’ ‘careful and persuasive speech.’ ‘Kind words are like honey—enjoyable and healthful.’ (Excerpts from Prov. 16:21-24, TLB)

“It is as you wrote, ‘Evil words destroy. Godly skill rebuilds.’ Not only to teach and lead others in the right path, but to encourage them once they are walking in the Way. As you added: ‘Anxious hearts are very heavy but a word of encouragement does wonders!’ (Proverbs 11:9 & 12:25, TLB).”

“By the wisdom you gave me, I realized that’s when it’s time to speak, one of the positive uses of the tongue: to encourage others when they are down; to give good advice when it is needed and wanted; ‘timely advice is as lovely as golden apples in a silver basket’ (Prov. 25:11, TLB; cf. 15:23; 18:20).”

Jesus expanded the principle: “If controlling the tongue produces such good results among men, how much more one needs to approach God with few words and a listening heart.”

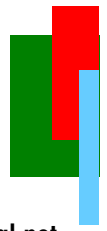
Once again Solomon pointed to his inspired writings. “Here is a summation statement I made about that: ‘As you enter the Temple, keep your ears open and your mouth shut! Don’t be a fool who doesn’t even realize it is sinful to make rash promises to God, for he is in heaven and you are only here on earth, so let your words be few. . . . So when you talk to God and vow to him that you will do something, don’t delay in doing it, for God has no pleasure in fools. Keep your promise to him’ (Eccl. 5:1-4, TLB).”

“Yes, I led you to that conclusion. It takes a reverent humility to approach God, as well. You also penned, ‘Iniquity is atoned for by mercy and truth; evil is avoided by reverence

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.



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

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

Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy. Amber has been diagnosed with shingles.

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, undergoing chemo.

Sherry Evans: Niece of Jerry McClenagan & Glennis McAlister; she has undergone surgery; remains in special care unit; progress slow.

Paul Flatt: James Bailey’s brother-in-law, suffered a heart attack. He is undergoing alternative treatments.

Velvet Green: Suffers from schizophrenia.

Bobbie Gatson: Mother of Velvet Green, nerve and back problems making it difficult for her to walk.

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

Benny Ray Hicks: Betty Clark’s daughter’s brother-in-law, diagnosed with leukemia.

Anna Law: In need of a kidney transplant.

Dollie Meil: She is suffering with cerebral palsy. She has been moved to The MacKenzie House, 8609 Boston Ave. #139, Lubbock, TX 79423, 806 744-7387.

Ted Rankin: He is having further difficulty with mobility and weakness. Tests show he has increased brain lesions, indicating MS.

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

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.

Ron Vorheis: Is suffering from macular degeneration, heart arrhythmia & severe digestive problems; including pancreatic inflammation and diverticulitis.

Celebrations⁴

Birthdays:

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

Anniversaries:

Teresa & Steve Cryer	12-27
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I hear by the Grapevine

RECEIVED VIA E-MAIL NOVEMBER 4TH, 9:45 AM

Early exit polls in Slapout Oklahoma (population 5) indicate that McCain is ahead of Obama by a margin of 3 to 1.

As of this report 4 residents of Slapout voted. Similar results from Catesby show McCain also ahead by a similar margin.

The polls in Slapout will close just as soon as the 5th registered voter shows up and votes.

~ Reported by L. J. Ehrlich, Keifer, Oklahoma

The Quester

By Jerry McClenagan
Continued from
November '08 .



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 TWELVE

As you enter the Temple, keep your ears open and your mouth shut! —Solomon Eccl. 5:1a, TLB.

And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat? —Jesus Matt. 6:5, MSG

Deep into the woods they walked without speaking. Even the birds hushed their singing. The sound of silence was awesome—and glorious. Solomon's spirit soared with the silent eagle viewed high above them through a clearing. No words could ever convey the essence of this moment as the Lord of heaven and earth imbued all nature with his presence. Finally, Solomon dared break the spell:

"I once wrote, 'There is a right time for everything: . . . A time to be quiet; a time to speak up' (Eccl. 3:7). More often than not, my observation was: 'The man of few words and settled mind is wise; therefore, even a fool is thought to be wise when he is silent. It pays him to keep his mouth shut' (Prov. 17:27-28)."

Jesus spoke: "The tongue is difficult to control. My brother James wrote: 'A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!' (James 3:3-5a, LB. Cf. Proverbs 13:3)."

"That advice is still good, isn't it Lord? 'Don't talk so much. You keep putting your foot in your mouth. Be sensible and turn off the flow! When a good man speaks, he is worth listening to, but the words of fools are a dime a dozen' (Prov. 10:19-20, TLB)."

"Yes, Solomon, it is. You were generous with your advice about the use of the tongue: the foolishness of quarreling and gossiping; the risk of interfering in someone else's argument; the fallacy of setting a trap for others with insincere words (Prov. 11:12-13; 12:18; 15:1; 18:6-8; 26:17-28; 27:17; 18:1-2). It was all inspired advice."

Solomon pointed to the unrolled parchment: 'Idle hands are the devil's workshop; idle lips are his mouthpiece. An evil man sows strife; gossip separates the best of friends.' (Prov. 16:27-28, TLB). "So much can be lost when one speaks often, but listens rarely."



Heartbeats

Editorial
Jerry McClenagan

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

'TIS THE SEASON for gift shopping. But current economic conditions may curtail the big spending, perhaps even encourage cash versus credit purchases. The giving part is nice; excessive, haphazard, frivolous buying is not.

But there is something of much greater importance and value we should be "purchasing." Isaiah the prophet reminded Israel long ago:

"Wait and listen, everyone who is thirsty! Come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Yes, come, buy [priceless, spiritual] wine and milk without money and without price [simply for the self-surrender that accepts the blessing]. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your earnings for what does not satisfy? Hearken

diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness [the profuseness of spiritual joy]" (Isaiah 55:1-2, AMP).

A shopping spree without any money. The Amplified commentary suggests it is "simply for the self-surrender that accepts the blessing." And that seems to be an accurate assessment of the text. Of course, the object here is food, not gifts. But the point is there: God wants you to "buy" His spiritual abundance. Or, to put it another way: He wants you to accept His gracious gifts, His proffered grace, the true gift that keeps on giving: "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8).

How many of God's gracious gifts have we left unopened? ■

His Powerful Word!



This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

— Lam 3:21-24 (KJV)



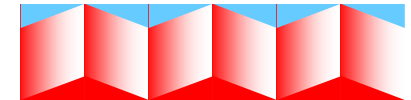
peanuts for life

5



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)



Heart Mirror

We are prompted to look within ourselves in this Psalm: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." —Psalms 139:22-24 (KJV)

Easy to say . . . difficult to mean. We are more likely to defend our actions and our thoughts. It is far easier to drift along in life instead of exerting the effort to make it to a destination. As we end this year it is good to analyze our motives, measure our progress, plan the next chapter of our lives. The hardest place to begin is within: to examine our motives, our life-purpose, our goals. This is a gutsy request; The Message might help us see how poignant it is: "Investigate my life, O

God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about; See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong— then guide me on the road to eternal life."

Know this: there is no way that we can clear the slate by will power, no way that we can strain and fret to remove this year's pages from our Life Planners —it takes the cleansing power of the blood of Christ! It is a plain but powerful fact: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

—1 John 1:8-9 (KJV)

Yes, we can end this year with a clean slate.



**A WORD
cont.**

6

their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. (KJV)

One of our great challenges today is to find ways to nurture a distinctive Christian life-style in the middle of an increasingly secular society.

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

We are indeed "Ambassadors for Christ".

John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. 14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

This higher citizenship does not absolve us of our citizenship duties in the here and now.

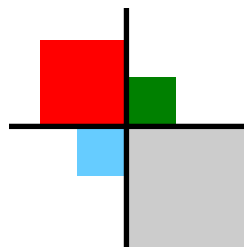
As President-elect Obama selects his cabinet and leadership for his administration, we are enjoined to pray, not only for our current President and President-elect, but for all our leaders who will decide the course of America and set policies that will impact our lives.

1 Tim 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Pray for President Bush as he concludes his service to our country and pray that President Obama will lead us righteously and justly according to the will of Almighty God.

God Bless America!

Jeff Booth



7



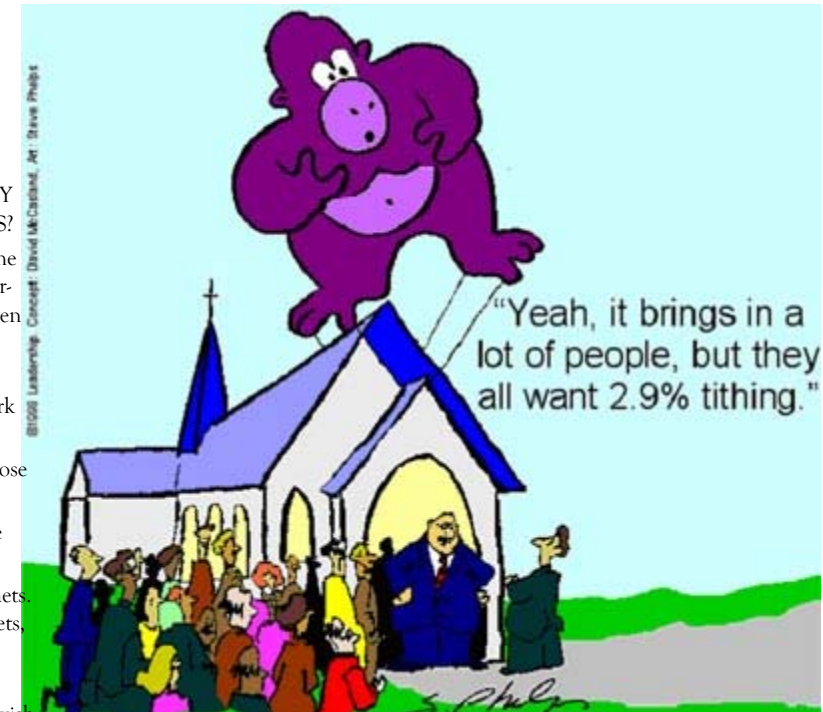
A cheerful disposition is good for your health;
gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.

Who can create a better caption for the cartoon? ►

I'd love to hear your idea!
jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net
Subject: CARTOON CAPTION

DID JUNIOR CHURCH STUDENTS REALLY WRITE THIS IN THEIR TESTS AND ESSAYS?

- Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars
- Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast.
- Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charleton Heston.
- Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.
- There were a bunch of major league prophets. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?" It would be nice to say, "As a matter of fact, I was.")
- During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.
- Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards.



"I don't know half of you half as well as I should like, and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve."
~ Bilbo Baggins' 111th birthday speech to village / Tolkien's character in Lord of the Rings.