



CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD NEWSLETTER

The victory of Calvary leads to the joy of Pentecost. Last month we observed the Communion of the New Testament Passover, often referred to as the Last Supper. This we did as a memorial of our Passover Lamb's loving sacrifice that triumphed over sin, death and the grave. With the gift of grace comes the Holy Spirit and so on June 8th, we celebrate Pentecost.

This is the promise... *"And he said, Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah must suffer and die and rise again from the dead on the third day; and that this message of salvation should be taken from Jerusalem to all the nations; There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me. You have seen these prophecies come true. And now I will send the holy spirit upon you, just as my Father promised. Don't begin telling others yet—stay here in the city until the holy spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven"* (Lk.24:46-49 LBP). See also Acts 1:4-8.

Pentecost has been, all too often, misunderstood. A little girl was visiting her grandmother in a small country town in the South. They attended a very emotional religious service, where people expressed their feelings by jumping about and shouting, what we might call a "Holy Roller" service. The little girl asked her grandmother if all the jumping meant that the Holy Spirit was really there. Her grandmother said, "Honey, it don't matter how high they jump up, it's what they do when they come down that will tell you if it is the real thing."

This was the promise fulfilled... Luke describes this momentous Pentecost that Jesus told His disciples to wait for in Acts 1:3-9, as the advent of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of Christ's New Testament Church.

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. (NKJV) 50 days after the ascension of Jesus Christ to the Father to be accepted as the first-fruits of the harvest of humanity, about 120 people, including the disciples, gathered to observe the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:12-15). This was not in some small upper room.... no, the disciples and the others gathered in one of the large rooms or porches of the temple that were available for public use. Both the prophetic and symbolic meanings of this day were fulfilled in exact detail in accordance with the prophecies concerning God's promise of salvation

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A WORD FROM THE

Continued pg. 6

Jesus: “ My house was designated a house of prayer for the nations” (M ark 11²:17, 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



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A WORD
cont.

11

out of my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and daughters shall prophecy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my spirit; and they shall prophesy" (Acts 2:16-18 Para.). See Joel 2:28, 32; Isa.44:3.

By meeting in a room at the Temple Court they were heard by thousands and 3,000 were moved to baptism on this day of transformation called Pentecost (Acts 2:40-41 NIV). The promised Comforter had come. God changed His address from the Temple at Jerusalem to the temples of flesh (John 4:19-20). Since this Pentecost, the earthly temple of God and the place where His presence has dwelled is within His children wherever they may dwell (1Cor.3:17; 6:19; 2.Cor.6:16).

And the New Testament Church was born. The New Covenant was established whereby God's commandments are written not on tables of stone but upon the fleshly tablets of our hearts (Jer.31:31-34; Heb.8:8-10). God now speaks, not out of burning bushes but from burning hearts.

Rom 8:1 There is there-

fore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 5 men shall dream dreams: For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit which dwells in you. (NKJV)

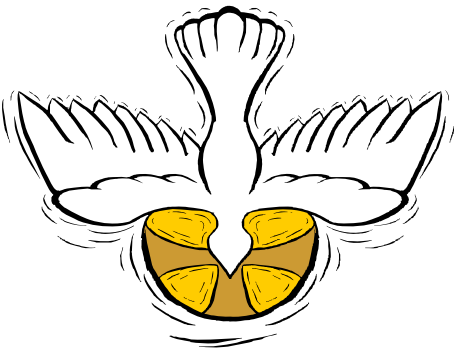
Let us all share in the joy and comfort of Pentecost as partakers of grace and vessels of the Holy Spirit!

In the Joy of Pentecost,

Jeff Booth



The Power
of Pentecost



Jesus' eyes, as laser beams, bore into Solomon. The his words snapped like a whip.

"You evade one question by diverting to another. Planning ahead and saving for the future doesn't mean you ignore the present needs of those around you, or, most important of all, your own spiritual needs.

"Hear this parable of the rich man who built his barns to store his grain—then tore them down and built greater storage bins. As he stood back and admired his 'wise' accumulation of money, the Death Angel appeared to him and said, 'You fool, this night your soul is required of you.' Like you, Solomon, his focus was on the material, not eternal values. Look at the lilies of the field, Solomon; they don't toil or spin, yet you in all your glory were not arrayed as one of these!"

Tears, mingling with the mist, moved silently down Solomon's cheeks.

"Don't you see, Solomon, that the cutting edge of life comes down to priorities? Seek my kingdom first! That is the key; the other things will fall in place as I so purpose. My providential care will always be there for anyone who puts me first!"

"Yes, I now see that. I was coming close to that realization when I penned: 'So I decided that there was nothing better for a man to do than to enjoy his food and drink, and his job. Then I realized that even this pleasure is from the hand of God. For who can eat or enjoy apart from him?'"

"That is the heart of the matter," Jesus affirmed. "But don't misunderstand, responsible living is important. Many of your sayings were right on target." Jesus began counting them off with his fingers:

1. Lazy men are soon poor; hard workers get rich.'
2. 'A wise youth makes hay while the sun shines, but what a shame to see a lad who sleeps away his hour of opportunity.'
3. 'A lazy fellow is a pain to his employers—like smoke in their eyes or vinegar that sets the teeth on edge.'
4. 'It is better to get your hands dirty—and eat, than to be too proud to work—and starve.'
5. 'Hard work means prosperity; only a fool idles away his time.'
6. 'Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and never succeed.'
7. 'A lazy man won't even dress the game he gets while hunting, but the diligent man makes good use of everything he finds.'
8. 'Lazy people want much but get little, while the diligent are prospering.'
9. 'Work brings profit; talk brings poverty!'
10. 'If you won't plow in the cold, you won't eat at the harvest.' (See Prov. 6:6-11.)

"Many such words did you pen—words of wisdom for handling life, for maximizing one's earthly existence. But what I must reemphasize is mankind's need to seek God's kingdom first!"

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.



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.

Dollie Meil: Cerebral palsy. She is growing weak.

Ted Rankin: Still undergoing physical therapy, following back surgery.

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: Suffering from macular degeneration, heart arrhythmia and a bleeding ulcer. He was admitted to a nursing home in Claude.

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

Do you suppose God, patient as he is, will not see justice done for his chosen, who appeal to him day and night?
Luke 18:6 (Phillips NT)

Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSERIES	
James Bailey	6-2	Jeff & Linda Booth	6-1
Henry Sellers	6-10	Ken & JoAn Westby	6-1
Bill Dufur	6-30		

Pentecost

SUNDAY JUNE 8
JOIN US IN CELE-
BRATION OF THE
BIRTHDAY OF THE
CHURCH AND THE
GIFT OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT.

C.E.P. 11 A.M.
WORSHIP 11:45 AM

The Quester

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By Jerry McClenagan
Continued from April/
May '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 SIX

Solomon: "Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich; restrain yourself! Riches disappear in the blink of an eye; wealth sprouts wings and flies off into the wild blue yonder." (Proverbs 23:4-5, MSG)
Jesus: "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (Lk. 12:15, NIV)

Solomon slept fitfully, tossing and turning in his mattress of leaves. The dream came from his troubled soul. He had written only a few weeks ago, "As a dream comes when there are many cares, so the speech of a fool when there are many words" (Eccl. 5:3).

He was in the palace, surrounded by many beautiful women, most of them intent on worshiping pagan deities. Wine goblets were passed around freely, and the court jester's antics brought drunken laughter. The gilded appointments gave mute testimony to the king's extravagance. Sadness, like a waterfall, swept over his heart.

Abruptly, Solomon sat up, the noise of the distant waterfall the only night sound he heard. A short distance away the Great Intercessor pled for his people, the full moon's radiance lighting up the clearing where Jesus walked. Jesus' prayer was intense; Solomon also heard his own name spoken with an indescribable compassion and tenderness.

Soon the early light of dawn brought the Blue Jays and squirrels into action as they welcomed their Creator walking among them.

Solomon timorously broached Jesus, who turned to Solomon and said, "Good morning, my friend."

Solomon responded in kind. They walked past the waterfalls to a vast meadow laden with wild flowers. Jesus stooped to pick a few of them, twisting them into a small bouquet.

Solomon's dream was fresh on his mind. "You said we would continue yesterday's discourse today. I remember writing, 'It is possible to give away and become richer! It is also possible to hold on too tightly and lose everything. Yes, the liberal man shall be rich! By watering others, he waters himself!' (Prov. 11:24-25, LB)"

"A keen observation. Did you practice it, or did you merely salve your conscience by stating it?"

Solomon winced. "That hurt. I think I practiced it. You know that I also wrote, 'Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over'" (Prov. 3:9-10, MSG).

"Oh, I remember what you wrote. But I also know you found it difficult to practice what you preached. Don't forget that right on the heels of that you said of Lady Wisdom: 'She's worth far more than money in the bank; her friendship is better than a big salary. Her value exceeds all the trappings of wealth; . . .' (Prov. 8:10, MSG). Later, you added: 'The Lord's blessing is our greatest wealth. All our work adds nothing to it!' (Prov. 10:22, LB). If you had practiced these principles you wouldn't have gone through the valley of despair.

"Lady Wisdom exemplifies love, my dear Solomon. All of the wisdom I gave you was meant to be the riverbed through which streamed the pure waters of love and concern—loving others as you loved yourself. But, sadly, there were times you missed the point."

Wistful, Solomon hung his head as if ashamed of himself for his lack of perspective. But he was a stubborn man, far from admitting he could be all that wrong about life. He made one more stab at justifying his lifestyle.

"Great Lord of Wisdom, is it not wise for the sluggard to observe and practice the ways of the ant—storing up for future use?"



Heartbeats

Editorial
Jerry McClenagan

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

The sun is shining brightly through the window this morning after refreshing rains spread throughout the area.

We are in a quaint bungalow at a B&B here in Ruidoso, New Mexico for a few days respite. Martha and I put all our responsibilities on hold for the month of May. Well, 95%. This is the only trip we have planned, a mere five hours away from Amarillo.

Our friends, Joe and Jody Kirkpatrick, have joined us for a portion of our stay here. It doesn't take much to entertain any of us—a puzzle, a good book, a nice restaurant or two. Did I hear someone out there say something about our ages?

It is important for each of us to set aside time once in a while for the five **Rs**:

1. Relaxation. Jesus reminded us to "consider the lilies of the field" in relation to our material needs. But the image also reminds us that as the lilies of the field "toil not, neither do they spin," so we can take time to simply relax.
2. Recuperation, a time of healing. The antonym is deterioration. David, in Psalm 119, wrote "My sad life's dilapidated, a falling-down barn; build me up again by your Word" (Psalms 119:28, MSG).
3. Reflection, meditation—about life, our priorities, plans and way of life.
4. Recreation: anything from a hobby to a pastime to an amusement. Life is too short not to take a break in some manner.
5. Renewal!



"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 ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE'S QUESTIONS 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 MOSES? (Joshua 1:1-2)
2. A vital part of this conquest was the mobilization of this organized group of Israel / What was THEIR MILITARY? (Joshua 1:14-15)
3. Joshua was promised this before he proceeded in this task / What was SUCCESS? (Joshua 1:8)
4. The events of this book of the Bible cover this approximate number of years / What is TWENTY-FIVE?
5. What the few men were called who were sent in before the invasion/ What are SPIES? (Joshua 2:1)



I hear by the Grapevine

5

Reprinted from NEWS FROM THE NORTH newsletter, March-April 2008 issue. Elizabeth and her two brothers, Duncan and Rory, are all great writers!
~ Your biased editor.

NATURE'S CORNER by Elizabeth McClenagan (Age 11)

Spring has sprung in Smithers, British Columbia. . . . And almost everywhere else, even at our house. We were all looking out the window at our bare lawn, when Mum spotted a robin.

"There's a robin!" she exclaimed.

"It's spring!" I shouted.

"Look, there's more!" yelled Rory.

"Six robins!" Duncan exclaimed, counting them.

"Spring has sprung!" I yelled and it seemed like it had. The robins came in March. That was one of the first signs of spring. . . .

Another little sign of spring—a caterpillar. I am glad!

We spotted a hawk that was going really near our house. We thought he might be getting our chickens, but he didn't get any. Chickadees are already nesting at our house! I love spring!

I can't resist telling about a little episode with Poupon and our new dog, Janie. When we first got the dog [Border Collie], we put Poupon, our cat, on the deck ledge, and Janie, our dog, on the deck. Poupon hissed a bit and ran off and then came qui-

etly back to watch.

"Poupon! Janie won't hurt you!" I shouted.

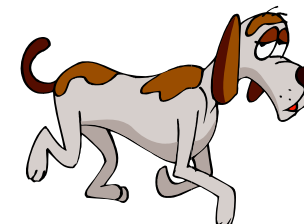
Poupon did not believe me. She kept hissing and kept her eye trained on the dog.

Later, Duncan came bursting into the house. "Guess what? Janie saw Poupon on the road and chased her up a tree!"

We all ran out and looked. Sure enough, there was Poupon in a tree. No matter how much we begged Poupon to come down, she wouldn't move and looked at us through half-closed eyes. We went to a friend's house that night and when we got back, Poupon was still up the tree.

"Come on, pussy," I called. Then I saw a black shape in another tree. My first thought was that it might be a black bear cub, but when my mind cleared, I saw that it was Grandma's cat. Janie had chased him up a tree, too. I then began to cry and cry.

"They're both up a tree," I sobbed. Duncan, pointing at Pink the other cat. We went to bed and Dad brought Janie into the house. Finally, the cats came down. We went to Prince George for Passover and when we came back, Janie and Poupon seemed to have "made up."





A WORD cont.

6

under the New Covenant.

Vs. 2 *Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

Why the Wind?

Noah watched the waters assuage when God made a wind pass over the earth after the Ark came to rest on Mt. Ararat (Gen 8:1). Moses witnessed a strong east wind divide the Red Sea so the children of Israel could escape the Pharaoh (Ex 14:21-23). And a wind from the Lord brought life-giving quail to Israel's camp (Num 11:31).

Vs. 3 *They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.*

Fire of God appeared as a mighty fire & then divided into many tongues. And why the fire? The great "I AM" appeared as fire in the midst of a bush when calling to Moses (Ex.3:1-5). It was the pillar of fire that led Israel through the wilderness by day (Ex 13:20). At Sinai the Lord descended upon the mountain in fire and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain to deliver the Ten Commandments (Ex 19:16). God moved his presence from Mount Sinai to the tabernacle as evidenced by fire descending upon the tabernacle Moses built to show that the Creator God had placed his name and presence there (Ex 40:34). Fire too descended upon the temple that Solomon built and the glory of the LORD filled the temple (2 Chron 7:1).

Why fire?

God used it as an announcement that He was changing His address. Just as this fire descended upon the tabernacle and upon the temple that Solomon built, on this festival of Pentecost, the fire of God descended upon the children of the New Covenant; thereby, placing the name and presence of the Father within a new Temple where he would tabernacle with His people. The place to worship God was changed from a physical building to a living temple of flesh. This is what Jesus was talking about when He told the woman that God's place of worship would be changed and people would be able to worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

John 4:19 *The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her,*

"Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (NKJV)

From the mighty Temple of Corinthian marble overlaid with Gold to the child of God.

1 Cor. 3:16-17 *"Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and the spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple".* (NIV)

Acts 2:4 *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.* (NKJV)

Why tongues?

Vs. 5-6 *"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language"* (KJV).

Notice that all of the foreign languages that were spoken by these people were understandable to the listeners, without the need for an interpreter.

Vs. 8 *"And how hear we every man in our own tongue [dialect] wherein we were born?"*

In vs. 9 and 10, there are at least 17 different language groups referred to.

Vs. 11-13 *"We hear them speak in our language the wonderful works of God. And they were amazed and were in doubt, saying one to another, What does this mean? Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine"* (Para.).

Many people clearly understood what was being said, whereas others apparently did not.

There was no incoherent speech, no unknown languages to decipher, no interpreters were needed—all those who were intended to understand the message understood it clearly. This was a prophetic fulfillment

"But this is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel; And it will come to pass in the last days, says God, I will pour

Continued pg. 11

chuckles

7

A cheerful disposition is good for your health;



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