



## CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD NEWSLETTER

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October 2008

Hello Brethren,

What a time we live in! Here we are again, about to choose the next President of the United States and we find ourselves battered by a deepening economic crisis, escalating fuel prices, and the imminent threat of terrorist attacks. With greater and greater intensity we understand why Jesus told us to pray, "...thy kingdom come." We know why we need the Kingdom of God here on this troubled planet and we understand that our Lord has given us the Fall Festival season to fill us with hope and solace in time of trouble.

In another time of great trouble for Christians, Paul encouraged the Church at Rome: "rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer" (Rom 12:12). Those words ring true today just as surely as they did in the first century.

We will be celebrating the Day of Atonement on October 9<sup>th</sup>, given to us to illuminate God's saving grace through the atonement made by our Savior (Rom. 5:11). Thanks to the Atonement made by our Passover Lamb, we can rejoice in the consummation of our hope as seen in the Festival of Tabernacles, October 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. ... pointing us to that time when God will "tabernacle" with man in the Kingdom.

Rev 21:1, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, '**Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and**



### A WORD FROM THE

Cont. pg. 6

**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.**



Contact the Editor at  
jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net  
or P. O. Box 33134,  
Amarillo, TX 79120

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# The Quester

with them, to be true to such individuals, not taking their camaraderie for granted. Hang on to them, was my advice. ‘It is harder to win back the friendship of an offended brother than to capture a fortified city. His anger shuts you out like iron bars’ (Prv. 18: 19, 21, LB; cf. 10: 12). To the young, impressionable person, I suggest that friends shouldn’t be random; they should be chosen: ‘A mirror reflects a man’s face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses’ (Prv. 27: 19, LB). ‘The wicked enjoy fellowship with others who are wicked; liars enjoy liars’ (Prv. 17: 4, LB). ‘Don’t envy godless men; don’t even enjoy their company’ (Prv. 24: 1, LB).”

“Wise words, Solomon; wise choices. Parents should be alert to their children’s choice of friends. Bad choices begin early in life. And speaking of choices, I chose you, Solomon; I wanted to be your friend . . . every step of the way. I have always given people a choice to be *my* friend. The choice is simple: either be a friend of the world or God’s friend. ‘You are my friends if you obey me’ (John 15: 14, LB). Other friends chosen should fit within that friendship. ‘Become friends with God. He’s already a friend with you’ (2 Corinthians 5: 20, MSG); ‘God-friendship is for God-worshippers. They are the ones he confides in’ (Psalm 25: 14, MSG). But this friendship with God eludes most of humanity. Sin’s darkness invaded that bright world when Adam and Eve walked with me in Eden. Most befriend the world around them. This friendship ‘is enmity against God’ (James 4: 4, KJV).”

Solomon nodded as he remembered his superficial friendships of the past—the kind that led him away from God’s friendship. “I must admit,” he said, “that my actions made me God’s enemy. When my associations with pagan women led me to false worship I was wrong.”

“Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character” (1 Corinthians 15: 33, NIV). By contrast, your father, as a young man, had a healthy relationship with Jonathan. They were to each other as you wrote: ‘You use steel to sharpen steel, and one friend sharpens another’ (Proverbs 27: 17, MSG).”

“I also observed,” Solomon continued, “That there are friends . . . and there are neighbors. As I see it, Master, being a good friend is one thing, being a good neighbor is another. And making an effort to get along with those around us is often a challenge.”

Solomon unrolls the parchment and continues: “Here I wrote that it takes discipline and a cool temper: ‘A hot-tempered man starts fights and gets into all kinds of trouble’ (Proverbs 29: 22, LB). ‘Fools start fights everywhere while wise men try to keep peace. There’s no use arguing with a fool. He only rages and scoffs, and tempers flare. The godly pray for those who long to kill them. A rebel shouts in anger; a wise man holds his temper in and cools it’ (Prv. 29: 8-11, LB).”

“The ‘fruit of the Spirit’ must come into play here, Solomon: Love, gentleness, kindness, self-control. (See Galatians 5: 19-26) ‘Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for *them*.

# The Quester

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By Jerry McClenagan  
Continued from Sept.  
'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 10

*Friends come and friends go, but a true friend sticks by you like family. —Solomon (Prv. 18:24, LB)*

*You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. . . . If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. . . . —Jesus (Matt. 5:43-47, MSG)*

Laughter and chatter drift up the mountainside from the valley to the old log where Jesus and Solomon sit. A smile of approval spreads across Jesus' face. For earlier, from another direction, the sounds of warfare had greeted them. Now the better side of humanity is evident.

"It is good, isn't it Master," Solomon says, "to hear the pleasant sounds of friendship as opposed to hatred and anger? Of course, fickle friendships are only temporary and disappointing. Once I wrote: 'There are "friends" who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother' (Prv. 18:24, LB). I had observed that valuable relationships don't usually happen by rubbing shoulders with the socially elite."

"I inspired," Jesus said, "one of my servants to write: 'Laugh with your friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody' (Romans 12:15-16, Msg)."

"It is unfortunate," Solomon said, "that superficial 'friendships' exist because of position and money: 'A wealthy man has many "friends"; the poor man has none left' many times. 'Many beg favors from a man who is generous; everyone is his friend! A poor man's own brothers turn away from him in embarrassment; how much more his friends! He calls after them, but they are gone' (Prv. 19:4, 6-7, LB)."

"What my Spirit inspired you to write is true. So many do not grasp what real friendship is; it is hard to come by. Fair-weather friends, as you said, are shallow and meaningless. I affirm your words that 'a true friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need' (Proverbs 17:17, LB). Real friends are supportive, overlooking faults: 'Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends' (Proverbs 17:9, LB)."

"It is so good to be close to someone, isn't it Lord? To be able to share ideas and events

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# Prayer Requests

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" . . . 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.

**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.

**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.

**Carol Sellers:** Mother of James Sellers, recuperating from a heart attack.

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

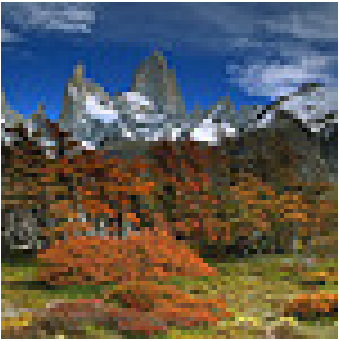
**Jeanne Vincent:** C.B. & Darrell Sehorn's sister, breast cancer which has metastasized to the bone.

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

**IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR. [jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net)**

# Celebrations

<u>Birthdays:</u>		<u>Anniversaries:</u>
Jaycee Sellers	10/3	Merle & Joe Beth Vines
Tiffany Pollack	10/4	10/5
Patricia Hamilton	10/9	
Julia McKinney	10/11	J.R. & Norma Hamilton
Jason Kirkpatrick	10/24	10/12



Rejoice in  
the Festivals  
of God!

Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and **rejoice**" (Deut. 14:26b, NIV).

## Day of Atonement – October 9<sup>th</sup>

Celebrating Jesus Christ as our Atonement

## Festival of Tabernacles

## 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Day – October 14<sup>th</sup>

*Celebrating Jesus Christ our King in the Kingdom of God.*

## Last Great Day of The Festival - October 21<sup>st</sup>

*Celebrating Jesus Christ, the Great Judge of Judgment Day.*

Classes for each service at 11:00 a.m. / Worship Services at 11:45 a.m.



# John Ogilvie's Prayer

... at the opening session of the Kansas Senate:

'Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done.	We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.
We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.	We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.
We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.	We have abused power and called it politics.
We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare	We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.
We have killed our unborn and called it choice.	We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.
	We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.
	Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!"

# The Quester

Cont. from pg. 11

Add up God's Law and Prophets and this is what you get' (Matt. 7:12, MSG\*)."

Solomon didn't seem convinced. "Are you are saying one should begin on the inside in order to improve the outside relationships?"

"You seem to take umbrage with me on that point."

"I just think it's almost impossible to have a good relationship with some people. So I came to this conclusion: 'It is better to eat soup with someone you love than steak with someone you hate' (Prv. 15:17, LB). Why ask for trouble? With some people it just seems inevitable; they love to be confrontational. And that results in trouble: 'As churning of cream yields butter, and a blow to the nose causes bleeding, so anger causes quarrels' (Prv. 30:33, LB). 'As surely as a wind from the north brings cold, just as surely a retort causes anger!' (Prv. 25:21-23, LB)."

Jesus smiles at this retort. He knew it was true. But he couldn't let Solomon by with this thinking; he was trying to excuse himself.

Jesus continues, "But one should at least try; it takes effort and discipline, as you stated. 'Be at peace with everyone, just as much as possible' (Romans 12:18b, LB). Even as you wrote: 'If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you' (Proverbs 25:21-22, NIV). Even though it isn't possible to be a friend to each and every person, the effort to be friendly is responsible living. As you also so aptly put it: 'A man that hath friends must show himself friendly' (Proverbs 18:24a, KJV)."

\*(See also: Luke 6:37-38; Rom. 12:9-18; 2 Corinthians 5:16-18; Gal. 6:1-5; Philippians 2:1-4; Col. 4:6)



# Heartbeats

Editorial  
Jerry McClenagan

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

GOD IN A BOX. God restrained, confined, restricted. Is it true? Is it possible?

I was struck by a recent column by Curtis Shelburne in which he concludes, "But anyone who thinks that God is locked up in their box, be it penny-pinching paltry or breath-takingly beautiful, is in for a surprise."

He had just related the personal background of Ken Follett in the writing of his historically-based best-seller *Pillars of the Earth*. How he grew up in a Puritan religious group that discouraged members from visiting rival churches. Consequently he became disillusioned about religion and now claims to be an atheist.

Many people become persuaded that they are the only ones in God's favor, that they are privy to the truth.

Is there a risk in examining other belief

systems? Yes, but with the right approach it can be healthy. Luke commended those in Berea for their method of examination: "Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11, NIV).

The operative phrase is "examined the Scriptures . . . to see if . . . true."

It is more than simply taking the Scriptures someone gives you on a subject. It is a thorough examination.

Is it difficult? It can be. But Jesus' parting word to His disciples was that the coming gift of the Holy Spirit would lead them into all truth (John 16:13). It requires diligence and cooperation on our part, but will result in our walking in truth (3 John 1:2-4). ■

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the **unforced rhythms of grace**. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." ~ Jesus. Matt 11:28-30 (MSG)

GraceRhythms  
GraceRhythms

You and I live in a loud world. To get someone's attention is no easy task. He must be willing to set everything aside to listen: turn down the radio, turn away from the monitor, turn the corner of the page and set down the book. When someone is willing to silence everything else so he can hear us clearly, it is a privilege. A rare privilege, indeed.

[Your] prayers are honored [in heaven] as precious jewels. Purified and empowered, the words rise in a delightful fragrance to our Lord. . . . Your words do not stop until they

reach the very throne of God. . . .

Your prayer on earth activates God's power in heaven, and "God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven." . . .

Your prayers move God to change the world. You may not understand the mystery of prayer. You don't need to. But this much is clear: Actions in heaven begin when someone prays on earth.

~ Max Lucado, *The Great House of God*  
*The Lord sees the good people and listens to their prayers.* 1 Peter 3:12, NCV

OUT OF THE



5



& INTO THE  
WORLD

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage." Matt 5:13 (MSG)

~  
CHRISTIANS AND NON-CHRISTIANS have something in common: We're both uptight about evangelism. . . . Should I be sensitive to people and forget about evangelism, or should I blast them with the gospel and forget about their dignity as human beings? Many Christians choose to be aware of the person but then feel defensive and guilty for not evangelizing. . . . To evangelize, it seemed, re-

quired insensitivity and an inclination to blurt out a memorized gospel outline, without inhaling, to every stranger you met. It never occurred to me that my pre-Christian, unredeemed, almost common-sense understanding about how to relate warmly to people might be valid. . . . I felt that unless I gave a person the whole ball of wax, all at one time, then I wasn't 'evangelizing.'

~  
"Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

Col 4:5-6 (NKJV)

## His Powerful Word

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

The Joyful Flourishing of Christ's Kingdom

1 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; 2 It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, The excellency of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the

desert. 7 The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes. 8 A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:1-10 (NKJV)



Cont. from pg. 1

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**they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.' 6 And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.'"** (NKJV)

While everyone knows that Jesus kept the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:10), many do not realize that the New Testament shows that the first century Christians observed the Holy Days, such as the Days of Unleavened Bread (Acts 12:1-3 & 20:6, 1 Cor. 5:8), Pentecost (Acts 2:1 & 20:16, 1 Cor. 16:8), the Day of Atonement (called the Fast, Acts 27:9) and the Festival of Tabernacles (called the Feast, Acts 18:21). We also find the fulfillments of the Feast of Trumpets described in the New Testament (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; Revelation 8-11).

More and more, we realize that man cannot bring the utopia we crave for, only our returning King, Jesus Christ can bring us the peace, joy, happiness and trouble-free world we need!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as we celebrate Tabernacled with God!

In the Service of our King,

*Jeff Booth*



**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. ~Rev 2:7 (NKJV)**

**REMEMBER THE SPECIAL  
FUND SETUP FOR THE  
PURCHASE OF DUPLICATED  
EQUIPMENT TO  
ENRICHEN OUR**

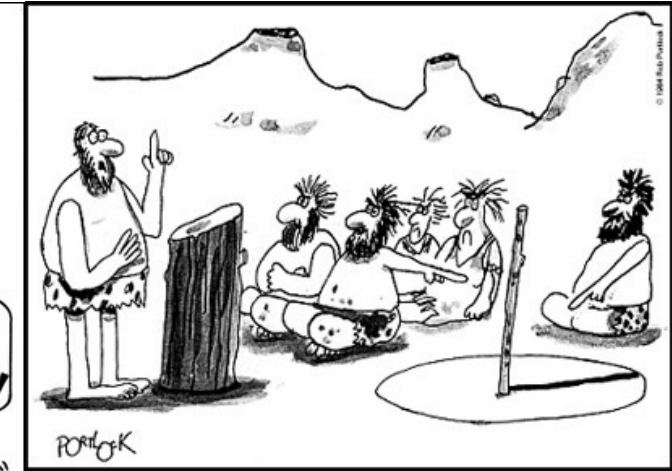
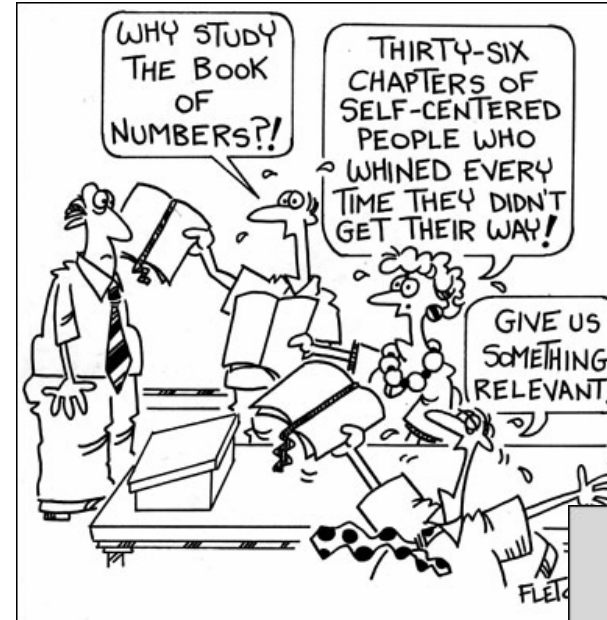


# chuckles

7



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



At some point, Seepage Mill Church decided to "quit playing the numbers game."

