



CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD NEWSLETTER

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Hello Citizens of the Higher Kingdom,

Here we are, once again, in the middle of the campaign for the Presidency of the United States and the contest between John McCain & Barack Obama has predictably become a series of heated attacks, accusations, and bloated promises. We as Christians should use our right to vote to influence the selection of our next leader, using wisdom and scriptural principles to choose the best candidate possible. We must weigh far more than social policies or promises; we must use the measuring stick of ethics and values to guide our choice. Pray, participate and ponder how you will use this privilege paid for by the blood of patriots. There is no perfect candidate, but that does not relieve us from exercising Godly judgment to make the best choice possible. As wonderful as our democratic republic is, we are once again reminded to pray, "Thy Kingdom come.." so the perfect King, Jesus Christ will take office and rule with justice and right-

eousness for all.

This time of year is a very special time for those followers of Christ who celebrate Jesus Christ as the focus & fulfillment of the Biblical Holy Days. The fall festivals are rich in tradition and meaning.

On Tuesday, September the 30th we will celebrate the Festival of Trumpets by looking both forward & backwards. Backwards to our Messiah defeating Satan on the mountain top to lay claim to the title of King of Kings & forward to the promised and sure return of Jesus in power and glory, the glorious wedding supper for Christ and His Church, the defeat of evil, wickedness and those whose master is Satan the Destroyer. Every knee shall bow before Him.

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in



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.



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

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band-wife union: ‘one flesh.’ (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6) How is it possible for a proper relationship of flesh and spirit to be developed and maintained if a man desires more than one woman? (Malachi 2: 14-16) Wouldn’t you have been happier to develop a strong and loving relationship with the ‘wife of your youth,’ as you referred to it? (Proverbs 5: 18, KJV)”

“Who knows what might have been? I was in love with one woman initially: the Shullamite (Song of Songs 6: 13), to whom I wrote my most romantic feelings.”

“And she responded in accordance with the original concept of the husband / wife relationship. I and my Father planned it that way: a glowing, romantic, happy relationship of a man and woman as one flesh, one spirit.

“Yes, Solomon, it could have been. But you departed from the original wisdom we gave you.

“What you recorded in your Manual for Living was excellent. You depicted marital love in an ambient garden setting with suggestive imagery. You wrote of the power of sexual energy with its intimacy, meant to be enjoyed exclusively by married partners.”

Solomon nodded and quoted from his writings:

“‘Drink from your own well, my son—be faithful and true to your wife. . . . Let your manhood be a blessing; rejoice in the wife of your youth. Let her charms and tender embrace satisfy you. Let her love alone fill you with delight.’ (Prv. 5: 15, 18-19, LB; see verses 1-21; 6: 24-35; 9: 13-18)”

“All of your advice was and is appropriate. I recognize, as you did, that it is also the wife’s responsibility: ‘A worthy wife is her husband’s joy and crown; the other kind corrodes his strength and tears down everything he does.’ How wonderfully you extolled the virtues of an ideal wife and mother, showing the exciting potential for every girl as she prepares for marriage. (Proverbs 31, entire)

“I have inspired many writings that give advice to married couples. { See Ephesians 5: 21-33; 1 Peter 3: 1-7; Colossians 3: 18-19; 1 Corinthians 7: 9, 12-14, 39. Many of these verses have been misused, twisted and misunderstood. Study carefully by comparing translations and commentaries, keeping in mind that God’s original purpose was for marital fulfillment and enjoyment.} Many have simply failed to ask for my guidance in selecting a mate for life. Your words were ‘House and land are handed down from parents, but a congenial spouse comes straight from God.’ (Proverbs 19: 14, Msg) Jesus continued:

“Good marriages should result in good families. The family unit was also an integral part of my plan for humanity.”

Solomon smiled. “Ah, yes, ‘Old people are distinguished by grandchildren; children take pride in their parents.’ (Prv. 17: 6, Msg)”

“The family unit is in place for eternity, Solomon. (See Ephesians 3: 15; Romans 8: 16) It goes beyond the bounds of the earthly family; as your father wrote of God the Fa-

The Quester

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By Jerry McClenagan
Continued from Aug.
'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 9

Not everyone is mature enough to live a married life. It requires a certain aptitude and grace. — Jesus (Matt. 9:11a, Msg)

Parents rejoice when their children turn out well; wise children become proud parents. — Solomon (Prv. 23:24, Msg.)

Yesterday's discussion had left Solomon feeling empty, regretful . . . but hopeful. For the first time he understood God's exciting plan for romance and sexual fulfillment. The powerful innate forces in every human being were a part of the image of God, but were like the mighty river he and Jesus observed from their vantage point: without boundaries and channeling such could be destructive.

Jesus looked at Solomon and continued the subject of sexual urges and marriage.

"Solomon, I gave you wisdom, but I did not give you character. That is something that seemed to elude you. To build character requires discipline: controlling one's urges and appetites. How did you fare in that part of your life?"

"I gave clear advice about that, Master: 'For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but the end is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. . . . Keep to a path far from her, . . .' (Prv. 5:3-4, 8a, NIV)

"I must remind you that although you gave good advice you had a way of getting around it. You said of others that they would in retrospect say, 'How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!' (Ibid, v. 12) Were you really talking about yourself?"

Solomon turned away, scuffing a sandal across the shale in the path. With furrowed brow, he opened his mouth to speak, closed it, and brushed a tear from his whiskered cheek.

"I . . . I admit I wrote that from the depths of a troubled soul. What do you mean by me 'getting around' my advice to others?"

"Think about it: you excused your lust and lack of self-control by building your harem of concubines and wives—as if that legitimized your actions. My original plan was for a hus-

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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.

Paul Flatt: James Bailey's brother-in-law, suffered a heart attack. He has undergone alternative treatments and seems to be progressing well.

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.

Dollie Meil: She is suffering with cerebral palsy. She has been moved to the Plaza Nursing Center, Room 211-A, 4910 Emory, Lubbock, TX 79416, 806 744-7387.

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

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

Brad Sellers: James' brother, involved in drugs; children removed by CPS.

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: Residing at Palo Duro Nursing Home, 403 Collins, Claude, TX 79019. He is suffering from macular degeneration & heart arrhythmia. Currently suffering from gastro-intestinal disorder. (Having endoscopy at VA Hospital September 4th.

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

Celebrations

Condolences

Birthdays:

C.B. Sehorn 09/02
Manuel Salazar 09/04
Sandra Carlson 09/23

Anniversaries:

None

Our sympathy to the Sehorn family in their loss of Donnie Sehorn.

Holy Days

Festival of Trumpets – September 30th

Celebrating Jesus Christ's 2nd coming as the King of Kings
Classes at 11:00 a.m. Worship Services at 11:45 a.m.

Potluck Dinner Following Services

Day of Atonement – October 9th

Celebrating Jesus Christ as our Atonement

Festival of Tabernacles

1st Holy Day – October 14th

Celebrating Jesus Christ our King in the Kingdom of God.

Last Great Day of The Festival - October 21st

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.

Rwanda Report

To: All Member Conferences Church of God (Seventh Day) [Excerpted w/ Pastor Jeff Booth's correspondence]

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, receive greetings through our Lord Jesus Christ our hope in whom we have redemption. I regret that this is not good news. There is yet another assault on Pastor Emmanuel in Rwanda. . . . Pastor Emmanuel went back to Rwanda after a short time in another country, during this time he was engaged in studying at a Bible College. He was torn by the absence from his family and the constant visit of militia men with court summons seeking after him, this explains his return to Rwanda. . . . [He] was taken before the Gacaca Court on Sabbath the 19th July 2008, He was not allowed to speak and the witnesses he brought to speak on his behalf were not allowed to speak, he was not allowed any legal representative. . . . They have scheduled another "kangaroo court" hearing for Sunday the 26th July 2008, when it is expected they will pass their verdict. . . .

In Christ / Robert Crawford - IMC Representative for Africa

To: Bill Hicks, Director of Missions Abroad CofG (7th Day)

Hi Bill: What happened at the hearing on the 26th? Jeff Booth

Dear Jeff: Greetings in the name of Jesus! Sorry that I didn't get this information out to you but since things take a while working in Africa, I thought I should get back with the information you requested. Emmanuel is now back in exile in Uganda. He felt that the court officials were going to put him in double jeopardy and is appealing to the Supreme Court there while he is in exile. Once we have the information we need from the courts I will be sending out a request for letters on his behalf from our churches around the world. That will be in a couple of weeks or so. In the meantime, please do remember his wife, Gorette Maria, and his seven children in your prayers. They are still residing in Kigali, Rwanda. Your Brother in Christ, Bill Hicks

The Quester

Cont. from pg. 11

ther: 'For if my father and mother should abandon me, you would welcome and comfort me.' (Psalm 27:10, LB) Here are the real roots of every family: God the Father, myself his firstborn son, the elder brother. And whosoever wants to return Home as prodigal children. (Cf. Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:6; 2:9-15; Luke 15:11-32) My Heavenly Father wants everyone in his earthly family to be a part of his eternal family."





Heartbeats

Editorial
Jerry McClenagan

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

"I KNOW I'M NOT supposed to mix politics in a conversation at a social event, but what do you think about . . .?"

Thus began the conversation with a man slightly my senior whom I barely know.

"I'm just idealist enough to think," he continued, "that God has a purpose for this nation, and that one of these years he will provide a leader that will go in that direction."

Our short visit left me somewhat surprised, but encouraged. Encouraged to think that there are many, many people who share this man's hope and optimism.

Those who are familiar with the warnings of our Lord and Master (Matt. 24; Lk. 21; Mk. 13) know there are dark days on the horizon in this age. But we shouldn't let that quench our spirit of enthusiasm and hope for a better

world, even when evil abounds.

Until God's Kingdom fully comes and his will is fully done on earth as it is in heaven, there are two main areas of focus for the Christian. These are summarized on page five of this newsletter:

1. We have a responsibility as 'the salt of the earth' —to preserve and to create a thirst for righteousness in this present world.
2. We should ask God for 'the desires of our heart' in keeping with his will and purpose, while we wait for the Day when all things will be made right.

After all, Jesus came that we might have abundant life (John 10:10)!

You may visit me at
<http://jerrymcclenagan.com>

"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

A party of tourists was on its way to Palestine and its guide was describing local customs. He said, "In the East, the shepherd always leads the way, going on before the flock. The sheep follow him because they know his voice." When they reached Palestine they were amused to see a flock of sheep being driven along by a man walking behind them. One of the tourists approached the man and

asked, "Why are you walking behind the sheep? We were told that the Eastern shepherd leads his sheep." The man said, "You are right. The shepherd does lead his sheep. But I'm not the shepherd, I'm the butcher."



OUT OF THE

Saltshaker

5



& INTO THE
WORLD

Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount that we are the salt of the earth. And he challenges us not to lose our savor—our saltiness. This means—among other things—that we are to be active in the world as his representatives. We are to get out of the saltshaker and into life itself. Not to be trodden down, but to be zestful witnesses to Jesus a Lord and Savior, as the one who alone gives life and meaning to a dying world.

because we depend too much upon technique and strategy. Evangelism has slipped into the sales department. I am convinced that we must look at Jesus, and the quality of life he calls us to, as a model for what to believe and how to reach out to others.

~
"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)

I believe that much of our evangelism is ineffective

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

Do not be preoccupied with evildoers. Do not envy those who do wicked things. 2 They will quickly dry up like grass and wither away like green plants. 3 Trust the Lord, and do good things. Live in the land, and practice being faithful. 4 Be happy with the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Entrust your ways to the Lord. Trust him, and he will act {on your behalf}. 6 He will make your righteousness shine like a light, your just cause like the noonday sun. 7 Surrender yourself to the Lord, and wait patiently for him. Do not be preoccupied with {an evildoer} who succeeds in his way when he carries out his schemes. 8 Let go of anger, and leave rage behind. Do not be preoccupied. It only leads to evil. 9 Evildoers will be cut off {from their inheritance}, but those who wait with hope for the Lord will inherit the land. 10 In a little while a wicked person will vanish. Then you can carefully examine where he was, but there will be no trace of him. 11 Oppressed people

will inherit the land and will enjoy unlimited peace. 12 The wicked person plots against a righteous one and grinds his teeth at him. 13 The Lord laughs at him because he has seen that his time is coming. Psalms 37:1-13 (GW) 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. 26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:24-28 (NIV)



Cont. from pg. 1

blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

(Rev.19:11-16 NKJV)

What a glorious world this will be, when Christ takes His rightful place on the throne, establishes His Kingdom; one that will be free of injustice, wickedness, suffering and heartache. Indeed, "Thy Kingdom Come"! Happy Festival of Trumpets!

We will celebrate the Day of Atonement Thursday, October 9th. The Day of Atonement reminds us of the incredible sacrifice of our Savior laying down His life for His friends... you & me, thus becoming the atonement for our sins, rescuing us from the condemnation of sin so that we may lay claim to the Kingdom!

Then The Festival of Tabernacles, October 14th – 21st, a time to celebrate God Tabernacled with man in the joy of the Kingdom. More on that next month! Happy Holy Days!

In His Majesty's Service,

Jeff Booth



Road To Paradise

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).



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



It was safe to say that the new vision statement hadn't caught fire.

