

Peace and Safety in the Christian Home

by Catherine C. Kroeger (Brewster, Massachusetts)

Should any attack you, it will not be my doing,... you shall prevail and you shall rebut every charge brought against you – vindication comes from me. This is the very word of the Lord. Isaiah 54:15,17

Symptoms of Abuse

- Frequent or unexplained injuries or somatic illness
- Headaches, stomach aches, asthma (*Cont. on page 4*)

Was Saint Paul Really a “tentmaker” as We Understand this Idea Today?

by Samuel Martin (Israel)

I think that we are all fairly familiar with the general history of St. Paul and his life. We understand from the New Testament that St. Paul's family, as far as the Jewish world was concerned, must have been considered quite well off. They were Roman citizens. In fact, he went to study Jewish law and jurisprudence in Jerusalem from an early age. He even mentions that (*Continued on page 6*)

Sabbath Commandment Meant to be Observed

by Wayne Schatzle (Hamilton, Ohio)

Ever since man left the Garden of Eden we have been separated from God. What is it that continues to separate us from God?

We learn in the Bible sin separates us from God. To repair this breach we must first learn exactly what sin is. The Bible tells us: "Sin is the transgression of the law." Studying the Bible we find God's Ten Commandments. Okay, now we have the first step accomplished in (*Continued on page 7*)

Love the Stranger!

by Robert Schmid (Westminster, California)

2000 years ago when Jesus Christ was brought before Pontius Pilot, who was Governor of Judea, Pilot asked Jesus the age old question: "What is truth?" Now, nobody believes that Pilot was really interested in truth, and neither did Jesus Christ, and so He never gave him an answer. However, in John 17 where Christ prayed to His Father, He answered the question when He said: "**Thy Word is truth**".

And of course the Father's Word is His Son Jesus Christ. In other words, Jesus Christ is the truth. In fact in John 14 Jesus Christ said "**I am the truth**". (*Continued on page 8*)

Birthdays Should Not Be Kept, Or Should They?

by Robert E. Tigue (Des Plaines, Illinois)

WHAT DOES GOD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS MATTER?

JOHN 17: 17."SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH: THY WORD IS TRUTH."

MATTHEW 4: 4."BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID, IT IS WRITTEN, MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD"

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by (*Continued on page 9*)

What is an OFFENCE?

by Nathaniel Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

Is an offence something You DO, or SAY?

Can you offend a babe in Christ by telling them something too soon – by correcting their evil before "They're ready"? The question stems from a dreadful misunderstanding of this scripture.

Matthew 18:6 *But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*

What does He mean? What is He saying? Let's take a case in point. If someone has been coming to (*Continued on page 11*)

Jesus as Our High Priest

by Doyle Carter (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

In **Hebrews 4**, the writer of the book calls Jesus Christ our "great high priest." We know from history that the high priest played an important role in the Hebrew religion. There are many qualifications that a high priest must measure up too and Jesus Christ must also meet these qualifications in order to hold this position.

In **Hebrew 4:14-16**, it states, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our (*Continued on page 12*)

People of the Passover

From Best to Worst

by Norman S. Edwards (Port Austin, Michigan)

(*Continued from Issue #48*)

4. Believers Needing to Be Filled with the Spirit

Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" **And so said all the disciples** (Matt 26:34-36). Though Peter and **all** the other disciples promised to die for Jesus, they **all** deserted Him when the soldiers came to arrest Him. (*Continued on page 3*)

LETTERS SECTION ---

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Isaiah 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Ezekiel 33:8-9 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove (expose) them.

1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

The Church of God Messenger in it's 9th Year (12-28-08) by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

This issue of "The Church of God Messenger" starts our 9th year of publishing and printing. This **newsletter** started back in the winter of 2000, after we were officially disfellowshipped from "The United Church of God". Back then I wrote a letter to the editor and sent it to a newsletter "The Churches of God Newsletter", which was published by Rick and Eileen Beltz.

Rick and Eileen called me long distance to ask if they could take my letter and transform it into an article. I said yes and they did. The article was called "Ending the Cycle of Abuse in the Church of God" and was also published in the first issue of this **newsletter** in January/February 2001.

It was shortly after my letter turned article was sent to Rick and Eileen Beltz that my husband Darwin said "You should start a **newsletter**." My initial response was "No". Then it ate on me. I didn't want to do it, but something kept telling me that I needed to do this, but I didn't want to do this. I finally gave in after much thought and went back and told Darwin "Okay I will do it". So in January of 2001 the first official copy of this **newsletter** was published and mailed.

Since this **newsletter** started in 2001, many newsletters have come and gone, many church groups have come and gone and many people who were well known and not so well known within the Church of God have died, gone to prison or quit God altogether. Each time these things happen whether I ever personally met the person or not, a small piece of my heart goes with them and I find myself in perpetual mourning for both those who are lost to us in this life and for the terrible state of affairs in our current world and having to watch as God brings his wrath on this world and brings this age to a close. Some day I will also die, and with that, this **newsletter** will also die. Some people of course will rejoice at that thought and others will mourn as they also did for others who are now gone.

When I was a small child I knew Saturday was the Sabbath, but when I asked my mother why they changed the day from Saturday to Sunday, she got rather mad at me and that was the end of that discussion. Even though my mother and dad were married for 43 years, I never had a relationship with my dad and it turns out that my mother didn't like me all that much either. Even though I had what others call a hard life, I mostly tried to look at all things both good

The Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God

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("People of the..." continued from page 1)

Peter and an "other disciple" (probably John—he refers to himself that way elsewhere) later followed Jesus to His initial trial. Peter denied he knew Him—especially when Peter was accused by a relative of the man from which Peter cut off an ear (John 18:15-27). There is nothing else in the Bible about what the "other disciple" did. If he stayed and attempted to be a witness for Christ, he certainly should be in category 2, above.

Obviously, Jesus did not expect His followers to stand up for Him and prevent His death (Matt 26:39, 42). However, their fearful approach had to be replaced by a bold approach to carry the Gospel to the world: Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

Acts 4:18 And they [Jewish leadership] called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." 21 So when they had further threatened them... 29 [The disciples prayed:] "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit**, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Before any of us says, "I would not have denied Christ if I had been there with Him", think about this: What would you do if dozens of men in riot gear suddenly came to where you are right now with weapons drawn, demanding that everyone put their hands in the air and forcing an innocent good friend of yours to the floor, hand- and leg-cuffing him and dragging him off to a waiting vehicle. Your efforts to say, "this must be a mistake, I know this person" are met with guns pointed directly at you and, "Hold it right there or we will take you, too" and no answer to anything else that you say. As soon as they leave, are you going to get in your car, follow the men and try to speak on behalf of your friend? Or are you going to stay out of trouble that you can't do anything about? This writer would hope that he would have the courage to be a witness for his innocent friend—especially if it were Jesus. But I have never been so tested and don't really know. Do you?

Today, it seems many Christians fit this category. They want to follow God and do His work—and they hope their children will do the same—but they are not bold enough to take the steps to bring that about. The most common approach is for Christians to first make sure that they have all of the physical things they consider necessary: house, cars, furnishings, clothes, food, medical care, retirements, investments, vacations, insurance for all of the above, etc. After that, they use what is left to do God's work: preaching the Gospel to the world and providing what is necessary to feed the flock. The following scripture gets lost somehow: "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt 6:31-33).

Christians believe that the Bible teaches that parents are responsible for determining what their children are taught, what physical discipline they receive, what medical care they receive, what sexual practices are acceptable, etc. There is a great tendency among Christians to let governments decide many of these things for them—even to the detriment of their children. The faith to do what is right and to receive deliverance from the Eternal is often lacking. May the Eternal bless all of us with more wisdom and faith in these areas.

5. Secular Officials with Some Conscience

An important question to employees within any civil government, large corporation or hierarchical church is: "Will you follow orders without questioning them?" While most of these groups would officially state that they would not expect their employees to follow orders that are illegal or unethical, the common practice is for the employees to let the leaders determine what is or is not permissible. The more evil the organization, the more evil things they ask of their workers. The overwhelming teaching of the Bible is, of course, that one does what is right even if it contradicts human orders (Ex 23:2; Deut 13:1-18; Prov 1:10-15; Dan 3:17-18; Acts 5:29). Even if a large group of people are doing evil, we must not go along with them.

Here is a good example: There were some officers in Jesus day who at one time were ordered to arrest Him. Upon hearing Jesus speak, they decided that their leader's orders should not be obeyed: Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" 46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" (John 7:45-46).

Later on, some soldiers did finally carry

out Jesus' crucifixion. Even as they were doing it, they received an immediate prayer for forgiveness from Jesus—something that none of the individuals in the categories below this received. Finally, when those guarding Jesus saw the great signs accompanying His death, they acknowledged Him as the son of God.

Luke 23:33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matt 27:54).

As Western governments become more evil and more opposed to activities of Bible-believing Christians (public evangelism, teaching that Christianity is the only true religion, home schooling, premarital sexual abstinence, heterosexuality, non-vaccination, etc.), it is important for Christians to realize that not every government official is out to get them. Sometimes, the Apostle Paul was rescued by one government while he was being persecuted by another (Acts 21:31-33; 23:22-24). The Bible teaches that we should pray for "all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence" (1Tim 2:2). If an official's approach to Christians is unknown, expecting that he or she will mistreat Christians may well cause that very thing. Praying for peace and hoping for the best is a much better approach.

It may be that some officials can become believers themselves when they see the importance of their decision and the witness of Christians. When Paul was on trial before Herod Agrippa, this interesting exchange occurred: Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian." And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains" (Acts 26:28-29).

6. The Unthinking Masses

During His ministry, Jesus had a lot to say about the common people—the masses—of His day. We use the term "masses" or "common people" to refer to the majority who were neither leaders, nor poor, sick, widows or in some other way unable to change their situation in life. These common people could have learned more, done more and drawn closer to God, but in most cases, never did.

And the Lord said, "To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting

in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: 'We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.'³³ For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.'³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" (Luke 7:31-34).

Nevertheless, Jesus loved the common people and had compassion on them. He asked us to pray for people who would be sent to help them: But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few."³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."¹ And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease (Matt 9:36-10:1).

John chapter 6 reveals the fickleness of the common people. They first wanted to force Jesus to be King because He was a "prophet", but Jesus showed them that they just wanted free food. Later, the people complained about Him.

Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and **take Him by force to make Him king**, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone....²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but **because you ate of the loaves and were filled...** **The Jews then complained about Him**, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven."⁴² And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven?'" (John 6:14-15, 26, 41-42).

It is clear that some of the common people did their homework better than others. In John 7:19, the people tell Christ "you have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?" Some had probably heard the corrupt leaders say that He had a demon, as they publicly said it often (Matt 9:34; 12:24; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15; John 8:48,52; 10:20). They tried to keep their plans to kill Him a secret—or they would look bad. But some of the common people probably knew and trusted some of the few good leaders—or even lower ranking people who worked in the government offices. They found the conspiracy against Jesus: Now some of them from Jerusalem said, "Is this not He whom they seek to kill?"

But look! He speaks boldly, and they say nothing to Him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ? (John 7:25-26).

The way of the unthinking masses is probably best demonstrated during the final Passover week. The people exalted Jesus so much on His triumphal entry to Jerusalem that the Pharisees told Jesus to rebuke them for their excessive praise. Yet just a week later, the leaders had convinced the people to lobby for Jesus' death. Matthew and Luke have the same essence of this story, even though the words are completely different:

Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!" And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" So the multitudes said, "**This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee**" (Matt 21:9-11)

Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise **God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen**, saying: " 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples" (Luke 19:37-39).

Then **the whole multitude of them arose** and led Him to Pilate.²⁰ Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them.²¹ But they shouted, saying, "**Crucify Him, crucify Him!**" (Luke 23:1,20-21).

But the chief priests and elders **persuaded the multitudes** that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.²¹ The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"²² Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" *They* all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"²³ Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"²⁴ When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."²⁵ And **all the people** answered and said, "**His blood be on us and on our children**" (Matt 27:20-25).

The last passage is particularly condemning. All the people were wrongly persuaded by their leaders to argue for the death of a Man whom they knew to be a righteous Man only a few days before.

So what about today? Most people would agree that most advertisements are not truthful. Yet how many of us believe them

enough to buy those products anyway? If the ads did not work, the companies would certainly stop paying for them. But they do work, because too many of us are too willing to accept something that is not true—if it is "popular".

Do most people believe that our leaders are truthful? Do we believe they keep their promises? When they come up for election, do we look at their previous promises and check their records to see if they kept their promises? Or do we just believe their latest smooth words and promises, and vote for them again? Do we think leaders can be obvious liars and fornicators, but still keep our own best interests at heart? If they are not faithful to their own families, how will they be faithful to the common people, whom they do not even know?

This writer has been frequently dumbfounded by Christians who believe our leaders are corrupt, yet also believe that **anyone** who has been arrested, convicted or punished by our leaders "must be guilty". I have occasionally asked these people, "If you had been alive in Jesus time, would you have accepted the Jewish leaders' charges against Him?" "Of course not!", is the common answer. But very few people will agree to keep the conversation going when I ask what they would have done in Jesus day to prove that the government accusations against Him were false, and what they are doing now to determine which government assertions are false.

These people are not evil co-conspirators. It is just too unsettling for them to believe that the corruption of our own leaders is causing the suffering and death of innocent people—and that we might somehow be responsible for looking into it and taking action. It is easier to remain ignorant until the situation becomes obvious and many people join the cause. But by then, it is often too late to do anything about it.

Read the entire article at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0048/a2008-048-04.htm>

****to be continued in Issue #50****

("Peace and Safety..." continued from page 1)

- Nervous, anxious, fearful
- Short attention span
- Tired, lethargic, seems lazy
- Isolated, lonely, difficulty trusting
- Withdrawal
- Feels guilty, especially about anger
- Blames others for their behavior
- Relationships that start intensely or end abruptly
- Low self-esteem/ Overly

- aggressive
- Afraid to disagree
- Sleep disturbance
- Startle response
- Shame
- Suicidal thoughts

Additionally For Children

- Developmental regression
- Over or under achieving
- Bed Wetting
- Fear of separation from mom
- Violence

Ask Yourself, Ask Your Friend

Are you:

- Often surprised or frightened by your partner's angry reactions?
- Frustrated because you can't get him to understand you?
- Feeling left out because he rarely shares his thoughts, feelings, or plans with you?
- Feeling like you are going crazy?

Is Your Partner:

- Irritable, sullen, or critical?
- Unpredictable or explosive?
- Manipulative or jealous?
- Controlling?
- Secretive?
- Friendly to others, but demanding at home?

Has any of the following been done to you?

Emotional/Verbal Abuse

name calling, making fun of, insulting, blackmail, threatening, accusing, controlling, following, humiliating, isolating from others, criticizing, manipulating, blaming, playing mind games, crazy making, minimizing your concerns, treating you like a servant, abandonment, intimidating, silent withdrawal, saying you caused the abuse

Physical Abuse

pushing, shoving, backhanding, biting, strangling, punching, burning, smothering, grabbing, kicking, twisting, smacking, hair pulling, holding, carrying, sitting on, banging against the wall or floor, throwing/breaking objects or windows, driving recklessly in order to scare, punching or kicking a wall or door, blocking a car or doorway, detaching or disabling a phone, locking in or out of the home, in a closet or other confined space, abusing a pet or killing a pet, brandishing a weapon

Fiscal Abuse

restricting, tracking, gambling, hiding, or lying about family funds, asset fraud, refusing to pay child support, refusing to let you have a job

Sexual Abuse

luring, tricking, trapping, coercing, or bribing anyone with less maturity or power into a sexual experience, sexually stimulating or being stimulated by anyone disempowered by age, size, handicap, or situation (This could be physical, verbal, or visual, including discussing or describing, watching revealing or fondling.), rape or forced sex of any type even within marriage, indecent exposure, refusing to use birth control, replacing marital relations with pornography, making you watch it, or practicing pornographic acts on you, transmitting Herpes, HIV, or other STD's to a faithful spouse

Be Prepared, Have a Safety Plan

If you are injured, have a doctor take photos and write a report. Keep your own evidence of damage such as ripped clothing and photos of bruises and injuries. Keep these in a safe place away from your home.

Plan a safe place and time to go for help that he won't suspect. Have phone numbers with you.

Contact your local domestic violence shelter for safety planning, available resources and legal aid.

Teach your children not to protect you, pets, or toys. Be sure they know how to get out of the house and to the safe place.

Arrange a signal with a trustworthy neighbor who will call the police. This may be a light or a message saying, "Do not disturb me right now."

Put money away; even if it's a little bit every week. Start a bank account in your name. Consider Proverbs 31 – The noble wife is a financially independent business woman with her own business who travels as necessary to provide for her family.

Arrange for pet care.

Keep these necessities or copies of them with someone you trust:

spare keys, clothes, money, food stamps, medications & prescriptions, important documents: birth certificates (yours and children's) Social Security cards,

passports, work permits, green cards, visa, insurance papers, banking account information, immunization and medical records, lease, rental, house deed, protective order, custody papers, child's toy, important photos, keepsakes

Listen to your instincts

If the situation is dangerous, consider giving the abuser what he wants to calm him down, just until you are out of danger and stay near an exit. Avoid arguments, especially in a bathroom, kitchen, or near weapons.

At work. Identify a friend to update about your situation. Provide a picture of the batterer to the friend and building security. Have your calls screened, if possible. Have an escort to and from transportation. AS often as possible travel a variety of routes and use different entries to the building.

Always remember: It is against the Word of God and a crime for anyone, even family or friends, to hurt you, your children, or your pets.

Help a Friend

- Ask direct questions, gently.
- Give time to talk.
- Ask again a few days later.
- Don't tell her what to do.
- Validate her feelings.
- Encourage her to follow her interests.
- Be dependable.
- Recognize improvement.
- Allow disagreement without withdrawing.
- Show affection.
- Listen without judging.
- If she shares something of her abuse, believe her. This may be only the beginning.
- Remind her that domestic violence is a crime and God wants her to be safe.
- Keep confidences, unless someone under 18 or over 65 is being abused. (Then you are required by law to report. YOU MAY REPORT ANONYMOUSLY.)
- Let her know she is not to blame, not responsible, and does not deserve abuse.
- (The abuser is the one who breaks the covenant [of marriage].)
- Help her to make a safety plan.
- Make strong statements against domestic violence.
- Point out that the perpetrator is

responsible.

- Do not accept excuses.
- Realize that abusers can change if stopped early and held accountable by the community.

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE

PASCH RESOURCES

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Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/a2009-049-01.htm>

THE END**

(“Was Saint Paul...” continued from page 1)

he “studied at the feet of Gamaliel.” (Acts 22:3) Note the following synopsis.

"In this article we aren't so much interested in Paul's biography as we are in relating his theological background to his role as apostle of grace. We know that Paul (then Saul) was born in Tarsus, the son of a Pharisee who was also a Roman citizen. Paul went to Jerusalem early in life to study with the great rabbi Gamaliel. In his first Jerusalem trial (Acts 22:2), Paul introduced himself to the Sanhedrin as he who learned "at the feet of Gamaliel." This phrase means more than we would take it for at first glance. It sounds like Paul is giving homage to his teacher, and that he hung on Gamaliel's every word. Actually, Paul used this figure of speech to remind the Sanhedrin just how important a figure Saul of Tarsus was, even from his earliest years in Jerusalem. In the synagogues, students sat in an arrangement that reflected their academic position. We have a description of a typical academic synagogue setting in which Paul would have studied: "The academy head presided,

seated on a chair or on special mats. In the front rows opposite him sat the important scholars, including his colleagues or outstanding pupils, and behind them all the other scholars. When the academies grew larger, particularly in Palestine, the order of the seating was based on a precisely defined hierarchy. In the first row sat the great scholars, in the second row the less important sages, and so on" (Adin Steinsaltz, [The Essential Talmud](#)).

We can, therefore, picture the apostle as a young man, seated front and center, at the very feet of the renowned and revered Gamaliel. Already at the top of his class, he was on his way to becoming the leading Pharisee.

Paul also wrote to the Galatians (1:14) that he was extremely zealous for the law, and his academic accomplishments exceeded that of many of his peers. This may have been a humble way of saying that he really excelled above everyone when it came to legalistic knowledge. Along with other mentions of his "qualifications" (Phil. 3:4-6, Acts 22:3, 23:6) we can assume that Paul had no superiors in the world of Pharisaism. Had not God intervened in his life, he was destined to become the next great rabbinical leader. Just as men like Gamaliel, Hillel, Rabbi Akiba, and many others have become Talmudic legends, so also Saul of Tarsus would have doubtless joined the list. Perhaps he may have achieved the great title of Rabbi Saul of Tarsus." Quoted from:

<http://www.tidings.org/studies/legalism1199.htm>

No doubt, of the people who make up the writers of the Holy Bible, St. Paul was certainly the most educated. But did he make physical tents for a living? According to the book of Acts, Paul is termed as a "tentmaker." (Greek: skenopoiros) However, isn't it interesting that we find this word used only one time in the Bible? In addition, note that according to the Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature, in the article "Paul," vol. VII, pg. 789, it says: "This trade is described by Luke as that of a skenopoiros, a word regarding the meaning of which there has been no small difference of opinion." Maybe this word does not actually mean "tentmaker?"

Yes, Paul may very well have been an actual tentmaker, but note what Ronald Hock of UCLA says: "That Paul was a tentmaker (skenoipoiros) we learn only from Luke (cf. Acts 18:3). Although there is no reason to doubt Luke at this point (cf. E. Haenchen; The Acts of the Apostles: A Commentary [Philadelphia: Westminster, 1971] 538), the nature of Paul's trade is still not clear. Of the two options – weaving tent clothe from goat's hair (cilicium) or cutting and sewing leather to make tents – the latter is to be preferred."

We can see from these points that it is not exactly clear what Paul's precise occupation was. However, it appears to have involved leather cutting, which may have been used in the fashioning of tents.

Let us be clear though on one thing. St. Paul, being that most educated of all of the Biblical writers, he no doubt was involved in the transmission of written records (including his own) to the Christian Church. Note the following discussion that my father made concerning Paul and his academic pursuits, which related in a practical way to the construction of codex form books. Those of you who have read the book [Restoring the Original Bible](#) will remember this important discussion: "Timothy and John Mark were asked by Paul to fetch three important items and bring them to Rome. "When you come, bring the cloak [Greek: phelonen] I left with Carpus, and the scrolls, especially the parchments" (II Timothy 4:13). It is interesting that the phelonen, usually considered to be a heavy outer garment, would be mentioned alongside the paper scrolls (actually scrolls made from the papyrus plant) and the parchments (these were animal skins on which permanent documents were normally written). It seems odd that a heavy coat would be in the same context with literary documents. Most scholars, however, point out that Paul wanted Timothy and Mark to hurry to Rome before winter (verse 21) and that he probably wanted the phelonen which he left with Carpus in order to keep himself warm when the cold would set in.

This may be the case, but there are some difficulties with this interpretation. The truth is, the word phelonen had another meaning in the Greek world at the time, and it is one that is intimately connected with scrolls and parchments.

Vincent, in his [Word Studies in the New Testament](#), has this to say about the word phelonen. "Hesychius explains it as originally a case for keeping the mouthpieces of wind-instruments; thence, generally, a box. Phrynus, a Greek sophist of the second half of the third century, defines it as 'a receptacle for books, clothes, silver, or anything else.' Phelonen was a wrapper of parchments, and was translated figuratively in Latin by toga or paenula 'a cloak,' sometimes of leather; also the wrapping which a shopkeeper put around fish or olives; also the parchment cover for papyrus rolls.

Accordingly it is claimed that II Timothy in 4:13 is bidden to bring, not a cloak, but a roll-case. "Syriac Version." (p.326)

The fact is, the word phelonen can mean either a cloak (and it is commonly used that way in Greek literature) or it could mean a receptacle for the placement of scrolls and parchments. It is the context which must determine what the apostle Paul meant by

the use of phelonen in II Timothy 4:13. Since the word is found right next to scrolls and parchments, the immediate context would suggest a "book cover" a "book case" or "book slip" into which scrolls or pages of books were placed. As Vincent stated, the [Syriac Version of the New Testament](#) understood it in that manner.

Chrysostom, in the fourth century, commented on this very reference of Paul's and stated that some thought Paul meant a "book case" a receptacle for books (Hom. in loc. vol. XI, p.780, ed. Gaume). Even Jerome mentioned this point (Epist. 36, ad Damasum).

What is meant can only be determined by the context, because the word can signify either a heavy outer coat, a book case or some outer cover for books. Even in our modern times we have problems in interpreting similar words unless a proper context is provided. Let me give two illustrations to show the difficulty.

In these examples we will consider the modern words jacket, wrap and cover. Suppose a letter were found in which a woman college student wrote her mother. She said that she wanted her mother to "go to the closet and get out my heavy jacket and send it to me. It will provide the cover I need from the cold. I am now using the wrap you gave me for my birthday and it is not warm enough."

If such a letter were found, the context makes it clear that the girl is talking about outer garments in all instances. But what if the following letter were found, "Go to the bookstore and buy the latest fiction book you wrote me about. Take the jacket off, because dust wraps on the books annoy me. Make sure, however, that the book has a hard cover because I don't like paperbacks."

Though these two illustrations use exactly the same words, they signify opposite things. Obviously, no one would get confused over what was intended in either case, because the contexts are plain as to what was meant. But let us return to our word phelonen in II Timothy 4:13. It could mean either a book case, a book wrapper, a book jacket, a book cover, or it could mean a heavy outer garment. Vincent in his [Word Studies](#) had no objection to it being an ordinary cloak because, like many other modern translators, he noted that Paul asked Timothy and John Mark to come to Rome before winter (verse 21). To many scholars this provides the context in which to interpret phelonen, though admittedly the reference to winter is eight verses away from the use of the word. On the other hand, the word phelonen is found in the very verse (and context) which mentions the scrolls and parchments that Paul needed. Contextually, it would seem more logical to think of phelonen as being associated with literary

documents. Indeed, it is even better to consider it that way because Luke was still with Paul in Rome and surely he could have secured for Paul any protective garment to keep away the cold during the approaching winter. Would it be necessary to fetch an outer garment all the way from Troas to keep Paul covered for the short time he was to remain alive? The fact is, Paul's reference to winter (verse 21) is by context too far away for the phelonen to mean an actual cloak. But with the word intimately connected (in a perfect context) with the literary documents which Paul was urgently requesting Timothy and John Mark to bring with them, it seems more probable that the interpretation of the [Syriac Version](#), along with the suggestions found in **Chrysostom** and **Jerome**, happen to be correct. It appears that Paul wanted his important book case (his receptacle for carrying books) to be brought at once to Rome and the request was one of pressing necessity." (E. L. Martin, [Restoring the Original Bible](#), Chapter 24)

In this discussion, we can note the interesting point that here is Paul referring to something which could have been very well made of leather and it was used to cover books? Very interesting when we consider the whole "tentmaker" argument because my father endeavored clearly to show that St. Paul was involved in the construction of books and manuscripts and official documents related to the Christian Church. Perhaps his trade was one of a leather worker and he just transferred the knowledge that he had acquired in making leather items, like tents, to the trade of making books with leather covers and bindings utilizing leather in their construction? One thing for sure, St. Paul was certainly a highly educated man whose career path was going not into the private sector, but his destiny was to be a doctor of the law with the title of Rabbi Saul. He does not seem to have prepared himself specifically for a life of commercial enterprise.

Article found on line at:
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/a2009-049-02.htm>
*****THE END*******

("Sabbath Commandment Meant..." continued from page 1)

repairing the relationship with our creator. God doesn't want other gods before him, nor images or taking his name in vain. We must honor our parents and no lying, stealing, murder, coveting, or adultery. We must keep the Sabbath day holy. Most people don't have a problem with nine of these commands, but how about

keeping the Sabbath holy? Is that one of the most ignored of all God's commandments?

It may not be important to some of us, but look how important it is to God. The God who never changes said to keep his Sabbath. It is a sign between us and God throughout the generations. Anyone who profanes it shall be put to death! This is one of the few commandments that carries a death penalty for breaking it! The Sabbath day identifies Him as creator and those who observe it as His people (Exodus 31, 14). But how about Christians? We wouldn't have to keep some Jewish law, would we? A casual reading of the Bible shows us that Jesus was none other than the God of the Old Testament - the creator! (Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:2, I Corinthians 10:1-4, John 1:1).

But we want to follow Jesus Christ and keep whatever day he kept, don't we? Luke 4:16: "And as his custom was, he went into the synagogue (church) on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read." Well, maybe the apostles kept another day. No, in fact there are eight references to Paul preaching on the Sabbath day in the book of Acts, even to gentiles.

But didn't Jesus, who spoke of so many things to happen in the future, mention something about changing that old Sabbath day to Sunday? Not a word. Hebrews IV shows just the opposite, that the Sabbath was created on the seventh day of creation and will endure even into the kingdom of God to come on this earth (Isaiah 56 and 66).

The study of the Sabbath day is probably the most controversial topic in all of religion. To say the least it is a most divisive doctrine as well. History documents the gradual change from Saturday to Sunday.

The Bible record is full of accounts where God tests people, and for good reason too. He wants to grant immortality to man, does it not make sense that he makes sure a man or woman is worthy of such a gift by a test of obedience? We could argue the Sabbath question but that 'would be pointless. Obedience to God is a very personal issue. The apostle Paul made it clear, any doctrine is to be studied, proven to one's self, acted upon, and others not judged based on what you believe.

For me and my house the Sabbath continues to be a breath of fresh air in an ever-growing hectic world. A time to enjoy the fast fading beauty of nature, and especially a time to draw a little closer to the creator, my father.

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THE END**

("Love the..." continued from page 1)

As simple as that sounds, we all know that it is not that simple, because when man steps into the picture and begins to interpret the truth - interprets Jesus Christ the Word, which of course is the Bible, we end up with all kinds of interpretations of the truth which separates and divides all of Christianity, including the Churches of God.

My purpose today is not to define truth beyond what I already said, but to ask the question: **How important is truth?**

That there is controversy about the truth we are all well aware of. That we should search for the truth I think is obvious. That we should stand up for and defend the truth is obviously a noble goal. The question that needs to be answered is: How far should you go, or what actions should you take to defend **your** interpretation of the truth?

I said **your** interpretation of the truth, because we know that all of our understanding, all of our truth is imperfect and incomplete.

Now the very fact that we are talking about our interpretation of the truth should give you an indication of where I am going and what this article is all about, but let me explain with the following true historical events.

Back in 1915 there was a French literary Nobel Prize recipient by the name of **Romain Rolland**. In one of his writings he said the following, and I quote: **"You should love truth more than yourself, but your neighbor more than truth"**.

Let me repeat this and please write it down for it is the basis of this article. He said: "You should love truth more than yourself, but neighbor more than truth".

He based his statement on Deut. 10:19 and I'll come back to that later. For now remember the question is: **How important is truth? And how far should you go defending truth?**

To make the point, I would like to share with you the true story of two individuals who were convicted of a point of truth, but as we shall see, defended their belief with quite different consequences.

In Geneva Switzerland there is a cemetery with the grave stone - a monument - of a Spanish theologian and physician by the name of **Miguel Serveto**. This monument, it is said, is a perpetual reminder for Reformed Christians of a very shameful act that was committed against **Senior Serveto**. By the way, "Reformed Christians" were those who came out of Catholicism and became followers of **Luther, Calvin** and

other Reformers.

Miguel Serveto was born in 1511 in Spain. He was a physician and theologian and studied law in Toulouse France. He traveled extensively throughout Europe and became acquainted with leaders of the reformation that took place at that time.

In 1531 he published a book with the Latin title **"De trinitatis erroribus"** which expressed his belief that the trinity doctrine was in error. In addition to the trinity doctrine, he opposed many other concepts of the reform movement and so found himself in opposition to both the Catholic and the newly evolving Protestant Church.

In 1536 he went to Paris to study medicine. He became prominent, and from 1541 to 1553 he was the personal physician to the archbishop of Vienna. During all this time though, his belief that the trinity was in error had not changed, and so in 1553 he published, secretly, a theological tract expressing his views.

When he was found out he was arrested and imprisoned as a heretic. He escaped, but was recaptured 4 months later in Geneva Switzerland. By the way, a heretic is "one who opposes orthodox theology", "a dissenter from established church dogma", "a nonconformist".

As we can see **Serveto** defended what he considered truth by going to prison, but that was only the beginning of his troubles.

During this time, **John Calvin** the French theologian and reformer, was at the height of his influence in Geneva and Europe. **Calvin**, in his love for God and his interpretation of truth, however showed little love for his neighbor, especially when someone challenged the beloved trinity doctrine. And so, upon the insistence of **John Calvin, Miguel Serveto** was charged with heresy and blasphemy, and again on the insistence of **John Calvin** he was executed and burned at the stake on Oct. 27, 1553.

Now to give you an idea of the mind-set of sixteenth century defenders of the truth, let me quote from the Encyclopedia where it says that "the capital punishment of **Serveto** aroused such a furor that for the first time the execution of heretics was seriously questioned by theologians". Can you believe this? For the first time it dawned on them that maybe, maybe there is something wrong with what they were doing. Up until then, that was the thing to do. If you stood your ground on a point of truth, other than what the theologians said, they simply killed you, burning you to death on the stake.

Now let's go back to where we started: **"You should love truth more than yourself, but neighbor more than truth."** Can you see how **Serveto** and **Calvin** are examples of this saying? **Serveto** loved truth more than himself and gave his life to defend his belief.

He could have recanted. **Calvin** on the other hand loved truth more than his neighbor and took his neighbors life. So much for the people that brought us the reformation.

Let's turn to Deut. 10:19. Here God through Moses instructs us to: **"Love the stranger therefore, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt"**.

Now a stranger or sojourner is generally one who is not part of God's people Israel, one who has different beliefs, worships a different god, and embraces truth contrary to our own. And yet God instructs us to love that person.

Now **John Calvin** and many other well meaning theologians who had the same Bible - the same truth as you and I, somehow interpreted the simple and plain truth of **"Love the stranger"** to mean **"kill the stranger"**, "burn him alive on the stake".

I don't know how they came to that conclusion, but I suppose they were all very sincere!

Why does God want us to love the person from a different country (church organization), with different beliefs, or for that matter, why does he want us to love the person that sits next to you, who believes differently than you? He wants us to love them, because at one time we - you and I - were strangers, and had odd and different beliefs. That's why we ought to **love the stranger**.

I didn't say "agree" with the stranger!

Paul in his letter to the Ephesians put it this way, he said: *"Remember that you were once separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers of the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household, the family of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone - Christ Jesus Himself being the truth."*

How important is truth? Well, that depends on how important Jesus Christ is to you!

How far should you go defending truth?

Miguel Serveto went so far that he gave his life. He loved truth more than himself.

You have to decide how far you are willing and able to go defending your beliefs and living your convictions.

John Calvin, the theologian, on the other hand, loved his interpretation of truth more than neighbor, and killed him.

So, what's the conclusion? Stand up for truth, yes - but never defend your beliefs, never defend truth if in the process you sin against the stranger, if in the process you forget to love your neighbor as yourself, if in the process you sin against your God.

So, remember the words of Romain Rolland. "You should love truth more than yourself, but your neighbor more than truth."

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THE END**

("Birthdays Should Not..." continued from page 1)

inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

JOB 1: 4-5."AND HIS SONS WENT AND FEASTED IN THEIR HOUSES, EVERY ONE HIS DAY; (STRONGS NO. H 3117 - CAN MEAN BIRTHDAY) AND SENT AND CALLED FOR THEIR THREE SISTERS TO EAT AND DRINK WITH THEM. (5) AND IT WAS SO, WHEN THE DAYS OF THEIR FEASTING WERE GONE ABOUT, THAT JOB SENT AND SANCTIFIED THEM, AND ROSE UP EARLY IN THE MORNING, AND OFFERED BURNT OFFERINGS ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF THEM ALL: FOR JOB SAID, IT MAY BE THAT MY SONS HAVE SINNED, AND CURSED GOD IN THEIR HEARTS. THUS DID JOB CONTINUALLY. (CONTINUALLY EVERY DAY? NOT JUST ON THEIR DAY, ONCE A YEAR)

JOB 3: 1-3."AFTER THIS OPENED JOB HIS MOUTH, AND CURSED HIS DAY (STRONGS NUMBER H 3117) (2) AND JOB SPAKE, AND SAID, (3) LET THE DAY (STRONGS NUMBER H 3117) PERISH WHEREIN I WAS BORN, AND THE NIGHT IN WHICH IT WAS SAID, THERE IS A MAN CHILD CONCEIVED." JER. 20: 14-18."CURSED BE THE DAY (STRONGS NUMBER H 3117) WHEREIN I WAS BORN (A BIRTHDAY) LET NOT THE DAY (STRONGS NUMBER H 3117) WHEREIN MY MOTHER BARE ME BE BLESSED. (15) CURSED BE THE MAN WHO BROUGHT TIDINGS TO MY FATHER, SAYING, A MAN CHILD IS BORN UNTO THEE; MAKING HIM VERY GLAD. (16) AND LET THAT MAN BE AS THE CITIES WHICH THE ETERNAL OVERTHREW, AND REPENTED NOT: AND LET HIM HEAR THE CRY IN THE MORNING, AND THE SHOUTING AT NOONTIDE; (17) BECAUSE HE SLEW ME NOT FROM THE WOMB; OR THAT MY MOTHER MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY GRAVE, AND HER WOMB TO BE ALWAYS GREAT WITH ME. (18) WHEREFORE CAME I FORTH OUT OF THE WOMB TO SEE LABOUR AND SORROW, THAT MY DAYS SHOULD BE CONSUMED WITH SHAME?"

GENESIS 40: 20-22."AND IT CAME TO PASS THE THIRD DAY, WHICH WAS PHARAOH'S BIRTHDAY, (STRONGS NUMBER H 3117 AND H 3205) THAT HE MADE A FEAST UNTO ALL HIS SERVANTS: AND HE LIFTED UP THE HEAD OF THE CHIEF BUTLER AND OF THE CHIEF BAKER AMONG HIS SERVANTS. AND HE RESTORED THE CHIEF BUTLER UNTO HIS BUTLERSHIP AGAIN; AND HE GAVE THE CUP INTO PHARAOH'S HAND: (22) BUT HE HANGED THE CHIEF BAKER: AS JOSEPH INTERPETED TO THEM"

MATTHEW 14: 6-8 ."BUT WHEN HEROD'S BIRTHDAY (STRONGS NUMBER G 1077) WAS KEPT, THE DAUGHTER OF HERODIAS DANCED BEFORE THEM, AND PLEASD HEROD. (7) WHEREUPON HE PROMISED WITH AN OATH TO GIVE HER WHATSOEVER SHE WOULD ASK. (8) AND SHE, BEING BEFORE INSTRUCTED OF HER MOTHER, SAID, GIVE ME JOHN BAPTIST'S HEAD IN A CHARGER. (LG. PLATE, PLATTER) (PARALLEL SCRIPTURE IN MARK 6: 21-25.)

ROMANS 3: 1-2."WHAT ADVANTAGE THEN HATH THE JEW? OR WHAT PROFIT IS THERE OF CIRCUMCISION? (2) MUCH IN EVERY WAY: CHIEFLY, BECAUSE TO THEM WERE COMMITTED THE ORACLES OF GOD" (DO THE JEWS CELEBRATE THEIR BIRTHDAYS? ANSWER NO! QUESTION, WHY?)

PSALMS 115: 15."PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE ETERNAL IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS." (QUESTION, HOW DOES GOD LOOK ON THE DAY OF OUR BIRTH?)

ECCLESIASTES 7: 1-2."A GOOD NAME IS BETTER THAN PRECIOUS OINTMENT; AND THE DAY OF DEATH THAN THE DAY OF ONE'S BIRTH. (2) IT IS BETTER TO GO TO THE HOUSE OF MOURNING, THAN TO GO TO THE HOUSE OF FEASTING: FOR THAT IS THE END OF ALL MEN; AND THE LIVING WILL LAY IT TO HIS HEART."

MATTHEW 23: 1-3."THEN SPOKE JESUS TO THE MULTITUDE, AND TO HIS DISCIPLES, (2) SAYING, THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES SIT IN MOSES' SEAT: (3) ALL THEREFORE WHATSOEVER THEY BID YOU OBSERVE AND DO BUT DO NOT YE AFTER THEIR WORKS: FOR THEY SAY, AND DO NOT"

1ST. CORINTHIANS 11: 26."FOR AS OFTEN AS YE EAT THIS BREAD, AND DRINK THIS CUP, YE DO SHOW THE LORD'S DEATH TILL HE COME."

MATTHEW 18: 16."BUT IF HE WILL NOT HEAR THEE, THEN TAKE WITH THEE ONE OR TWO MORE, THAT IN THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD MAY BE ESTABLISHED." WE HAVE HEARD FROM CHRIST, JOHN, JOB, JEREMIAH, MOSES, MATTHEW, MARK, AND SOLOMON! SO IS THE

MATTER ESTABLISHED?

1 CORINTHIANS 10: 31 WHETHER THEREFORE YE EAT, OR DRINK, OR WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD. (NOT OURSELVES - IMPLIED)

H 3117

וּי'

yo^m

yome

From an unused root meaning to be hot; a day (as the warm hours), whether literally (from sunrise to sunset, or from one sunset to the next), or figuratively (a space of time defined by an associated term), (often used adverbially): - age, + always, + chronicles, continually (-ance), daily, ([birth-], each, to) day, (now a, two) days (agone), + elder, X end, + evening, + (for) ever (-lasting, -more), X full, life, as (so) long as (. . . live), (even) now, + old, + outlived, + perpetually, presently, + remaineth, X required, season, X since, space, then, (process of) time, + as at other times, + in trouble, weather, (as) when, (a, the, within a) while (that), X whole (+ age), (full) year (-ly), + younger.

H3205

יָלַד

ya^lad

yaw-lad'

A primitive root; to bear young; causatively to beget; medically to act as midwife; specifically to show lineage: - bear, beget, birth ([-day]), born, (make to) bring forth (children, young), bring up, calve, child, come, be delivered (of a child), time of delivery, gender, hatch, labour, (do the office of a) midwife, declare pedigrees, be the son of, (woman in, woman that) travail (-eth, -ing woman).

G1

Α

A

al'-fah

Of Hebrew origin; the first letter of the alphabet: figuratively only (from its use as a numeral) the first. Often used (usually "an", before a vowel) also in composition (as a contraction from G427) in the sense of privation; so in many words beginning with this letter; occasionally in the sense of union (as a contraction of G260): - Alpha.

JOHN 17: 17."SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH: THY WORD IS TRUTH." MATT. 4: 4. "BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID, IT IS WRITTEN, MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD" JOB 1: 4-5. "AND HIS SONS WENT AND FEASTED IN

THEIR HOUSES, EVERY ONE HIS (3117) DAY; AND SENT AND CALLED FOR THEIR THREE SISTERS TO EAT AND DRINK WITH THEM. (5) AND IT WAS SO, WHEN THE (3117) DAYS OF THEIR FEASTING WERE GONE ABOUT, THAT JOB SENT AND SANCTIFIED THEM, AND ROSE UP EARLY IN THE MORNING, AND OFFERED BURNT OFFERINGS ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF THEM ALL: FOR JOB SAID, IT MAY BE THAT MY SONS HAVE SINNED, AND CURSED GOD IN THEIR HEARTS. THUS DID JOB CONTINUALLY." JOB 3: 1-3. "AFTER THIS OPENED JOB HIS MOUTH, AND CURSED HIS (3117) DAY." (2) AND JOB SPAKE, AND SAID, (3) "LET THE (3117) DAY PERISH WHEREIN I WAS BORN, AND THE NIGHT IN WHICH IT WAS SAID, THERE IS A MAN CHILD CONCEIVED." JER. 20:14-18."CURSED BE THE DAY WHEREIN I WAS BORN: LET NOT THE DAY WHEREIN MY MOTHER BARE ME BE BLESSED." (15) "CURSED BE THE MAN WHO BROUGHT TIDINGS TO MY FATHER, SAYING, A MAN CHILD IS BORN UNTO THEE; MAKING HIM VERY GLAD." (16) "AND LET THAT MAN BE AS THE CITIES WHICH THE ETERNAL OVERTHREW, AND REPENTED NOT: AND LET HIM HEAR THE CRY IN THE MORNING, AND THE SHOUTING AT NOONTIDE; (17) BECAUSE HE SLEW ME NOT IN THE WOMB; OR THAT MY MOTHER MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY GRAVE, AND HER WOMB TO BE ALWAYS GREAT WITH ME. (18) WHEREFORE CAME I FORTH OUT OF THE WOMB TO SEE LABOUR AND SORROW, THAT MY DAYS SHOULD BE CONSUMED WITH SHAME?" GEN. 40: 20-22. "AND IT CAME TO PASS THE THIRD DAY, WHICH WAS PHARAOH'S BIRTHDAY, THAT HE MADE A FEAST UNTO ALL HIS SERVANTS: AND HE LIFTED UP THE HEAD OF THE CHIEF BUTLER AND OF THE CHIEF BAKER AMONG HIS SERVANTS. AND HE RESTORED THE CHIEF BUTLER UNTO HIS BUTLERSHIP AGAIN; AND HE GAVE THE CUP INTO PHARAOH'S HAND: (22) BUT HE HANGED THE CHIEF BAKER: AS JOSEPH INTERPETED TO THEM." MATT. 14: 6-8 . "BUT WHEN HEROD'S BIRTHDAY WAS KEPT, THE DAUGHTER OF HERODIAS DANCED BEFORE THEM, AND PLEASED HEROD." (7) "WHEREUPON HE PROMISED WITH AN OATH TO GIVE HER WHATSOEVER SHE WOULD ASK. (8) AND SHE, BEING BEFORE INSTRUCTED OF HER MOTHER, SAID, GIVE ME JOHN BAPTIST'S HEAD IN A CHARGER. (LG. PLATE, PLATTER) (PARALLEL SCRIPTURE IN MARK 6: 21-25.), ROM. 3: 1-2. "WHAT ADVANTAGE THEN HATH THE JEW? OR WHAT PROFIT IS THERE OF CIRCUMCISION? (2) MUCH IN EVERY WAY: CHIEFLY, BECAUSE TO THEM WERE COMMITTED THE ORACLES OF

GOD" (JEWS DO NOT OBSERVE BIRTHDAYS) PSA. 115: 15. "PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE ETERNAL IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS." MAT. 23: 1-3."THEN SPOKE JESUS TO THE MULTITUDE, AND TO HIS DISCIPLES, (2) SAYING, THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES SIT IN MOSES' SEAT: (3) ALL THEREFORE WHATEVER THEY BID YOU OBSERVE AND DO BUT DO NOT YE AFTER THEIR WORKS: FOR THEY SAY, AND DO NOT." ECC. 7: 1-5. "A GOOD NAME IS BETTER THAN PRECIOUS OINTMENT; AND THE DAY OF DEATH THAN THE DAY OF ONE'S BIRTH." (2) "IT IS BETTER TO GO TO THE HOUSE OF MOURNING, THAN TO GO TO THE HOUSE OF FEASTING: FOR THAT IS THE END OF ALL MEN; AND THE LIVING WILL LAY IT TO HIS HEART." (3) "SORROW IS BETTER THAN LAUGHTER. FOR BY THE SADNESS OF THE COUNTEANCE THE HEART IS MADE BETTER" (4) "THE HEART OF THE WISE IS IN THE HOUSE OF MOURNING; BUT THE HEART OF FOOLS IS IN THE HOUSE OF MIRTH." (5) "IT IS BETTER TO HEAR THE REBUKE OF THE WISE, THAN FOR A MAN TO HEAR THE SONG OF FOOLS." 1ST. COR. 11: 26. "FOR AS OFTEN AS YE EAT THIS BREAD, AND DRINK THIS CUP, YE DO SHOW THE LORD'S DEATH TILL HE COME." 1ST. COR. 10: 31. " WHETHER THEREFORE YE EAT, OR DRINK, OR WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD. (NOT YOUR OWN) HOW DOES ONE CURSE GOD IN ONE'S HEART? BY GLORIFYING SELF RATHER THAN GOD. MAT. 18: 16. "BUT IF HE WILL NOT HEAR THEE, THEN TAKE WITH THEE 1 OR 2 MORE, THAT IN THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD MAY BE ESTABLISHED." WE HAVE HEARD FROM JOHN, JOB, JEREMIAH, MOSES, MATTHEW, MARK, PAUL, SOLOMON AND CHRIST, SO IS THE MATTER ESTABLISHED?

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From an unused root meaning to be hot; a day (as the warm hours), whether literally (from sunrise to sunset, or from one sunset to the next), or figuratively (a space of time defined by an associated term), (often used adverbially): - age, + always, + chronicles, continually (-ance), daily, ([birth-], each, to) day, (now a, two) days (agone), + elder, X end, + evening, + (for) ever (-lasting, -more), X full, life, as (so) long as (. . . live), (even) now, + old, + outlived, + perpetually, presently, + remaineth, X required, season, X since, space, then, (process of) time, + as at

other times, + in trouble, weather, (as) when, (a, the, within a) while (that), X whole (+ age), (full) year (-ly), + younger.

Originally the idea [of birthday greetings and wishes for happiness] was rooted in magic. The working of spells for good and evil is the chief usage of witchcraft. One is especially susceptible to such spells on his birthday, as one's personal spirits are about at that time. Dreams dreamed on the birthday eve should be remembered, for they are predictions of the future brought by the guardian spirits which hover over one's bed on the birthday eve. Birthday greetings have power for good or ill because one is closer to the spirit world on this day. Good wishes bring good fortune, but the reverse is also true, so one should avoid enemies on one's birthday and be surrounded only by well-wishers. 'Happy birthday' and 'Many happy returns of the day' are the traditional greetings. (The Lore of Birthdays, Linton, p. 20).

"Birthdays are the times when good and evil spirits have the opportunity to attack the celebrants who at these times are in peril." What is done to counter these malevolent spirits? "The presence of friends and the expression of good wishes help to protect the celebrant against the unknown pervasive peril" (Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology and Legend, p. 144).

The giving of birthday gifts is a custom associated with the offering of sacrifices to pagan gods on their birthdays. Certainly the custom was linked with the same superstitions that formed the background for birthday greetings. "The exchange of presents... is associated with the importance of ingratiating good and evil fairies... on their or our birthdays" (ibid.). The traditional birthday cake and candles also have their origin in ancient pagan idol worship. The ancients believed that the fire of candles had magical properties. They offered prayers and made wishes to be carried to the gods on the flames of the candles. Thus we still have the widely practiced birthday custom of making a wish, then blowing out the candles. The Greeks celebrated the birthday of their moon goddess, Artemis, with cakes adorned each month and day is sacred; and found out from the day of a man's birth, what he will meet with in the course of his life, and how he will end his days, and what sort of man he will be" (Herodotus, Persian Wars, Book II, ch. 82).

Since it was believed that the positions of the stars at the time of birth influenced a child's future, astrological horoscopes came into being, purporting to foretell the future, based on the time of birth. "Birthdays are intimately linked with the stars, since without the calendar, no one could tell when to

celebrate his birthday. They are also indebted to the stars in another way, for in early days the chief importance of birthday records was to enable the astrologers to chart horoscopes" (The Lore of Birthdays, p. 53).

Rawlinson's translation of Herodotus includes the following footnote: "Horoscopes were of very early use in Egypt... and Cicero speaks of the Egyptians and Chaldees predicting... a man's destiny at his birth".

When we examine the principles of God's law closely, as they relate to birthday celebrations, we can understand why neither Christ, nor His Apostles, nor their true followers, observed their birthdays. As noted earlier, the practice has its origin in idolatry and the worship of the sun, moon and stars. Some may view birthday customs as purely secular, lacking any religious significance. Yet we need to be aware of the broader perspective of their origins, and the religious significance they have had—and still have—for vast multitudes of people.

You don't observe Christ's birth. You're not supposed to have some big birthday party to observe personal birthdays. Some people have accused me of observing birthdays. I do not observe birthdays and I have never had a birthday party for myself or any of my six children nor my wife or anyone else for over 51 years.

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/a2009-049-05.htm>

THE END**

("What is an..." continued from page 1)

church for a few weeks, then you have a potluck, and they bring pork chops. Should you FEAR to tell them you can't eat unclean meats – lest you offend them? Is THIS what this scripture is warning you about? Absolutely not! But WHAT does AN OFFENCE mean – as the BIBLE defines it?

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.*

Notice carefully! Whatever you DO, must be right. You must be BLAMELESS in your actions, so that you give no OFFENCE.

2 Corinthians 6:3 *Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:*

Is this talking about condemning sin too soon? About correcting a babe before he is "ready"? Certainly not! These scriptures are all talking about SIN, about DOING THINGS

that offend them. Why is YOUR SIN an OFFENCE?

Leviticus 19:14 *Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.*

How do you put a stumblingblock before the blind? By laying a stone in the way, and blocking the road so they can't pass. How does that apply in the New Testament?

Revelation 2:14 *But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*

The STUMBLINGBLOCK that Balac put before Israel was THEIR SIN! This is a critical point. THEIR SIN blocked their way, as surely as the stone blocked the way of the blind!

Ezekiel 14:3 *Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face:*

THEIR INIQUITY is THEIR STUMBLINGBLOCK! And what is the difference between a STUMBLINGBLOCK and an OFFENCE? Simply put, the offence, or the SIN, PLACES a stumblingblock in the way of the babe!

Matthew 13:41 *The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;*

Those things that offend are those who do iniquity!

James 2:10 *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

You OFFEND by BREAKING THE LAW! Now, let's re-read the scripture, this time WITH CONTEXT, that started all this.

Matthew 18:6-7, 14-15 *But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! ... Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.*

Notice that the context is your brother sinning against you. THIS is the context of AN OFFENCE to a little one! SINNING against a brother – not telling him he's wrong, or telling him that he is SINNING!

And notice, too, that He's concerned with you offending little ones "WHICH BELIEVE IN ME"! He isn't concerned about offending "little ones" that are planted by Satan, or

which DON'T believe in Him! He, Himself offended THEM all the time. In fact, that's one of the REASONS He came! To save those who LOVE His word, and to OFFEND those who hate it!

1 Peter 2:7-8 *Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*

If you stumble at His word, at Him (or His followers) telling you that you are sinning ANYTIME, regardless of when or where, then you are not planted by His Father!

Matthew 15:12 *Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?*

He OFFENDED them! So either HE SINNED or this was a good thing!

Matthew 15:13-14 *But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*

If GOD didn't plant them, they WILL be rooted up. Maybe now, or possibly later, after they've stayed in the church and corrupted dozens of others with their disbelief, and CAUSED AN OFFENCE, but they WILL be rooted up. And this is a good thing! Don't misunderstand, it's a terrible shame for this person, but it will happen sooner or later BECAUSE THEY DON'T LOVE GOD, and IT IS NECESSARY to sort out those who CAN be offended by truth, and those who CAN'T!

John 6:60 *Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? [He had just talked about drinking his blood and eating his flesh.] When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.*

And here is the real POINT of what he's trying to say: **John 6:65-66** *And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.*

And MANY of the disciples left Him for good. He OFFENDED them. Again showing

that GOD MUST PLANT the person, and if God didn't plant a person, they WILL be pulled up, and offended. Christ doesn't condemn anyone for doing this. How could He? He did it Himself all the time!

On the other hand, those who LOVE the truth, those who GOD PLANTED, CAN'T BE OFFENDED BY TRUTH!

Psalms 119:165 *Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*

Now, you may ask, HOW can we tell who LOVES THE TRUTH and WHO DOESN'T? WE DON'T! That's the beautiful part! You confront sin on every level possible, as aggressively as you know how, and if they are offended by this, GOD DIDN'T PLANT THEM!

But back to the original question: WHY DID CHRIST WARN YOU ABOUT OFFENDING A LITTLE ONE?

BECAUSE, if you say "you should not steal!" and you, yourself, STEAL, you give them a REASON to hate you, and your God. THIS is an offence, and God HATES this!

Romans 2:17-22 *Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law. Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.*

They are offended by YOUR HYPOCRISY, by you, WHO SAY that you shouldn't sin! David was guilty of this too, after the "incident" with Bathsheba, Nathan the prophet told him: **2 Samuel 12:14** *Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.*

David OFFENDED those "little ones" by BREAKING THE LAW HE CLAIMED TO KEEP! NOT by convicting sin!

Daniel 6:4 *Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.*

Daniel on the other hand, GAVE NO OFFENCE – gave no REASON for the

enemies of God to blaspheme. THIS is what Christ wanted you to do! Not to fear to correct sin too soon in a "babe in Christ"! If the case still needs more proof: **Acts 24:16** *And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.*

For the final nail in the coffin! If an offence comes by confronting sin too soon, by saying the wrong words and hurting someone irreparably, HOW CAN YOU OFFEND GOD? But if an OFFENCE comes by SIN, it's very easy to OFFEND GOD isn't it! And His "LITTLE ONES"!

Malachi 2:7-8 For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. **But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law;** ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

By DEPARTING out of the LAW, you cause them to stumble! You CAUSE an offence! And it would be better for you to have a millstone around your neck and be cast into the sea than to do THIS!

Matthew 5:19 *Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 11:6 *And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.*

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/a2009-049-06.htm>

THE END**

("Jesus as Our..." continued from page 1)

infirmities: but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

In an historical point of view, the high priest had many duties and religious responsibly to perform.

First, the high priest was to be an intercessor between God and man. He was like a representative of God to the people.

Christ is our intercessor to God for us. In **Romans 8:34**, it states, "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea, rather, that is risen again, who even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

Also in **1 John 2:1**, it states, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that you not sin. And if you sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the

righteous."

Second, the high priest offered sacrifice for sin and offerings of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Christ performs the same function for us as stated in **Hebrews 9:11-14** which says, "But Christ being come an high priest of good things...Neither by blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us... How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot [sinless] to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Third, the high priest was appointed by God, such in Old Testament times as Aaron and his family line were chosen by God.

Jesus Christ was of the family line of Judah, not the tribe of Levi, but God did choose him as the high priest for all mankind as stated in **Hebrews 5:4-5** which says, "and no man takes this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest; but he [God the Father] that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee." It can be noted from these verses that Jesus was called a high priest by God.

Fourth, the high priest was the only one to enter the Holy of Holies to be intercessor for the people and no one else was ever to enter this place.

Again, Jesus Christ has entered the Holy of Holies in the presence of God, but not in the earthly temple, rather the heavenly place at the right hand of God himself as it states in **Colossians 3:1** which says, "If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

Also in **Hebrews 8:1**, it states, "Now of the things which we spoken this in sum: We have such an High Priest [Jesus Christ], who set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens."

Also in **Hebrews 1:3**, it states, "Who [Jesus Christ] being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."

As we can conclude from the few scriptures that I have presented to you, that Jesus Christ does qualify as our high priest. He is our intercessor between God and us, his sacrifice covers our sins and the entire sins of the human race, he was appointed by God the Father as our high priest, and he has entered the heavens itself where God dwells to be our advocate.

I have only presented the basic scriptures that cover this topic of Jesus Christ as our high priest. It would be worth

your time and effort to research this topic. It would bring a deeper meaning to your understanding of Jesus Christ as your Savior and High Priest.

Article found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/a2009-049-07.htm>

*****THE END*******

“Pill Popping Purveyers...” continued from page 24)

Carrots are a fine contribution to healthful eating. They are a leading source of Vitamin A from beta carotene and a good source of fiber besides being low in sodium and cholesterol free. Plus, a medium raw carrot only has about 30 calories. Another attribute they offer is their ability to fit into the leanest of budgets. They are very economical with minimal preparation loss.

Top Reasons to Get Vitamin D From Your Diet

<http://www.emaxhealth.com/83/7213.html>

Our bodies need vitamin D to build and maintain strong bones. Without vitamin D, the body cannot use calcium and phosphorus - two minerals necessary for healthy bones.

Vitamin D Could Cut Falls In The Elderly, Suggests Study

<http://www.nutraingredients.com/news/ng.asp?n=70103-vitamin-d-falls-supplementation>

Increasing the vitamin D intake, from supplements, diet or sun exposure, could cut the risk of falls in the elderly, says a cohort study from the Netherlands.

A Total Lack Of Common Sense! Prescription Drugs And Vitamins Are A Deadly Combination

Vitamins May Have Down Side for HIV Patients

<http://paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?152356>

Antioxidant supplements taken by people with HIV appear to improve cholesterol levels and midriff weight gain, but may have a negative impact on blood sugar levels.

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/i2009-049-04.htm>

*****THE END*******

LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 ...

and bad from a positive perspective and perpetually learned from my own mistakes which were numerous. I eventually realized that the people I hung with and my own families lack of love and caring for me was going to kill me. I was given what I now call opportunity in 1987 to move from Wisconsin to Arizona and I sold most everything I owned and moved. In that now over 20 years only two family members ever visited me although I tried through the years to maintain a relationship with them on some level. The painful truth came in early 2008 when I finally realized that the pain they were inflicting on me by the things they did to me was far worse than my overwhelming need to have a relationship with a blood family who not only lacked love for me but for each other. I had to tell them that either they need to participate in a relationship with me or they need to just leave me alone. They called it an ultimatum with a date, but they did make the decision not to have anymore contact with me.

Some will look on me as the bad guy here, but there comes a point in time when a person has to just let some things go. In the last several years my family has contacted me three times for very serious matters, but never to visit and not one phone call from any of them when I broke my ankle in 2004. I was called after the fact when my dad had heart surgery and only because my dad's sister insisted that my brother call me and tell me. I was called that one of my sisters had colon cancer when I had my broken ankle in 2004 and then in 2008 I was contacted again after the fact that my other sister had breast cancer. My heart goes out to my family who suffers and I wanted to help by going to them, but was unable because not one of them would pick me up from a bus or a train station and not one of them would want me in their house or even in their hospital room. I have pretty much been dead to them for years.

There are some relationships which a person must just let go. I tried for many years to fit into my blood family, but just never seemed to have a place there. When I tried at various times to mend any wrongs I knew I had done they hung up the telephone when I called, didn't answer the door, never returned my phone calls or never answered their phones for years. There are many people in the Church of God who do this same thing and this is perhaps why people just give up trying to apologize to people. It seems that many times when a person approaches someone to try to mend a relationship the other person simply wants no part in the apology. So there is no way for any

relationship to be mended under those circumstances. I know this is true because I have tried it many times over these last 9 years and before.

I first had contact with “**The Worldwide Church of God**” in December of 1990 and was baptized on February 6, 1993. Yes, I came in, in the middle of the mess. In March of 1993 I married a man who had been in the church for years, a man who had his own house and his own business, only to find out later that he neglected to tell me he had diagnosed mental issues. Even though a committee of 12 in Ohio released me from that marriage on the grounds of fraud, one minister from Bismarck, North Dakota came after us both (Darwin and I) with such a force I shall never forget the details until the day I die. If you need the story the document is on our web site at: <http://darwinlauralee.com/literature-books/literature000005.htm> and is 111 pages long.

My mother and dad never had anything nice to say about me as a child and young adult, most of the emphasis was put on the wrong things I did, and by this I mean the things I did that they thought were wrong. Yes, I did some things wrong, but not all that I did was wrong even when they thought it was wrong. I was always a very principled person and have continued to be so unto this day. In other words I operate on principles of right and wrong and love the people involved just the same. Please don't get me wrong, my parents also did not do everything wrong. We always had indoor plumbing and a television set. There was always food on the table and we were never allowed to wear clothes with holes in them to school, so they always took care of our physical needs, but not our need to be loved. I was actually told I was no longer welcome to live in their house at the age of seventeen. Too survive I married a man I should never have married at the age of eighteen.

As I grew up, if it hadn't been for a school secretary and a high school English teacher I may have gone down a totally different path in life. Because there were 7 children in our family, me being the oldest, I was allowed to work two summers at the school I attended under a program called NYC or some combination of letters because they considered us low income. I did things like taking the new school books to the classrooms, cutting paper, running the ditto machine and various other jobs. As in all places of employment there are usually things which can always be done as the job never seems to come to an end. Well the school secretary was in charge of assigning me work to do and she always seemed to have work for me to do, but this one day she went to lunch and I ran out of work to do, so I just went to one of those jobs that never

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seemed to get done and I did that until she came back from lunch. When she came back and found me still working and not just sitting around because I ran out of work, she told me that I had good common sense. I held on to that compliment for years and it helped me to survive even during my darkest times.

The one other positive piece of input I received growing up was from a high school English teacher who liked my writing and told me I could become a Hollywood Playwright because I was really good at writing dialogue. I wrote a play in high school and my class performed it. Please understand that writing and grammar are two different things. While I did well in writing, my grammar skills are still something not to be desired by others. This same English teacher talked me out of quitting school at the age of sixteen. When my parents threw me out of their house at the age of seventeen I had most of my senior year left to complete and did drop out in January of my senior year to get married. I never completed my first semester finals so it was to the school system as if I missed that entire last year of school.

When that first marriage finally broke up after 11 and a half years I did go and get my GED and took entrance exams for college. I passed the GED with flying colors and even though I never graduated from high school my college entrance exam showed I had way over a 12th grade level of schooling. I did not complete college due to what some today would call a nervous break down. My whole life crashed and even though there were family members within 3 miles of where I lived I had no support. I woke up one morning with severe headaches that wouldn't stop. I was unable to sleep at night and when I got into my car I would remember stopping at a stop sign and could not remember getting from there to the other end of the bridge several miles away. My whole life crashed and I had to take a two month leave of absence from work. That was all they would allow with out firing me. I went from doctor to doctor and no one could diagnose the problem even though they did many tests. The severe headaches and blackouts lasted for 10 months without relief. I truly thought I was going to die. This all left almost as fast as it came on with residual after effects that lasted perhaps for another 2 to 3 years.

I never knew what it was that caused this problem because there was never any diagnoses and all the tests they took at the time ruled out the normal stuff. Later, when those problems passed I read many books hoping to find some answers. I thought perhaps it could have been a vitamin B deficiency as vitamin B complex in high doses helped me greatly in my recovery. Back then doctors did not test people much

for vitamin deficiency and I know I couldn't get them to do it. Some others have suggested years later that perhaps I had an aneurism in my head some place and they just didn't find it. Some evidence to support this latter theory is that they did run an EEG on me twice and the first one showed some seizure activity but the second EEG a month or two later showed no seizure activity. To this day I am still awakened in the middle of the night by severe head pain where my head feels as if it is going to split open and I feel as if I am going to die. This maybe happens every several months. Perhaps it is God's way of reminding me of a ride I took through life that in the end caused me to choose a totally different path in life. Though that trial was my darkest hour in more ways than I can go into detail on, it had a positive side because it led me to where I am today.

So in my darkest hour it was only me and God and I did not know Him yet. It was a process of years and I am still yet learning. My life was painful to me and I was not with people who loved me for there were none in my life at that time, not even family. Within a couple of years of this trial I moved to Arizona.

I of course have left out many volumes of details that I could have written but those times are over and they are gone and I only reveal what I have revealed to make a few points to anyone who will listen. There are times in life where people do abuse you and sometimes those times come to a point where you have to tell the other person or people involved that enough is enough. Relationships are two way streets, they consist of two or more people participating in the relationship. You can chase after people for years and try to have a relationship with them, but it usually ends in many tears if they do not want that relationship with you. I chased after my blood family for years trying to have even a small relationship with maybe some of them but in the end I was the only one who seemed to care and I was the only one who seemed to be hurt by any of it. The moral of the story is that you cannot make people love you any more than you can make people apologize to you. So now I know how God feels and I hope that those who still have feelings left in this day and age know also by their own life's journey or because they read about a small part of my life and how I got where I am today.

I have thought many times that my life in general would be so much easier if I just quit doing this [newsletter](#). According to Darwin, he says it takes a person with a lot of fortitude to do a [newsletter](#) such as the one we publish. Since 2001 both I and the [newsletter](#) have been called many nasty names some of which should not even role from the lips of any person claiming to follow Christ. Some of these nasty [letters](#) we have

published and others we have not. I think most people reading this [newsletter](#) get the idea of how our mail runs. Many times I am ashamed of the [letters](#) we receive and sometimes I am ashamed that I even have to respond to such [letters](#). Some also feel I should not print such [letters](#) and that the attitudes of people should not be revealed if we truly love that person. Yet when I read my Bible I see many places where God has revealed both the doings, attitudes and sins of not only His people but those they came in contact with through the years and God makes no apologies for these revelations and so neither will we.

We do not print whole life stories of people, putting our own bad slant on things in regard to that person. We do however take their own letters and notes to expose some of the bad things and bad attitudes that people have towards others and we are not afraid to name, names. Love is an action verb. Love is something you have to do. God does not give you love of others as a gift. Love is something that you have to learn how to do. Love can only be learned through many tears. A person must be able to feel pain themselves or feel pain through someone else. In my opinion when love is not present in peoples lives it causes them to do one of two things; #1-harden themselves against others so they do not get hurt anymore themselves or #2-see God and love through many tears. This learning to love one another is a painful process and takes a lifetime.

My turning point in life came when my whole life fell apart before my eyes back in 1986. It has been a long painful journey down that different road from there. Even when I turned to God and sought Him day and night I still had several years between 1986 and 1993 when I was not good enough for God nor could I fully find Him. I was just about to forget the whole concept when I heard about the [Worldwide Church of God](#). This was actually in my life experience the only church I had ever heard of or known that kept a Saturday Sabbath just as I knew about as a young child.

There were however major problems within the [Worldwide Church of God](#) which contributed to it's demise. For one thing, the top ministers meaning the founder and at least one son were corrupt in that they covered up Garner Ted's many indiscretions with other women. Is this a sin which people should cover up out of love. In my opinion the answer is no. I grew up with a dad who was just like Garner Ted. My dad is or was a cross country truck driver with a different woman in many towns. I grew up in this stench and it affected every single person in my immediate family in some way, none of which were good. Everyone in my immediate family felt we should keep my dad's

indiscretions a secret and that can sometimes work, until one finds out their own cousin is really a half sister. A person then begins to wonder how many other siblings they might have. I knew of my dad's indiscretions early in my life as my mother not having anyone else to confide in, chose me the oldest daughter to talk to in regard to my dad's indiscretions. As a young girl my mother used to show me the love letters my dad had written to other women and some pictures of my dad in bed with other women. When my dad felt threatened he would throw the evidence of his indiscretions into the coal furnace and leave the house. My mother would quick grab me and have me go down in the basement with her and together we would dig this evidence out of the hot coals and piece the letters and pictures together. None of this should have been the job of a child and yet even though the experience affected my own life I would not have given it up for the world as I learned from it. If I hadn't gone through this experience I would not have believed that I had a dad who did such things. Because I saw the evidence I believed and I knew. I was also the only person in my immediate family who ever sought help to heal from what went on in that house when I was a child. I was also the only one who did not keep my dad's indiscretions a secret from the rest of the world, part of why I have no family today. Abuse, secrets and darkness all go hand in hand. My youngest sister actually got mad at me when I told her that our cousin was really our half sister. This shows the need to not want to know certain truths especially when they are painful.

As I grew up in Wisconsin, we used to have Sunday laws when I was a kid. Our Sunday law at that time was all day with no stores open, not even a gas station. So if my dad was not out on the road, he was stuck home all day on Sunday with all of us. It was on those valued Sunday's that I saw in my mothers eyes how much she loved my dad and wanted him there. My dad of course either never saw it or just never cared. I believe the latter due to his own actions.

Over time my mother became hardened and hateful not only towards my dad but also towards her own children who were fathered by a man she came to despise, hate and later divorced. My mother was just as much a victim as the rest of us were. I don't think she knew what my dad was doing to her and to all of us until it came out that her own sister was pregnant by her husband, my dad. After that we were all pretty much banished from my grandparents house except on rare occasions, because they took care of my mothers younger sister through her pregnancy and after. My mothers sister was under age so my dad was charged with statutory rape.

At this time my mother was stuck between a rock and a hard place. She was pregnant with her third child when this all happened. She had never had a job, and there was no welfare or food stamps in those days and she didn't have a drivers license. To top it all off she couldn't go back and live with her parents as they wouldn't allow it with them having to take care of her younger pregnant sister due to the mess my dad had created. Now, I believe that through the many years of my mothers own guilt for having stayed with my dad for lack of any place else to go at the time that she thought her children did not understand why she stayed with such a man. I understood, because she explained it too me at a young age. The devastation and destruction that my dad caused not only to his own family but to many other families was a destruction that spanned many years and affected many victims and still continues today. Should it have been kept a secret early on? No, it should have been brought out into the light and we should have gotten some third party help in order to start the healing process. That never happened.

As an adult when I finally did go get some help to deal with the abuses in my life, it took the counselors many years before they could figure out why I was in counseling. They always asked me if my dad drank, but they never asked if he had sexual relations with many women other than my mother and since I grew up with all that as a way of life I never thought to mention it. It threw the counselors off when I told them my dad didn't drink, which he didn't. So even my dad had some things right. All people have a mixture of right and wrong early in life. This is why there is so much confusion both in and out of the church. I don't care who you are, or whether you are in a church or not, every man woman and child has a mixture of right and wrong inside themselves. God does not come down and actually tap us on the shoulder and give us voice instructions. He left us his word but man has corrupted some of that and words have changed meaning over time. We have lost a lot of understanding which man had even say 400 years ago. We many times think we have something right and later find that we really had it wrong. Take Sunday for instance, many of us kept Sunday and did Christmas and Easter and then we found out that it was wrong to do those things, so we stopped.

My parents were not always wrong and I was not always right there was always a mixture of right and wrong. Just as my dads behavior affected my entire family in a bad way and caused our whole family to collapse, so also did the behavior of the ministry in the Worldwide Church of God cause that church to collapse. People were abused, sometimes badly, some were deeply hurt by the entire

experience, some left, and some stayed, but all people who had any connection to the [Worldwide Church of God](#) were affected by the problems and eventually the whole thing collapsed and splintered just as my own family did. Some people knew what was happening early on and said nothing, others knew and had evidence and used it to blackmail the ministry either for money or for power. Those who did try to warn people were fired, not heard or received well by other members. Some were not only abused by ministry but by other brethren as well. All people can be victims sometimes and abusers at other times. Our society often rewards people for abuse of others. We all live in a crazy mixed up world and sometimes it is so hard to sort out what is right and what is wrong that we give up and just want to go and hide.

This [newsletter](#) has brought me much joy and also much grief. There is a great sadness that covers me when people get so angry that they say things or do things which should not be done by those who follow Christ. Just the other day I pulled email and there was a note for me (sent via an unsubscribe form) calling me an "idiot". The person who sent it is a coward because they have hidden themselves from view by hiding their identity. When I turn down articles I sometimes never know how the other person will react. Will they get mad and never speak to me again or will they understand my position and be okay with the reasons I turned it down. I have been accused of many things I never did. I have cried many tears for the loss of friendships through the years. As [Art Linkletter](#) used to say, "kids say the darndest things", but these are adults and I am not laughing. Why would people who have come out of abuse continue to abuse others? We need to heal what is wrong and move on. Notice please that I did not say to forget it and move on as most of the world says but does not do. I said we need to heal what is wrong and move on to do the right things.

When someone abuses us, we need to tell them and let them decide if they want to change what they are doing. If they don't want to change it, let them go until such time that they want to have and work on that relationship with us. If what they are doing affects other people, we do not cover up or hide what they are doing. Expose it so others will be warned. Understand what abuse is and is not. Certain abuses are very obvious, like when someone hits you or beats on you all the time. That is abuse and that is obvious. Other abuses are more subtle and can go on for years.

It is not a sin or an abuse for people to disagree with each other, it is however a sin to murder them whether spiritually or literally. For instance David Ben-Ariel and I disagree

on the subject of women preachers and because of that David has chosen not to speak to me until I repent. One of us is obviously wrong on this point, though we both believe we have it right. One of us is wrong out of ignorance. Just like when we kept Sunday church we thought we had that right until the day we had to admit to ourselves and everyone else that we were wrong. Recently Nathaniel Burson has requested that I repent of keeping a 15th Passover rather than a 14th Passover as he keeps. Again, obviously one of us is wrong, but in this particular case Nathaniel thus far still speaks to me but tells me I am worshipping a different God than he does with the implication of course that I am worshipping Satan, where as he is worshipping the true God. Nathaniel tells me I am not one of the brethren and has sent me several very descriptive emails where he describes his sword with my blood dripping off of it. There is only one more step between the thought of murdering someone and actually doing it. If you can mark a person as not being a brother or a sister it will be very easy for you to turn them over to a **Hitler** like regime in the future. Does anyone see anything at all wrong with these pictures or is it me who has it all wrong?

In a true functional family aren't we sort of stuck together by blood to those we are related to? There is an old saying that you can choose your friends, but you cannot choose your family. If however our family is a functional family then all the members will be found working for the good of all in the family even when they disagree with each other on certain points. A functional family does not throw away the members that it does not agree with in order to get their own way. Think of a blood family member that you are very close to, one who you love very much. Don't you want to see that family member happy, healthy and successful in whatever good things they choose to do? Of course you do. You don't want to throw them away just because you think you are right and they are wrong about any given subject. Why then would you throw away members of your spiritual family? This has to end and we have to find a way to mend and heal our spiritual family or those people who still keep Sunday will never know we are alive because they will never see our lights shine in a dark world. Most of us do not do functional family very well, myself included, because many if not most of us grew up in dysfunctional families so there was nothing or no one physically there to teach us how a

functional family works. Many of us had to learn through trial and error what works and what does not work in order to have a functional family and maybe we still don't have it all right, but we try.

This **newsletter** was always rooted in trying to stop abuse and heal what is wrong even though many do not quite understand the concept. Expose the wrong and promote the good and eventually Christ will return and take care of the rest. This **newsletter** does not cater to the rich and famous, it caters to God's true people those who understand that God's people need to work together for the good of all even though we disagree in regard to certain doctrines. No one knows the many tears the editor of this **newsletter** sometimes cries over the loss of a friend such as David Ben-Ariel or Nathaniel Burson or Arlan Weight or Lee Ann Sanders. No one really knows or understands the pain I feel when I have to turn down an article because it is something which can be painful to the writer. Some people understand the decision I have to make in regard to whether to print something or not print it, others do not see this and believe we should print everything and anything especially when it is theirs. Someone does have to make a decision on what gets printed and what does not and that falls on my shoulders which can be a burden at times, especially when I know the writer is very caring and sincere in what they have written. Other times I cry for the continual abuse that people send over here. For those who do this sort of thing I will print it and if I have your name or email address I will print that along with it. If you send it the cowards way with no name, you can rest assured that God will give me the tools to figure out who you are at some point. If you don't believe that, just ask some of the cowards that only thought they were sending me an anonymous email. Sooner or later you will be

exposed if not by me then by someone else.

I have lived in Bismarck, North Dakota since April of 1999, but when I was still living in Wisconsin and going through some trials, I prayed to God for wisdom, understanding and knowledge and then I got this **newsletter**, so be careful what you pray for and when you do pray for those things and receive them, then teach them to those who will listen and love those who disagree with you. I have to give a very honorable mention to Robert Schmid for his article titled "**Love the Stranger**" and I encourage all people to read the article. Robert sent me an article several months ago and I turned it down and I simply told him why. Since it was the first article that he sent me and I turned it down, the way it usually goes is they don't come back a second time for a possible turn down. Robert was not discouraged and he sent me another article titled "**Love the Stranger**" and he practices what he preaches in that article so I am impressed with him though I have never met him. Of course I and Robert do not agree on all things or I wouldn't have turned his first article down, however I do think that Robert understands full well the concept of working together for the good of all and Christ will straighten the rest out when he comes.

I also recently turned down an article by a woman who mentioned she had an abusive mother. I don't know the details, but I cried when I had to turn down that article because I know she cares and is sincere in what she wrote. I can't mention her name because I don't want to embarrass or publicly hurt her but I am glad she didn't get mad and leave us because we will be publishing some articles in the future which I hope will help people who have been abused in the past or present by blood and church families.

Times are continuing to get worse and worse and one never knows at this point what tomorrow will bring, but lets all make a real effort from now until Christ returns to work together in those areas where we do agree and the rest will get worked out when Christ returns. Do not throw people away or you may find yourself not in that first resurrection. For those who do get mad and leave you, try to stop them, but if you can't, let them go and help those who will listen as the love of many has waxed cold. In the sixties I saw people care for each other, now days it is getting less and less. Even neighbors in neighborhoods don't want anything to do with the person right next door. In North Dakota the air is cleaner than in Wisconsin, but the people over all are friendlier in Wisconsin where as here in North Dakota they slam the door in your face after they tell you that they don't do neighbors so if you have some friendly neighbors cherish them.

On a very personal note, our cat Mous



died on August 23, 2008 at the age of 15 years and 1 month. I have never mourned for any animal quite as much as I have the loss of this very special tailless Manx cat. What was really special about this cat was how much he suffered over the last three years but yet how much you could tell that he truly loved life and living. He is missed even though we have 7 other cats.

Many of you may also have noticed that I changed the name of my store from "Jewelry by Laura" to "**Laura Lee Enterprises**

Shopping Mall OnLine".

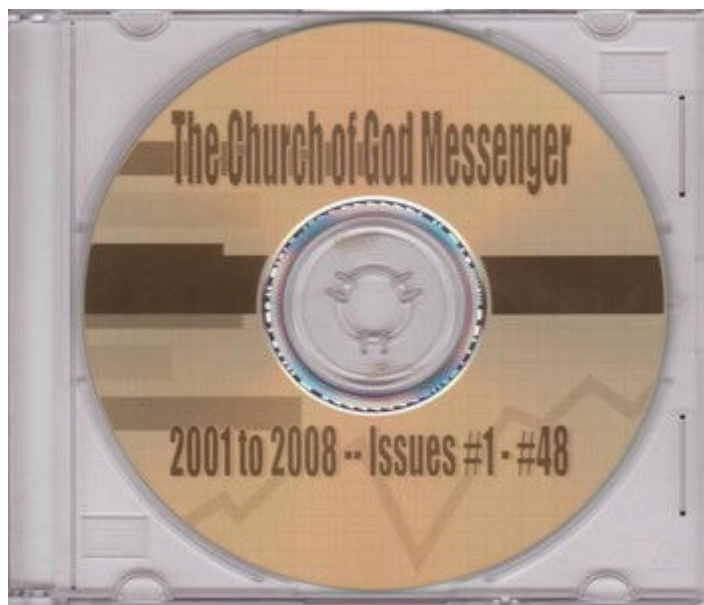
I decided my vision was too narrow in only wanting to sell jewelry that I make, so I changed my vision. At first I was only going to create one store, but I ran into problems with shipping charges so I had to change my vision again and

decided to create many stores and hook them all to the original **Shopping Mall**. So in April 2008 I created the main store titled "**Laura Lee Enterprises Shopping Mall OnLine**". In September 2008 I created "**Laura Lee Enterprises Pet Supplies Store**" and in November I created "**Laura Lee Enterprises Garage Sale Store**". I plan to create more stores in the future, including a "Free Stuff Store".

My vision in creating these many stores and stocking them is not based on just making money. My vision is based on giving back to the community I live in and to help others when needed. Because my stores are new, they are not generating any income at this point, and I may have to wait for a period of time before they get going, but what I want to do is give a percentage of total sales to different places and people who depend on donations to help others. For example, "**Laura Lee Enterprises Pet Supplies Store**" will give one percent of all sales excluding, sales tax, shipping charges and returns to the animal shelter in Mandan, North Dakota which is a no kill animal shelter. Other places I am considering for donations are the **Salvation Army**, our local food pantry and our local domestic abuse shelter.

We know of a family within the Church of God family that is struggling to make ends meet at this time. Norman Edwards had a

vision, a very large vision and problems came and things went down hill from there. This could have happened to any of us and if it were us, we would hope that perhaps someone would help us in our time of need. We want to try to help this family even if it is only in a small way.



We have put together a **CD** which includes all 48 issues of "**The Church of God Messenger**" which were printed from 2001 to 2008. We will offer this **CD** for sale in our main shopping mall for a cost of \$10.00's. After taking out expenses for materials, postage, CD burning and labeling, we want to send the rest of the money from each **CD** sold to help Norman Edwards and his family. If we only get \$30.00's from this venture to send to Norman and his family, it will be \$30.00's more than he had before. At this time I do not know what postage charges will be, so we may have to adjust the price later, but for now we will start with a charge of \$10.00's. The **CD's** will be "Lightscribe" meaning the labels are also burned into the **CD**. The **newsletter** files contained on the disk are all PDF files.

Anyone who wants a **CD** and wants to help Norman Edwards and his family by purchasing one of these **CD's** will have to order it from **our store**. We will not take any orders for it via email or snail mail. You can pay for it with a debit card, a credit card, check or money order. Debit cards and credit cards go through **PayPal**. If you are paying by check or money order you must still fill out the information needed in **the store** and then mail the check or money order to the address on your invoice.

We also want all of you to consider **our store** for items you may have to sell or give away. We have many free ad spots. We may

even be able to give you a free ad page in our main mall. We truly want to help all of our brethren in some small way. So email us with any questions you have in regard to putting a free ad in our main mall.

For those who have noticed that I came into the Church of God much later than many people did, I just want you to know that because of that point I am able to understand not just those within the church of God but also those who are in the world because I spent a lot of time in the world as well as in the church, so I know why people do some of the dumb and crazy things they do. When a person comes out of the world and becomes one of God's people they should not forget where they came from or they will be of no value to God or other people. You have to have an ability to put yourself into someone else's shoes before you judge them. In today's church of God there is a lot of judging going on mixed with a lack of understanding and not much mercy or wisdom. If I had come into contact with the **Worldwide Church of God** any sooner than I actually did in my life I would never have stayed with the Church of God because of all the abuse that was going on. I would have left and called you all heretics or something. My thoughts are, lets do a better job at working together and if you have a problem with me or anyone else, go to the person you have a problem with and try to work it out somehow and if you can't work the problem out, then agree to love each other anyway. **Love the stranger**, for you were once a stranger to God.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/12009-049-01.htm>

*****THE END*****

We are Grateful (11-26-08)

by Lori Johnson
(King William, Virginia)

Folks,

David and I want to say that we are grateful that you are in our lives and that we count ourselves wonderfully blessed to know you. Some of you we have not seen or heard from in a while, and the time and space between us sometimes makes us ache with a longing for God's people.

We extend our love to all of you on this eve of national thanksgiving. While it looks like a long, difficult time is ahead, we must continue to love one another and pray for one another, and to keep our eyes upon the Lord. We are praying that all is well with you and that you would draw near to Him for refreshment, as only He can provide.

May God richly bless you.

The Johnsons

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/I2009-049-02.htm>

THE END**

Mortgage Crisis (12-5-08)

by Sandy Kile (Palisade, Minnesota)

Dear Brethren,

I've been wondering how the mortgage crisis has affected the brethren. I'm sure there are some people who are saying, "I'm sure the brethren couldn't possibly be having problems like losing their homes."

I have this to say to them: Why not? I know for a fact brethren were in Hurricane Katrina. So I wish if people have lost their homes they would write in and let us know so the rest of the assembly could at least provide moral support. If nothing else, they will know someone gives a hoot.

In Yayshua's name,
Sandy Kile

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/I2009-049-03.htm>

THE END**

Samuele Bacchiocchi Dies

(12-23-08)

by Craig White (Australia)

Bacchiocchi Family writes:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of our precious father and husband. Shortly after midnight on Saturday, December 20, **Samuele Bacchiocchi** breathed his last breath. During his last breaths, he was surrounded by his three children and wife of 47 years (today would have been his 47th wedding anniversary), and we read together 2 Timothy 4:6-8: "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." This quote sums up the life of a man who sacrificed practically all of his time and energy to help others understand the Bible more fully, even up to end as he gave his last seminar in England the Sabbath before being taken to the emergency room.

We are very grateful that we could all be together at this time and believe that it is

fitting that God chose the Sabbath day, the day that he loved most and spent his life preaching and writing about, to be the day that he entered into his final earthly rest. We take comfort in the fact that the next time he will open his eyes he will see his Lord and Savior, and that we will be reunited with him in heaven. His incredible journey here on earth has come to an end, but may we continue his legacy until Jesus returns!

The funeral services will be held this coming Sabbath, December 27, at 4:00 pm at the Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

We would like to thank each and every one of you again for the incredible outpouring of love and prayers that have provided us with supernatural peace and comfort during this difficult time. We are privileged to be a part of this extraordinary community of faith.

If any of you would like to send a message to the Bacchiocchi Family, we encourage you to send it to any of the following addresses of his children: Loretta Bacchiocchi, at loretta_bacchiocchi@fhchs.edu, Gianlucca Bacchiocchi at bacchiocchi@gmail.com, or Daniel Bacchiocchi at dbacch@sbcglobal.net

May God richly bless you all,
The Bacchiocchi Family

Craig White writes:

What a tragedy: such a colourful personality; such a speaker; such a popular man! He will be missed by all who were touched by his persona and research - for he was known by millions around the world and must rank among the top Adventist scholars of all time. I still recall picking up his book on **'From Sabbath to Sunday'** in 1977 or 1978 from an Adventist bookstore and was so impressed that I just had to buy it - it has since been one of my all time favourite books. You can see it free online at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/2189399/From-Sabbath-to-Sunday> The last book he wrote was **'Popular Beliefs. Are they Biblical?'** - I picked up a copy at the local Adventist Bookstore for only AUD\$13.95 just a few weeks ago. Over the years I read and enjoyed many more well researched books by him and especially his research into the Feast Days and why they should be kept by Christians (including Adventists) resulted in 2 books. These books have been well received by 1,000's and I am sure will help many to understand them. He undertook this research as the founder of the Friends of the Sabbath in the USA, John Merritt, challenged him to look into the subject. The seeds from this research and books, is taking root and spreading.

Also, I am sure that hundreds are

grateful for the help he provided to Church of God elders and members who were under attack by the apostates that took over their Church and who threw them out. I think he and I corresponded a couple of times, but it was only in the early or mid-1990s that we were in contact via e-mail and I recall asking him to visit Australia for a conference I had initiated for which he agreed to attend and be the keynote speaker. This became Australia's first sabbatarian conference - the Friends of the Sabbath, held in 1995. Hundreds of attendees from over 10 groups attended in Sydney. The following year 3 smaller seminars were held in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. That was the first time I met him personally and enjoyed his company on several occasions. And again, he attended the conference which was held in Brisbane in late 2006. That was the last time I spoke with **Sam** (he preferred to be called **Sam** rather than **Dr. Bacchiocchi**), although we did exchange some e-mails since that time. I felt rather despondent after reading the message below, but know that Sam will be resurrected in accordance with God's timetable for all of us. Regards to all, - Craig

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/I2009-049-04.htm>

THE END**

Greek forms of "The" (11-16-07)

by Norman S. Edwards

(Port Austin, Michigan)

This letter is in response to an article [Let the women keep silent in the churches--What did Paul Mean?](#), which was published in Issue #42.

Norman S. Edwards writes:

I agreed with nearly all of the article, but could not figure out the statement "The Greeks have many forms of the word "the" but this exact word is "hai" 3588" as it relates to 1Cor 14:34. I could not find that word at all in my Bible helps, although they did show that there are manuscript variations on that verse.

Dianne D. McDonnell writes:

There are 16 forms of the word "the" in Greek, and most Bible helps don't get into the variations, or mention words left out of translation. "Hai" is the feminine plural in the nominative case. It is the first word written in the Greek verse, 1 Cor 14:34, and usually goes untranslated. You will need a good Interlinear to check on it, or PC Study Bible's Interlinear. The word "Your" is added in some translations-- making "your" women. But the

word for "your" it is not in the Greek. The Greek word "hoi" is the male form of the word in the same case, nominative, "Hoi" is translated "Those" in several verses. Both Hai and Hoi should be translated the same--- "those". A literal translation of 1 Cor 14:34 would be, "**Those** women in the churches, let them hold their peace". Meaning **THOSE** women who are causing trouble. The same word translated "keep silent" is translated "hold his peace" in 1 Cor 14:30. Also in Luke 9:36 and Luke 18:39 we find the same word translated as a more moderate holding of one's peace, being peaceful-- and NOT as being silent. But the women in question were a specific group, very likely unconverted wives attending with converted husbands. Hope this helps.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/12009-049-05.htm>

THE END**

Abuse in Marriage (12-28-06)

by Nony George (Austria)

Nony George writes:

My hubbie and I attended with **WCG** etc. many years ago. A friend who also attended was bashed by her **WCG**-attending husband. After nearly 15 years together she finally split from him. My husband feels that she should have stayed - that marriage is only to be broken under adultery. She is now remarried to a loving and caring man. But my hubbie can't see that; he feels she is living in adultery by remarrying. I can't make him see the hypocrisy in this - is there anything you can suggest or an article? Thanks! Nony

Laura Lee writes:

Your friend was absolutely right to leave an abusive marriage. No one should ever stay in any marriage where they are being physically abused. God does not bind any marriage when the satanic practice of physical abuse is being perpetrated by either spouse as a way of life within the marriage.

We did start a section on our **Web Site** titled "Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage". Just go to our **opening page** and scroll down to that section and then click on the button of the subject you are interested in. It will give you a list of articles and items related to the subject you want. Some articles will have more subject content than others do as we just run a word search on each article and then list it if the word marriage, divorce or remarriage shows up in our word search. More articles and items will continue to be added to this section over time.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/12009-049-06.htm>

THE END**

Did You Place My Ad? (04-02-06)

by Robert Goldman (Ione, California)

Robert Goldman writes:

Dear Darwin and Laura,

Hello! I'm touching bases with you to check if ya'll got the tithe that I sent out over a month ago. Also, I haven't heard back from ya'll on questions I've sent your way-- Do you know anyone in the body that you can put me in touch with in the area of the prophetic dreams, visions, personal prophetic word, the gift?

Laura Lee writes:

Yes, we did get your gift donation. Thank you, it is greatly appreciated to help with the cost of printing and mailing the **newsletter**. Thank you.

In answer to your other question, no, we do not know of anyone who is into prophetic dreams or visions.

Robert Goldman writes:

Plus one of my **first letters** to you and **one** after asking if you were going to place the **ad** I sent -- in **newsletter** or **web site**: The **ad** I sent was about requesting help with things needed from the body -- pen pals, and financial, etc... But you never responded again and I never saw it in your **newsletters** sent to me so far. So could you please let me know?

Laura Lee writes:

All of the above have been printed in previous newsletters. We honestly wish that we could answer and/or print all letters we receive in a timely manner, but we receive a tremendous amount of letters and we only have a limited amount of print space.

Robert Goldman writes:

Thank you for your time and help in these matters and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Oh could you please answer this letter by snail-mail? Shalom unto you both, Robert Joseph Goldman

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/12009-049-07.htm>

THE END**

Thank You! (11-25-07)

by Marcos Gomez (Ione, California)

Dear Darwin and Laura,

Hello, I am sending my new address and

I want to thank you for sending me "**The Church of God Messenger**". It has blessed me a lot. Sincerely, Marcos M. Gomez

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/12009-049-08.htm>

THE END**

Thanks! (11-02-07)

by Peter Kamau (Kenya)

Thanks for good work, God Bless. I look forward to correspond with you.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/12009-049-09.htm>

THE END**

Spamming? (10-30-07)

by Mildred Kaping

(Shell Knob, Missouri)

Mildred Kaping writes:

This smacks of spamming as far as I am concerned.

Laura Lee writes:

Dear Mildred,

Sending you one "Outreach" email could hardly be considered Spam Mail. Most mail is unsolicited since you have no idea it is coming in most cases.

Anyway, you unsubscribed from our "Outreach" List, but then you sent me an email when the note clearly says: "**Once you have unsubscribed from this list, every effort will be made to keep you off of our outreach list as long as you do not email us in the future.**"

Since you emailed us after you unsubscribed, you probably put yourself back on the "Outreach" List.

Some of the brethren like the occasional "Outreach" email, we are sorry that you did not.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/12009-049-10.htm>

THE END**

Classified Ads (07-30-07)

by P. F. Lazor (Ione, California)

P. F. Lazor writes:

Dear Darwin & Laura,

I hope someone sends money to cover **cost of a subscription**, so I can keep getting your **newsletter**; as I'm an indigent prisoner who has no other means. I'm not

sure my helper outside would be willing to use my email operation which he takes care of, for things like [newsletters](#). I think he wants me to limit more to critical personal letters -- that type of thing. You have my attention about your [classified ad](#), starting at \$0. Is it acceptable to put on there that we are seeking donations for my attorney fees for my parole, so I can get my freedom? And related, message, for people to communicate with me? Please let me know when you can, as I'd like to do that if it is acceptable.

Your renewal page is attached herewith. Thank you and Yahweh bless you and yours, P.F. Lazor

Darwin & Laura Lee write:

We are assuming that you are asking about putting an ad in our "[Classified Ad Depot](#)" and that would be fine, except that we do not put the ads in there unless they are our own ads. The person who is placing the ad is the one that puts the ad in there, online. Since you have no internet access, you would not be able to do that personally, but perhaps your helper could do it for you.

What we will do is print it in "[The Church of God Messenger](#)" and it will be posted on our [Web Site](#) in the "Ads & Info" section under advertisements.

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/I2009-049-11.htm>

*****THE END*******

Orphan Needs Help (6-26-07)

by Julius Lenkume (Kenya)

Dear Brethren,

I am Julius from Kenya. I am a pastor with Church of God in Kenya (Maasai Mission). I have been serving the brethren for 13 years now.

God has given me a servant hood spirit and many times my home has become a place for me to help many needy. I am not rich or in salary but because of the love of God I do help those who are more needy than me.

Example I have a young boy, whom I am caring for who is an orphan, since the death of both of his parents from AIDs. He dropped out of school and went away from home, seeking for a better life. I have no alternative except to welcome him at my home. I do give some used cloths, food and accommodation. I am not able to send him to school despite his being very bright academically!

He came from south Nyanza, his name is Joshua Oching Odongo of Luo tribe and I am from Maasai tribe. The Luo tribe is commonly known for being HIV victim in large number in Kenya. Despite of tribalism I love him. Please help this boy. Julius

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/I2009-049-12.htm>

*****THE END*******

Not "Real"? (5-30-08)

by Jeff Maehr

(Pagosa Springs, Colorado)

This letter is in response to the item "Satan's Agent?", which was published in Issue #39.

Jeff Maehr writes:

It seems strange to me that this dialog continues on without truly looking at the facts. Laura Lee makes this comment in one of her responses: "Satan is the one that has deceived the world into thinking that God doesn't allow His precious women to do anything REAL in the church."

Laura Lee writes:

Actually that comment was made by Dianne D. McDonnell in a letter titled "[Satan's Agent](#)".

Jeff Maehr writes:

I was shocked to read this, and it is almost an exact statement made by millions of women libbers in past decades. Women in the past felt their roles in the church and society weren't "real." To raise children and maintain a household wasn't a "real" job and didn't really "count."

Laura Lee writes:

I believe you are twisting Dianne's statement into a pretzel. Aren't there a whole bunch of people, mostly men within the Church of God, who don't believe that women have just as much of a right as men do to use every one of their spiritual gifts within the parameters of the church? All of the spiritual gifts were given to all of God's people, both men and women. This issue has absolutely nothing to do with women's libbers or not wanting to raise children and maintain a household. After all don't most men work 40 hours or more a week at a job and still do church related activities? Are you saying that women can't raise children, maintain a household and still do church related activities? Nonsense!

Jeff Maehr writes:

What many women wanted and still want is what men have, and to do what men do.

Laura Lee writes:

This is nonsense! I definitely would not want my husbands job and if anything ever happened to him I would have no use for ninety nine percent of his stuff. If a woman

wants to be a firefighter or a police officer, I believe there is plenty of work out there to support both genders in whatever profession they choose to work in. If a woman is sometimes able to do a better job than a man then shame on that man for being so lazy that he doesn't do what it takes to be the best in his profession, but don't blame this problem on women wanting your jobs or what you have. There is a whole big world of lazy men out there who won't lift even one finger to support their families. If these men's wives wouldn't go out and work for a living then no one would have to worry about raising children as they would all be dead due to starvation.

Jeff Maehr writes:

They have left THEIR "first estate" as God designed it, and went for all that men had and their authority and positions in society, and now the church.

Laura Lee writes:

Again, nonsense! Read your Bible, even God allowed women to be in different positions of authority, for example Deborah was a prophetess who judged Israel (Judges 4:4), and Phebe was a minister (Romans 16:1). God's true people whether men or women are driven to teach and preach to all people. You sir are wrong about women having left their "first estate".

Jeff Maehr writes:

Has that served society... or the family... or our kids? How can it possibly serve the church?

Laura Lee writes:

You talk as though converted church women just abandon their husbands and their children to go serve the church. Many church women either never had children or their children have grown up and left home. How does it then serve society, or the family, or our kids if these women sit home now and do nothing. A truly converted women is still going to be driven to take care of her children and her household responsibilities as well as whatever she can do to help those in the church, depending on the time she has available to her.

Jeff Maehr writes:

Was this all their fault? No, because women HAVE been and are treated wrongly and contrary to what the bible clearly explains.

Laura Lee writes:

Now it is my turn to be shocked! Finally an admission that women have been treated wrongly and contrary to what the Bible clearly explains, over all and through time. Great!

Jeff Maehr writes:

However, for our COG women to feel that raising a family, taking care of a household, providing meals and other things for their family isn't "real," and that preaching and teaching in the church is what is "real," well, that is a sad day for us all.

Laura Lee writes:

I do not believe you will find a truly converted Church of God women who feels that raising a family, taking care of a household, providing meals and other things for their family isn't "real". You are the one who keeps visiting this phraseology. What Dianne D. McDonnell really said was that women are not being allowed to do anything

"real" in the church and that would be a true statement. Women in the Church of God who try to use their spiritual gifts to preach or teach others within the Church of God are met with a great deal of resistance and that is one reason why you do not see more women doing more within the Church of God and that is the part that is truly sad, because then we have lost their input and their help.

Jeff Maehr writes:

Women serve in many ways in the church if they choose to, so why is preaching, or being considered a "minister," or "apostle" such a coveted belief system?

Laura Lee writes:

Are you saying that a woman who wants to be a minister should not be allowed to, just because she is a woman? Do people honestly covet a belief system? Nonsense! Last I knew, a belief system is just that a belief system and everyone has one. God is the one who gives us our spiritual gifts and then it is up to every man, woman and child to do the duties they have been assigned to do by God to use those spiritual gifts. If a woman has been given the spiritual gift to preach, be a minister or an apostle and they refuse to do their duties it would be a sin, because they are not doing as God commanded them to do. God never gave anyone a spiritual gift with the intent that they never use it.

Jeff Maehr writes:

David Ben-Ariel mentioned the preaching or teaching in an 'Official capacity,' not that they couldn't be involved with bible study discussions, children's classes, etc.

Laura Lee writes:

What is the difference between an official capacity or any of the others you listed above? Wouldn't the same thing be

taught either way?

David Ben-Ariel promotes the idea of division within the Church of God rather than teaching those who may not understand the Bible as he does. It is possible that David Ben-Ariel may be wrong in what he is teaching, which is an excellent reason why one should not quit speaking to those who differ in beliefs from themselves. When one gets that holier than though attitude and cuts people off from themselves then there is no way to teach those you have cut off because all communication is lost.

Jeff Maehr writes:

What is it about what Paul stated on this don't people understand or want to accept?

Laura Lee writes:

If you truly want to know, I would suggest that you read the following two articles: [Let Your Women Keep Silence in the Churches](#): and [Let the women keep silent in the churches-- What did Paul Mean?](#)

Letter found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/12009-049-13.htm>

*****THE END*****

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Web Site at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/>

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PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATES ---

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

To send out prayer requests without joining our list, use the form at: <http://darwinlauralee.com/data/05-21-06.htm> or join our prayer request list by using the form at: <http://darwinlauralee.com/data/05-17-06.htm>

December 8, 2008--Ericka and her Family

Thank you so much for praying for me, my name is Ericka and I really see the answer of God. Thank you for praying for me. I am a single mother of three girls. God bless you all.

[Prayer Request Archives](#)

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/p2009-049-01.htm>

*****THE END*****

THE MESSAGE BOARD (ADS & INFO) ---

the-cog-messenger@earthlink.net

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

- December 20, 2008**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- December 27, 2008**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #254 & Lesson #255
- January 3, 2009**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- January 9, 2009**----Bible Study
- January 10, 2009**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #256 & Lesson #257
- January 17, 2009**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- January 24, 2009**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #258 & Lesson #259
- January 31, 2009**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- February 7, 2009**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #260 & Lesson #261
- February 14, 2009**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- February 20, 2009**----Bible Study
- February 21, 2009**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #262 & Lesson #263
- February 28, 2009**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
- March 7, 2009**----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #264 & Lesson #265
- March 14, 2009**----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up

If you want to host Sabbath Services and need 2 Sabbaths in a row for your presentation and/or would like to have your presentation listed on our Sabbath Schedule in our newsletter which is sent out to the public, the next deadline for that would be: February 15, 2009. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

SABBATH SERVICES

Every Saturday at 2:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 1:00 PM for Fellowship

BIBLE STUDY

Every 6 weeks on Friday at 8:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Front Door Open at 6:30 PM for Fellowship and Pot Luck Meal (Bring Food)

Manners

*by Jeffrey Caldwell
(Redwood City, California)*

Ideas regarding manners and sharing, response to question about handling rude children who were hogging the food offered after worship services.

Our basic instruction is to impress upon our children the LORD's instructions [Deuteronomy 6:6-7] constantly reciting or referring to them.

So, the question is, which of the LORD's instructions apply in this case?

An instruction of holiness that seems to apply in this case is: "You shall rise before the aged and show deference to the old; you shall fear your God. I am the LORD" (Leviticus 19:32). The person who is hurt the most when the young and strong elbow their way to the food and take it all is the old lady on a walker. For this to happen in the same place where a worship service was just held is an even greater outrage, since it is also written: "You shall keep My sabbaths and

venerate My sanctuary, Mine, the LORD's." (Leviticus 26:2). Among other things, these particular instructions should be recited and brought to their minds. To act in such a thoughtless and greedy manner is neither showing proper respect to the aged, nor venerating the place of worship.

A basic principle of manners and sharing as expressed in the New Testament is: "You should each look after the interests of others, not your own." (I Corinthians. 10:24) -- another instruction of the LORD worth reciting and impressing upon "children" of all ages.

Item found on line at:
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/i2009-049-01.htm>

THE END**

Place of Safety Camp?

by Alan Croyle (Emporia, Virginia)

Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, 1 John

4:1-3. I sent my nickels to **Garner Ted** from West Virginia, early 60's as a kid; the Place of Safety Camp near Armstrong, Ontario, Canada, including temple, runway and booths. Contact: Alan Croyle, PO Box 7, Emporia, VA 23847

Item found on line at:
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/i2009-049-02.htm>

THE END**

Sixth Annual Women's Conference

*by Lori Johnson
(King William, Virginia)*

This is straight from the August 2008 Edition of "News for You" from **United Christian Ministries**: "The Sixth Annual Women's Conference in Birmingham, Alabama was a huge success! Not because of size but because of the loving spirit of the

Subscription Update For Those Who Are Unable to Pay a Subscription Price for "The Church of God Messenger":

Gift Donations Received:
Previous Balance: \$353.06

11-26-08 -- RL -- \$5.00
Total = \$5.00 THANK YOU!

Total Gift Donations:
\$358.06

Subscriptions Requested:
11-23-08 -- John A. Jewel
12-22-08 -- Les Petho

1 Year Subscriptions Paid:
John A. Jewel -- \$22.20
Les Petho -- \$14.76

Postage Increase
Extra stamps -- \$3.84

Amount Left: \$317.26

Subscription Requests Pending at this Time: None

ladies present. The conference opened on Friday evening July 18th with the 'Friendship Garden,' an activity that helped the attendees get to know each other as well as prompting a wonderful discussion about many of the elements required to be a true friend to others. Sabbath morning our keynote speaker, Mrs. Carol Boyer, shared a message entitled 'Dancing Through Life' with a very uplifting and encouraging story and life lesson. We were blessed with several helpful speeches, inspiring music, and even a mini-spa night. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed. Each person there gave of their spiritual gifts to make this year's conference a needed blessing."

"We are working hard to have some of the Women's Conference messages on CD. We will let you know if and when they become available to order." Their web site is: www.4ucm.org

Thanks for considering including this in your newsletter. Hopefully we can get the word out to more women who can plan to gather next July. The conference next summer MAY be in Tennessee (Gatlinburg area) but I don't know any other details. Did you know that the **Big Sandy Church** also has a women's conference in the spring? I'm

trying to find out details and contact info from them, though I've read about it in the past in the **Journal**.

Item found on line at:
<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/i2009-049-03.htm>

THE END**

Pill Popping Purveyers of Death

*Compiled by Richard Markland
(Lebanon, Ohio)*

Report After Report Shows How A Game Of Russian Roulette Is Being Played By A Multi-Billion Dollar Industry. Treating The Affect And Not The Cause Is Killing Us.

Drug Linked To Cataract Surgery Problems

<http://www.changcataract.com/Drug%20Linked%20to%20Cataract%20Surgery%20Problems,%20Medical%20Groups%20Warn%20Prostate%20Drug%20Linked%20to%20Cataract%20Surgery%20Complications%20-%20CBS%20News.htm>

Patients taking a widely prescribed prostate drug should alert their eye doctors before undergoing cataract surgery to avoid complications, several medical groups said Tuesday.

HPV Vaccine Creates Parental Challenge
<http://wbztv.com/health/HPV.Vaccine.Parental.2.272027.html>

HPV is a weighty topic that more parents are addressing with their daughters, since the Food and Drug Administration recently approved the vaccine for girls as young as age 9. Some parents, particularly those with preteen girls, are wondering just how much information to share.

Access To Plan B May Have Limited Effect
<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Access+to+Plan+B+May+Have+Limited+Effect+a01610670325>

Wider but still restricted access to the morning-after pill may not have the dramatic effect on unintended pregnancy and abortion rates touted by some advocates, reproductive health experts say.

Soft Drink Companies Reach Benzene Deal

<http://www.bookrags.com/news/soft-drink-companies-reach-benzene-moc/>

Coca-Cola Co. was sued Friday as part of an effort to force soft drink makers to

eliminate ingredients in their products that can form cancer-causing benzene.

Accutane Linked Heart, Liver Woes
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/08/22/ap/health/mainD8JLEJ280.shtml>

Accutane, the powerful acne drug already known to cause birth defects, seems to raise the risk for potential heart and liver problems more than doctors had expected, according to a new study.

Risk of Jawbone Deterioration in Women Taking Osteoporosis Drugs
<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/522970/>

Media reports on a connection between certain bone-strengthening drugs and the death of bone tissue in the jaw have raised concerns for many women, notes the September issue of Harvard Women's Health Watch.

Internal Memos On Hormone Replacement Therapy
<http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/1222>

According to recent published reports, Wyeth researchers saw cancer risks associated with hormone-replacement drugs as early as 1976.

Vaccine May Prevent Shingles
http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/health/s_468052.html

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a shingles vaccine, called Zostavax, on May 25. According to pharmaceutical giant Merck & Co., which produces it, Zostavax is the first vaccine that **may** prevent shingles in people age 60 and older. **(notice how the FDA has approved the drug, although it may only alleviate shingles)**

The FDA's Goal Is To Outlaw Natural Alternatives To Drugs That Are Killing People.

Consumers May Benefit From Supplement Research But Will Pay More For It
<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/144833>

The Aug. 17 decision not only upheld the federal ban on the diet aid, ephedra, it also sanctioned a new standard for evaluating the safety of supplements - a risk-benefit analysis Hatch insists was never contemplated by Congress.

What Is Wrong With Natural Alternatives To Health?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

Praise and Thanksgiving

Sent by Michael Porter (Benin Republic)

November is the month of Thanksgiving and "thanks" giving!

It's a time of great joy to all of us as we settle back and remember ALL the things we need to thank God for on the special day that we set aside to praise God for our bountiful way of life!

We thank God for Jesus, the rock of our salvation. "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer" II Samuel 22:2

We thank God for salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. "In Him we have redemption through His blood . . ." Eph. 1:7

We thank God for our marriage. "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." Matthew 19:6

We thank God for our children. "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth." Psalm 127:4

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus!" Philippians 4:19

We thank God for our grandchildren. "Children's children are the crown of old men . . ." Proverbs 17:6

We thank God for our ministry. "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:11,12

We thank God for His Word. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." Mark 13:31

We thank God for faith . . . "God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." Romans 12:3

Let's confess these praise and thanksgiving confessions at least ten times each day so that our spirits will be soaring in the heavens every day this month.

We wish you a very happy Thanksgiving Day.

Editors Note:

For several years now, Michael Porter has been at times sending us items to print, many of which he makes look as if he has written himself, when in fact he may not have written them at all. The above is one such item. When someone does this, it is plagiarism. We believe that we have enough proof in regard to Michael Porter doing this, to inform the general public to be careful when printing items which Michael Porter sends for print. The above item was actually found on: <http://www.cfhunter.org/> and when I spoke to the Hunters, they had no idea who had written it, but it for sure was not written by Michael Porter and yet he sent it out to us and at least one other person as if he had written it himself. Laura Lee

Item found on line at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com/thecogmessenger0049/i2009-049-05.htm>

THE END**

Vitamins Are Essential To A Healthy Diet

http://www.tuttletimes.com/columns/local_story_220110138.html

Good sources of vitamin E are vegetable oils and nuts. Vitamin D is readily found in egg yolk and fish oil. These also are high in fat. Other good sources of fat soluble vitamins are whole grains and deep green leafy vegetables. There is enough fat to absorb the vitamins in these "healthy" foods. Because fat soluble vitamins are soluble in fat, not water, these vitamins are not easily lost from foods when cooked in water.

Valuable Veggie Vitamins Overlooked

<http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/411749/822138>

New research has shown that the parts of vegetables many growers and manufacturers throw away contain valuable levels of vitamins and minerals.

Vitamins May Reduce Pregnancy Health Risk

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/health/2003226184_healthvitamins27.html

Taking multivitamins around the time of conception dramatically reduces a woman's risk of preeclampsia, a complication during pregnancy that can be lethal to a woman and

her baby, researchers at the University of Pittsburgh report. (Vitamins along with a proper diet and exercise are essential.)

Analysis: Vitamin C Loss And Alzheimer's

<http://super-antioxidant.info/osmotics-antioxidant-skin-care.php>

A leaky blood-brain barrier that allows crucial antioxidants to spill out of the cerebrospinal fluid may contribute to the development of Alzheimer's disease, researchers said this week. That finding and intriguing evidence of a link between the debilitating brain disease and a loss of vitamin C were released at the annual meeting of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians in Portland, Ore.

Vitamin C May Keep Ulcers Away

<http://paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?151457>

The higher your blood levels of ascorbic acid, the lower your risk of gastrointestinal trouble, suggests a study in August's Journal of the American College of Nutrition.

Vitamin C: Everything You Ever Needed To Know About It

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Vitamin+C+>

Everything+You+Ever+Needed+to+Know+About+It-a01073767173

Vitamin C is an essential nutrient for good health and wellness. Your body is unable to manufacture vitamin C, so you should ensure that you get enough from the foods you eat and nutritional supplements.

Vitamin C Acts As Anti-inflammatory Agent

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/news_archive/News/2006/June/Vitamin+C+Acts+As+Antiinflammatory+Agent+In+Men.htm

Vitamin C is a water-soluble antioxidant present in fruits and vegetables. Vitamins A and E are fat-soluble. Several epidemiological studies show that diets high in vitamin C protect against cardiovascular disease. Vitamin C has antioxidant effects with oxidative substances in the body. Some studies with supplemental intake, however, showed no benefit to increased intake of vitamin C.

Carrots Can Be A Great Source Of Vitamin A

<http://www.thegreatcarrot.com/carrot-information.html>

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