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Last Great Day - September 28, 2021

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**Publisher:** Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out

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your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

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## Articles

### Why We Must Put Out Leaven

by Earl L. Henn (Charlotte, North Carolina)



Years ago, I had a favorite question to ask ministers about the Feast of Unleavened Bread. "Why must we go *through the physical act of putting leaven out of our homes before the Days of Unleavened Bread, but we are not required to be physically circumcised?*" I never received an answer.

*There are many parallels between circumcision and delevaning our homes. Both of these physical acts demonstrate a spiritual principle. Circumcision symbolizes an attitude of heart and mind (Romans 2:26-29), and delevaning our homes symbolizes putting sin out of our lives (I Corinthians 5:6-7). The New Testament, however, makes it clear that Christians do not have to be circumcised physically (Galatians 5:6). Why, then, do we have to put leaven out of our homes during the Days of Unleavened Bread?*

Like me, others may have had the same question and never received an answer. Because they consider these "works" to be done away with the Old Covenant, some churches that observe the holy days do not require members to delevan their homes. When we search the Scriptures about this matter, we will see why ridding our homes of leaven is so important, but circumcision is not.

#### **First-Century Controversy**

Since God instituted circumcision as the sign of the covenant He made with Abraham (Genesis 17:10-11), it predates the Old Covenant by several hundred years. When God called Israel out of Egypt and gave them His laws, He included the command to circumcise male babies (Leviticus 12:3). Circumcision identified the Israelites as physical descendants of Abraham, gave them a sense of national identity, and set them apart from other nations of the world.

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The nation of Israel was a type of God's church. Many of the rituals that God commanded Israel to do symbolize spiritual principles. For example, the command to kill the Passover lamb (Exodus 12:3-6) typifies the death of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God (John 1:29). Indeed, God established the entire sacrificial system to keep the Israelites mindful of their need for a Savior (Hebrews 9:11-14).

When Christ came, instituting the New Covenant, the way opened for Gentiles to enter the church through repentance and baptism just like the Jews (Acts 10:44-48; 11:1-18). Though they were not physical descendants of Abraham, converted Gentiles became Abraham's spiritual progeny through their faith in the sacrifice of Christ and receipt of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:26-29).

The Gentiles' conversion resulted in a serious controversy in the church over whether they should be required to be circumcised. This major issue resulted in the convening of the first ministerial conference in the history of God's church (Acts 15). At this conference, the ministry was led to decide that the Gentiles do not need to be circumcised. Peter concludes,

So, God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them [Gentiles], by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He did to us [Jews], and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. (Acts 15:8-9)

God revealed to the apostles that, under the New Covenant, He makes no distinction between Jew and Gentile. Regardless of race or ethnic origin, He extends the promises of salvation to any and all whom He chooses to call. Under the New Covenant, physical descent from Abraham no longer matters because God is concerned only over the person's repentance and faith in Christ. Those who receive the Holy Spirit after repentance and baptism become "the seed of Abraham." Additionally, because the purpose and meaning of physical circumcision have been superseded by the New Covenant, there is no need to inflict pain and possible psychological distress on an adult male through this operation.

Peter emphasizes that God looked upon the hearts of the Gentiles and saw their repentance. Although they were not circumcised, God forgave their sins because of their repentance and faith in Christ and granted them the gift of the Holy Spirit. They were, therefore, justified by faith and spiritually circumcised, that is, in heart and mind (Romans 2:28-29). During the Jerusalem conference, God revealed to the apostles that *justification fulfilled the spiritual symbolism of circumcision*.

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul makes this very clear: In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses. (Colossians 2:11-13)

Paul shows that circumcision typifies putting off the old man of sin that is buried in a watery grave at baptism. After being raised from the water in newness of life (Romans 6:4), the repentant sinner stands before God perfect, holy, and sinless. The process of spiritual circumcision is complete, and the symbol of physical circumcision is fulfilled.

### **Purging the Old Leaven**

What, then, are the differences between the symbolism of circumcision and that of putting leaven out of our homes? When God called Israel out of Egypt, He commanded them to observe the seven Days of Unleavened Bread:

Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. (Exodus 12:15)

The New Testament makes it abundantly clear that God expects Christians to keep this festival. Paul writes, "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Corinthians 5:8).

Throughout the New Testament, God uses leaven as a symbol of sin, of corruption. Jesus warns, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy" (Luke 12:1). In discussing the danger of sin spreading, Paul uses the phrase "a little leaven leavens the whole lump" on two separate occasions (1 Corinthians 5:6; Galatians 5:9).

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Paul plainly instructs that the purpose of keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread is to remind us of our need to remove sin from our lives.

Therefore, purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

Because of the serious sins that a Corinthian member had committed, and the congregation's general acceptance of this situation, Paul advises them to use the Feast of Unleavened Bread to "purge out the old leaven." They should examine their attitudes and put these sins out of their lives and out of the congregation. He reminds them that the Passover is a memorial of the death of Christ, who died for us that we may receive forgiveness of sins. They "truly are unleavened," he says, in the sense that they had repented and been justified through faith in the sacrifice of Christ. However, since they had allowed leaven to return into their lives, they needed to get rid of it.

This is the heart of why we are still required to put leaven out of our homes. Leaven represents sin, and deleavening our homes symbolizes purging sin from our lives. However, *cleansing our lives of sin is a lifetime process that will not be completely fulfilled until we are resurrected and transformed into spirit*. As long as we are still flesh and blood, we will never be absolutely perfect—we will never free ourselves completely and totally of sin. This constant struggle to overcome human nature and put on God's nature is called *sanctification*.

Nevertheless, we must continually strive to conform to the image of Jesus Christ, that is, to be a truly perfect human being. Paul writes:

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12-14)

God wants us to observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread year after year to remind us that we are not perfect and that our lives are a constant struggle against sin. When we deleaven our homes, we find that no matter how hard we try, we cannot find every tiny crumb that may be embedded in a carpet or hidden behind an appliance. This illustrates how deceitful sin is, teaching us that we must constantly examine ourselves to purge it out of our lives. Removing sin is hard work! The Days of Unleavened Bread remind us annually of this constant warfare that all Christians must wage throughout their lives.

Why, then, must we remove leaven from our homes but need not be circumcised? The answer is that physical circumcision no longer has a purpose under the New Covenant. Its symbolism is fulfilled in the process of repentance, baptism, and receipt of the Holy Spirit. However, the object lesson of deleavening our homes still has great meaning and purpose for us. The symbolism of putting sin out of our lives will not be completely fulfilled until we are changed and inherit the Kingdom of God and become like Him who cannot sin (1 John 3:9).

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**Are We Walking with God?**  
**by Alfio La Spina (Victoria British Columbia)**

*Think about how Abraham handled difficult situations. Abraham had complete trust in God. When God told him to go to a place that He would show him he went and did not concern himself about where he was going. He had complete trust that God would take care of everything.*

*It is amazing how God took care of Abraham. He will do the same for us as long as we keep our hearts focused on Him. This is the foundation of our salvation it allows our Father to shape us into useful vessels for His use. We see this done throughout scripture with all those that kept their hearts clean.*

*We need to be very aware of what we need to learn in our everyday lives because God is working with us and our steps*

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are ordered by Him.

**1 John 2:27 (NIV)** 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

**Psalms 1:6 (NIV)** 6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

*In every adverse situation we encounter there is something we can learn because our Father is shaping us into what He wants us to be.*

**1 Peter 5:10 (NIV)** 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast.

**Isaiah 64:8 (NIV)** 8 Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay; you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

*So, we need to be aware that He is watching and welcome any correction, seek the way He has for us and walk in it. We should constantly be aware of what we are thinking and ask ourselves are we being carnal and if we are, then we need to resist and correct our behavior. In this way God can help us to change.*

**Philippians 4:12-14 (NIV)** 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

**Proverbs 4:10-13 (NIV)** 10 Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. 11 I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.

**Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)** 23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

**Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)** 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Abraham did what God told Him to do without question he trusted Him completely. God told him to sacrifice his son and he was going to do it until God stopped him. Abraham had a very close relationship with God which gave him great wisdom and understanding. He reasoned to himself that God was able to raise his son from the dead. He believed God could do anything and He would work everything out for us. This is what we need to strive for so we can overcome all things.*

**Hebrews 11:19 (NIV)** 19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

**Genesis 18:19 (NIV)** 19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.

Many people are caught up in prophecy and do not pay enough attention to their personal growth and the renewing of their minds.

Jesus said to watch because we need to overcome our carnal natures and work towards perfection.

**Mark 14:38 (NIV)** 38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

**Luke 21:36 (NIV)** 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen,

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**and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."**

The scriptures are full of instructions of how we need to live our lives and that is a full-time job because our carnal nature is totally against this way of life it is a daily battle to overcome it. The carnal nature is where Satan works, we must strive not to be carnal by constantly asking our Father to help us to guard our hearts and quickly show us when we are being carnal.

**1 Peter 5:8-10 (NIV) 8** Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **9** Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

**Luke 16:13 (NIV) 13** "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

**(2 Peter 1:3-8 NIV) 3** His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4** Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. **5** For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith **goodness**; and to **goodness, knowledge**; **6** and to **knowledge, self-control**; and to **self-control, perseverance**; and to **perseverance, godliness**; **7** and to **godliness, mutual affection**; and to **mutual affection, love**. **8** For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Those are excellent attributes to apply to our lives.*

Proverbs 3:3 (NIV) **3** Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

*I believe that we need to be aware of what is going on in the world and watch prophecy unfold however we need to be very careful not to ignore our personal growth.*

*Jesus said watch not to be deceived and He said it many times. There are many ways we can be deceived that is why we need to have our hearts right and we need our Fathers help to do this and we need the help of our brothers and sisters also. For this reason, it is imperative that we strive to build a very close relationship with our Father. It is the only way we will be able to overcome.*

*Jesus spent plenty of time with the Father daily and he had the Holy Spirit that is how He overcame.*

*The sacrifice Jesus made united us with the Father. We have the very same Holy Spirit that Jesus had, and we have access to the Father. That is all we need to overcome and come to perfection.*

*Deception can come from those among us.*

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NIV) 13** For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. **14** And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. **15** It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

**Jude 1:4 ISV** For some people have slipped in among you unnoticed. They were written about long ago as being deserving of this condemnation because they are ungodly. They turn the grace of our God into uncontrollable lust and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus the Messiah.

*THE WAY JESUS IS DENIED IS WHEN PEOPLE SAY HE WAS NOT CAPABLE OF SINNING. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE DENYING THAT HE CAME IN THE FLESH. THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST.*

*THESE FALSE TEACHERS POINT THE FINGER AT SUNDAY KEEPING CHURCHES TO GET THE ATTENTION OFF THEMSELVES. THE SUNDAY KEEPERS BASICALLY HAVE ALL THEIR DOCTRINES WRONG HOWEVER BRETHREN HAVE YOU CONFIRMED WHAT YOU HAVE*



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BEEN TAUGHT TO BE CORRECT BY COMPARING WHAT IT ACTUALLY SAYS IN THE WORD OF GOD? THERE DEFINITELY ARE FALSE DOCTRINES IN THE CHURCHES OF GOD. BRETHREN DON'T LET ANOTHER DAY GO BY WITHOUT CHECKING THE CORRECTNESS OF THE DOCTRINES BEING TAUGHT.

**2 PETER 2:1-2 (NIV)** 1 BUT THERE WERE ALSO FALSE PROPHETS AMONG THE PEOPLE, JUST AS THERE WILL BE FALSE TEACHERS AMONG YOU. THEY WILL SECRETLY INTRODUCE DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES, EVEN DENYING THE SOVEREIGN LORD WHO BOUGHT THEM—BRINGING SWIFT DESTRUCTION ON THEMSELVES. 2 MANY WILL FOLLOW THEIR DEPRAVED CONDUCT AND WILL BRING THE WAY OF TRUTH INTO DISREPUTE.

THE WAY OF TRUTH WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO DISREPUTE. THIS HAS BECOME ABUNDANTLY CLEAR MANY TIMES I HAVE POINTED OUT ERROR IN A DOCTRINE BEING TAUGHT. POINTING OUT MANY SCRIPTURES TO PROVE IT.

HOWEVER, THE BRETHREN I HAVE SHOWN THESE TRUTHS TO INSIST ON REFERRING TO WHAT THEIR FALSE TEACHERS SAY ON THE SUBJECT. SOME HAVE EVEN REFUSED TO LOOK AT THE SCRIPTURES I HAVE QUOTED. SOME HAVE EVEN SAID I WAS SPEAKING HERESIES.

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF REPORTS OF CONTROL, FEAR, AND ABUSE TACTICS FROM PEOPLE THAT HAVE FALLEN AWAY BECAUSE OF THESE FALSE TEACHERS. YET MANY STILL FOLLOW THEM. THIS IS A VERY SAD THING THAT HAS HAPPENED.

MANY HAVE BEEN DISILLUSIONED BY THE IMMORAL AND UNBIBLICAL ACTIONS OF THESE MODERN DAY PHARISEES.

BRETHREN EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE ACCOUNTABLE, EVERYONE NEEDS TO CONTRIBUTE AND USE THE TALENTS GOD HAS GIVEN THEM AND MOST OF ALL LEARN TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS HAS BEEN COMMANDED BY JESUS.

**MATTHEW 16:6 (KJV)** 6 THEN JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, TAKE HEED AND BEWARE OF THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES AND OF THE SADDUCEES.

THIS SAME SPIRIT THAT THE PHARISEES HAD IS STILL AROUND AND IT IS IN THE CHURCH OF GOD TODAY.

THESE FALSE TEACHERS ARE SUPPRESSING THE BODY OF CHRIST SO IT CANNOT FUNCTION, IT HAS BEEN PUT TO SLEEP, AND THE BRETHREN ARE NOT USING THEIR TALENTS THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THEM. THEY SHUFFLE IN AND OUT OF EACH SERVICE DO NOT CONTACT THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS DURING THE WEEK HOW CAN ANYONE FULFILL THE COMMANDMENT TO LOVE YOUR BROTHER IF THEY DO NOT KNOW HIM?

When some questionable words were spoken by a Minister, I challenged him on what he was doing and I used scripture to back up what I was saying. That is when his true motives came out and a very ugly spirit was revealed in him. The deception was very strong and very convincing however this spirit will not and cannot adhere to God's word. This was the way I was able to discern what he was.

When there is a problem in the church there is a procedure that Jesus Himself commanded us to use, this was not followed. This so-called minister who is supposed to be serving the brethren and not lording it over them did not allow this matter to be heard as commanded by Jesus. He went out of his way to speak against me to the brethren with no witnesses and would not allow me to defend my position.

**Matt. 18:15-18 (NIV)** 15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

By following the procedure commanded by Jesus. The truth would have prevailed, and good fruit may have come out of it. The problem is the brethren look to man instead of Jesus to lead them, so the Word of God has no effect on them.

**1 John 2:26-27 (NIV)** 26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

## God Visits Kenya, East Africa by Bill Glover (Eugene, Oregon)

Residents of Kenya, East Africa recently received a visit from the Almighty Creator God through the persons of two white men named Bill Glover and his son, Stephen. We arrived in Kenya on March 27, 2007 and were there for 22 days, departing on April 18. [We also kept the Passover in Kenya with them - - this point will be covered later in this article].

Many factors made this trip miraculous. The first miracle was the providing of the funds for the trip. Because of my worldwide web and articles printed in *The Journal* the Living God Ministry has become quite well known in Kenya and other countries. A man in Embu, Kenya contacted me asking for printed material which I sent. He advised me that there was a keen interest in God's truths in Kenya and other countries in East Africa. He invited me to come there and teach the people. He stated he personally had studied with the Worldwide Church of God and several of its splinter groups. The words he spoke through our correspondence sounded true as he begged for more knowledge about God and God's truths. Before long I was thoroughly convinced that I must go to Kenya and see what way I could best serve the people there. But there was one huge problem - - I did not have the financial means to take such a trip.

It has always been my practice NEVER to ask any human being for support for this ministry. I only ask God to provide the means to do what He wants me to accomplish. Thus, I asked God to provide the financial means IF IT WAS HIS WILL THAT I GO THERE! Within hours three people (none of whom are part of this ministry) stepped forward and pledged the financial resources needed to pay for my trip there. This was the first miracle.

My son, Stephen, pastors' churches in the southeast - - working with people in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. For Sabbath services we use a telephone conference hookup so as to stay in touch with all that is being done in this ministry. Once the money was pledged for my trip, I made this announcement to the churches back there over our telephone hookup. Three people back there stepped forward and said, "Bill should not have to go alone - - we need to send Stephen with him!" So, the funds to finance Stephen's trip were pledged. That was the second miracle.

God then inspired one individual in Georgia to step forward and point out there would-be additional expenses separate from our airline tickets and hotel expenses. He then set forth a challenge to the others in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi that he would match whatever amount they raised collectively FOR EXTRA EXPENSES that would be needed on the trip. This was miracle number three since extra expenses arose that we had not anticipated.

We arrived in Nairobi, Kenya at 6:30 a m and were met by about twelve people. We then drove to Embu, which is a central hub of the area we worked with. The next day we visited different church areas and met different people and gave sermons which were interpreted into the dialect of those people in those areas - - we encountered four different dialects in the areas we visited. The third day we took a trip and visited Masai Mara (Masai land) Game Preserve and viewed the wild animals there. I have great video camcorder films and still shots of the animals we saw. One interesting encounter was with a pride of lions finishing up the carcass of a Cape buffalo they had killed. The lions were no more than ten feet from our vehicle.

### DISAPPOINTING NEWS

About five days into our trip God made it clear to us that something was wrong. We were being driven to several outposts throughout the country and yet we could see that nothing meaningful was being accomplished. Clearly there was an effort to impress us with the presence of different groups here and there but, as we met with these groups, we had to ask ourselves "What are we accomplishing by all this travel?" We had allowed the person who had invited us there to basically schedule our time. We saw the need to take charge of the scheduling and trust God to help us see the plan and purpose He intended for our trip. God had not, at that point, shown us WHY we were actually there.



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Once we took control of the scheduling and began to ask probing questions then a clear message came across to us. I will take the full blame. I had been totally deceived by our host. I made the big mistake of taking him AT HIS WORD not knowing that he had been lying to me all along in order to get financial support from me. Somehow, he had learned the “right answers” so as to feed me what he knew I would want to “hear” when I asked questions about the people over there. I had no solid reason to doubt him. However, before we took the trip to Kenya, God’s Spirit kept impressing on my mind that something was not right with this man. But I had no proof that things were not right. But God’s Spirit did inspire me to write three specific letters to this man (Peter who called himself a “bishop” from Makima and Embu, Kenya) reciting the example of Ananias and Sapphira as recorded in Acts 5. Three distinct times I warned him that he dares not lie to the Holy Spirit concerning the funds we had been sending him which he claimed was helping the brethren there better serve God. My wife and I were using our own personal money to help them - - we would never use the contributions of others for such until we had proof that the work there was legitimate.

Once we began probing then the true nature and character of this person was revealed. He was clearly a “Judas” interested only in what he could GET out of this ministry for his own personal gain and to promote himself. I found it necessary to confront him to his face in the presence of the other twelve men whom we were training. This was done in compliance with God’s instructions found in 1 Timothy 5:20 - - “rebuke before all” so that the others can and will learn from the rebuke.

This man, when confronted with the facts, could not bring himself to repent. In person I cautioned him NOT to lie to the Holy Spirit. It was clearly evident to all present that there was NO FEAR OF GOD IN THIS MAN! He had clearly yielded himself to Satan and was not interested in teaching the people the truth. In retrospect, it seems that he had studied with Worldwide and other splinter groups [AND POSSIBLY SCAMMED SOME OF THEM TOO] in order to promote himself.

I found myself facing a dilemma. Knowing beyond the shadow of a doubt that God had brought us to Kenya, I was absolutely certain that I must follow the example set by Peter in Acts 5 and deliver this “Judas” over to God for punishment. However, God’s Spirit inspired me to hold off delivering this man to Satan for the destruction of his flesh for three reasons. One was to give him ample chance to repent and ask God for forgiveness which would be a tremendous lesson and instruction to those men we were training. The second reason was the fact that had God struck this man down in our presence then my son and I could well have been detained in Kenya for months until the government conducted an inquest. As soon as we arrived home, I contacted Peter and officially committed him to Satan the devil for the destruction of his flesh in hopes he could ultimately be saved in the final judgment (see 1 Corinthians 5:3-5). As Paul continues to say, true believers are not allowed by God to have any fellowship with one who has shown himself immoral, greedy, an idolater and a swindler (see verses 9-11). The third reason I found is the experiences of the Apostle Paul and the lessons the twelve men we trained could learn. Paul experienced ENEMIES arising in the church that forced him to take action for God (see 2 Timothy 4:10 and 14 and also, 1 Timothy 1:18-20).

The twelve men we left to carry on the ministry we began in Kenya can and should learn from this example. They saw how patient we were in giving Peter the chance to repent and change. That we were not impatient with him but allowed him to meet with us while we were there so that we could observe any repentance he evidenced. All these men witnessed that there was no repentance and no fear of God in this man. Thus, they saw evidence that the right decision was made, and that the door remains open for him to repent. If he repents then we will welcome him back into the fellowship as Paul advised the Corinthian church to do with this man who had sinned. But if Peter does repent he will be required to PROVE himself over a period of time before any responsibility can be entrusted to him. This is clearly the way God has set and the people we are working with in Kenya see this clearly.

**[SPECIAL NOTICE: If anyone reading this knows of a “Peter” calling himself “Bishop” from Makima and/or Embu, Kenya claiming to represent God then he should be advised that he is a fake and a charlatan. I feel certain he is scanning *The Journal* at this moment trying to locate another church group to scam.]**

Despite the fact that God allowed a “Judas” to be instrumental in bringing us to Kenya, God turned that fact into great blessings. Word got out throughout the country that we were there. In three specific areas we visited we had people come

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up to us and state, “I had a dream/vision and God said He was sending two white men to Kenya who are His true servants.” In all three cases they said, “We recognize you as messengers from God!” Such comments totally humble you and cause you to bow before God and thank Him for the response you are receiving. This fact is still another miracle for the trip.

**IRONIC SETTING**

Let me take a moment to relate the ironic setting of our visit. Here we are two white men from a foreign country that do not speak their language meeting with different groups made up solely of black people from different tribal backgrounds that have been greatly influenced and even prejudiced by “traditional Christianity” which is totally contrary to the Bible and holding tribal beliefs, customs, and superstitions from their ancestors. Being white men from America, **WHAT DO YOU SAY IN A SERMON TO A BLACK CONGREGATION IN KENYA, EAST AFRICA?**

Before I answer that specific question as to “what does one say to such a group,” let me relate an encounter I had with a group of church people from Orange, California USA also staying in the same hotel. At breakfast I struck up a conversation with about six members of that group and witnessed powerfully to them. They had asked why we were in Kenya and I told them we were there to teach the Scriptures to people who had requested our visit. In this conversation I related how we had learned that Kenyans come from different tribal backgrounds with many and varied beliefs and superstitions and that they had also been taught many myths and superstitions promulgated by traditional Christianity. That we had determined to speak the clear truths of God as recorded in the Bible and not hold back anything.

I also advised them that on the flight over I had worn a sweatshirt on which I had printed on both the front and back the wording “ASK ME WHY YOU WERE BORN!” [Actually, I had two shirts imprinted with this wording.] Fifteen people on the flight over had approached me and said, “Tell me why I was born!” Before leaving America, I prepared a small pamphlet titled “Why Were You Born” which I gave to all who asked the question. This brief pamphlet stated simply that most people live and die without knowing WHY they were born. Then I posed a few key questions about life and religion that everyone should be asking themselves. Then I close this pamphlet with the invitation for anyone to contact me for further information. I wore this shirt on the flights to and from Kenya and three days in Kenya and had many people stop me and ask the question to whom I gave the pamphlet. Several employees of the hotel where we stayed asked for further information. Five different members of the police contacted me about this question and received the leaflet.

Now to the question of what does a true servant of God say when addressing a congregation in Kenya or any other country, that holds beliefs totally contrary to the Bible. I bring this out because one member of this church group from Orange, California stated that their “clergyman” had been invited to speak in a local church and that he was quite nervous. My response to this man was “If one speaks the pure unadulterated Word of God as recorded in the Bible then there is nothing to be nervous about!” This man did not actually know how to respond to such a comment. But six of them took a copy of my small pamphlet and we will see if there is any response. But this one thing is sure - - none of them had ever heard someone speak so dogmatically before. The point I am making is that Christ said His message would be preached in all the world **AS A WITNESS** just before the end comes. At least the one hundred people who asked questions and received this pamphlet got a witness even if they do not act on it. So did the group from Orange County California.

But there were many other miraculous encounters while we were there. One group that had separated itself from the Church of God Seventh Day heard of our presence and ask to meet with us. We had a meeting with five of them at our hotel that lasted more than two hours. During this time, we could not find a single topic where we disagreed. We were all totally amazed over this because of all the contentions in the “church” today. They were amazed to find two white men from America who taught the very things they taught and believed. And we were equally amazed to find this harmony with them. They had separated themselves from the Church of God—Seventh Day because they had come to believe that church was neglecting the true teachings of Christ and also building a wall around itself claiming it is the **ONE AND ONLY** true fellowship and if you do not belong to that group you are not right with God. That same twisted mentality has contaminated all the many different splinter groups that evolved out of Worldwide and that seems to have contaminated all other churches and religions throughout the ages.

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The point of this is quite simple. In Kenya, East Africa we found (rather, they heard about us and made contact for a meeting) a group of GOD’S PEOPLE *SCATTERED* that has NO DENOMINATIONAL TIES WITH ANY OF THOSE DENOMINATIONAL FACTIONS. We made it clear to the people of Kenya that we did not come there to teach them “DOCTRINES” of any religious sect or denomination. That if a person accepts and believes in the JESUS CHRIST OF THE BIBLE then he cannot help but learn the doctrinal issues in the Bible because such a person will be studying the Bible WHETHER THESE THINGS ARE TRUE (see Acts 17:11 and John 5:39) and trusting the Holy Spirit to guide them into the truth (see John 16:13-16). We were overjoyed to learn that there was not a single Biblical issue on which we disagreed. We had two rather long meetings with this group and some of them accompanied us to the airport when we left Kenya. It is an unbelievably JOYOUS feeling to encounter a group of people from a different race in another country on another continent some 12,000 miles from home who believe the same as you! This experience alone was worth the trip to Kenya. Several in that congregation (including three ministers) asked my son and me to pray for and anoint them. We were blessed and honored to do this.

Going further in what a true servant of God will say to a black audience in Kenya, East Africa, I must relate a superb job my son Stephen did in his first sermon. But first a little necessary background. One of the vivid points one confronts upon arriving in Kenya is the abject POVERTY everywhere. Tens of thousands of people literally are living from hand to mouth day by day - - literally scratching out an *existence* and not a living. Several times I could not help but weep over what we saw as we went from place to place. The poverty we saw was appalling but the most HAUNTING thing we saw was the **HOPELESSNESS** evidenced in peoples’ eyes. I can at this very moment close my eyes and feel extreme sorrow for these people who have no hope for a future AS THINGS ARE RIGHT NOW! But I rejoice that God used my son and me to bring HOPE to a people who had no hope - - to reveal the Almighty Living God to a hungry people. We were privileged to bring to them the GOOD NEWS that they were and are being invited to be among God’s FIRSTFRUITS - - SONS OF GOD, HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST (Romans 8:16-17). This is the only hope for mankind and God has delivered this message to Kenya in a powerful way and quite a few are responding.

[I also pointed out to the Kenyans that the reason God is offering them a chance to be among the “first fruits” is because many of those whom the Father has chosen have decided to get spiritually lazy over their calling - - like the five foolish virgins of Matthew 25.]

This haunting experience of seeing the HOPELESSNESS of the people forced me to think of all the other countries in Africa. Several nations in Africa are actually WORSE OFF THAN KENYA. Then I was forced to think of South and Central America and Mexico where very similar conditions exist. Then there is China, India, Russia, and so many other countries where the masses are held in slavery by dictators and even tribal leaders. But then I remembered WHO WE ARE [meaning those who truly know the Living True God of the Bible and follow His ways]. Paul’s words found in Romans 8:22-23 literally jumped off the pages of the Bible at me and Stephen as we addressed the situation in Kenya. This entire world is anxiously WAITING FOR THOSE OF US CALLED AND CHOSEN BY GOD TO GET OUR PERSONAL ACT TOGETHER AND BE ACCEPTED INTO GOD’S FAMILY AS BORN-AGAIN SONS OF GOD, HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST (see Romans 8:16-17) so that God can use us to bring salvation to the rest of mankind. We stressed this over and over again and again.

Stephen and I realized that God had sent us to Kenya to DELIVER A MESSAGE OF HOPE TO A PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO HOPE AT THE PRESENT TIME. The truly sad aspect is that these people have no idea why their lives are so bleak and miserable. They do not know enough about God to seek Him. But God sent my son and me to Kenya so that even though they are not actually seeking God He has chosen to reveal Himself to certain ones there (compare Romans 10:20 with Chapter 11:11-32).

White missionaries have “worked” in Africa for some 300 years. Catholic and Protestant groups have continued leading these people into HOPELESS LIVES. The “religion” taught by the missionaries and the present church leaders are NOT showing the people how to dig out from the curse they are under. In fact, traditional “Christianity” is keeping these people ENSLAVED under false religion and a false “god” - - NOT the GOD OF THE BIBLE. I know of religious groups who have visited Kenya in recent times but the message they took there was NOT the “GOOD NEWS” of the TRUE JESUS CHRIST OF THE BIBLE. The “object” of these crusades is to get people to “make a decision” for Christ. But there is no

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FOLLOWUP in teaching them HOW TO LIVE TO PLEASE GOD. The "religion" taught by these false ministers is MEANINGLESS and POWERLESS as it does not show the people HOW TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE.

I also know of some ministers claiming to be of The Church of God whose "objective" was to indoctrinate the people about "the Sabbath, the Holy Days and other points of doctrine." These men seemingly do not realize that NOT A SINGLE DOCTRINE WILL SAVE ANYONE! Salvation does NOT come from "OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW" but through GRACE and through the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST which is accounted to humans because of their FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD (please study Romans 3:10, 20, 25, chapter 4:3, Galatians 3:6 and James 2:23)

**TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #16**

**A Blast from the Past**

**Bear Witness**

**by Tawanda Ray (Hamilton, Alabama)**

The Apostles of old were authoritatively told  
To bear witness of Jesus' life.  
He warned them that they would often encounter  
Much hatred, debate, and strife.

The words they would speak would be in His name  
By such power He would confirm.  
They would raise the dead and heal many sick  
And strengthen the poor and infirm.

Out of the synagogues they would be cast  
And be held in low esteem.  
They would not receive tithes for a lavish lifestyle  
But would live lives low and lean.

No gold, nor silver, nor brass, would be theirs  
No extra coat, shoes, or staves.  
As sheep among wolves, they would venture along  
Upon many uncharted paths.

The Spirit alone would show them the way  
As before Kings they surely would come.  
To speak so boldly the name Jesus Christ  
And repentance of sins must be done.

No honors, awards, nor prestige would be theirs  
As unashamedly they would be bold.  
Compare the lives of men of today  
With Jesus' Disciples of old!

(This poem has been updated and re-printed from "The Church of God Messenger" July/August 2001—Issue No. 4.)

**Iron Sharpening Iron**

**Parable of the Ten Virgins**

**by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)**

Tell Darwin I can agree with his thoughts in his article in the last mailing. (Issue #13, Page 11)

**Response to: The Parable of the Ten Virgins by William P. Goff**