

INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES,
BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP PLUS THIS NEWSLETTER
July/August--Issue No. 4

We welcome all visitors. We welcome live speakers and special music--any week. For our out of town visitors, we have 1 self-service guest room at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota. If you need it please call ahead to be sure it is open for the time you will be here. If there is anyone else in the Bismarck area who would be willing to volunteer a guest room for out of town guests, please let us know.

SABBATH SERVICES:

We plan to have Sabbath Services every week. If we do not have live speakers, we do phone hookup with Dave Havir in Texas, Ray Wooten in Alabama or Ken Westby in Washington. We rotate phone hookups to avoid a following of one man. If you know of any other phone hookups you would like to see added to our rotation please let us know. We also welcome Cassette Tape Sermons brought by others, and Video Sermons brought by others.

BIBLE STUDIES:

All of our Bible Studies are interactive, and if you have a topic to discuss, please bring it. We usually have Bible Studies approximately every 6 weeks. We usually have a pot luck meal before we start.

SABBATH SERVICES AND BIBLE STUDIES:

ARE HELD AT THE HOME OF: Darwin & Laura Lee
320 N. Griffin St.
Bismarck, ND 58501 (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a Message)
Please use the upper door by the garage.

SCHEDULE FOR SABBATH SERVICES EVERY SATURDAY:

12:00 NOON--Open Fellowship (Door unlocked, just walk in.)
1:00 PM---Sabbath Services
3:00 PM---Open Fellowship

This time may vary sometimes, so if you are coming from out of town, please call ahead, to be sure the times have not changed.

BIBLE STUDY AND POT LUCK MEAL ON FRIDAY JULY 13, 2001

6:30 PM---Open Fellowship (Door unlocked, just walk in.)
7:00 PM---Pot Luck Meal (bring food)
8:00 PM---Bible Study
9:00 PM---Open Fellowship

BIBLE STUDY AND POT LUCK MEAL ON FRIDAY AUGUST 24, 2001

6:30 PM---Open Fellowship (Door unlocked, just walk in.)
7:00 PM---Pot Luck Meal (bring food)
8:00 PM---Bible Study
9:00 PM---Open Fellowship

DEADLINE FOR OUR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER NEWSLETTER IS: 8-15-2001 THANK YOU

John 13:34 & 35

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

I John 4:20

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

Romans 13:10

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

For this newsletter, Bible quotes or paraphrases are from the Layman's Parallel Bible, Copyright 1991 by The Zondervan Corporation, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506.

GROUP NAME: We have no official name--nor do we want one--however we provide the following: INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES, BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP

ADDRESS: 320 N. Griffin St. **COUNTRY:** USA **CITY:** Bismarck **STATE:** ND **CODE:** 58501 **PHONE:** (701) 258-7172

FAX: Possibly in the future. **E-MAIL:** Darwin-Laura@juno.com **WEBSITE:** Possibly in the future.

LEADERSHIP BODY: Christ the Head of God's Church, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23, and I Corinthians 11:3. Local contact persons are Darwin or Laura Lee.

PURPOSE: To provide Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services and Bible Studies to all of God's People, including those who are not welcome to visit or attend other groups due to having been suspended or disfellowshipped, as well as those who want a place to attend weekly, those who are just visiting our area, and anyone else who is interested in God's way of living. We also have open fellowship here, meaning that you are welcome to come visit with us during our open fellowship times even if you are not interested in attending our Sabbath Services or Bible Studies.

HISTORY: We held our first Bible Study here on June 30, 2000 and our first Sabbath Service was held on December 16, 2000.

AFFILIATION/MEMBERSHIP: Our affiliation is with God our Father and His Son Jesus the Christ. Our membership includes all of God's people, no matter where they are.

DISTINCTIVE DOCTRINES: John 13:34-35

USE SACRED NAMES?: Since salvation is between God and each individual (Philippians 2:12), so the use of sacred names would be between each individual person and God.

OBSERVE HOLY DAYS?: We believe that God commands us to keep the Weekly Sabbath as well as Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, however, we also believe there is much controversy out there in understanding if certain ones should or shouldn't be kept, how to keep them and when to keep them. So with this in mind, we will try to the best of our ability to accommodate these differences, believing and having faith that someday through God's Holy Spirit, we will all be brought into the same understanding on this subject. Until then let's follow John 13:34-35.

EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS: We provide a service to God's People no matter where they are to the best of our ability. This service includes Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services, Bible Studies and Open Fellowship. We also welcome live speakers for interactive, and special music, on a volunteer only basis.

PERIODICALS: We have a newsletter which we publish every 2 months.

LITERATURE: We distribute tapes and literature for ourselves and others to the best of our ability.

PARENT GROUP: The greater Church of God--The Ekklesia. **LANGUAGE:** English **OTHER:** None **COUNTRY:** USA

NAME: Contact Persons are Darwin & Laura Lee **ADDRESS:** 320 N. Griffin St. **CITY:** Bismarck **STATE:** North Dakota
CODE: 58501 **PHONE:** (701) 258-7172

E-MAIL: Darwin-Laura@juno.com **DIRECTIONS TO MEETING:** 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota, located at the corner of Rosser Avenue and Griffin Street, with plenty of side street parking.

TIME OF MEETING: Usually 1:00PM, but may vary.

The Journal	United Church of God	Servants' News
News of the Churches of God	Big Sandy	PO Box 107
PO Box 1020	PO Box 690	Perry, Michigan 48872
Big Sandy, Texas 75755	Big Sandy, Texas 75755	(517) 625-7480
(903) 636-9974	1-800-946-5545	Norman S. Edwards
Dixon Cartwright Jr.	Dave Havir	
<hr/>		
The Churches of God Newsletter	United Christian Ministries	Assoc. for Christian Development
PO Box 30272	PO Box 361725	PO Box 4748
Winston-Salem, NC 27130-0272	Hoover, AL 35236-1725	Federal Way, WA 98063
(336) 774-2939	1-888-985-9066	(253) 852-3269
Rick & Eileen Beltz	Ray Wooten	Ken Westby

ATTENTION READERS--If only there were more hours in a day, then it would be possible to do more things in a day. Much effort is put into this newsletter, and into many other things we do here, and sometimes I do get physical help with these things, however much of what is done here with the newsletter, answering letters and E-mails, and our small tape program, is done by me, and sometimes I can't keep up. Even though I would love to answer all letters as they come in, and dub all tapes requested the same day--I just can't, I'm only one person. When we started this, we wanted to answer all letters, and we still want to, and we are trying. We ask that you please be patient in waiting for a reply to your letters and E-mails. If you have written via snail mail or if it is a letter written which requires research, we are working on 3-30-2001. Our cassette tapes will be caught up completely as of 6-27-2001. Our E-mails with a few exceptions are caught up to 6-22-2001. If you feel you have been missed or forgotten, please write or E-mail and let us know. We appreciate all of you, both those we agree with and those we disagree with. You are all very wonderful individual people, both in our eyes and in God's eyes. Laura Lee

THE TITANIC--THEN AND NOW
by Myra McQueen, Odessa, Texas

I just want to sort out something here that appears to be a 'token' for those of us who have survived the past in the WCG but remain yet in the bondage of carnal drives and other men's 'devices' (ie, II Pet. 1:16) and 'Jewish fables' (Titus 1:14).

I am not much of a movie goer but after reviewing an editor's remarks about the amazing 25 negative miracles that led to the sinking of the 'unsinkable' Titanic in 1912, I decided to research the history a little and found four documentary videos on the subject in a local library. With some astonishing facts under my belt I decided to check out why so many movies and documentaries, etc., had been made of this event which was disastrous-but perhaps no worse than some of the disasters of the world wars.

At least six movies were made along with several documentaries and some television program series (ie, "The Unsinkable Molly Brown"), of this historical event during the 20th Century, and isn't it remarkable that the title of one was, "A Night to Remember"! (Exd. 12:42)

The ship of iron (like the 'iron furnace') was called 'the ship of dreams' and a symbol of man's mastery of his environment. Some of the witnesses of the launching of the Titanic on her maiden voyage were heard to say that "even God can't sink this ship". Those who went on her maiden voyage were separated by a class system, as the elitists were the only passengers allowed to come up on deck and to breathe the fresh air. Third class had to stay below in more cramped quarters (ie, bondage?). The current movie (made in the early '90s and well worth seeing), was made with the help of a director who wanted to point out the prejudices that separated the passengers due to the class system and the upper class male ego-mania that prevailed in that pre-war period of time. Men had their smoking lounges (women of course were not allowed to smoke or to take any prerogatives or privileges without male permission).

The owner of White Star Lines (sound familiar?), refused to place enough lifeboats on board because he said they would detract from the view of the ocean and the beauty of the ship. There was an air of complacency that was comparable to the "sleeping virgins" of Matt. 25 (ie, unaware that the tribulation was on their doorsteps because they had no peace with God and rejected revelation). One historian is quoted as saying that "complacency was written all over the story" and "Titanic woke everybody up with a tremendous jolt" (Isa. 30:13-14). There was not enough urgency about the situation while there was time to save lives (compare Matt. 24:21 with Isa. 63:4-5)--our "watch"? And what are we to "watch" for? (Matt. 24:42-46, Christ, not the world.)

While the orchestra played and the lights of the ship burned (their version of 'light') the lifeboats ("chariots of salvation" Habakkuk 3:8) were lowered half empty because the passengers were not in a hurry to leave their "comfort zones" and had been told that there was no real emergency that could not be dealt with by these master craftsmen.

The poor died mostly because they were poor and their class system would not allow for these unfortunates to be in the same vessels as the rich. They were not allowed on the deck anyway. Confusion reigned during the final hours as no one was really aware of the deadly icefields (compare Psa. 147:16-18 with Job 38:22-23--the 'tribulation'), that lay in their path.

The captain was of the old school and refused to acknowledge that the "modern gimmicks" of the telegraph could be accurate in its warnings and the telegraph operators along with the ship's captain did not think to put these messages together and map out the paths of the icefields so they could avoid them. According to one editor, the ship's crew were not accustomed to maneuvering a ship of this size, (WCG was said to be worth \$4 billion at the time of HWA's death and neither Tkach nor HWA had even a high school diploma). The warnings about the icefields were haphazard and time-wasting and the operators made fun of what was happening and were complacent (ie, leadership of the scattered churches? -who make fun of each other and refuse to acknowledge the authority of God in their doctrinal precepts). Later the Titanic's wireless operator goes to sleep-missing more important messages (revelation-Hosea 8:12). They were unable to locate the binoculars for the "watch" crew before they went up into the crow's nest (crows are of the raven family-Song of Sol. 5:10-11), and so had nothing to "watch" with, except their own eyes and it was night time (darkness in their 'way' now). It is extremely cold in the crow's nest and the only warning device was a bell type apparatus that rang a phone in the ship's control room.

From all accounts the actual iceberg that the Titanic hit was now black on its surface due to turning over with the change in water temperatures and no snow had fallen on it to outline its surface. By the time the crew in the crow's nest were able to detect the iceberg the ship's crew had exactly 37 seconds to respond and get the gargantuan ship out of harm's way! Even after the iceberg was hit the reports were casual and most of the first class passengers went into the gym rather than getting on the lifeboats and most were left with the feeling that there was nothing serious about to happen.

The ship's designer was on board for this maiden voyage (Thomas Andrews), and when he found out that five below-deck compartments of the ship's hull had been punctured, and he relayed to the ship's captain that with 5 compartments punctured the ship would sink, as it could stay afloat with 4 punctured-but not 5.

The sinking of the Titanic left 1800 dead and dying victims in its wake and few survivors (Isa. 16:14).

One more thing-the closest ship (only ten miles away), that could have saved the people's lives had a captain on board and in charge whose name was Lord, and he refused to come to their rescue!

WOE...

by Tawanda Ray, Hamilton, Alabama

Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees
Who say but do not do.
Who bind heavy burdens upon God's sheep
Though you do not follow through.

These heavy burdens you will not bear
Not one finger you will apply.
The list is long of what you demand
While you yourselves live a lie.

The deeds you do are to be seen of men
In the guise of doing God's works.
You claim the right to live so high
Through salaries, tithes and perks.

The uppermost rooms and chief seats you claim,
By rights of being God's "priests".
Yet, Jesus has said if you want to be great,
Consider yourselves to be least.

The title of "master" no man can claim
Yet, "mister" you insist to be named.
In exalting yourselves to this title of Christ
The sheep have often been shamed.

Through widow's mites, your way has been paved
To live lives of which we can't dream.
In giving three tithes and offerings galore
Our own lives were bare and lean.

The outside of the cup and platter looks nice
But inside are extortion and excess.
You strain at the gnat but the camel you gulp
While trivial things you stress.

Jesus said, clean up your own insides
Before trying to cleanup the sheep.
Make your own paths straight and right
And loosen the burdens you heap.

Woe unto you hypocrites and Pharisees
Good examples you have not set.
By devouring houses of widows and the poor
You have racked up quite a large debt.
(based on Matthew 23)

TESTIMONY OF ABUSE WITHIN THE CHURCH OF GOD
by Tawanda Ray, Hamilton, Alabama

I received your 111 page document today and read it before the evening was out. I must say, I was not the least bit surprised. Their actions were status quo as Herbert Armstrong trained them well. What is ironic, however, is that there are quite a few "ministers" out there who adhere to the hierarchy mentality (and are now affiliated with the split-off groups) who rejected authority over them and left WCG way before HWA died. They "rebelled against their superiors but preach against it to those "under" them. And they do view themselves as "the church".

I remember Joe Tkach Sr. saying something that epitomizes their attitude. I think he was speaking of Rod Meredith when he stated, "the church holds no ill will toward him and neither should you"! Huh??

I can see by your letters that you have been through the mill in trying to live in peace as a married couple and fellowship with your church group. I am sorry for all the troubles you have been through but at least one good thing has come from it. You now see what a sorry, Godless and idolatrous system that is the cherished hierarchy. And now, you are there for others who have been rejected by the organizations and who need a place to fellowship.

You gave some examples of "ministerial" abuses. I'll add a few that I am personally acquainted with. My husband tithed to WCG for many years before he finally started attending. Before he became a member, he fell out of a tree and cracked his back. (He was a logger and was trying to tie off a tree to throw it so it wouldn't fall on a fence when cut.) We had some insurance which took care of the hospital bill but no money-no savings-for such an emergency. I had no job (the church frowned on women with small children working outside the home and I certainly didn't want to make "the church" frown!). So--I went to our "minister" for help. I thought maybe he'd help us with the 3rd tithe fund--at least for food and gas to get to church. At that time, I was still very much in "church" mentality and held deep awe and respect for the men who claimed to represent God.

This man turned me down and told me to go to the welfare for aid. Dutifully, I obeyed. They also turned me down. I didn't know what we'd do or how we'd make it. We didn't have family who was in any position to help us.

This so-called preacher never turned one finger to help us in any way or even to inquire as to our state. I take that back. He did pay for a back brace for my husband--and later, on one Sabbath, informed me that I was to tell my husband to pay it back. I never told him!

I was so hurt, that "the church" would not help us even to keep us from going hungry. This same man watched and "counseled" a family, our friends, who were going through a 3rd tithe year and was nearly in financial ruin. They struggled to pay 3 tithes (and generous offerings), while barely putting food on their table. If it had not been for the brethren who brought them food and money, I don't know what would have become of them. They could not even attend "church" every Sabbath, for lack of gas money. Yet, this man never offered aid or comfort. Some servant! This man also informed me that I should put my aged father in the nursing home. I had timidly approached him to counsel me concerning problems I was having with my Dad. He had had a stroke and we brought him into our home to live with us, in our small mobile home. So dutifully, I sought to place my Dad in a nursing home because God had spoken! I have regretted that action ever since. (He lived about a year afterwards.)

I also asked him if I could use our 3rd tithe to build my Dad a small one room "house" in our back yard so we could have some privacy and I still could care for him. He flatly said NO! (This was prior to our counseling session during which he informed me I needed to put him in the nursing home.)

Another time and another "minister", I sought help and encouragement due to one of my health exams disclosing a mass in my breast. I was sick at heart and terrified. Again, we had no money and no insurance (could the fact that HWA's "church" demanded every dime we could gather together, have something to do with our consistent poverty?).

Again, foolish naive person such as I was, I expected some encouragement, at least a prayer! After explaining our situation, I asked him his advice. Know what he said? "You're between a rock and a hard place". (Oh yeah, be warmed and filled, go in peace--and don't forget to send in your tithes).

He did not offer to go pray with me (later I asked for anointing), nor did he offer any aid or 3rd tithe assistance to go get checked out.

These men were well served by us! Yet, when we needed help, they turned a deaf ear. If we were in financial need it was because we were doing something wrong, for God was not blessing us and they couldn't relieve us because God was chastising us and they sure didn't want to hinder God!

"Be warmed and filled, go in peace..." Perhaps they never read that section of scripture-huh!

Then there was the vulnerable trauma of my Dad dying. I called this same "minister" to inform him that my Dad had passed away. He was also a member of WCG and we assumed the "minister" would officiate the funeral. Know what his reaction was? It was, "inconvenient" because the Y.O.U. family weekend was to occur that weekend. So, while he and everyone else went off to enjoy their fun-filled weekend, I buried my Dad. If it had been someone of prominence in the congregation, it would have been different.

Are these cases isolated? Far from it.

How many abuses have been inflicted upon women due to the teachings of the male dominated hierarchy of H.W.A. I have sat through sermons over a 24 year period that were designed to squash all women and basically perpetuate male dominance over them, keeping them in pure bondage.

Their life line is control. Their system is satanic. There has been no good fruits in this system and I challenge anyone to prove to me there has been.

Look at the state of affairs within the churches. They all quote scripture touting unity and lack of confusion. Yet, it has been the so-called ministry that has created all this disunity and confusion. It is the leadership that lays claim that they are the ones that God is working through. Well, if that be the case, then we must admit that surely God Himself is disorganized, disunified and in confusion. And He can't really make up His mind to what is truth. (Give me a break!)

I feel sorry for the congregation of United who has treated you the way they have. Some hard lessons await them in their dealings with their "priesthood". Their action reeks of self-righteousness. I have had some dealings with that mentality as well.

I was attacked via letter by a person who felt I had really overstepped my bounds when I expressed excitement to her about something I and 3 other friends (independents) were going to do. Here's the scene. A friend, a spiritual sister, was in the hospital dying of cancer. We wanted to go see her, anoint her with oil and pray for her. This person wrote me several pages in a letter in an all out accusing assault on my heart and intent. My sin? I expressed excitement over what we, as independents, were about to do and I made the comment that we all need to really learn to care for one another and do this more. I reckon I came across to her in such a way as to make her think I was expressing "look at me-I'm the example". She took great exception to my enthusiasm and informed me that it was misguided and even quoted scripture to back up her accusations.

The story of what we did even went so far out as to reach the ears of Fred Coulter. Oh boy did he lambast us. His take on our actions? We were being presumptuous--trying to fulfill a role that belongs to a "minister". How dare we!

He even brought us up in one of his taped sermons and sent it out to all his listeners. We were labeled self-righteous, demanding females who were walking on very dangerous ground by usurping authority given only to "ministers". (gag!)

He had the whole story wrong and thought we were a "band of six women" who marched into the hospital and loudly demanded that God heal this sick woman. He didn't even have the facts right. We were actually 3 women and 1 man. The man was the son of the woman who lambasted me and one of the women was his wife. The other woman was the sick woman's best friend. (An ex-friend of the angry woman.)

I wrote Fred with this knowledge and challenged him to correct himself and apologize on tape and send it out.

We got one with his "apology" so I am giving him the benefit of the doubt and am assuming he sent it to everyone.

Talk about jumping to conclusions. Such a ruckus over an innocent act. Why? It was construed to be something of a rebellious, usurping of the "ministers" authority. It was construed as an act of self-righteousness. They viewed our going over there to anoint our friend with oil and pray for her as an act of sacrilege. It was ok to visit her and even pray for her. The "sin" was daring to place oil on her and lay our hands on her in conjunction with asking for healing.

Coming from a hierarchical/ministerial system in which only an elite few have proper credentials from God to perform certain duties, I can understand why they would view our act as sacrilegious.

In the 24 years that I was a part of WCG/Global/United, I have had very little positive interaction with the men who desire to be masters of our spirit lives.

Since leaving it all behind, I am sickened when I hear of tales like yours or when I read about the attitudes of superiority of these little minded men. I had to chuckle when I read Paul Luecke's letter to you, Laura, dated Nov. 17, 1999 (numbered 27 points), in which he made the bold statement "God places a very high emphasis on unity in His Church". (# point 26)

Undoubtedly, he does not understand what constitutes the spirit body of Christ and he does not view the hundreds of groups and independents other than United as being the "ekkleisia".

If they view the leadership so highly, then they should have obeyed their superiors and stayed in Worldwide!

My hope is this. I hope this little group of dominators will one day look around and all their worshipful followers are gone. All their income is gone and they actually have to get out and work for a living. He who does not work should not eat.

If we were to see a wolf in the sheep pen, would we not cry out? Some would not, but would say "hey, no wolf is perfect, throw him another lamb chop. After all, these sheep are not perfect either".

EDITOR'S NOTE: She is refereeing to a document titled: "Why Were We Disfellowshipped By The United Church of God an International Association?"--by Darwin & Laura Lee--It is 111 pages long and can be ordered on the last page of this newsletter.

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 much 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!

CORRECTION: In Issue #3, our last newsletter, we printed an E-mail address for Rusty Ames of Turning Point Ranch Ministries, PO Box 901, Proctor, Texas 76468. The provider of their E-mail, internet service has failed. No E-mails are getting through either way on that E-mail address--it keeps saying the box is full. Due to this E-mail server failure, Rusty Ames is using the following E-mail address, it is: "trnpnt2@comanchetx.com". Again, if you would like to receive sermon tapes from Don Esposito, or to know more about his ministry, please contact Rusty Ames either E-mail or Snail mail. We are sorry if this caused any problems for anyone. Thank you. Laura Lee

God's Government

by Arlan Weight, Bismarck, North Dakota

What kind of government does God use in ruling the universe? Is it democratic? Do angels vote? Does God have a cabinet of advisors? Is God's government hierarchical, from the top down? Which is it, top-down or bottom-up...two choices?

Maybe we need to ask a different kind of question. Since it is God's Government, it is God's Government. It is not man's government, and because it is God's Government, could it be that it is neither of the choices offered above, at least not the way we understand the options? Could it be, in order to be God's Government, it has to have Godly elements, verses man's government, which have none?

For example many notable and great statesmen have said the only way for peace to happen is through one world government. And yet they all seem to be also saying, in the hands of man this would be a disaster. Why?

To those who desire a hierarchical style wouldn't this be the perfect way, control from the top-down with all the world supporting the leadership? Sounds simple and logical, but which nation would be willing to give up it's sovereignty? Unless all nations recognize their only chance for survival is at stake, the chance of this happening is virtually nil. Even if the facts prove it to be necessary, all people would have to be convinced of it, which is unlikely. Therein we see the problem. One statesman indicated it would take "a strong hand from someplace".

To those who seek a democratic form, here's a perfect way to harness the support of all the world's citizens to support goals of peace and stability through elected officials, representing every district throughout the world. This option on the surface sounds simple, logical and would seem to have more of a chance than the 'hierarchical' style, because each nation might be able to maintain it's sovereignty. The 'League of Nations' and now the 'United Nations' organizations have become man's best attempt to achieve peace. Have they worked? I think we can all see they have only been marginally successful at best.

Again, the two styles of government are workable, but are impossible in the hands of man. Why? Because they lack something. Even if it were possible for one nation to have the power to force all nations to submit, it would ultimately fail. The reason is that it would not have the Godly elements mentioned above.

So what are these elements? First of all the basic difference between God's government and man's is that God is in charge. God's way is ruling by serving, whereas man's way is ruling by being served. One way is the way of helping and giving, while the other is the way of taking and self seeking. Let's look at a basic scripture.

"Jesus called them", the disciples, "unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mat. 20:25-28)

Think about it. Jesus is saying, if you want to be great, great in God's eyes, be a servant. Let's meditate on this for a moment. What is greatness anyway? Is it being exalted in the eyes of the people? Is it some great title? Is it something like this so we can strut around and people will just bow down to us? No, absolutely not. However, this is the way of this world. This is how man likes to think of himself in a rulership position. In man's society and government it usually follows a form of intimidation and fear.

But today, do you find any government that truly gets it's satisfaction in serving? Doing unto others as you would have them do unto you; considering service to be the greatest honor one can aspire to? Not hardly. Not in this world. No, this is man's government.

But think about it. God seems to be saying, in His government there are those who will be great, and yet at the same time, they who are great get their greatness from serving. In Mark 10:44, Jesus said, "whosoever of you who will be chiefest, shall be servant of all." How can this be? It sounds like a contradiction in terms. This is something mankind fails miserably in understanding, because man simply cannot understand the principle of giving. And yet the Bible clearly indicates true happiness comes from giving, not receiving. "Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

Imagine that! Again this is a hard concept for man to understand. In fact it's impossible. Although some actually do experience this satisfaction because they just seem to fall in the category of givers rather than the takers. But this is not the norm.

The former leader of the Worldwide Church of God came to see these principles of giving verses taking. He used to always say that this world and its societies are going the way of 'get' while God's way is the way of 'give'. On page 48 of the book 'Mystery of the Ages', Herbert Armstrong wrote of the character of God. He wrote, "that character might be summed up in the one word Love, defined as an outflowing loving concern. It is the way of giving, serving, helping, sharing, not the 'get' way."

He also advocated that God's government must operate from the top down. God is supreme in authority. Jesus always pointed to His Father as the one responsible for the works which he performed on the earth. He said His Father was greater than He. In John 10:29 Jesus said, "My Father is greater than all." In John 14:28 Jesus said, "My Father is greater than I."

Even though Jesus said the Father was greater, He also said, "I and my Father are one." Even though the Father sent Jesus to this earth to do a work, Jesus is saying He fully agreed with the plan. Jesus whole desire was to finish what the Father gave him to do. Jesus said, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish His work." (John 4:34)

So Jesus' coming to this earth was the Father's plan. It was His work. Jesus says so. But Jesus also wanted to do it. (Isa. 6:8 and Mat. 13:14) So here is government, God's government; God the Father, supreme in authority and Jesus, or the 'Word', lesser in greatness, but one with his Father in everything, totally agreeable.

How does this government function? Is it a master-slave relationship? Did the Father say to the 'Word', you will go to the earth and do thus and thus or else? No. Rather Jesus' whole purpose was to serve willingly, not grudgingly or of necessity. Willingly. Notice Jesus attitude about this in Isaiah 6:8, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then said I, 'Here am I; send me'"

So even though the form of government appears hierarchical, it doesn't function the way man's government functions. In God's government the Godly elements of giving and serving, make it work. There is no lording over and intimidation or threats. There is hierarchy alright, but the greater the authority the greater the service. (Mat. 20:25-28 & Mark 10:44) It's a law. It has to be this way or else the whole system would fail. As the level of authority increases, the level of responsibility also increases, and it follows then that the need for greater serving also increases.

Think about it. Here is God, supreme in authority and yet the law of His government, the law He himself is bound by, is that He be the "servant of all" (Mark 10:44). Again Matthew 20:27 "whosoever will be chief among you let him be your servant." The word 'chief' comes from the Greek word 'protos' meaning 'first or foremost.' The word servant is from the Greek word 'doulos', which means 'bond servant or slave'.

So again, here is God, ruler over all the universe, bound by his law of service, becoming a bond servant to all beneath that supreme authority. To be otherwise would break the law of love and outgoing concern and would ultimately fail. This is exactly what happened to Lucifer and why his perverted hierarchy doesn't work. His style of government is also hierarchical, but it is self serving. It lords itself over others, it exalts itself.

You might also say it like this. In God's government the one who is the most humble and meek is the one with the greatest authority. In Satan's government the one who is the most pompous and arrogant is the one with the greatest authority.

But again, in God's government the functioning law is that of Love and outgoing concern. It has to be this way or else it would fail. The law is sure. It's as sure as the sun rising every morning or the seasons unailing. God and his law of love and service are forever. "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Mal. 3:4).

When man took of the forbidden fruit, he chose for himself the ability to form his own style of government. Satan, being very clever, deceived mankind into thinking he was forming a government, like God's hierarchical form, but with one missing ingredient...God's Holy Spirit.

Man thinks he is functioning like God by administering authority from the top down, but without this missing ingredient he is unable to govern in a benevolent way. It is impossible to do so. Even with best intentions, it is impossible. The only way possible for hierarchical government to succeed and continue to grow is by God's Spirit.

Notice the words in Zechariah 4:6. "Not by might nor by power but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." The word 'might' comes from the Hebrew word 'geburah' meaning 'force, mastery, might, mighty act, mighty power, power, or strength'. The word 'power' comes from the word 'koach', which means 'ability, force, fruits, might, power, strength, substance or wealth'.

Think of it. Think on the meaning of all these words. Even though God and Christ have all the power of the universe (Mat.

28:18 & Isa 40:12-31), His government is not going to operate that way. Man's only way, the only way he understands, is the use of force or intimidation. If you don't do what we say we will bomb or punish you until you recognize the power. And this is usually done for vain or self-serving reasons, not necessarily for the benefit of those being punished. But God's reasons are always noble. God can and does correct those he loves, but it's always done for the benefit of those being corrected, never in an uncontrollable state of anger or show of power. (Heb. 12:5-11) Man cannot and will not accept any other answer but force of power. God says His government will function "by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." (Zech. 4:6)

Think of it. In this world it can't be otherwise. It's also part of the deception Satan has foisted off on mankind that peace can only come by use of force. But God says His government will operate by His Spirit. The fruits of God's Spirit are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance".

Ponder this. All these characteristics appear opposite to the might and power aspect man thinks of when discussing government. The higher one ascends in the hierarchy of God's government the more love, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance one must have. Is this the way it is in man's hierarchical form of government? No. Absolutely not. The higher one ascends in man's hierarchy, the more power he wields. Instead of bearing long with individuals, he's often short, impatient, and threatening. Instead of controlled, he's sometimes uncontrollable, and sometimes prone to irrational behavior.

Can we begin to see the difference between man's government and God's government? On the surface they may look alike, but without God's Holy Spirit, Man is left with only second best, which is not best at all, but following after the deception he's received from Satan.

God's Chosen Leaders

God's Chosen leaders exhibit the fruits of God's Spirit. But did they have them from the beginning? Were they qualified to lead instantly the moment God tapped them on the shoulder? No. Not at all. Rather these elements were built into them over a lifetime of experience.

Abraham is called the father of the faithful. (Rom. 4:16 & Gal. 3:7) But was he filled with faith when he lied about his wife Sarah being his sister? It doesn't appear so. This was earlier in his life and it took years of training; first of all on God's part exercising His own Spirit of gentleness, kindness and long-suffering to develop the faithful spirit in Abraham. Secondly it was said 'Abraham believed God'. (Gen. 15:6 & Rom. 4:3) Did this automatically happen? No, not hardly. It took constant effort on the part of Abraham. It took constant effort on the part of Abraham to do as God told him and to experience the results that things would turn out as God promised. But also think about God. Think about His faithfulness to deliver as promised. One could say, well He's God and he could do as He pleases, but think about it... It would only take once for God to renege on a promise for Abraham to begin to question whether God would be true to His word. But no, He never failed and therefore this faith was built...built over time. Until finally God could say "now I know..." (Genesis 22:12) Now God knew, after a lifetime of testing and proving Abraham to be sure he had developed the spiritual quality of faith.

In other places Abraham is called 'The Friend of God'. (2 Chron. 20:7 & James 2:23) Would you suppose he could remotely be called God's friend unless he had also developed all the other character traits of God's spirit? "Can two walk together, unless they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3) The answer is certainly no. So Abraham is held up for all of us to see. To see the character traits he developed over his lifetime and how that God most assuredly will use these to execute proper government "by His Spirit".

Isaac surely exhibited a great deal of faith in God and trust in his own father Abraham to be willing to be sacrificed if necessary. He becomes somewhat of a 'type' of what Jesus would do in that he was willing. He certainly learned the lessons of faith well and at an early age, and yet...he wasn't perfect in everything. Not a lot of faults are mentioned about him, but one can see some things he yet had to overcome. One problem he seemed to have was not being as truthful as maybe he should have been. It seems this was something even his father Abraham had to overcome. (Genesis 20:2-12 & Genesis 26:7-10) It was the matter of telling half truths about their wives being their sisters.

Isaac also learned of the bitter fruits of parenthood when favoritism for one child over the other happens. (Gen. 27) The story is there for all to read about now, and yet one can be assured he learned these lessons of life and will one day be among those who will be entrusted to rule "by His Spirit".

Jacob surely didn't start out with all the fruits of God's spirit when he and his mother conspired to gain the blessings of the birthright, that normally would have gone to the eldest son, Esau. Jacob, with support of his mother, lied about his

identity to his father, Isaac to gain these blessings. This was a bitter lesson of how not to do things, and has had far reaching effects.

Look at the legacy of his life and the training that God put him through to develop the fruits of God's spirit in him. Read of his dealings with his father-in-law, how, that even though he was mistreated by him many times, Jacob always tried to treat him fairly in return.

Joseph started out as somewhat of a hotshot. Being the favored son, he appears to be a bit proud. Maybe he was an obedient son, which won him this favor, but look at the troubles it caused him. He (Joseph) seems to be a bit caught up with himself in the beginning. His father (Jacob) also, in showing this favoritism, angered Joseph's other brothers to the point of wanting to kill him. Upon Reuben's insistence, however, they sold him into slavery in Egypt instead.

But look at the hardship Joseph endured and the many long years of patiently being obedient to God and being willing to suffer wrongfully in order to develop the character traits of love and outgoing service, the character traits of God's spirit.

In reading the story of Joseph, one can see how that God not only developed the fruits of His spirit in Joseph, but his father, Jacob, as well as his brothers. Again the story ends well but it took many years of patient training on the part of God to instill and ingrain these character traits in those he chose. They weren't born this way.

Moses is said to have been the meekest man in all the earth at that time. "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." (Num. 12:3) But was he this way in the beginning? Was he this way when he was growing up in Pharaoh's court? It's unlikely, but at some point he began to change. Maybe his own real mother had a lot to do with his early start of developing Godly character. We can only assume this. Anyway, when he killed the Egyptian it appears he did it thinking he could get away with it. (Ex. 2:12) So it appears clear that he, at that time, still lacked that close relationship with the creator. Maybe one can say he did it in a fit of righteous indignation over what he saw was wrong, especially when he knew these were his brothers and sisters that were being mistreated.

Anyway, it doesn't excuse the fact that it was a killing and he had to flee for his life. He fled to the land of Midian where he spent the next 40 years of his life tending sheep. It's very likely these 40 years taught him the ability or character trait of meekness. Was this by accident? Or was it by design, God's design. Could God have used any other type of person? When we read the story of Israel's 40 years of wandering, it becomes plain it took someone of that character and nature to put up with all the griping and complaining. What if Moses wouldn't have had the ability to intercede for his people like he did on many occasions? Well, we can only speculate, but it's quite apparent God instilled the character traits of His spirit in Moses as well as possibly many others who witnessed what happened.

David is described as a man after God's own heart. How much of God's spirit did he display to begin with? Unlike Moses or Abraham, David seemed to have a great deal of faith in God at a very early age. This is evident in the way he took on vicious wild animals as well as Goliath. It's quite evident he was quite close to God to trust him in this intimate manner.

But maybe some other things were lacking and needed to be developed. Faith is one of the character traits of God's spirit but there are others. How about the aspect of humility, meekness, long-suffering, self control etc. As we read of David's life we can see it was not a bed of roses. He spent many long years battling his own human nature to grow spiritually to where God knew he could be trusted to always do what is right. This is the one God says is his chosen to govern Israel in the world tomorrow. (Jer. 30:9)

The Apostle Paul was a well educated man but was struck down early in his life. Prior to that how much mercy did he display when he put people into prison and consented to their deaths? It's quite evident he lacked mercy, patience, as well as maybe most other character traits of God's spirit. One thing he appeared to have was zeal. He seemed to have a determination to carry out to completion that which he believed in, namely persecution of the early Christians.

After his conversion he went on to suffer much physical and mental abuse, finally giving his own life in martyrdom. In the final analysis he was able to understand and practice the way of true love when he wrote 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter.

The Disciples were a rough and tough group of men, who for the most part were of the common types. They mainly were fishermen. Matthew was a tax collector. One can only imagine but that these men displayed a good deal of carnal nature before their conversion. James and John are sometimes referred to as the 'sons of thunder'. Peter denied Christ on the night of his betrayal, but all of them lacked a good deal of faith. In the end they began to turn the world upside down by

the message they preached and their witness.

Even Jesus learned by the things which he suffered. (Heb. 5:8) What kind of things? It appears Jesus always allowed God's Spirit to have rule in his life. He always followed after the urgings of that spirit rather than that of his own human inclination. An example of this is when he forgave those who crucified him, rather than the normal human reaction of revenge.

Now if he had to be proven in the flesh by testing when He was given God's spirit without measure (John 3:34), what about us? He is our example (1 Pet. 2:21) and we are to walk as he walked. If there was ever any person who displayed the fruits of giving and serving it was Him.

Now Jesus is going to be the top one in the hierarchy of God's government and yet he was the humblest and meekest of all. (Matt. 11:29) It follows then that any who will be in that hierarchy must also have these same fruits well established in their character. Again the ones who are able to serve and give most and do it with humility are the ones who will be the greatest in God's government (Mark 10:44); quite different from man's view of hierarchy. All of God's family members will have developed the fruits of God's spirit and will have been fitted for a job in that government structure.

God's Government-Like a Temple Structure

Jesus said he "would build his church" (Mat. 16:18) and the church is likened unto a temple building of which He is the chief cornerstone. It's a spiritual temple and each person in that structure is likened to one stone fitted and built into it. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house." (1 Pet. 2:5)

Think of the Temple Solomon built. (1 Kings 4:7) "And the house when it was in building was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was in building." Can you imagine that? Every stone was perfectly cut in the field. Can you fathom the plans needed for that? There were big stones, small stones, stones requiring great strength, stones of beauty and stones not so beautiful but necessary...not one left out. But all of them...every last one of them perfectly fitted before it was placed in the temple structure at the job site. This took master planning on a scale unheard of even in modern architecture.

If man is not able to do something like this in modern times with all the known technology, how was it even possible to do back then? The only answer is that God was the master planner of that building. He drew up the plans! He designed every stone...it's height, width, length, strength requirement, beauty and every other aspect. It simply was not possible for a man or group of men. Notice how the planning was done. "Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and the treasuries thereof, and the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and the place of the mercy seat, and the pattern of all that he had by the spirit..." (1 Chron. 28:11-12)

God also designed the placement of the stones and the order and timing for their placement. Think about that as well. Foundation stones, structural stones requiring strength have to be laid or placed first. Then the stones that add luster or beauty come later. But how much care and preparation was necessary to select the raw material for each? Where does one look? For that matter, how much effort does it take to hone and polish stones of beauty and do so perfectly where no extra customary work is required at the job site!

Can we begin to see the analogy? God, the master planner, developed the plans for Solomon's Temple, plans so perfect that every stone fit without any extra work at the job site. So also is God now chipping away, honing and polishing the spiritual stones that will make up the temple that he returns to, when Jesus returns to this earth.

God is the one who is deciding where the placement of each stone should be. Notice Matthew 21:42. "Jesus saith unto them, did ye never read in the scriptures, 'the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'" Jesus is quoting this from Psalms 118:22-23. The word corner in Psalms comes from the Hebrew word 'pinnah' which means bulwark, corner, stay, tower or chief man.

Again notice this is God's doing. He is the master planner. He is the one who decides the placement of the stone. In this case he's referring to the 'chief' stone, which is Christ. (Mat. 16:18) But how about all the other stones? Now if the builders didn't recognize the material required for the chief stone, do they recognize the material or position of any of the other stones?

Jesus was the 'chief' stone. Why? Because of his humbleness and service to mankind. This again is the most difficult for human beings to come to grips with. Man simply can't seem to grasp the issue of leadership based on service. Jesus came to this earth and demonstrated how we ought to serve. The leaders of his day rejected him. He simply didn't look like someone who

could possibly be somebody of importance.

How about the leaders God chose in the Old Testament? Were they recognized as God's servants? How were they received? "Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar." (Matt. 23:35 and 2 Chron. 24:20-21) Far from recognizing them as God's chosen, these men whom God had picked were treated as enemies and often abused, mistreated and killed. It's quite obvious they didn't recognize them.

How about after the time of Christ? Did the leaders begin to change and take special note of things and be careful not to fall under the same condemnation? Not at all. Look at the case of Stephen.

Shortly after the Day of Pentecost the original Apostles were commissioned to go to the world with the gospel message but they recognized there were other needs besides. There were physical needs many had who could not support themselves. So they (the Apostles) appointed some to oversee this business. What was this business? Acts 17:1 says "widows were neglected in the daily ministrations." The JFB Commentary says, "the daily ministrations, the daily distribution of alms or of food, probably the latter." Acts 17:2 says "serve tables". So it apparently didn't have much to do with preaching the gospel but was it important and what was the criteria for these overseers?

"Look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom,..." These men were appointed to a hierarchical position of service and the main element of their qualifications was that they possess God's Spirit.

So Stephen was one of those selected. Now the disciples, now Apostles, recognized these because they had recently been imbued with God's Spirit also. So Stephen went about doing all manner of good. "It says he was 'full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.'" (Acts 6:8) But what about the other leaders? Did they recognize God's criteria for leadership? No they certainly didn't. Instead they killed him. (Acts 17:58) Even Paul didn't recognize Stephen and God's selection. It wasn't until after his conversion that he finally had his eyes opened.

So did the persecution end then? Of course not. History books are filled with horrible atrocities perpetrated against God's anointed from that time until now. Again the main reason is that man does not recognize the qualifications for leadership the same as God does. Churches down through the ages have had their leaders. Individual people who were visibly known by the general populace for their position and job. They appeared in a hierarchical order and were generally accepted. But were they really leaders according to God's standard? Did they really exercise God's spirit? Maybe some times they did. Many times it's obvious they didn't.

The Church Today

Controversy is going back and forth today about God's form of government. Some claim it has to be one man rule from the top down. Others claim it has to be by a counsel of elders. But think again...based on the biblical definition...the way Christ describes his leadership...is it either of these? Both types are from a stand point of power, but God says His government is not going to be by "power or might, but by His Spirit". (Zech. 4:6)

Most larger churches, including Churches of God, seem to function with a power structure, a visible hierarchy of individuals in charge on down to the lowest. Which brings up the question. Are some people to be esteemed higher than others? What's the highest rank you would think? What's the lowest? Again, when we start talking like this, it's not God's government we're discussing.

Sure God is in charge, but God first of all governs by his Spirit. God's form of hierarchy is based on service and is conducted by the gifts given to various individuals for that service. Notice 1 Corinthians 12. The entire chapter is talking about various gifts for serving, and not that one is better than the other or that one person should be 'lording' it over another. All the gifts of service given by God, are necessary, but they have different functions.

Notice Ephesians 4:11. "And he gave some, apostles and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers."...Is this by order of importance? No. Rather it's like a body. If you're an eye, you can't claim more importance than a hand. "And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: and those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked: God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers

of Miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? (1 Cor. 12:21-24, 28-30)

What is this telling us? Is it to show a government power structure with a hierarchical level of authority? No. Rather all these gifts are not for "being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock." (1 Pet. 5:3) The word 'lords' comes from the Greek word 'katakuriuo'. One of its meanings is 'exercise dominion over' (Young's Concordance). So isn't the real essence of 1 Corinthians 12 telling us the gifts are to be used for service and not for authority in the sense of having dominion over others?

So what's the purpose? (1 Cor. 12:25) "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry (service) for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure and stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph. 4:12-13) "That there should be no schism in the body: but that the members should have the same care one for another". Even if one had all of the gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 it wouldn't mean a thing, if you didn't have one ingredient and that is love. Paul then goes on to define what love is in 1 Corinthians 13.

As we look around and observe the 'Churches of God', as well as all churches, many, if not most have a structure like other governments in the world. Because of their hierarchical structure, and human nature, the tendency is to 'lord' positions of authority over others. Pride and vanity are deeply entrenched in the human psyche and placing people in 'offices' of authority, without a comparable amount of the Godly elements spoken of earlier, can lead to abuse of the power.

This is not to say God has not given His Spirit to individuals, for indeed he has. However, we must wonder, when we see all the factions and various groups, each going their own way and refusing to associate and shunning one another, "how dwells the love of God in them?" (1 John 3:17) Again, "Ye shall know them by their fruits." (Matt. 7:16)

When king Saul was 'little in his own eyes, God named him to lead Israel'. (1 Sam. 15:17) It's when he began to get puffed up that he went astray. This is not just king Saul. This is the human tendency in all of us. In contrast though look again at Moses. Because he was 'meek', God continued to use him right up to the end. Was it not this fruit of God's spirit that made all the difference?

Within all 'Church of God' groups it is quite likely God is working with certain individuals to develop the fruits of His Spirit and is fashioning them for service in His government. But to say any one of the church groups represents God's government on earth today is inaccurate from the Biblical definition Christ gave.

Summary

The purpose for the church, and the gifts that various people within the church have, is to prepare the saints for a future time when Christ will return to this earth. Then is when God's government will be restored. God's hierarchical standard will determine where each person will be placed in that government to serve humanity. It will be based on the fruits of God's Spirit. How much faith, how much long-suffering, how much love, etc. did that person develop over their life span?

The position that an individual will have, will be determined by the level of service they are capable of. Their hierarchical order will be determined by how much they grew by what they were given (Luke 19:12-26). Positions of service in God's government started to be filled by individuals as far back as Abel. The selection of the stones of God's Temple were being prepared even back then and have been in the preparation to this day.

When Christ returns he will "suddenly come to his temple" (Mal. 3:1) and take over the reins of government. Just like as with Solomon's temple there was no need for further work on the stones at the job site, so also will it be with God's spiritual temple. The individual stones will have been perfectly shaped, fitted and polished for the job. It's at that time when all the stones that have been quarried and fitted shall be placed. It is then when God's government will take over all other governments.

When Christ returns the world will be on the brink of self annihilation. When he comes into view the world will not recognize him and try to fight him. Just as they didn't recognize him the first time, just as the world has not recognized those he has sent in the past, they will think he is an alien from outer space.

He will have to use 'power and might' in order to save man from total destruction. Even this is an act of love for his creation. But after that...after the dust settles God's government will start. Man's hierarchical form will end and God's will start. The earth will rejoice! Notice Isa. 14:7. "The whole earth is at rest and is quiet: They break forth into singing"...It's then that the 'meek' shall inherit the earth. (Matt. 5:5) It's then that the reins of government shall be in the hands of those He has prepared...His first fruits. The highest level is God, the Father. He is servant of all. Next is His

Son, Jesus Christ and then next "it will be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father." (Matt. 20:23)

Finally, God's government truly is quite the opposite from that which we see today, not only in civil governments but in churches as well. But His time is not yet. Jesus said, "My kingdom" (My government) "is not of this world (age)" (John 18:36)...yet it is coming... "and the government shall be upon his shoulder". (Isaiah 9:6-7)

True, when He does rein, He will put down all who exalt themselves and abuse power. But mankind has been, and is deceived as to just how he will do it. Again man thinks he knows, but it's only because he (mankind) has never known anything else but governments that 'lord' it over others. God's government does not do that. God's government and those in it will demonstrate how government should function, and how to live life to achieve true happiness.

Sure he will correct, by withholding rain (Zech. 14:18-19), is a long way from dropping bombs. God will have and will use his power. There's no doubt about that, but it will always be for the good of those who oppose it. Eventually everyone will know of His true nature and will want to live that way. (Jer. 31:34) God will demonstrate it to all. How? By proper government in the hands of his servants-his first fruits, those he is working with right now, developing character traits of his spirit.

Notice how it will happen. "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." (Isa. 40:11) And this way of life will continue to grow and grow... "Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end." (Isa. 9:7)

Why will God's government succeed where man's has failed. Because it will be administered "Not by might nor by power but by my spirit saith the Lord of Hosts." (Zech. 4:6)

EDITORS NOTE--Government and what the Bible God's word has to say about it, is a big subject, and everyone should study this on their own to see whether what we or anyone else says on the subject is true or not. Never, never just believe what a person tells you--always study the subject yourself and only follow men or women as they follow Christ. For more information on this subject, Norman Edwards of Servants' News has an excellent 64 page document titled "How Does the Eternal Govern Through Humans?" If you are interested in that, you may order it directly from Servants' News and their address is on the 2nd page of this newsletter. Another item pertaining to this subject is a tape by Wes White, titled "Nimrod's Effect on the Church Today", This cassette tape is available through us and can be ordered on the last page of this newsletter. Another excellent tape that also goes with this subject is "The Holy Spirit" by Wayne Speed and can also be ordered on the last page of this newsletter. Happy studying. Laura Lee

FEAST OF TABERNACLES--SITE SPONSORED BY MID-MISSOURI CHURCH OF GOD (MMCG)
October 2, 2001 to October 9, 2001

Mid-Missouri Church of God (MMCG) will again be sponsoring the Feast of Tabernacles (October 2nd through the 9th) at the 54,000 acre Lake of the Ozarks in central Missouri.....to be held this year at the beautiful new Baymont Inn in the town of Lake Ozark. Members of all Church of God organizations will be welcome. Information and registration will be at 5:30PM in the Baymont Conference Hall, with opening services commencing at 7:30PM on Monday night, October 1st. (A traditional format is planned--with worship services at 10:30AM on most days.)

If you're planning to be at the Lake of the Ozarks site, and would be interested in sermon, sermonette, Bible study or seminar presentation....or serving as a choir member, individual or group special music volunteer, accompanist, or assisting with the children's Bible classes, please get in touch. Or perhaps you'd be interested in helping out with such things as registration, information and activities table, literature and handouts table, ushers, greeters.

In the planning stage are such activities as "First Day of the Feast" Fellowship Luncheon, Breakfast with the Seniors, Night out with the Singles, Ozark Music Night, Afternoon Lake Cruise, Pie and Ice Cream Social, and a Family Picnic and Cook-out at Lake of the Ozarks State Park. In addition, there are more than a dozen beautiful golf courses and some good fishing spots just a short drive from the Inn.

To request an information packet (and motel rates), please write to Duke and Dotte Schneider, Festival Coordinating Team, at 31879 Triangle Cove Road, Gravois Mills, MO 65037. Or telephone (573) 372-3221; E-mail messages can be sent to ddinno@mail.usmo.com

Note: If you think you might be attending the feast at Lake of the Ozarks, it would be most helpful if you could let us know as soon as possible--for planning purposes. Thank you!

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

by Laura Lee, Bismarck, North Dakota

I Corinthians 12:27-31, Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church; first, apostles; secondarily, prophets; thirdly, teachers; after that, miracles; then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

Ephesians 4:11-16, And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive: But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together, and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

As I understand it, Wayne and Claudia Speed, for two years on a regular basis, went to various church areas and gave a seminar on "Spiritual Gifts". I myself have never been to one of their seminars, although, I did hear some people speak of these seminars, and remember thinking to myself, "What are they talking about?" I also heard one person say, "I wonder where they got that test from and how do they know if it works or not." Well, as time went on, I had to find these people and see what all this talk was about. I was driven, or to put it another way, I was motivated.

So, contact was made, and Claudia phoned me, and soon we are getting tapes in the mail and a 140 question test. I listened to one tape and took the test, and contacted Claudia, telling her I need to print this test so everyone sees this, and I go on to tell her about all these gifts I seemed to have. Of course she ignored me (actually she was out of town). When I listened to the rest of the tapes and then talked to her again, she said she was waiting for me to catch up (my words), as I at first just plain old didn't get it.

God has called us at this time and is putting us through all the things he puts us through (things which are mostly our own choice), so that we may rule with Christ in the world tomorrow as Kings and Priests. Now, I realize there are many out there who believe that they need do nothing now, for God will whisk them away to a place of safety and train them there. Think about that? Would God really put a person on earth and let them get all tangled up in the webs we weave just to have us get over it, and forget the experience ever happened to us. I think not. God is using your entire life experience and my entire life experience to train us to rule with Christ in the world tomorrow. Whether there is or isn't a place of safety at some point is irrelevant to how you live your life now, what you do to serve God, and your brothers and sisters or whether you are teachable or not. I know there are many out there walking around proclaiming that they know it all and please stay away from me, for you are a low life, and not worthy of my time, for I am saintly and you are not. Which end of the learning scale are you on? Do you put God in a box? Or do you realize that God can put you in a place of safety no matter where you are?

Recently, it was brought to my attention, that we were being watched over here with curiosity by others, because we appear to have no "qualifications" to do what we do over here to serve others. We have no college degrees from Ambassador College, we have no ministers, and none of us who attend here has ever been of the ministerial rank system that I know of. When we run into a snag in the road of life, we consult our Bibles or someone we trust to point us in the right direction, always checking what God says. Are we qualified? Probably not, by man's standard? So what is the key to doing a work for God, even if you are not qualified in the eyes of many even those within your church?

In my opinion the key to being qualified is to put yourself in a position or a mindset where you are in a perpetual state of learning, having an open mind whereby you will implement changes in your life or belief system, as needed, and praying always to God for the ability to discern the difference between right and wrong, always listening to opinions of others but basing correction on the facts and only the facts, backed up by solid proof. In other words educate yourself daily, using your Bibles the word of God, as your starting point.

Different people know different things, because they have studied them. Wayne and Claudia Speed know more about this spiritual gifting material than I do, so if you have questions about any of this material and I can't answer your question, I will consult with Claudia and get back to you.

You will notice the title of the 140 question test is called "Motivational Spiritual Gifts Evaluation". You cannot flunk this

test, and you should take this test as often as you want. This test is geared to show a person what motivates or drives their life. What makes a person tick or purr? Each person will have one gift which is predominate over the rest, if you are honest with yourself. Women especially must be careful when taking this test, because women are taught many things as they grow up, which are learned traits of different gifts and fog up the one which is really their driving force. Like for instance, in corporation church culture, I never volunteered for kitchen work, I disliked it, and one day, I'm standing there and a deacon's wife threw a dish towel at me and said, go wipe dishes, and she walked away. I'm standing there thinking, "She could have asked nicely." I went and wiped the dishes, no problem, but I certainly wouldn't volunteer for this job of my own free will, when there were others who seemed to like it, and I knew I didn't. Several times in this corporation church culture, I did volunteer for different things which I knew I could do, if only they would give me a chance, but they didn't want my skills. After awhile, I started thinking that perhaps I didn't have any skills. Many in that culture have been taught to "Pay, Pray and Obey", and these are the only skills they learn, because of that teaching. Should we pay? Yes, but only from the heart and as we have it to give. Should we pray? Yes, and not just for those we personally know either, but for all who request us to pray for them and even for those who don't request it. Should we obey? Yes, but we obey God our Father and His son Jesus the Christ and we only follow men or women as they follow Christ. If we are very honest, we will answer each question on the test with a yes, only when we know this is us and how we personally are. Do not answer the question as yes only if we think it should be answered as yes. Once you find your motivational gift and start using it, you will see how you become more honest over time with answering the 140 questions on the test. Women especially when taking this test may have questions about the results, please do not be afraid to ask questions if you do not understand your results. This is part of how we educate ourselves daily, is by asking questions. So please ask.

After the test, appears a description of each of the motivational gifts of the spirit. The upper part of the description is a list of the traits each gift displays if you are working for God, and the bottom part of the description is a list of the traits each gift displays if you are working for yourself. The very last part is the score sheet.

We are very interested in helping everyone to learn what drives them, motivates them, or in other words how did God wire you to do his work? Wayne and Claudia Speed and Darwin and I want you to be always learning, and always helping others, as each of us can and as God wants each of us too. God puts knowledge and understanding and wisdom in our paths. What do we do with what God gives us? Do we ignore it and go our own way or do we check it out to see whether it is true or not?

The reason I would never volunteer for kitchen help, is not because it is a skill which is below me or a duty where I look down on others who like to do that type of work. I don't volunteer for kitchen help, because I have always felt uncomfortable doing such work. My reasons for not liking to work in a group setting in the kitchen with other people has nothing to do with the other people who are there. It has totally to do with how I am wired or motivated. Different people are wired or motivated in different directions, and if we are not allowed by church culture to use the gifts which God gave to us, then we are not going to be comfortable and we will not want to get up on Saturday morning and rush to services. Wayne Speed is a mercy gift. Darwin hasn't taken the test yet, but an educated guess tells me he is a mercy gift also. After speaking to Claudia on the phone a couple of times and discussing our unmotivation in working in group kitchen duties, it becomes clear that the test is pretty accurate in what it helps one to see and look at. Claudia and I are both proclaimer gifts. She is or seems to be into public speaking though, where I am not. I am into writing, where she is more into picking up the telephone and speaking directly to a person. I would rather write a letter than to call people on the phone. Both Claudia and I are now doing what we were wired to do by God, and something the corporation church culture would never have recognized let alone let us exercise our skills. So check it out, if nothing else, a person can come to know a little bit more about themselves and others.

WARNING: WE SUGGEST THAT YOU ORDER THE 3 TAPE SET OF CASSETTE TAPES WHICH GO INTO FAR MORE DETAIL AND INSIGHT ON HOW TO USE THIS "SPIRITUAL GIFTS" INFORMATION AND HOW TO UNDERSTAND IT MORE FULLY. THE TAPES ARE A LIVE SEMINAR GIVEN BY WAYNE AND CLAUDIA SPEED AND WALKS A PERSON RIGHT THROUGH THIS WHOLE PROCESS IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. SEE THE LAST PAGE IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR ORDER INFORMATION.

MOTIVATIONAL SPIRITUAL GIFTS EVALUATION

This evaluation may be helpful in discerning your spirit's motivational gift. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers. Simply mark the questions according to your true motives and feelings rather than what you think the answers ought to be.

Circle the number of each question that applies to you. Do nothing if the question does not apply.

1. You tend to be direct or frank, telling people what you really think?
2. You especially enjoy physical labor?

3. You especially enjoy studies dealing with the original sources, like Hebrew or Greek?
4. When someone is asking your advice, do you find that you can hardly wait until they're done so you can answer them, perhaps even interrupting?
5. Do you have a strong drive to find the best buy, saving every penny possible?
6. You tend to focus on long range goals without getting easily side-tracked?
7. When playing a sport or game, you don't care who wins or loses; Your main desire is that everyone is happy and enjoys themselves?
8. Are you often accused of being judgmental?
9. You're the one who is usually prepared for the special, little emergencies that arise like needle and thread, etc.?
10. You find in depth research very stimulating?
11. You are seen as a very enthusiastic person?
12. Do you feel motivated to get other Christians to give more generously to do God's work?
13. Do you enjoy helping people see their goals more clearly and then helping them reach their goals?
14. You have a strong desire to see harmony among friends, family and other peoples?
15. Do you feel motivated to give people advice even when they don't ask for it?
16. You enjoy a job even more if you can do it by yourself?
17. Making a presentation, do you find it unnecessary to come up with personal illustrations, preferring to give a straight-forward presentation of facts?
18. You don't take seriously teachings that don't also provide steps for practical application?
19. Are you concerned about the legitimate, material and financial needs of Christians which others might tend to overlook?
20. In everything you undertake, you tend to be very thorough?
21. Even if they need the truth, usually you will only tell people that which will make them happy, because it might hurt them otherwise?
22. If you see someone with unrighteous motives and they are covering it up, do you feel the need to expose them?
23. Do you enjoy short-range goals and jobs, rather than long range?
24. You love making vital information available to others?
25. Are you affected by positive or negative attitudes of others toward you?
26. When considering charitable gifts, do you prefer giving to movements, projects and organizations over individuals?
27. You have a keen desire to see tasks completed as soon as possible?
28. Do you judge people as acceptable or unacceptable by their sensitivity or lack of it?
29. You are really drawn to those who are willing to be specifically honest about their shortcomings and their desire to improve?

30. Do you find it hard to say "no" when someone asks for assistance?
31. It bothers you terribly when someone uses Scripture out of context?
32. You have a very strong "verbal" need and enjoy an audience?
33. You prefer helping someone reach their goals by giving them money instead of your time.
34. You're good at finding the right person for the right job and delegating that job.
35. If you think it will hurt someone, you have a hard time saying "no" but then you resent them for using you?
36. You have great confidence that your point of view is the right point of view?
37. It is very frustrating while trying to accomplish a job to continuously run into "red tape"?
38. Once you believe a passage of Scripture should be interpreted one way, is it really hard for you to see it any other way?
39. You tend to overlook practical matters around the house because you are busy meeting the needs of others by talking with them?
40. Do you see projects and needs in terms of financial costs?
41. Do you have a greater concern about your church or group reaching its goal, than that the needs of an individual are met?
42. You hate to make a decision if you think someone will react to you?
43. Do you think singing is not very important if a powerful speaker is waiting to take the pulpit?
44. While at gatherings you enjoy yourself most being busy with tasks?
45. You authenticate and validate new insights and information presented to you by checking with resource books, commentaries and other such authorities?
46. Do intense, demanding friendships make you nervous and reluctant?
47. Do you have a desire to make lots of money so that you can give it to God's work (this would be the way you would most enjoy serving God)?
48. You really enjoy scheduling?
49. You often find yourself responding to life based on emotions more than logic?
50. Do people accuse you of being negative and critical?
51. You prefer to stick with a job until it is finished, even if it means working well into the night?
52. Are you especially concerned with thorough scholarship in Christian literature?
53. You're so outgoing and friendly, it's as though you never meet a stranger?
54. You are not inclined to spend much money on your projects?
55. Do you think most church organizations are usually disorganized?
56. If you are with people who ask your opinion and you know your convictions disagree with theirs you might agree with them in order to avoid experiencing negative, emotional attitudes from them?
57. Do you become irritated and reactionary when truth is not honestly presented?

58. Do you prefer to do the practical things that need doing in the body of Christ, and leave the teaching and religious leadership to others?
59. You feel the need to be on guard against the misuse of Scripture?
60. You thrive on hustle and activity?
61. If you give a large amount to a church organization, do you hope to gain a place in the heart of it's leadership?
62. Do you have the ability to see the overall picture and clearly define the necessary long range goals?
63. Do you find yourself resentful towards those who are insensitive to the feelings and personal needs of other people?
64. Do you naturally, act quickly to rebuke wrongs of any kind?
65. It frustrates you to agree to do a job and not know what is expected of you?
66. When studying, is it easy and fun to get on tangents and "rabbit trails"?
67. As an enthusiastic and spontaneous person you want to get going on your projects, notions and ideas now?
68. Do you measure spirituality with financial success?
69. You have the personal confidence that you can provide direction for a job, but you usually wait to be invited before you will do so?
70. You resist being rushed through an occasion, wanting to feel and enjoy the special time, getting irritated at being rushed?
71. Do you feel that it is important for people not to be embarrassed by their beliefs?
72. It bothers you when people don't work as hard as they should?
73. Are you sometimes accused of being serious and distant?
74. "Getting organized" usually seems like a hindrance to "getting going" and "getting it done"?
75. Do you seem to have a "knack" for making wise financial moves?
76. Would you especially enjoy teaching other Christians how to organize their time and activities?
77. Do you feel a heaviness of spirit when people disassociate with you?
78. Do you have a strong concern for God's reputation?
79. Does your family say you neglect your responsibilities to them while being of service to others?
80. Do you find yourself inwardly challenging the knowledge of those who teach you?
81. Do you tend to be overly conscious and motivated by the idea of your success or failure in the eyes of others?
82. Do you have a desire to give quietly to effective projects or causes?
83. Are you more concerned with quality than price?
84. Do you feel threatened around people who continually analyze others?
85. Does hypocrisy in others really "nag" at you?

86. Do you find yourself over emphasizing practical needs at the sacrifice of your own spiritual needs?
87. You are slow to enter conversations until you determine if it will be a beneficial exchange?
88. If you think it advantageous, you don't have a problem "stretching" the truth?
89. You are more financially responsive to a logical appeal rather than emotional?
90. When time is of the essence, it's best to follow the proven ways that you know work, rather than untried new things or ideas?
91. Do you hold grudges for a long time against people who are insensitive?
92. You're willing to let people suffer if you think they have it coming to them?
93. You have little respect for people who are not loyal to their leadership?
94. Does this statement especially bother you: "Truth is discerned more by the spirit than by the intellect?"
95. If you are trying to help someone and they don't respond right away, do you tend to lose interest in helping them?
96. When giving a gift (other than money), do you have a primary concern that it be of high quality?
97. When receiving or giving instructions, do you want them precisely spelled?
98. A large amount of how you feel about yourself comes through your ability to empathize with others?
99. Do you have a great confidence in your abilities and what you have to say?
100. You will do things for others even if it means personal sacrifice and discomfort?
101. You tend to concentrate on the details of truth more than the "bigger picture"?
102. Because you want to prove your point, in the heat of the moment, sometimes you are not as careful as you should be about sharing personal examples from other people's lives without permission?
103. Would you enjoy helping other Christians get their finances in order?
104. Do you love cleaning out and throwing away unused "stuff"?
105. Most often you are not firm with others, even though it was necessary?
106. You enthusiastically use God's truth to help you reveal unrighteous motives or actions?
107. You enjoy meeting needs that will free someone to do something else?
108. Do you enjoy it when you know that you have ample knowledge in a given subject when someone asks you questions?
109. You are very impulsive and do not exercise much restraint on yourself?
110. Do you tend to be a frugal person and a good money manager?
111. Once an objective has been established, you are one who sees clearly how to keep yourself and others from getting side-tracked?
112. It is easy for you to emotionally relate to a person, and that often makes you feel compelled to find ways to provide assistance?
113. Do you tend to categorize the caliber of a person's Christianity based on how much they agree with you?

114. Are you happy to do things for others whether or not you get public recognition?
115. Do you feel that Scriptural truth comes first; then human experience is applied to (or measured by) that truth?
116. If you are not seen as the "life of the party", do you double your efforts?
117. Do you often confirm what, how much, or whom you give assistance to, because you and your spouse had the identical thinking?
118. Encountering all the details necessary for accomplishing major objectives does not bog you down?
119. You find yourself rejoicing with others even if you don't know why?
120. Are you more critical and demanding of leadership than of followers?
121. Are you especially pleased when you see that you have been able to successfully assist others?
122. Do you enjoy accumulating knowledge while digging out all the facts?
123. Do you thrive on being the center of attention?
124. Do you find yourself overlooking the long-range consequences as you try to meet the immediate material needs of others?
125. You don't feel uncomfortable using people to meet your goals if you've determined that yours are more important than theirs?
126. Although cautious about your attitudes, you almost feel secretly blessed when revenge is accomplished?
127. Do you find confrontations exciting?
128. Are you always the first one to hear appeals for help?
129. Following a sermon or lecture, do you review your notes and look up the references to check out the speaker?
130. You usually have more "good ideas" than a person could possibly follow up on?
131. Do you visualize the outcome of entrusting your money to others for the furtherance of their projects?
132. When in a position of leadership, do you need to be careful about misuse of power and pride?
133. Do people who are complainers seem to be drawn to you because you are such a good listener?
134. Do you often wonder why more people won't stand up and speak out against wrong?
135. Are you often the last one to leave the job site?
136. Do people seem to seek you out to validate information?
137. Do you enjoy devising steps of action for others to follow?
138. Do you have to be careful to not believe most problems could be fixed with money?
139. You are willing to be poorly represented temporarily, by disreputable people if they can be used to help you reach your goals?
140. You feel like, even those who are close to you don't really know you?

MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

PROCLAIMER (Prophet)

OBSERVATIONS OF THE GIFT

1. Aggressive in their speech. Hard to keep friends. Too up front for some people. Frank and outspoken. Doesn't mince words. Persuasive in speech
2. Able to grasp concepts
3. Willing to be condemned for right. Will stand up for principles
4. A desire to inform others
5. They are responsive to spiritual conviction
6. Dramatizes and verbalizes what they see
7. Good perception of people
8. Few friends
9. Motivates others by pointing out godliness and making contrasts
10. Strong opinions and convictions; not wishy washy
11. Sees everything in black and white

WHEN THE GIFT IS USED IN THE FLESH, IT EXPRESSES ITSELF THIS WAY:

1. Quick to judge and be blunt
2. Doesn't watch for reactions
3. Looks for negatives
4. Should verify his position with scripture
5. Pride in personal abilities
6. Needs to develop meekness
7. Intolerant of other's pain
8. Is pushy in trying to get others &/or groups to mature spiritually
9. Forgets to praise
10. Intolerant of opinions and views that differ from theirs (Prophets tend to be right so if another disagrees, he must be wrong as far as the prophet is concerned)
11. Reluctant to make commitments when fearful of not being able to follow through. Hate to go back on their word

SERVER

OBSERVATIONS OF THE GIFT

1. Tireless worker. Has a hard time saying no to others
2. Extremely loyal
3. Able to anticipate needs
4. Good memory for details pertinent to others
5. Conscious of thriftiness
6. Prefers doing a job to delegating it.
7. Greatest joy is doing something that is helpful
8. Does more than asked to do.
9. Doesn't want to lead others or projects
10. Tends to be a perfectionist

WHEN THE GIFT IS USED IN THE FLESH, IT EXPRESSES ITSELF THIS WAY:

1. Has a disapproval of other's inabilities
2. May overlook personal problem areas because he's "too busy"
3. Needs to develop leadership abilities
4. Becomes alert to needs that are not his responsibility to meet
5. Feels rejected if his service is not needed
6. Often has low self-esteem
7. Critical of others who do not help out with obvious needs
8. Can neglect family by being too busy with others
9. Needs to be willing to let others serve him

TEACHER

OBSERVATIONS OF THE GIFT

1. Delights in detailed studies (how, what, why) Enjoys word studies
2. Has a serious nature

3. Quick mind for deductions
4. Has a mellow temperament
5. Interesting conversationalist
6. Self-disciplined
7. Intellectually sharp
8. Has strong convictions and opinions based on facts
9. Checks out the source of knowledge of others who teach
10. Presents truth in logical systematic way
11. Develops and uses a large vocabulary
12. Gets upset when scripture is used out of context
13. Watch dog of Christian community

WHEN THE GIFT IS USED IN THE FLESH, IT EXPRESSES ITSELF THIS WAY:

1. Concentrates on details to detriment of personal application; consumed by the facts
2. Thinks others will function better with their learning
3. More interested in research than in people
4. Determines what or who is to be dismissed as unimportant
5. Feels above restrictions
6. Slow to accept viewpoint of others
7. Tends to be legalistic and dogmatic
8. Tends to develop pride in intellectual ability

EXHORTER

OBSERVATIONS OF THE GIFT

1. Anxious to please-they'll tell you what you want to hear
2. Performs, makes others laugh, at ease in groups
3. Difficulty in saying no
4. Sees importance of the individual, good at networking, very loyal
5. Is loved because of positive outlook, spontaneity
6. Quick to grasp solutions
7. Encouraging speaker
8. Communicates successfully
9. Makes friends easily
10. Not serious
11. Doesn't want to be a hypocrite
12. Concerned about personal application of spiritual principles
13. Wants to clear up problems with others quickly
14. Prefers information that has practical application
15. Loves to do personal counseling. Will discontinue if no effort is seen
16. Prefers to witness with life than verbally

WHEN THE GIFT IS USED IN THE FLESH, IT EXPRESSES ITSELF THIS WAY:

1. Will bend convictions to gain approval
 2. Makes promises he can't keep
 3. Can develop mechanical responses
 4. Can become retaliatory
 5. Often closes spirit in confrontation
 6. Easily discouraged
 7. Reserved in commitment to people. Sees relationship as confining
 8. So spontaneous as to cause others' schedules to be disrupted
 9. Rules are for everyone else
 10. Not detail oriented
 11. Tends to interrupt others in eagerness to give opinions or advice
 12. Can be overly self-confident
 13. Cut and dried in steps of action
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GIVER

OBSERVATIONS OF THE GIFT

1. A desire to see God's causes advanced
2. Financial keenness
3. Business mind
4. Personal needs are secondary to a cause he is financing
5. A willingness to use personal funds to prevent projects from being hindered
6. Gives freely
7. Wants gifts to be of high quality

WHEN THE GIFT IS USED IN THE FLESH, IT EXPRESSES ITSELF THIS WAY:

1. Pride in the gift he has given
2. Builds personal power through giving of gifts
3. Determines spiritual levels in others according to their wealth
4. Meet immediate need before considering what God may want accomplished
5. Feels personally rejected when gift given is not accepted
6. Wants to control where money goes
7. May upset family and friends with unpredictable patterns of giving
8. Uses financial giving to get out of other responsibilities

ADMINISTRATOR

OBSERVATIONS OF THE GIFT

1. Sees problems clearly in advance
2. Very orderly
3. Accomplishes duties quickly-doesn't enjoy routine tasks
4. Visualizes long range accomplishments
5. Coordinates manpower effectively-delegates and supervises
6. Very creative
7. Able to make decisions immediately
8. Natural leader. Will assume responsibility if no specific leadership exists
9. Knows when to keep old methods going and when to introduce new ones.
10. Expresses ideas and organization in ways that communicate well

WHEN THE GIFT IS USED IN THE FLESH, IT EXPRESSES ITSELF THIS WAY:

1. Through pride, can be power hungry
2. Insensitive to others' personal desires, if they conflict with his
3. Works excessively to accomplish a task-drains self and neglects personal and family needs
4. Can cause others to feel regimented and unloved
5. Will accept character flaws if it means completion of goals
6. Can regress into using people
7. Neglects routine home responsibilities due to intense interest in "job"

MERCY

OBSERVATIONS OF THE GIFT

1. Hates confrontation
2. Very considerate of other's feelings
3. Able to visualize causes & effects on other's emotions
4. Ruled by heart rather than head
5. Alert to areas of social injustice on a personal level
6. Able to remain in the background in silence
7. Misfits are attracted to Mercies
8. Interested in others not being ignored
9. Is motivated to help people have right relationships with one another
10. Intercedes for others

WHEN THE GIFT IS USED IN THE FLESH, IT EXPRESSES ITSELF THIS WAY:

1. Projects irrational fears
2. Assumes negative motives in others
3. Fear of rejection may cause violation of convictions
4. Close their spirit to those they feel are insensitive
5. A poor self image
6. Calculate vengeance when wounded
7. When angry, can come across as an un-Christlike prophet. Let fly without thinking and then regret it later
8. Tends to be indecisive
9. Often prone to take up another person's offense. Tend to believe the first story heard

THE CHARACTERISTICS DESCRIBED IN THIS PRESENTATION ARE MERELY GUIDELINE NOTES AND ARE NOT MEANT TO BE CONCLUSIVE ATTRIBUTES OR DIRECTIVES.

AS IN MOST SUBJECTS, THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE, AND IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE IN THIS PRESENTATION.

SCORE SHEET TO EVALUATE MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Mark only those questions that you circled on the test. Tally each column at the bottom.

PROCLAIMER	SERVER	TEACHER	EXHORTER	GIVER	ADMINISTRATOR	MERCY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50	51	52	53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77
78	79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98
99	100	101	102	103	104	105
106	107	108	109	110	111	112
113	114	115	116	117	118	119
120	121	122	123	124	125	126
127	128	129	130	131	132	133
134	135	136	137	138	139	140

WARNING: WE SUGGEST THAT YOU ORDER THE 3 TAPE SET OF CASSETTE TAPES WHICH GO INTO FAR MORE DETAIL AND INSIGHT ON HOW TO USE THIS "SPIRITUAL GIFTS" INFORMATION AND HOW TO UNDERSTAND IT MORE FULLY. THE TAPES ARE A LIVE SEMINAR GIVEN BY WAYNE AND CLAUDIA SPEED AND WALKS A PERSON RIGHT THROUGH THIS WHOLE PROCESS IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. SEE THE LAST PAGE IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR ORDER INFORMATION.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES--SITE SPONSORED BY SERVANTS' NEWS

October 2, 2001 to October 9, 2001

Chadron State Park, near Chadron Nebraska, will be the location of an interactive, family-oriented Feast. We will share many services, recreational activities and meals together. Finished, heated cabins at the Park cost from \$54 to \$65 per night and sleep 4 to 6. Reservations for cabins or camping may be made by calling the Park at (308) 432-6167 (these will probably be all taken in June). Nearby Chadron has many accommodations, ranging from the Westerner Motel (308) 432-5577 at \$200 per week to the West Hills Inn (877) 432-8305 with a heated indoor pool at \$53 per night for rooms and \$78 for a Jacuzzi suite.

For information about the schedule of events and optional meal plans, contact Servants' News, PO Box 107, Perry, Michigan, 48872; (517) 625-7480; info@servantsnews.com or read the Internet article at <http://www.servantsnews.com/sn0011/chadron.htm> or Fax: (517) 625-7481

PRAYER REQUESTS

When we put prayer requests in this newsletter, we won't publish the persons address for privacy reasons (unless they want us to), however we really think your cards and letters and E-mails are important for the sick and hurting, so send them to us and we will forward them to the sick or hurting person. Just write that persons name on the envelope some place, so we don't open it. We really feel that the Church of God has been lacking in this area of sending cards and letters to comfort the sick and hurting in recent years. You don't even have to buy a card, make it on your computer, or just send a short little note. Something which will help these hurting people to know that you really care and want to comfort them in their time of need. We Thank You Very Much for your concern in this area.

Samuel Metz, is requesting prayers for his wife Margaret, who is suffering from Bronchitis, fluid buildup and some other nasty symptoms. Please pray for her physical healing.

We have a group of people who meet on the Sabbath, near the Minnesota state line. Loved ones are becoming alarmed as they seem to be getting fed spiritually by only one man, and they are looking to this man as if he were God himself. Some members see the problem and try to introduce other spiritual material, and are rejected. At least one member seems to be getting physically ill, when loved ones try to get this person out of this group. We need fervent prayer on this one, that these people will see the problem, and stop. Special prayers for those who become ill when trying to break from this group.

Rick & Eileen Beltz (rbeltz@mindspring.com) have requested prayers for Robert Laurita, who has been suffering with stomach cancer since late 1999. Update as of 3/22/2001. He had a bypass operation on his stomach on 2/2/2001. The doctors said that the cancer has spread to some of the other organs. Bob is still very sick and weak, and confined to his apartment. He receives little energy from food. He has asked the brethren to pray for an increase in energy and for his complete recovery, as his life is now totally in God's hands. We're sure he would appreciate any cards or letters of encouragement from his fellow brethren. Please send to him at: Robert Laurita, 105-00 Shore Front Parkway, Rockaway Beach, NY 11694

Peggy Tolbert is requesting prayers for her 75 year old cousin who is on her death bed in South Carolina. Prayers of healing are requested for both Peggy's cousin and the other family members.

Margaret Metz got out of the hospital on 3-27-2001, after being in there for 2 weeks, however she does need continued prayers, because her kidneys stopped functioning and she now needs to go for dialysis 3 times a week. Margaret is also very tired all the time. So please pray for her full recovery.

75 year old cousin to Peggy Tolbert, has died--the funeral will be on Thursday May 3, 2001. Please pray for this family.

We request prayers for Leo Sweet and his family. Leo has colon cancer and is not expected to live until his next doctor appointment in 2 weeks. His wife is really having a hard time with this. We request prayers for his total healing.

UPDATE ON LEO SWEET--His attitude is very positive. He is very thin. His stomach and ankles are swelling which the doctor says indicates that his organs are shutting down. The doctor is apparently amazed that Leo is still alive, given how bad the cancer is in his lungs. Leo doesn't cough and doesn't seem to have trouble breathing though. Leo may walk a little, hanging on and pushing the wheelchair ahead of him. When he's tired, he sits. If he overexerts himself, then he does have trouble catching his breath. He knows his limits. The pain is well controlled by pain pills which he takes on a regular schedule so the pain does not grab hold. The doctor made an appointment for May 10 which is 2 weeks from his last one. Please send cards and letters to: Leo and Pat Sweet, W12801 Highway 188, Lodi, WI 53555--These will be especially appreciated at this time.

UPDATE ON MARGARET METZ: Following is part of a letter we received from Sam and Margaret Metz on 5-3-2001: "Greetings from some very grateful and happy people. Our God has reached down in His infinite mercy and touched my wife with healing. She does not have to take Dialysis any more for her kidney functions have returned. The influence of prayer with our Brother, the Christ and His petition to our Father has done this for there is no way a person at her age could get away from such treatments. It is normally a lifetime application. We would appreciate it if you could, through the same channels that brought so many best wishes through cards and prayer, to inform and thank those same folks for their steadfastness with our God." PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR MARGARET METZ'S CONTINUED HEALTH. We here in Bismarck, are grateful that God heals and that we may see these miracles of God.

UPDATE ON ROBERT LAURITA: We received a letter from Robert Laurita on 5-2-2001: "I was operated on Feb. 2, 2001 at Sloan-Kettering Hospital for stomach cancer. I am feeling somewhat better but am confined to my apartment, I can't stand or walk for a long period of time, sometimes I pass out and hit the floor. 4-5 weeks ago I passed out and landed on my left jaw in a pool of blood. I don't know where I stand with my disease, the doctor said "he could not get all the cancer out, it had spread to the other organs." Thank you for your prayers for my full recovery." PLEASE SEND CARDS AND LETTERS TO: Robert Laurita, 105-00

Shore Front Parkway, Rockaway Beach, NY 11694 and continue to pray for Roberts full recovery.

RICK & EILEEN BELTZ request prayers, because of the downturn in the economy and a very soft job market, the income of many has fallen considerably in the past several months. Many people everywhere are out of work at this time. We would appreciate your fervent prayers for a turnaround in our economic situation in the very near future. We here in Bismarck, pray that Christ returns very soon.

RUSTY AMES requests that we please keep Don & Petra Esposito and their efforts overseas, in our prayers.

PRAYER REQUEST FROM RICK & EILEEN BELTZ--This urgent prayer request was received from Mr. Roy Heathcote in Zimbabwe: I am not sure how much of the situation here you are aware of, but we need urgent prayers. Firms are being invaded and owners beaten up daily. The Canadian High Commissioner has been assaulted, so not even the diplomats are exempt. Threats have been made which will affect two of the white families here in the church in Harare and a little family not in the church. We need Gods guidance and wisdom, strength and protection for those concerned and that He will give them the right words to speak, if necessary. This could spill over "domestically", too. These prayers are needed urgently.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR L. BARTCH--L. Bartch requests your prayers that she may do as the Lord wills each day during her grieving process. Her husband of 52 years died on May 10. Please pray for her, as this is a very hard time for her.

PRAYER REQUEST UPDATE FROM RICK & EILEEN BELTZ--From Roy Heathcote, Zimbabwe--Political uprising in Zimbabwe--wants to thank you so very much indeed for your concern, prayers and fasting for us here in Zimbabwe. He says, "Yes the security situation is somewhat serious but two days after your prayers and fasting there was a dramatic change of mind by the Government, unheard of before. They decided to tell the War Vets to stop invading factories and beating up and extorting money and that any grievances were to be dealt with by Government Labour Departments as before. Everyone is at a loss to understand the change of heart, but we realized why... Whilst the situation has improved dramatically there are still pockets of them giving trouble, but at least the situation is worth living with now. For how long we do not know, as situations change daily. Please tell all those who fasted and prayed for us, of this miracle and express our very sincere appreciation. This is the second miracle in 4 months as a result of prayer and fasting. At least we can go to work now knowing we will return home safely in the evening.

RON & KATHY VOLK REQUEST PRAYERS for their daughter Heather. Heather's leg was injured while participating in a sports activity. Please pray for Heathers full recovery from this injury.

ITS ANOTHER MIRACLE FROM GOD--UPDATE--We sort of lost contact with Jean Prestbroten, at least temporarily--she lost our E-mail address. Well she E-mailed a couple days ago. Jean had a severe eye problem and became very depressed, because she couldn't see to do anything. Well, Jean can see, and she is back on her computer and she can drive her car again. Please continue to pray for Jean's continued good health. She gives credit for her healing to God and thanks every one who went to God in prayer on her behalf.

ARLAN WEIGHT is requesting prayer for his sister-in-law Madeline who has been battling ovarian cancer for many years. She has been through many treatments and has suffered much with this. Madeline has a positive attitude, but doctors have now told her there isn't much else they can do. Please pray for Madeline's full recovery.

UPDATE ON LEO SWEET: Leo Sweet died of colon cancer on June 12, 2001 at approximately 7:00PM. His funeral will be in Lodi, Wisconsin on Friday and he will be buried in Sherry, Wisconsin. He is survived by his wife Pat and 2 Sons and grandchildren. Please mail cards to Pat Sweet, W12801 Highway 188, Lodi, WI 53555. Please pray for Leo's wife, children and grandchildren as they go through these next several months of mourning his loss. This was a very close family, so this will be a very hard time for them.

JUNE 22, 2001--UPDATE ON HEATHER VOLK, daughter of Ron & Kathy Volk. Heather's leg is getting better, but please continue to pray for her full recovery.

JUNE 23, 2001--PRAYER REQUEST FOR MICHAEL NOVENCHE--John & Nina Novenche, and Walt & Joan Hoffman are requesting prayers for Michael Joseph Novenche who was born on July 24, 1997 and who suffers from a condition called "Astrocytoma". Michael has been undergoing chemo for a long time now in hopes of shrinking a brain tumor which was discovered when he was 2 years old--he is soon to be 4 years old. Recently Michael has broken out in hives from the chemo, and needs prayers for that. On July 10, 2001 his family will have results of an MRI explained to them. For more information and for updates on Michael's condition, you may visit his Web Site at <http://www.geocities.com/michaelnovenche/> Pray for his complete healing.

Please send your prayer requests by snail mail or by E-mail. Our E-mail address is Darwin-Laura@juno.com.

INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES,
BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP PLUS THIS NEWSLETTER

SEND ORDERS TOO:
Darwin & Laura Lee
320 N. Griffin St.
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 258-7172

SEND TAPES OR LITERATURE TOO:

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

THESE TAPES ARE FROM THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2000 HELD AT THE RAINTREE RESORT IN WISCONSIN DELLS, WISCONSIN.

- _____ 1. What The Feast Of Tabernacles Pictures--Garry Pifer 10-14-00
- _____ 2. Come Let Us Go Up To The Mountain Of The Lord--Mitchell Smith 10-14-00
- _____ 3. Road Building--Hal Geiger 10-14-00
- _____ 4. Practice True Religion--Tony Stith 10-15-00
- _____ 5. The Meaning Of Succoth--Hal Geiger 10-16-00
- _____ 6. What Is Your Future?--Dave Havir 10-17-00
- _____ 7. Listening To God In Attitude Of Service--Neil McIver 10-18-00
- _____ 8. The Gift Of God Is Eternal Life And...--Garry Pifer 10-19-00
- _____ 9. Depression, Arrogance, And Ignorance--Dennis Mouland 10-20-00
- _____ 10. Tithing--Garry Pifer 10-20-00
- _____ 11. Greatest Risk God Undertook--Dennis Mouland 10-21-00

THESE TAPES ARE FROM THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM SPONSORED BY A CHURCH OF GOD GROUP IN MINNESOTA. FOR INFORMATION ON THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM YOU MAY CONTACT DALE & DONA FEHR DLFehr@compuserve.com, TAPES MAY BE ORDERED THROUGH US.

- _____ 1. C. Wayne Cole--12-18-99
- _____ 2. Ray Wooten--3-25-00
- _____ 3. Wayne Speed--4-22-00--Includes Study Papers
 - A. Wayne & Claudia Speed--4-23-00
 - Marriage Seminar (4 Tapes)
- _____ 4. Ken Westby--6-10 & 11-00 (2 Tapes)
- _____ 5. Dave Havir--9-9-00
- _____ 6. Norm Edwards--11-18-00 (2 Tapes)
- _____ 7. Steve Collins--1-6-01 (3 Tapes)
- _____ 8. Dennis Mouland--3-10-01 (2 Tapes)
- _____ 9. Ron Dart--4-28-01 (2 Tapes)
- _____ 10. Ron Smith--5-26 & 27-01 (3 Tapes)

OTHER TAPES

- _____ 1. Nimrod's Effect on the Church Today--6-17-00--Wes White
- _____ 2. Pure Religion--Tony Stith & Godly Compassion--Dennis Mouland--12-23-00
 - Church of God Big Sandy Seminar--Part 1--12-24-00
 - Church of God Big Sandy Seminar--Part 2--12-24-00
- _____ 3. The Holy Spirit--Wayne Speed
- _____ 4. Spiritual Gifts--Wayne & Claudia Speed (Need Copy of Newsletter Issue #4 for Test)
- _____ 5. Interview With Dixon Cartright--6-9-01--Ken Westby

WE ALSO HAVE THE FOLLOWING LITERATURE.

- _____ 1. Why Were We Disfellowshipped By The United Church of God an International Association?--by Darwin & Laura Lee--111 pages
- _____ 2. Life After United AIA (Books #1-#4)--by Darwin & Laura Lee--20 pages each
(When you finish with one, request the next one--we do not send all at one time.)
- _____ 3. Have We Passed OVER The Passover?--by Berean Bible Study Group--35 pages

NEWSLETTER--BACK ISSUES

- _____ 1. January/February 2001--Issue No. 1--Editor Laura Lee
 - A. UCG Attendance Policy Raises More Questions (From Servant's News)
 - B. Humor--Public Service Announcement (From Servant's News)
 - C. Ending the Cycle of Abuse in the Church of God--by Laura Lee
- _____ 2. March/April 2001--Issue No. 2--Editor Laura Lee

- A. Humor--A Parable and Evolution
 - B. Is Disfellowshipping a Christian Practice?--by Arlan Weight
 - C. Just Judgment Important For Local Congregations--by Darwin Lee & Norman Edwards
 - D. Letter of Appeal--by Ned Dancuo
 - E. Go To Your Brother...--by Arlan Weight
 - 3. May/June 2001--Issue No. 3--Editor Laura Lee
 - A. Are You Busy?--by Turning Point Ranch Ministries
 - B. Letters Section--What is Anger? What is a Heart? What is Division? What is Individual Responsibility?
 - C. Passover--by Arlan Weight
 - D. Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage--by Laura Lee
-

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER? (Please ask people first if they would like to receive it.)

SEND ORDERS TOO:
 Darwin & Laura Lee
 320 N. Griffin St.
 Bismarck, ND 58501
 (701) 258-7172

I WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER:

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER--WE NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION. (We do need your name and address in order to remove your name from our mailing list.)

SEND CANCELLATION TOO:
 Darwin & Laura Lee
 PO Box 2333
 Bismarck, ND 58502

I DO NOT WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER:

Name _____
 Address _____
