

CHRISTIANITY UNDER ATTACK

Hollywood Continues to Lead America into the Moral Abyss, as Sean Penn attacks the Moral Right calling for America to reflect upon it's great shame in its position against homosexuality.



By Tom Kerry

"Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as

Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah..." Isa 1:9

Have you ever wondered about the remnant and our responsibility as called out ones? If there was ever any doubt, the news coming out every day should have cleared up that picture long ago.

to push down the throats of Christianity, the forced acceptance of homosexuality in America.

Everyday businesses are threatened with boycotts if they speak out against the gay movement. The media, television and radio alike have placed bans on most programming that speaks out in support of the moral laws of the Bible.

We are constantly being force fed diets of gay programming, and movies. Every year, Hollywood continues to push the

The pressure against the moral right continues to mount as Hollywood, the news agencies, and even our own Congressional leaders are resolved

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Ministry Meet in New Orleans For Annual Conference

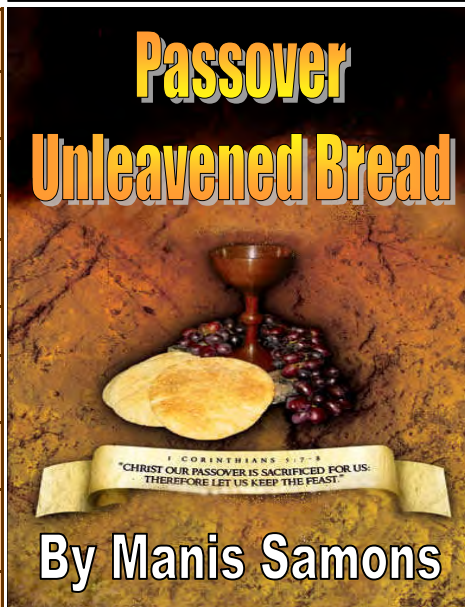
This year the annual conference for the ministry was held at the home office in New Orleans on the weekend of Feb 13-16th. It was a busy three days with many items

Cont. p 7



Steve Councill and Dale Murphy during a light moment at the conference that was recently held in New Orleans

What's Inside	
Pages 2-3	Christianity Under Attack
Page 4	Are we Truly Emancipated
Page 5	Joy of Salvation
Page 6	News From Around the World
Page 7	Update on the Work
Page 8-9	Outreach
Page 10	We are Members of His Body
Page 11	In the Bible Did You Know - Humor
Page 12	Feast Sites
Page s 13 - 15	Passover and Unleavened Bread
Page 16	New Leadership Teaching Course



By Manis Samons

The Holy Days have rich meaning for us in reminding us of the major steps in God's great plan to save all of mankind and bring us into His great Family. As the

Passover and Unleavened Bread season draws near it is good to reflect on the meaning of these two feasts and probe even deeper than we ever have before in learning from them.

Both feasts celebrated great events in the history of Israel as God brought them out of physical captivity in Egypt. They also celebrate great events in God's plan to redeem us from the captivity of sin.

The Passover

The Passover was to be a yearly reminder of God's intervention in delivering the Israelites' firstborn from death at the time of the Exodus: Exodus 12:26-27 "And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you: What do you mean by this service?" That you shall say: "it is the sacrifice of the LORD'S Passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when He smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses." And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

Cont. p.13

envelope of flagrant homosexual behavior in theaters.

Our children are taught even from their infancy in school how it is fitting and proper for man to be with man and woman to be with woman. Society as a whole is in agreement that we must remove any "thought" of support of scripture for what has now become the norm of behavior.

Two years ago, best picture in Hollywood was about two gays in America. Recently, Shawn Penn won Best Actor in portraying a homosexual in the movie Milk. In his acceptance speech he called for America to reflect on its shameful attitude against gays. He stated; "it is a good time for those who voted for the ban on gay marriage to sit and to anticipate and to reflect on their great shame and the shame in their grandchildren's eyes if they continue in that line of support." Imagine; Shawn Penn placing himself as a moral conscience for America; even so his remarks were received with a standing ovation.

The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines a bigot as "a person who is 'obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices; especially: one who regards or treats the members of a group (as a racial or ethnic group) with hatred and intolerance.'" Clearly, there is a distinction between bigotry and moral views. Bigotry cannot simply refer to holding opinions or being in possession of moral precepts, for if it did, everyone but sociopaths would have to be considered bigots because everyone but sociopaths hold certain behaviors as moral and others as immoral."



The longest serving openly gay member of congress: Barney Franks, his partner boy friend - Jim Ready, and President Obama

The truth is, most Christians being accused as being bigots, are simply standing on the Biblical position as the moral judge of what is right. The truth is, Christians are being attacked for having an opinion. It is actually Christians that are being persecuted by those who have a bigoted attitude for not agreeing with their position.

God gives us stern warnings; "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for

light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isa 5:20 More than any other time in modern history, we are in a time like that of the Judges, where "every man is doing what is right in his own eyes."

Homosexual Marriages on the Rise

The issue of homosexual marriage exploded on the national scene in 2004. This movement is an organized effort that has been ongoing for over 30 years. It is now affecting every level of our society. Families agonize over this issue, while the church has been rocked with the ordination of homosexual clergy and same-sex marriage ceremonies.

In an attempt to prevent the splitting of their church, like many other churches, the Evangelical Lutheran Church is now considering the approval of gay clergy, who are actively engaging in a relationship with single lover openly gay relationship to remain in the clergy. (See accompanying article)

With a unified voice amplified several million-fold through the ballot box megaphone, African-Americans have spoken on the issues of marriage, family and human sexuality. Whether young or old, male or female, Democrat or Republican, blacks are justifiably fed up with the deceptive antics of the self-described and craftily contrived

Cont on p. 3

EVANGELICAL LUTHERANS URGED TO ACCEPT GAY CLERGY

Section: Religion



www.usatoday.com

One of the nation's largest Protestant denominations would allow gay clergy in committed relationships to pastor local

churches, under a new proposal from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Officially, all unmarried clergy in the 4.9 million-member denomination must remain celibate. But since 2007, Lutheran bishops have agreed not to discipline gay clergy who are sexually active.

Recently a Lutheran task force on human sexuality recommended that local churches and synods — the Lutheran version of a diocese — decide the issue for themselves. If their idea is approved at this summer's Churchwide Assembly, the denomination would become the largest in the U.S. to allow non-celibate gay clergy.

Lutheran leaders hope the new proposal, which would let churches hire gay pastors involved in life-long, monogamous relationships, can avoid the bitter conflicts that have plagued other denominations, like the Episcopal Church.

Church spokesman John Brooks said Lutherans, like many Christians, are divided over homosexuality. The new proposal allows them to agree to disagree. "It doesn't require a church to call a pastor who is in a committed same-sex relationship if they don't want to do that," he said.

The Rev. Rick Roberts, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Donelson, said members of his church are split on the issue. He believes the new proposal provides a workable solution. "It's time for us to make a decision and move on," Roberts said.

Roberts points out that while Jesus described marriage as being between a man and a woman, he never addressed homosexuality.

"I wish Jesus had said something about this, but he didn't," Roberts said.

The task force's proposal hinges on the Lutheran concept of what's called a bound conscience. The idea holds that Christians can disagree on what the Bible says on a wide range of social issues and still worship together.

The new proposal faces two hurdles before becoming reality. First, it must pass the denomination's board of directors at the end of March. Then the Churchwide Assembly, a mixture of clergy and lay people, will vote during its August meeting in Minneapolis.

Public Campaign / New Congregation Starting Up Elkhart, IN

Public Campaign "Countdown to Economic Collapse"

The Church of God Ministries International Elkhart congregation would like to invite you to a special presentation of a powerful DVD message delivered by Tom Kerry titled "Countdown to Economic Collapse."

This message will give you insight into the current Economic crisis facing Amer-

ica today. And will take you forward into prophetic events that are to unfold prior to Christ's return and the establishment of His Kingdom.

**Friday April 3rd, 2009
at 7:00 PM**

**Fellowship and refreshments
starting at 6:30 PM
Local Contact: Steve Cuncell at
(269)663-7914**

Country Inn & Suites By Carlson,
Elkhart North 3250 Northview Blvd. ,

Elkhart IN 46514

Reservations: (888) 201-1746 Telephone:
(574) 206-8488 Fax: (574) 206-8488

**Services to begin in April
Every 2nd & 4th Sabbaths
Services will begin at 1:00 PM
Church of God Ministries Int.
Harris Branch Library**

PLEASE KEEP THIS IN YOUR PRAYERS
THAT GOD WILL GRANT THEM A SUCCESSFUL
CAMPAIGN AND BLESS THE
WORK WITH A NEW CONGREGATION.

Christianity Under Attack from p. 2

"gay rights movement."

For decades now, well-organized, well-funded and highly influential "gay" political pressure groups have, with impertinence, hijacked the language of the authentic civil rights movement. In what amounts to a sort of soft racism, self-styled "queers" have disingenuously and ignobly hitched their lil' lavender wagons to a movement which, by contrast, is built upon the genuine and noble precepts of racial equality and humanitarian justice.

An illegitimate offspring of the '60s sexual revolution, the newfangled "gay rights" cult is today's postmodern, sex-centric cause célèbre. Its core tenets include, among other things, mandated moral relativism, social androgyny and forced acceptance of a pleasure-based, though demonstrably destructive, lifestyle. By Matt Barber 11/14/2008 (From Counterfeit Marriage and it's Counterfeit Movement)

The Enemies of God Include Systems of Thought Worldviews!

What do humanism, secularism, and Islam share in common? They are all religious worldviews. They all represent religious presuppositions whether their god is man or Allah. They are comprehensive systems of thought that speak to every area of life. A humanist is not content to simply retain his secularism within his own heart. He wants to impose his system on others within the public sphere. A Muslim never speaks of merely having a personal relationship with Allah. Why? Because Islam is not a religion of the heart. It is a worldview that commands

every area of life and thought.

An All-Out Assault to Uproot Christianity in America.

If you're intellectually sensitive to the presuppositions underlying current events, you've already seen the explicit agenda of humanists to silence the Christian voice in America.

No doubt you are greatly disturbed by the efforts of secularists, pluralists, and false religious groups to remove the Judeo-Christian God from every post and pillar. The following is just a few of the wicked strategies imposed by such humanist organizations as the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, and other secular and false religious groups:

- The persecution of Chief Justice Roy Moore in Alabama
- The judicial attempts to remove Christian symbols, such as the nativity, from every public place
- The elimination of public prayer from every local and federal institution
- The promotion of gay marriage in Massachusetts and San Francisco.
- The unhindered encroachment of Islam throughout Western nations

These devices of the enemies of Christianity are the antithesis to the postmillennial prophecy of Zechariah who saw a day in which HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD shall be engraved on the bells of the houses. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts. (Zech. 14:20-21). God's intent is to write His name upon every area of life. The intention of humanistic man is to erase God's name from every area of life. In this generation, the battle lines are drawn!



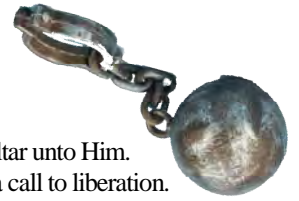
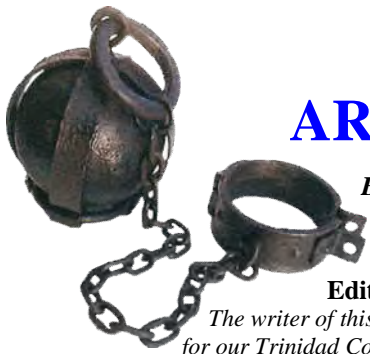
"Gays" Call for Violence Against Christian Supporters of Prop 8

Lynchburg, VA – In a stunning reaction to the passage of state constitutional marriage protection amendments in California, Arizona and Florida, several self identified homosexuals on a number of homosexual blogs are advocating violence against Christians and other supporters of traditional marriage. Additionally, some homosexuals are calling for church burnings in response to yesterday's three state referenda in defense of natural marriage.

In a blog entry titled "You'll Want to Punch them" on Queerty.com, poster "BillyBob Thornton" wrote, "... I have never considered being a violent radical extremist for our Equal Rights. But now I think maybe I should consider becoming one." "Stenar" asked, "Can someone in CA please go burn down the Mormon temples there, PLEASE. I mean seriously. DO IT." "Angelo Ventura," said, "... hope they all rot in hell, those servants of a lying, corrupt devil!

BAN RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM!" And, "Jonathan," warned, "I'm going to give them something to be___ing scared of. ... I'm a radical who is now on a mission to make them all pay for what they've done."

Meanwhile, over at JoeMyGod.blogspot.com, "World O Jeff," said, "Burn their___ing churches to the ground, and then tax the charred timbers." While, "Tread," wrote, "I hope the No on 8 people have a long list and long knives." "Joe," stated, "I swear, I'd murder people with my bare hands this morning."



ARE WE TRULY EMANCIPATED?

By **Newton P. James**

Editor's Note:

The writer of this article is host for our Trinidad Congregation.

We thought you would appreciate the perspective on emancipation from another country.

August 1, 1834 is emancipation day. Slavery in this part of world seemingly came to an end then. The African slaves had their freedom. August 1 each year is now celebrated as a recognized public holiday in this country. And it has been for a few years now.

When I was a little boy growing up in a small country village in this land, I remember that the day was celebrated as the day the slaves were freed from slavery. People beat pans in their yard, blew whistles and the like. It was a noisy day. I can recall one instance when the celebration took the form of a mini type carnival. As a youngster I was excited and asked what it was. My mother told me it was in celebration of freedom. Like so many things in rural and Tobagian, its celebration receded with time. It became only a faint memory.

The celebration is now reborn. It is now a source of African pride. There is a street parade through the streets of Port of Spain and lots of celebration in the streets of other towns and communities: dancing, drumming, things supposedly African and an African village displaying all things African. The tribal leaders would boast of their African heritage, their ancestral roots and in some instance their royalty.

Undoubtedly it is good to be free from slavery and the entire burden that it carries. The history of man is chock full of tales of slavery. Slavery is cruel, unkind, burdensome and dehumanizing. It cripples the soul and mind. No one wants to be a slave. Last July I visited the holocaust museum in Washington D.C. and the pictures and stories narrated there are chilling reminders as to slavery's evils and man's cruelty to man.

But despite all the yearly pomp and ceremony of the emancipation celebration one question still remains to be resolved. Is man emancipated politically, socially, economically, spiritually and the like? No one seems interested in that question. Instead we look to the celebration next year.

What about us whom God has called and put His seal upon? Are we truly emancipated? Or does it matter at all? I think it matters a great deal. It is a question that should always be on our minds as we live the Christian life.

God is the first emancipator. He brought the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. He said: 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of bondage. Have no other gods but me.' Exodus 20:2,3. Israel did not heed that command. Instead they disobeyed their liberator and their God. They followed strange gods and worshipped idols. God sent them into captivity and finally divorced them scattering them to all parts of the world.

Theologically this command applies to man spiritually. God is our liberator who has brought us out of the bondage OF SIN through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Stand fast in the Liberty which Christ has made us free

The apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians church in Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast in the liberty which Christ has made us free and do not be entangled with the yoke of bondage." It represents complete freedom. Christ has set us free not to bring us into another form of bondage from which we were already liberated.

The word 'stand' is translated from the Greek word *steko* meaning: 'to adhere to or be subject to the authority of God; To be free spiritually, Christians have to be subject to the authority of God. If not, we'll slip back into the bondage of sin. It demands effort on our part. Sometimes we have to contend for our liberty. Galatians 2:1-16

God has called many people to freedom: Abraham, Genesis 12. His journey was long and tortuous. He stayed the course. Many of his off-springs did not. Judges 2: 11-23

Sometimes we have to run away from slavery in order to be free, when we do God will rescue us. Jacob did. He fled Laban's slavery. Genesis 31- 35

Do we run away from slavery and bondage? Or do we give in or comply even though we know we're oppressed and what we're doing conflicts with the laws of God?

God called Jacob and told him to go to

Bethel and build an altar unto Him. Genesis 35:1. It was a call to liberation. And he did. He just did. He liberated not only himself but his entire household. Is that our approach? It should be.

Jacob's example should commend itself to Christian husbands. Far too often Christian husbands look after their own spirituality and leave their families unattended. That was not the case with Jacob. A Christian husband should not liberate himself and leave his household unliberated. Liberation seems to be a family affair in the eyes of God. Perhaps a husband's liberation would be incomplete if he seeks his own freedom and leaves his family in bondage. Perhaps!

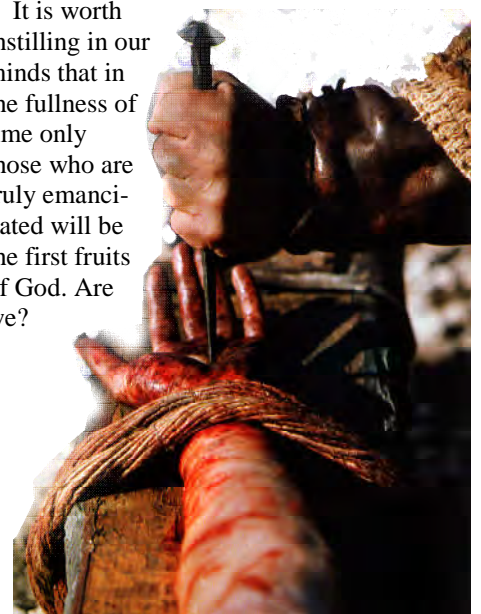
We have an obligation to emancipate ourselves from the ways of this world. Paul wrote to the Roman church in Romans. 12:1-2

I BESEECH you brethren by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God which is your reasonable service and be not conformed to this world..."

True liberation or emancipation is our liberty in Christ. It's holiness acceptable to God. We are truly emancipated when the influence of Satan no longer controls our lives; but more importantly when we accept God as our God and liberator.

This Passover as we examine our covenant relationship with Jesus Christ and think about His sacrifice for our sins, we should critically consider whether we are truly emancipated.

It is worth instilling in our minds that in the fullness of time only those who are truly emancipated will be the first fruits of God. Are we?





The Joy of Salvation



By Steve Councill

What a wonderful time of the year. Spring is in the air!

The days are getting longer and a new year is about to begin. According to God's calendar, spring is the beginning of seasons. When the earth revives with life and awakens from a dormant state. This is a very special time of year for God's children. God's Holy Days are about to begin. God's Holy Days teach us God's plan of salvation. The spring Holy Days reflect a time of renewal and repentance.

"But Let a Man Examine Himself"

Paul exhorts us in 1 Corinthians 11:28-29 "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eats and drinks unworthily, eats and drinks damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

We are to examine ourselves before we take of the symbols of Christ's broken

body and shed blood. Each of us has areas in our lives that we need to work on to improve. Our lives as Christians, is a life of overcoming. We are not yet perfect, but are to work toward perfection. To follow that perfect example that Christ gave us.

David wrote in Psalms 51:12 Restore



unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

This is a Psalm of repentance, and David asked God to restore the joy of God's salvation unto him. God's salvation

brings joy to all of God's people. God made salvation available to us through the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Today Christ is our High Priest, our intercessor. When we like David, make mistakes we can humbly come before God in repentance and say, "Father please forgive me, please restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation."



"Let Them Shout for Joy"

In Psalms 35:27 God's word says: "Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favor my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant."

May we all draw closer unto God this holyday season. Let us each remember the joy that God's salvation brings. May we show it in our lives and in the example we give to others. Shout for joy brethren, be glad and magnify the LORD. We have so very much to be joyful for.

INPUT INPUT INPUT WE NEED YOUR INPUT Youth Summer Camp

Summer Camp / Youth Program was one of the items of topic discussed at the Ministerial Conference this year.

We understand that we are yet small, but you have to start somewhere. This year may be too soon to do this, but it certainly deserves looking into.

If you have children and are interested in the possibility, please let us know. Mr. Steve and Sandy Councill have volunteered to begin gathering information on what it would take to have some type of summer program for our youth.

One of the ideas was to use the building the church owns in Chattanooga as a hosting place. Rachael and

Jeremy Conner have been diligent in gathering lots of info on activities and things to do in around the area. There is allot to do!

Another possibility was to rent space at one of the summer youth places where they rotate the kids on weekly basis. We'll look into this to see what we can do to have some programs for our youth.

We believe that if we put our heads together, and put it in God's hands we can come up with something. If you are interested, please contact **Steve or Sandy Councill at: (269) 663-7914**

Please remember—We are just in the gathering information phase, this is not yet a definite for this year.

INPUT INPUT INPUT REGIONAL WEEKEND Leadership Conferences

In past years the Church of God, Ministries International held annual conferences for all in the church to attend. At last year's conference we discussed that we may have to consider having conferences every other year to help defray the cost. Gas prices were on the rise, getting off of work, kids in school, etc. It was becoming obvious that the economy was beginning to shrink and the additional expense of attending an annual conference was becoming increasingly difficult for many in the church.

Because of that the ministry has chosen to postpone the conference this year, but may have found a way to still serve the needs of its members and guest. At the ministerial con-

ference held this year in New Orleans, the topic turned to the possibility of having regional conferences. Members would have less travel, and there would be more time to deal with specific topics and development of leadership in the work. We understand that there are still many who live outside of regional areas and may still have some distance to travel. But this may help others. We did this when Mr. Armstrong was alive, and the week end conference proved to be very productive. If you would be interested, please write or call your minister, or Tom at the home office and let us know. We are striving to fill the needs of the membership and can use your input.

World News

Future Development of the King of the South?

Recent radical Muslim figures such as former Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden have sought to unite the Islamic world against the West. Bible prophecy indicates another leader will arise from the Muslim world who will trigger a major conflict with a new European-centered superpower

Iraq plans EU-style Middle East union

EUobserver - Dec 10, 2008

Iraq has unveiled plans for the creation of a regional economic and security union for the Middle East explicitly modeled on the European Union.

Official government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh announced the proposal on Tuesday (9 December) in Washington at the Institute of Peace, a US government-linked think-tank, saying that talks on the plan with the country's neighbors were already underway.

Mr. al-Dabbagh said there was "great interest" in the project, according to AFP. Informal discussions on "Regional Economic Partnership" have reportedly been launched with Kuwait, Syria and Turkey, though not yet Iran. The aim would also to

be to bring on board Jordan and Saudi Arabia and - in a subsequent phase - the Gulf states of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, but not Israel.

The proposed bloc would look to lower

trade barriers and develop joint economic projects, as well as sharing water resources and electricity. Resolving border disputes and common perspectives on combating militant extremism would also be on the agenda.

Iraq's plan, a "vision" of Mr. al-Dabbagh's government, would also aim to improve oil and gas transit and construct roads between the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean.

"The new Iraq could convert the region into the EU model," the UK's Daily Telegraph quotes the Iraqi official as saying at the meeting. "Iraq is going to play a major stabilizing factor," he added.

Iraq sees a "necessity for regional security and economic co-operation," Mr. al-Dabbagh said. The proposal is the latest in a long line of regional groupings modeled on the European Union. <http://euobserver.com/9/27277>



Iraq, still very unstable itself, hopes to be a stabilizing force in the region

REACHING AROUND THE WORLD



2008 Has Proven to be a Powerful Year for the Website

The COGMI Web Site completes a Record Year www.thecogmi.org

2008 has been a banner year for Ministries International's web site. Please note the statistics listed below. We are

blessed to continue to receive new responses as a result of this out reach. The most recent surprise was the letter from the person who wrote to us from Japan.

When we look at the fruits, we can see a clear path of effective out reach via the web site. Plans are under way to be able to use this tool that God has blessed us with to be a more effective work in reaching potential new members of God's family. Please remember this area of the work in your prayers.

The web site has just been updated. We've added 32 new sermons with plans to add another 22 in the very near future. If you haven't visited the web site lately, now's the perfect time to do so. There are many new news items, messages and information.

HITS	NO. OF VISITORS	FILES VIEWED
2006 2,253,278	2006 83,500	2006 983,000
2007 3,012,755	2007 168,758	2007 1,708,429
2008 5,374,889	2008 539,312	2008 4,232,446
<i>Complete 2008</i>	<i>Complete 2008</i>	<i>Complete 2008</i>



Update ON THE CHURCH

Minister's Conference from p. 1

being covered. The central theme this year was on growing the church and how to better serve the membership.

These two areas will center around future outreach and development of leadership for the church. These two areas are actually all encompassing.

Outreach - you can't grow if no one knows you're here. First, we focus on those that God has already led our way. To do this we're implementing a more effective follow up program. This increases the watering to the seeds already been laid by our advertising. See pages 7-8 for more info on this outreach.

Another focus on our outreach is running public campaigns. Steve Councill, is already hard at work with the very first campaign to be held

in Elkhart, IN on April 3rd. Teaming up with mailers and literature from HQ, the local members are involved in reaching out to those in the area. Our hopes are that this will be an effective way to start up new congregations.

Leadership Development - The success

of any organization is based on the future development of leadership. God has blessed Ministries International with some very knowledgeable, talented, and dedicated individuals. Our goal is to begin classes to develop those talents into a more effective team to give us a solid foundation to grow

the churches. Ian Hufton and Dale Murphy along with the input from the ministry are developing materials and lesson plans for people to be able to study at home.

Additionally, we plan to begin regional training sessions to help educate and train those individuals God has sent our way. If you are interested please look at the rear cover of this publication. It has more information and tells you how and where to sign up.

More on the conference in the next issue.



Ministers: From Left-Larry Summerville, Dale Murphy, Bruce Chapman, Ian Hufton, Steve Councill, Manis Samons, Mike Gladden, and Tom Kerry. Missing is Elwood Woodcock.,

God Blesses Ministries International With Increases for the Third Year in a Row - Income up 20.8% over 2007

Preparing for tough financial times ahead

How does one prepare for uncertainty? It's a fair and honest question, especially with most economist predicting that the United States is moving into the worst economic crisis since the great depression.

Recent government reports show that since the official start of the recession about fifteen months ago, 4.4 million Americans have lost their jobs. Millions more have gone on part time employment, and still others have simply left the job market. It's impossible to get an accurate unemployment figure, but we are told it is upwards of over 12 million people.

During recessionary times donations to non profits are normally one of the first things that people begin to hold back. Reports show that many of the non profit agencies are suffering.

Fortunately, most of the income that comes to the work comes from individuals who have committed themselves to be

faithful tithe payers, dedicated to the work God has called them to.

At the recent minister's conference the ministry discussed plans for expanding the work despite the difficult challenges we are facing. We believe that if we remain faithful, God will bless us as we place our full trust in Him.

Millions around the world are scared facing such a bleak outlook for the immediate future. Without having an understanding of God's plan, the picture for the future could indeed look bleak.

The scriptures relating to the resurrection comes to mind where the Apostle Paul states, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." I Cor 15:19

We are committed to moving forward and trusting the Eternal for our future. 2009 will be a challenging year as the economy continues to shrink and millions more are expected to lose their jobs; we still have several new programs on the drawing boards. They are explained in more detail in the article on the ministers conference.

Remember to pray for the work; pray, that God will continue to bless it, that we will be able to accomplish the task He has given us to do.



THREE YEAR COMPARRISSION As of December 31, 2008

YEAR	INCOME	BALANCE	% GAIN
2006	\$115,041.73	\$28,115.29	1ST YEAR
2007	\$124,867.60	\$38,879.84	UP 13.3%
2008	\$150,704.07	\$56,383.00	UP 20.8%

All figures are for up to December 31 of each calendar year

Ministries International

EXPANDING IT'S OUTREACH

The Bible

Having trouble putting the pieces together?
We can Help
 Have you been taught that you can't understand the Bible?
 Are you in for a surprise!

The Church of God
Ministries International

The Two Part Commission given to us by Jesus Christ must always be at the heart of the work.
"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of this age."

Our goal in producing this publication is to give first time responders insight into just who we are and what we are doing. Putting the pieces together is the theme throughout the publication. Each page has a puzzle focus showing that the church can help them understand what the world has told them is impossible to know.

The subtheme of the publication is to let the reader know that the church is run by a multitude of counselors, that we have many areas of support to help them in their search to understand God; including the web site, sermons, Bible Studies, monthly newsletters and congregations scattered around the country, Canada, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Left: the front cover on the new publication mailed to new first time responders.
 Right: rear cover inviting the reader to send for more info.

Positive Focus in a Negative World

Order your DVD today
It's Absolutely Free

The Choice is Yours,
 Choose to Make a Difference,
 Be Persistent in Prayer Col 4:12
 Be Constant in Prayer Act 12:9

Job losses, Record home foreclosures, Trillions of dollars being given out, and no end in sight. It is obvious that the world has lost its direction. How is a person to remain positive and focused on the future?
 This sermon message delivered before a live audience will help you do just that, remain positive and focused! It will give you Biblical insight and direction to help you through the difficult times that lie ahead.

THE CHURCH OF GOD
 Ministries International

1767 Stumpf Blvd. Gretna, Louisiana 70056
 (504) 367-2005 www.thecogmi.org

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL 2009

OUTREACH 2008, showed us that God is blessing our outreach efforts. Ministries International was blessed to receive just over 1100 first time responses. The Goal for 2009 is to expand the outreach begun in 2007 and 2008 by the implementation of a new follow up program. This will increase our watering efforts. The principle of planting and watering is found in I Cor. 3, *The Apostle Paul states; "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase."* We are all just workers in God's hands, a team of called out ones do His Will.

By the watering of the seed that God has planted from the first responses, we believe we will have a more effective way to stimulate the conscience of those God is calling.

Special thanks goes to all of you who have been supporting Ministries International. Because of your support, God has blessed us with the ability to expand our outreach. The new "follow up publication," will be in full color on quality stock to give the responder a professional item that we believe will attract their interest. Hopefully, prayerfully, many of those responding will find their way into our churches, Repentance, the baptismal pool and ultimately God's Kingdom.

We are Members of His Body

BIBLE VERSES ON THE SAINTS / HIS BODY



By Ian Hufton

The Apostle Paul explains an unusual teaching about Christ and the church members.

Eph 1:22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave...Him ... to be... head... over ... all things... to... the church, (emphases - called out ones.)

Eph 1:23 which... is... His body,... the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

NOTICE: Paul tells the Ephesians Church members that Christ is the Spiritual Head of a Spiritual Body and church members ... are ... parts of that... ONE body.

Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in ... one body, but all the members do ... not have... the ... same function,

Rom 12:5 ... sowe, being ... many, ... are ... one body... in Christ, and... individually... members ... of ... one another.

In Romans (above), Paul expands this concept to explain that each church member has a Spiritual connection... to the others because they are all... parts of One body.

Eph 3:6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

Eph 4:4 There is..... one bodyand one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints forthe work of ministry, for the edifying of the..... bodyof Christ,

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, joinedand ...knit togetherby what every joint..... supplies, according

to the effective working by which every part.... does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

NOTICE: Paul uses this concept frequently and in verse 16 (above) points out that every joint.... andevery part ... are important for the... growthof ... the body(of believers)....the church.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior ...of ...the body.

Eph 5:30 Forwe.... are ..members.... of His body,... of His flesh and...of His bones. So.... Christ ... has ..a BODY ...hereon earth... while He sits on the throne in heaven. What does Christ want His body to be doing?

In Ephesians 4:12 and 4:16 we are told theBODY ...is to be growing, defyinganddoing the work of ministry.

Paul speaks of variousmember ... gifts... given to benefit the whole body...the church.

1 Cor 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1 Cor 12:8 for to one is given the word of



wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

1 Cor 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1 Cor 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

1 Cor 12:11 But one and the..... same Spirit works all these things, contributing to each one individually.....as He wills.

NOTICE: Paul makes clear that ...the SAME SPIRIT...givesdifferent people...gifts for servingthe... one BODY of Christ...THE CHURCH.

1 Cor 12:12 For as thebody is one ...and hasmany members,.. but all the members of that one body, ...being many, are one body, so also is Christ. Paul urges ...all readers... to follow the ...

MANY MEMBERS ONE BODY

1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body; whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

1 Cor 12:14 For ...in fact ...the body is not one member but many.

POINT: Remember Paul is pleading with those church members...to avoid... divisions...and ...be perfectly joinedtogether ...like... the human body.

1 Cor 1:10 I plead with you/by /Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined.....together ...in the same mindandin the same judgment.

1 Cor 1:11 For it has been declared/that there are contentions among you.

1 Cor 1:12/each/says/I am of Paul,/I am of Apollos/I am of Cephas/I am of Christ

1 Cor 1:13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?/With this as Paul's purpose, hepressesthe point that... church people should strive for church

UNITY OR THE ONE TEAM SPIRIT

1 Cor 12:15 If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,

1 Cor 12:16 And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,

1 Cor 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

1 Cor 12:20 But...now...indeed...there aremany members,yet...one body.

1 Cor 12:25 that there should be... no schism ...in the body,... but that ..the members ...should havethe same ...are ...for one another.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are... the body of Christ, and ... members... individually.

CHRIST USES PAUL TO URGE ALL CHURCH MEMBERS ...TO..STRIVE.. FOR ..UNITY OF THE BODY...AND ... AVOID SCHISMS...WE ARE ONE BODY



IS IT IN THE "Prove all Things"

BIBLE Did You Know?



Subject: Mixed up bible history—Humor

We try to do more than baby-sit our church's beloved little ankle-biters during their time in our special junior church facility. We aim to give them a solid background in biblical history. At the end of each year, we give them pencils and paper and ask them to chronicle what they have learned. This assignment never fails to elicit some intriguing responses.

In case you're a little foggy on your biblical history, let our junior church students help you with this complete overview of the Bible, compiled from their essays:

~ In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one," but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, "Give me a light!" and someone did. Then God made the world.

~ He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

~ Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

~ One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

~ After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

~ Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bow-

els, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then He gave them His top ten Commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's bottom (the Bible uses a bad word for bottom that I'm not supposed to say. But my Dad uses it sometimes when he talks about the President). Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor they father and they mother.

~ One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

~ After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets.

One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

~ There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

~ After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?") It would be nice to say, "As a matter of fact, I was.")

~ During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

~ Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

~ Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

COMBINED SERVICES IN LEXINGTON, TN Saturday May 30 Pentecost - Sunday May 31,

Tom Kerry has been invited to be the guest speaker for the Pentecost Weekend with the Church of God's Messengers, and a number of independent congregations that get together for the Holy Days and fifth Sabbaths. They have a big week end planned with pot lucks on both days and lots of fellowship.

Services - 1:00 P.M. On Both Days

There will be fellowship and a potluck afterwards.

Location: The Church of God's Messengers
7570 Highway 22 South Lexington, TN 38351

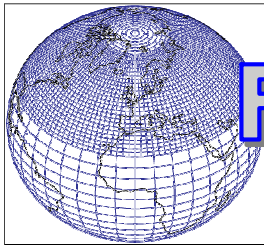
For more information contact:

Dale or Tammy Middleton at (731)968-7756 or (731)431-0254

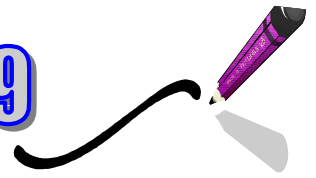
Located South of Lexington on Hwy 22 on the left.

It is at the intersection of Hwy 22 South and Presley Road.





Feast of Tabernacles 2009 Auburn, IN



Northern Feast Site back again this year

Establishing Feast sites is one of the most challenging responsibilities of the church in servicing the needs of its members. Distance, expense, the economy, what the area has to offer, motel availability, restaurants, and the list goes on.

Last year we moved the northern site to Myrtle Beach, SC to offer a more central site for the north and east. Unfortunately with the price of gas, many of the northern

brethren weren't able to make the trip. To help the members in the northern states, it has become necessary to have a Northern Site again this year. After considerable searching, God has blessed us with a terrific location at the unheard of price of just \$25.00 per day for the hall rental.

For Questions about the Feast Site, please contact: Bruce Chapman - 616-636-9209, or Steve Councill - (269) 663 - 7914

La Quinta Inn

306 Touring Dr, Auburn, IN 46706
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Special Price: \$68.00
for king or queen,
King Suites \$109.00



Panama City, FL

Please Note:

Last Year the Conference was held at Beachcomber by the Sea.

Presently we have the facility booked. But that may change because we are looking for a larger facility

17101 Front Beach Rd.
Panama City Beach, FL.32431
888-627-0625

This is a beautiful facility. Last year we were able to obtain rooms for \$65.00 per night. Rooms are either a king bed, or two double beds. Each room is Gulf Front, has a bedroom, full kitchen, and living area. On site laundry facility.

We are presently awaiting prices for this year.

The room comes with a continental breakfast each morning and daily room service

The Conference hall is directly across the street.

For more information contact:
Tom Kerry: 504-367-2005
tomk122@cox.net or
Manis Samons: 352-472-2730
samonsm123@bellsouth.net

Branson, MO

THE BEST WESTERN BRANSON INN & CONFERENCE CENTER

This is the same facility that we used in past years. It was completely remodeled and is under new management. The conference room is a beautiful facility with full kitchen use for the church.

8514 State Hwy 76
Branson West, MO 65737
414-338-2141

Rates:

Queen Bd.	\$65.00 Plus Tax
Twin Double Beds.	\$65.00 Plus Tax
King Suites	\$89.00 Plus Tax

*Free Continental Breakfast
with the room.*

For more information contact:
Dale Murphy 417-253-3145
dalemurphy@windstream.net

The Passover and Unleavened Bread



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land; for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof." Circumcision, one of the original signs of God's covenant people (Genesis 17:9-11), has been replaced with baptism Colossians 2:11-12 - "In whom you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; buried with Him in baptism, wherein also you are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised Him from the dead." Only those who have been baptized today partake in the annual Passover service.

Meaning of Foot Washing

Before Christ ate His last Passover before He was crucified, He washed the disciple's feet and said: John 13:13-17 "You call me teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am, and if I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you." Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you do these things, blessed are you if you do them.

By washing their feet, Jesus was illustrating to His disciples that He had come to earth to serve mankind and that we should do the same for one another.

Shortly afterwards, He proved the extent of His extraordinary service to this world when He voluntarily gave His very life for the sins of all mankind. Matthew 20:27-28 "And whosoever will be Chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." The bread and wine that is after the foot washing, depicts the attitude of humility and service to others that Christ wants all of us to have.

Meaning of the Bread

When Christ kept His last Passover before He was about to be killed, He changed the symbols from the Passover lamb, which was an Old Testament type of Christ's sacrifice, to the new symbols of the bread and wine (1 Corinthians 11:23-27) which picture Christ's body and His

of the world!" John 1:29.
The Israelites were told to pick out a lamb on the 10th day and hold it for four days. See Exodus 12:3-6. During those four days it was very easy to become attached to it with it wandering around in their household. To have to kill it after those four days was to be a deeply emotional experience to help them to feel what it was like for God to give up His only Son (John 3:16) in order to pass over our sins.

We are told not to take the Passover unworthily but to examine ourselves beforehand: 1 Corinthians 11:25-30 After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do you, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you do show the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eats and drinks unworthily, eats and drinks damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For



this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep (are dead)." We must make sure we are doing our best to follow God's ways. A great price was paid to make forgiveness available to us and God wants us not to take it lightly.

In Israel no uncircumcised person was to take the Passover. Exodus 12:48 "And when a stranger shall sojourn with you, and will keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then

During the time of the last plague which came upon the land of Egypt, God told the Israelites' to kill an unblemished lamb and sprinkle its blood on their lintels and doorposts so they could be passed over by the death angel who would kill all the firstborn in Egypt: Exodus 12:21-23 - "Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said to them: Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families and kill the Passover. And you shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood upon the lintel and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not suffer the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you."

That first Passover was a symbolic type of our sins being passed over and being spared from the eternal penalty of sin - death. Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. It pictured, in advance, the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of all mankind. He is called "our Passover" lamb in 1 Corinthians 5:7 - "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. and 1 Peter 1:18-19 - "For as much you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." John the Baptist upon seeing Jesus approach him said: "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin

Cont. on p.14

The Passover and Unleavened Bread

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

blood which was sacrificed for us.

The bread pictures four things:

(1) The literal body of Christ which was broken for us: Luke 22:19 - And He took bread and gave thanks, and brake it and gave to them saying, "This is my body which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me."

(2) The Word of God which is the bread of life: Matthew 4:4 - But He answered and said: "It is written; Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." Also in John 6:48 - "I am the bread of life." We need to grow in grace and knowledge and be more like God: 2 Peter 3:18 - "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior

no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross." We should have the same love and concern that Christ showed when He was here on earth.

By symbolically ingesting Christ, we focus our minds on allowing Him to live His life in us: Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me." It takes self-discipline to submit to God's will and not live our own way, especially when our will clashes with God's will. One of the great meanings of Christ's sacrifice for us should be to "purge your conscience from dead works: Hebrews 9:14 - How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, "Purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Meaning of the Wine

The wine pictures Christ's shed blood: Luke 22:20 - "Likewise, also the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." The blood of Christ covers all our past sins and gives us a fresh start in life. We are then forgiven of our past sins and need to remember that we have to change our life from here on.

The wine is called the cup of blessing: 1 Corinthians 10:16- "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" This reminds us of the many blessings we should to be thankful to God for in this life and the loyalty He has shown us in blessing us with all we have, including His forgiveness. We need to show that loyalty in return to Him in heartfelt obedience.

The shed blood of our Savior, the cup which we drink, also symbolizes sharing in His suffering in this life with the many trials we go through: Matthew 20:23 "And He said unto them; you shall drink indeed



of my cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on my right hand and on my left is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father." Sufferings in their own way can be one of the blessings inferred to by the reference to the wine being called the cup of blessing.

Christ said that He would not drink of the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom comes. Matthew 26:29 - "But I say to you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." This is a type of the High Priest which Christ is for us now. Hebrews 4:14-15 - "Seeing then that we have a great high Priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession." See Leviticus 10:8-11.



Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

(3) The Church - 1 Corinthians 10:17: "For we, being many, are one bread and one body, for we all partake of that one bread." We should be thankful for the body of the church - our brethren, with whom we are called together. We need to be unified with one another in the church like never before.

(4) The mind of Christ: Philippians 2:5-8 - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of



The Feast of Unleavened Bread

The Feast of Unleavened Bread anciently symbolized the great Exodus of the Israelites and their deliverance by God out of slavery in Egypt. Exodus 12:17 - "And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt; therefore shall you observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever."

For those of us in the church it pic-

The Passover and Unleavened Bread

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 14

tures putting sin out of lives as well as developing the character of God. In 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 Paul wrote: "For indeed Christ, our Passover was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth".

Leaven or yeast is what is put into bread to make it rise. Leaven is compared to sin. 1 Corinthians 5:8 - "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." Because just as leaven puffs up bread so does sin puff us up spiritually. God does not want us puffed up with our own importance but humble and willing to serve others.

"Today removing leaven from our homes for seven days reminds us that we, too, through prayer and God's help and understanding, must recognize, expel and avoid sin. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is thus a time of personal reflection. We should meditate on our attitudes and conduct and ask God to help us recognize and overcome our shortcomings." We have to remember that it is not called the Feast of not eating Leavened Bread but the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Not only do we need to put sin out of our lives, but we also have to put on God's character.

We need to develop all of the fruits of God's spirit love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control: (See Galatians 5:22-23).



Why Unleavened Bread?

In Deuteronomy 16:3 we read about two other reasons why God told Israel to eat unleavened bread and abstain from leaven. Firstly, we are told that they didn't have leaven because they left in haste; and secondly, it was called the bread of affliction in the same verse reminding them of the bitter affliction of slavery which God had delivered them from.

What are the lessons for us today? Just as Israel left in haste from Egypt, which is a type of sin, we have to put sin out of our lives with urgency. We can't fool around with sin. If we stay in a sinful environment too long it will overtake us. Paul tells us that a little leaven leavens the whole lump (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). If we let Satan and sin get a foot in the door they will push open the whole door. That's why we cannot afford to compromise even a little.

Sometimes we find leaven during the feast that we missed when trying to remove all leavening just like we find hidden sins in our life which have to be put away immediately.

We have to eat unleavened bread every day - "seven days shall you eat it" (Exodus 12:15). This teaches us our need to come to God seeking His help and power every day and be renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:16. Seven is the number of completeness, teaching us that we need to put sin out of our lives completely.

Those of you who don't believe the Holy Days aren't to be kept today could ask the question, why would God punish the Israelites who ate leaven during the Feast of Unleavened Bread and who ate on the Day of Atonement (See Leviticus 23:29) with death if He was later going to take away the requirement to keep the Holy Days?

True Wave-Sheaf Offering

During the Feast of Unleavened Bread the Israelites commemorated the wave sheaf offering on the first day of the week that fell during the Feast (Leviticus

23:10-11).

The wave sheaf was the very first

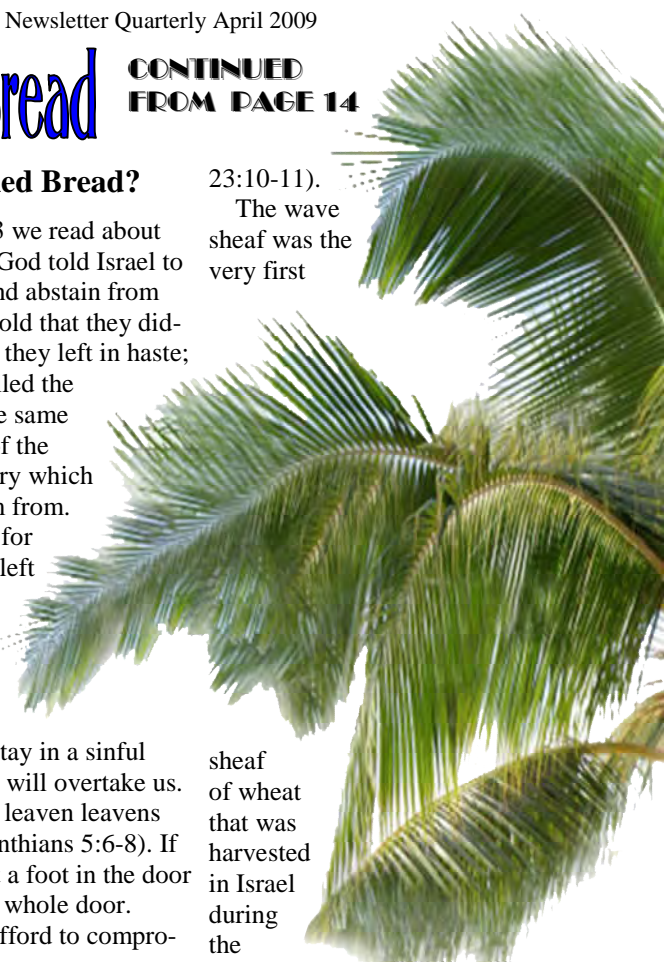
sheaf of wheat that was harvested in Israel during the early har-

vest which concluded at the feast of Pentecost seven weeks later. The first harvest was the smaller of the two annual harvests.

The wave sheaf was the first of the Firstfruits harvest. Those of us in the church are the Firstfruits of salvation (James 1:18) before the later great harvest of souls in the millennium. In 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 we see that Christ is called the first of the Firstfruits so the wave sheaf that was waved at the very beginning of the early harvest represented Jesus Christ.

The Sabbath before the wave sheaf offering is the memorial of the resurrection of Jesus Christ who rose near the end of the Sabbath. On the day after (Sunday), He rose to heaven and was accepted as the true wave sheaf offering (John 20:17-29) - the first of the Firstfruits.

On the weekly Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread it's worthwhile to take time to remember the resurrection of Christ which occurred on that day and His acceptance as the true wave sheaf on the day after and all that it means for mankind.



Building a Leadership Teaching Team

Classes to Begin July 4th.



Study in the privacy of your home, at your own pace

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach" 2 Tim 2:24

Building a Leadership Teaching Team

Preamble

The Leadership Teaching Team Course will be available to both men and women in accordance with the following scriptures.

In the Second Epistle of Paul to Timothy we find scripture concerning men teachers: Second Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

In the Epistle of Paul to Titus we also find scripture concerning women teaching in Chapter 2 verse 3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

Leadership Teachers need to know and will be taught, the basics of New Covenant Christianity and be able to share and teach that information to new disciples in Christ.

Leadership Teacher Course Outline

The Leadership Teacher Course will start on July 4, 2009.

Students may work at their own pace in the comfort of their home.

Consisting of 7 Lessons; this course will be presented in various combina-

tions of written materials as well as audio cassettes, CD's and DVD's containing information that parallels the written data.

There will be a new lesson available each month until the seven lessons are completed.

Lesson One

"The Work of God Is Teaching People"

Leadership Teachers will be required to complete each lesson that they receive, forward the completed lesson to Ian Hufton for review, before they will be able to receive the next lesson. Students will NOT receive a grade for the lesson they turn in but it is imperative that their answers are reviewed to insure accuracy and that students understand the materials they have studied.

Students should allow a minimum of 2 hours to complete each lesson, however scripture tells us in First Thessalonians Chapter 5, verse 21 Prove all things: hold fast that which is good.

Also in the Epistle of Paul to the Romans Chapter 12 verse 2 Be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. So students may choose to spend more than 2 hours per lesson.

It is recommended that students have a Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible as a valued study aide to help them research

and understand the various subjects that will be covered in the Leadership Teachers Course. Another study aide that can be of great importance is: Nave's Topical Bible.

If students have a computer, PC Study Bible and E-Sword are electronic tools that will be of great value as time savers, for those that have tight schedules and limited time, in this busy schedule called life.



Certificate of Achievement

Every student or disciple of Christ that completes Level I of the Leadership Teaching Course will receive a Certificate of Achievement and be qualified to teach what they have learned to another student or disciple of Christ.

Ian Hufton and Dale Murphy will be conducting the on going leadership training lessons. These lessons are open to everyone. Sign up now and be ready for your first lesson plan.



For more information and signing up for the leadership course Contact: Ian Hufton (903) 769-2314 email: IHufton@aol.com Or Dale Murphy (417) 253-3145 dalemurphy@windstream.net