

Peace in the Middle East? Or, "a Fresh Coat of Whitewash on a Flimsy Wall"?

"Because they lead my people astray, saying; Peace, when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash" *Ezek 13:10*

Our God is a Jealous God

By: Manis and Anna Samons

When most of us hear the word jealousy, it usually carries a negative impact. Most often it is thought to be bad, but is all jealousy bad? This attitude of jealousy is mentioned in the Ten Commandments and God applies it to Himself. In giving the second commandment about not making any idols or graven images God says: Exodus 20:5 --"You shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God am a **jealous** God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the sons to the third and fourth generation of those that hate me." Exodus 20:5

Usually, when we think of the word jealousy, what springs to our minds is a jealous,

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All Eyes Focused on the Middle East, Will it bring Peace?

By Tom Kerry

In the sermon "The Next Great Step to Biblical Fulfillment," delivered in Feb 2009, I spoke about changes in the upcoming world, particularly in relationship of the U.S. policy towards Israel and the Middle East. Much has changed since that message was delivered; this article is a follow up of that message.

Peace in the Middle East

Talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on May 18, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on May 26, and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas on may 28 set the stage for Obama's crucial address to the Islamic world in Egypt on June 4.

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Middle East Heats Up

Tension in the Middle East continues to heat up. What will happen following the election in Iran. Page 10.



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July 4th. - Independence Day

"Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him, who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust, in the best way, all our present difficulty." – Abraham Lincoln

"It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness" Abraham Lincoln



Deadly Riots Breakout in Iran Following Election

Much is riding on the election in Iran. The present policy is to continue in Nuclear development at the risk of an escalating war with Israel which could bring in many other nations. Could this be the beginning of the road to Biblical fulfillment mentioned in Luke 21:20 "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.." **Read more inside beginning p.10**

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Leadership Teaching Course Update - June 14, 2009

In the April 2009, Volume 4, Number 1 issue of **The Church of God Ministries, International Quarterly Newsletter**, subscribers were offered an opportunity to sign up for the Leadership Teaching Course that was scheduled to begin on July 4, 2009.

From the very beginning of this project God has continuously blessed this work by providing everything that we needed on a timely basis, regardless of our needs. We have followed scripture and used the spiritual gifts of all parties involved as they were presented to us by the individuals that have made contributions of time and knowledge to this project.

As a result, Ian and I are pleased to announce that the start date for the Leadership Teaching Course has been changed to June 12, 2009.

Under the original schedule, Lesson 2 would be ready on August 4, 2009. At this time, we cannot promise you an early delivery of Lesson 2, but please be advised that one of our goals is to continue producing the lessons ahead of schedule if at all possible.

In order to make the Leadership Teaching Course as convenient for the students as possible, we decided to use as much technology as possible. After many hours of discussion concerning the different options available in conjunction with the spiritual gifts of the individuals that expressed a desire to participate in the devel-

opment of the project, it was decided to enhance the students experience by providing a website to work through the lessons online. The website address is: <http://www.thetruthofgod-leadershipcourse.org>

As all individuals are at a different spiritual level of learning the same applies to everyone's computer level of learning. I am sure that most students will be able to use the website with accomplished skill as it was designed to be user friendly, but there may be some that will need some additional help in getting used to the formats used in the website. Both Ian and I will be available to answer any questions that anyone may have concerning the use of the website.

On June 2, 2009 we sent a Registration Questionnaire to the students that had signed up for the Leadership Teaching Course. The last question on the questionnaire was: "Please tell us what you wish to accomplish by taking this Leadership Teaching Course". As I sat and read the answers to that question, it became obvious that there was a need in many people's lives to work for God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Everyone was eagerly looking for ways to not only improve their personal spiritual skills but most importantly, spread the "Seeds of Truth" concerning the "Truth of God". Since we were already ahead of our production schedule, coupled with the

sense of urgency to get the program started early to meet the needs of the students, we decided to start the Leadership Teaching Course approximately 3 weeks early.

It is only through the grace and mercy of God that we were in a position to start the Leadership Teaching Course early. Give God the Glory for that is where it belongs.

If you have not signed up to take the Leadership Teaching Course yet, it is not too late. On the website we have added a button entitled "New Students" where you can click on the Registration Questionnaire link, fill in the necessary answers and begin taking the course anytime you want to.

You can even use the Leadership Teaching Course website as a way to reach out to others that you used to go to church with but have not been in contact with them for awhile. If you know someone that you think would benefit from taking the Leadership Teaching Course, feel free to offer them the opportunity. Simply give them the website address.

Ian and I are grateful for the opportunity to be of service to the brethren, we sincerely hope and pray that this Leadership Teaching Course brings added value to those who participate in it and that it will produce fruit that is pleasing to God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Your Brothers in Christ,
Ian Hufton and Dale Murphy**

Holy Day Services in Elkhart Indiana for the First Time

By Steve Councill

We are pleased and thankful to announce, that through God's blessing we had a great turnout for Pentecost weekend services in Elkhart Indiana. On the Sabbath Day we had 19 attending services and on Pentecost we had 28 attending services.

We were blessed to have special music each day by Christine Tonges. Uplifting God inspired messages each day, two were



power point type format. Kris Dillinger was a guest speaker on Pentecost, joined by his family. The majority of those attending gathered each day for a

meal and fellowship after services. We received many positive comments, and those who stayed at the Hilton Garden Inn enjoyed the accommodations and the level of service they received from the staff. God willing we are planning services at the Hilton Garden Inn, Elkhart for both The Feast of Trumpets and The Day of Atonement. It's hard to believe the fall Holy Days are just over 3 months away.

For those interested in attending services with us, please visit our local website cogmiin.org for Sabbath and Holy-day services information.



Our God is a Jealous God

“You shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the sons to the third and fourth generation of those that hate me.”
Ex 20:5

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husband or wife who is constantly suspicious of what the other one is doing; they are suspicious of anyone the other one talks to? Do our minds form an image of one or the other of them finding out that one of them is cheating with someone else and fly into a jealous rage and do bodily harm to that person?

In a fit of jealousy, the firstborn son of Adam and Eve, Cain, killed his younger brother, Abel (Genesis 4). Jealousy, envy, and greed have become entrenched human motivations just as violence has become a common way of dealing with conflict. The descendants of Adam have seldom freely returned to God and willingly trusted in Him. We should never be coveting or jealous over someone else's blessings. We should be happy for everyone who is blessed.

After David killed Goliath, King Saul required David to live with him in his palace as a military commander (1 Samuel 18:2, 5). He proved a loyal wise leader. However, after a campaign in which Israel had again soundly defeated the Philistines, the people of Israel welcomed back Saul, David and the army. When Saul heard the women singing that “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands” (1 Samuel 18:7), he grew envious.

David served under Saul's jealous rages. The king tried several times to kill David, but to no avail. David found himself forced to become a fugitive, an outlaw. However, God used Saul's persecution of David to forge leadership qualities in him. And we all know the story of how King David coveted and lusted after Uriah the Hittite's wife, Bathsheba, and the tragic outcome of that. [See 2 Sam. 11:2 – 21]

God says that He is a jealous God. We know that God is perfect and can't sin, and yet He says He gets jealous. We can deduce from that then that there is a right kind of jealousy; a good jealousy, and that, yes, there is such a thing as having a godly jealousy.

“What is Godly Jealousy?”

Just what does the term godly jealousy mean? A good place to start is by looking at how jealousy is defined in our English language as well as the way the Greek and Hebrew words are defined that



are used for jealousy in the Bible.

Webster's Dictionary gives the following definitions for the word jealousy:

1. "Hostile toward one believed to enjoy an advantage"
2. "Intolerance of rivalry or unfaithfulness"
3. "Vigilant to guard a possession"
4. "Apprehensive of loss of exclusive devotion"

All four of these definitions of jealousy are seen in Exodus 20:5. God has a deep concern, a real zeal to not lose the devotion we are to have exclusively for Him. He will not tolerate rivalry or unfaithfulness. He is also hostile towards those false idols that enjoy the advantage of our devotion that belong only to Him; He is even hostile to those who persist in their unfaithfulness towards Him, visiting their iniquity. Finally, He is vigilant to guard a possession, that is, the faithful devotion we should have toward God.

For instance, it can be disheartening for those of us who are trying daily to walk in God's commandments and statutes, to see those who profess to be our brothers and sisters in Christ, taking part in pagan festivities, such as Christmas, New Years, Easter, etc., right along with the children of the world. We know that they know God's truths, and they also know that God hates pagan ways, yet when you question them about their actions they will say, “I know God's truths, so I don't do this seriously so what can the harm be ...?” Then, some will actually say, “I do it for my children; I don't want them to feel like they are being cheated or ‘left out.’”

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Our God is a Jealous God

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When we do these things, aren't we doing exactly what God says He does not want us to do? Jeremiah 10:2-5 "Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cuts a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they need be borne, because they cannot go (move). Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, also neither is it in them to do good. And: Revelation 18:4 "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Do those who join the world in celebrating these pagan holidays not realize that these are some of the very things that our Heavenly Father says He is jealous over us for our taking part in these pagan traditions?

We all need to properly "discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 4:14) and prove all things" (1Thessalonians 5:21) by using God's word, the Bible, which is Truth (John 17:17). We need to be on guard and be sure to not fall for any of Satan's worthless counterfeits and hold fast to God's truth and promises which are precious and truly are the real thing. Why would anyone trade the chance to become a 'first-fruit with Christ in His Kingdom and be able to live for eternity just for a few hours of "song and dance and cheer." Little do they stop and think that these people they are "dancing" with will have their time of judgement just as we are having ours now – only by then they will have given up their life for eternity and these 'friends' of theirs will, in all possibility when they are resurrected, hear God's truths and accept

it. How sad!

Why is God jealous? Paul says that he feels a "godly jealousy" for His people. Surely that indicates that jealousy can be both good and bad. So when you feel jealous of someone, you have to ask yourself, "Is my jealousy a rightful one, or is it false?"

The difference is right here: False

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."
Rev 18:4



jealousy is always selfish. It is concerned with your own feelings. It is possessive, and it wants to control another person. It is therefore often dominating and even cruel and tyrannical. It usurps the rights of others and insists on its own way. It is imposed upon someone else whether that person likes it or not.

Satan's Counterfeits

Everyone who says that they are part of God's church need to realize that Satan has tried his best to be like God, and in effect, has counterfeited or substituted everything God has revealed to him. Everything Satan has changed is inferior, perverted and twisted-just like him. The following

are some of the things that Satan has accomplished through counterfeiting:

He counterfeited Christ's birthday for Nimrod's.

God's plan in the stars with astrology.

God's church with a false church that masquerades as the "true church."

God's ministers with his false ministers.

God's doctrines by changing: A) The Sabbath for Sunday. B) Easter for Passover. C) God's family with a trinity. D) The truth about heaven and hell and instituted the concept of purgatory.

He counterfeited God's Holy Spirit with his spirit that works through "the spirit in man." He can produce similar fruits of the Holy Spirit such as healing, dreams, visions and superhuman powers as witnessed by occult phenomena.

He will counterfeit God's prophets in the end time (the two witnesses) with a false prophet.

Satan always mixes a little bit of truth with a lot of lies and he copies, duplicates, impersonates, imitates and counterfeits God's truth!

We need to ask ourselves the question, Are we constantly striving to put God first in our lives? Do we, as God's children, knowing and having tasted of His truths, try to keep one foot on God's side and the other foot in the world?" Do we actually think that we can have the "best" of both worlds? I think not. Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

In 2 Corinthians 11:2, Paul says: "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy. For I have espoused you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ."

The context of this scripture is Paul's zeal that the Corinthian's remain faithful to God and not go off with false teach- Cont. on p. 5

Our God is a Jealous God

Cont. from p.4 ers and false doctrines such as a false gospel.

Right and Wrong kind of Jealousy

Just as there is a right and wrong kind of anger, there is a right and wrong kind of jealousy. Both types of jealousy have in common a deeply passionate feeling of intolerance, hurt and anger at another person being unfaithful to them. This is the emotion of jealousy.

It's in the motive, the attitude and the actions that flow from that attitude or motive where the right kind of jealously separate. James 4:4 "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that the friendship of this world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever desires to be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The spirit that dwells in us yearns to jealousy?'"

Throughout Scripture, God demands our worship. He goes to the point to say that He is jealous of our worship. Imagine the God of all creation is so desirous of our worship and fellowship that He is jealous of whatever takes our worship...God's law



forbids us to worship any idols, whether statues or anything else we put in place of God! (Exodus 20:3-6) God is so jealous of our worship that He commanded many times that all other false god's altars be destroyed. (Exodus 34:1-17) It angers God whenever His people begin to give His worship to other gods or things. (See Deuteronomy 4:23-24; 6:14-15; Joshua 24:19-20) We are to fellowship and worship God. This is why He becomes so jealous when we fail to

spend time worshipping and exalting Him. Nothing should ever take priority over our worship of God."

"One of the most vicious and destructive quality in the world today is jealousy. It has been properly called "the green-eyed monster." Jealousy is an all angry, strong, powerful emotion that refuses to tolerate a rival. It can be a very powerful motivator to aggressive action. It is one of the most frequent causes for broken homes, broken hearts, and broken bodies in the world today. Yet amazingly, God declares in the book of Exodus, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God" (Exodus 20:5). All

"Be careful not to forget the covenant of the Lord your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the Lord your God has forbidden. For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God." Deut 4:23-24

through the Scriptures there is this emphasis upon the jealousy of God.

We need to remember that we are the ones that God calls His "called out ones" at this time. **He is a jealous God** and He will not strive with us forever if we continue to walk in the ways of the world, having one foot in the world and one foot in the church, while ignoring all that He has taught us through the words of His instruction book to us, the Bible.

What do we give our time and hearts to that might come before Him? What other lovers do we have on the side? God has given us His standard and His laws. Where do we put our own ways ahead of His ways? What rivals to God and His way are there still in our lives?

Is there a value for us to understand what godly jealousy is and how deeply God feels it towards us?

The answer is yes. It helps us to understand how deeply He loves us. We believe that His feelings must run very deep for Him to feel so hurt when we give our heart and time over to other lovers. We are the fiancée's



of Jesus Christ, so He looks at us and feels for us in the same special way we would love a spouse or a girlfriend/boyfriend. Knowing the depth of God's jealousy and how deeply He is hurt when we give our hearts to other things, should motivate us to be more devoted to Him and more careful to keep Him as our first priority, and the number one love in our lives.

As time goes by we can all see that the people in this world are becoming more evil everyday. We don't know when Christ will return to us, but we do know that He told us to watch ... That is only one of the reasons why we should be paying close attention to what we are doing with our lives today, especially those of us who have been called at this time. Don't give up your chance for eternal life to friends that have not been called at this time and, therefore, do not understand why you no longer want to walk in their ways. It isn't worth it; they aren't worth it. No one is worth losing out on life eternal with our heavenly Father and our elder brother, Jesus Christ! 1Peter 4:17-18 "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begins at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

Revelation 3:15-16 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot: I would rather you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot I will spit you out of my mouth."





IS IT IN THE "Prove all Things"

BIBLE Did You Know?



Where is the Tomb of Mordechai and Esther?

Where is the Tomb of Mordechai and Esther?

Israel National News -
March 10, 2009

A few months ago, the normally hostile Iranian regime took the rather unusual step of adding a Jewish holy site to its National Heritage List.

On December 9, 2008, Iranian news outlets reported that the tomb of Mordechai and Esther, heroes of the Purim saga, would now be under official government protection and responsibility.

The move cast a brief spotlight on the site, which is well-known to Iranian Jews but largely unfamiliar to those outside the country. And with Purim being celebrated this week, it is worth



taking a moment to ponder this relic of our ancient past.

The mausoleum housing the shrine of Mordechai and Esther consists of a simple brick structure crowned with a dome which was built some five to seven centuries ago over the underground gravesites. It is located in the northwestern Iranian city of Hamadan, which is about 335 kilometers west of the capital, Tehran. According to tradition, Hamadan is believed to be the site of the city of Shushan, which played such a central role in the events described in the Book of Esther.

Various travelers down through the ages took note of the site, with the first having been Benjamin of Tudela, the famed 12th century Jewish explorer... Interestingly, there is a competing tradition which identifies the traditional burial place of Queen Esther and Mordechai as being on the outskirts of the **village of Baram**, in the upper Galilee, near Safed.

As early as 1215, Rabbi Menachem Ha-Hevroni wrote that while visiting the Galilee, he came across the tomb of Queen Esther, "who, during her lifetime, had instructed her son Cyrus to bring her there [for burial]". Later pilgrims mentioned the site, and noted that special celebrations were held there on Shushan Purim.

Currently, the tomb is believed to be located in the ruins of a building found in the Baram National Park.

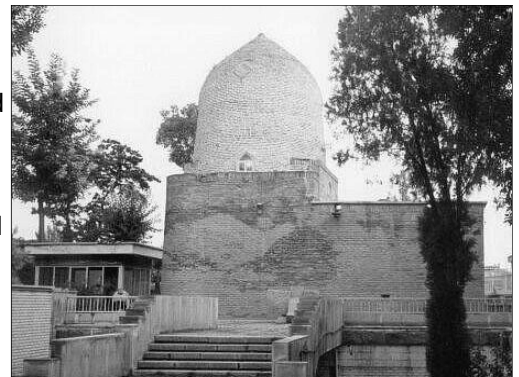
After the area was liberated in Israel's War of Independence, a group of Safed Jews went up to the tomb on Purim in 1949 and read the Megillah there to revive the long-standing cus-

tom of previous generations.

Hence, we have two conflicting traditions as to where the protagonists of the Purim story are buried, with one placing them in Persia and the other right here in Israel, much closer to home.

And while we can not say with any certainty which of the two traditions is more authentic or correct, of one thing we can all be sure: the deeds of these two great Jewish heroes will never fade from our collective memory. Furthermore, here is another Jewish report on the location:

Is there any historical evidence of the story of Purim and Queen Esther? **Answer:** In the high mountains of Iran is a city called Hamadan. Notice that if you remove a "da" from Hamadan, you get "Haman." I don't know when Hamadan was renamed, but at one time it was called "**Shushan**," and that is where the Queen Esther story takes place. There is a tomb for Queen Esther, and that tomb was built right in the middle of what is now known as Hamadan.



Iranian Shrine of Mordechai and Esther

THIS MONTH'S HELPFUL FINANCIAL TIPS

1. Is your home on a variable interest rate? If you are, this is the time to ride the curve. You should be getting an excellent rate of interest from your bank or mortgage company. If not, it's time to move your mortgage. For example, I know a person who has a mortgage of approximately \$55,000.00. the present interest rate is at 3.18 percent. The current interest is about 125.00 per month. Just one year ago, he was paying over \$600.00 interest per month. **HOWEVER**, and this is a big however, be ready at anytime to shift to a fixed rate. With the increasing debt of the U.S. you can expect interest to rise as the inflation, or stagflation starts to rise
2. If you are not presently getting a mortgage of 5% or less, it's time to look into refinancing with a company with charges no point of a very minimal point charge. Do your homework, be ready to take advantage now

A 'Time Bomb' for World Wheat Crop

The Ug99 fungus, called stem rust, could wipe out more than 80% of the world's wheat as it spreads from Africa, scientists fear.

The race is on to breed resistant plants before it reaches the U.S.

Los Angeles Times - June 14, 2009 By Karen Kaplan

The spores arrived from Kenya on dried, infected leaves encased in layers of envelopes. Working inside a bio-secure greenhouse outfitted with motion detectors and surveillance cameras, government scientists at the Cereal Disease Laboratory in St. Paul, Minn., suspended the fungal spores in a light mineral oil and sprayed them onto thousands of healthy wheat plants. After two weeks, the stalks were covered with deadly reddish blisters characteristic of the scourge known as Ug99.



Nearly all the plants were goners. Crop scientists fear the Ug99 fungus could wipe out more than 80% of worldwide wheat crops as it spreads from eastern Africa. It has already

jumped the Red Sea and traveled as far as Iran. Experts say it is poised to enter the breadbasket of northern India and Pakistan, and the wind will inevitably carry it to Russia, China and even North America — if it doesn't hitch a ride with people first. "It's a time bomb," said Jim Peterson, a professor of wheat breeding and genetics at Oregon State University in Corvallis. "It moves in the air, it can move in clothing on an airplane. We know it's going to be here. It's a matter of how long it's going to take."

Though most Americans have never heard of it, Ug99 — a type of fungus called stem rust because it produces reddish-brown flakes on plant stalks — is the No. 1 threat to the world's most widely grown crop. The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico estimates that 19% of the world's wheat, which provides food for 1 billion people in Asia and Africa, is in imminent danger. American plant breeders say \$10 billion worth of wheat would be destroyed if the fungus suddenly made its way to U.S. fields. Fear that the fungus will cause widespread damage has caused short-term price spikes on world wheat markets.



Inauguration of the International Conference on 'Wheat Stem Rust Ug99-A Threat to Food Security'

New Audio / Video Bible Study

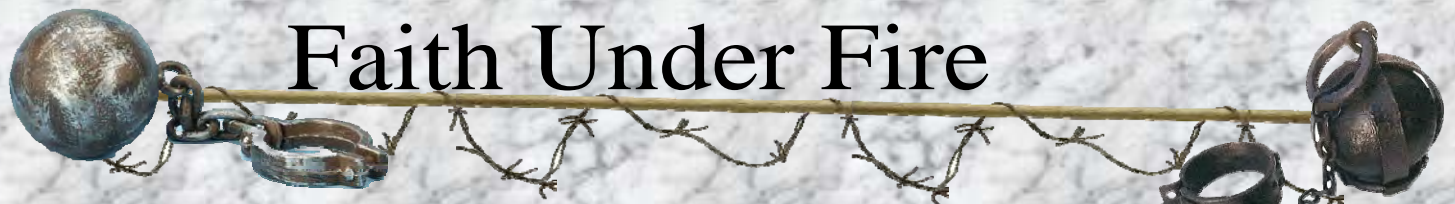
BRAND NEW THREE PART SERIES

COMING IN AUGUST: the Church of God, Ministries International will be publishing a new three part Audio Video Bible Study, titled:

“Kings and Priest in the Kingdom of God.”

Part one will be shipped about the third week in July. This study covers the various aspects of the kingdom. Who will be there, what is required to be in the Kingdom, when and where will the Kingdom be set up, how long will He rule, and much more. Be on the look out, Coming Next Month.

Faith Under Fire



FAITH UNDER FIRE

Home: No place for Bible study County demands pastor spend thousands on 'Major Use' permit to host friends

Posted: May 22, 2009

By Drew Zahn

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A San Diego pastor and his wife claim they were interrogated by a county official and warned they will face escalating fines if they continue to hold Bible studies in their home.

The couple, whose names are being withheld until a demand letter can be filed on their behalf, told their attorney a county government employee knocked on their door on Good Friday, asking a litany of questions about their Tuesday night Bible studies, which are attended by approximately 15 people.

"Do you have a regular weekly meeting in your home? Do you sing? Do you say 'amen'?" the official reportedly asked. "Do you say, 'Praise the Lord'?"

The pastor's wife answered yes. She says she was then told, however, that she must stop holding "religious assemblies" until she and her husband obtain a Major Use Permit from the county, a permit that often involves traffic and environmental studies, compliance with parking and sidewalk regulations and costs that top tens of thousands of dollars.

And if they fail to pay for the MUP, the county official reportedly warned, the couple will be charged escalating fines beginning at \$100, then \$200, \$500, \$1000, "and then it will get ugly."

Dean Broyles of the Western Center for Law and Policy, which has been retained to represent the couple, told WND the county's action not only violates religious land-use laws but also assaults both the First Amendment's freedom of assembly and freedom of religion.

"The First Amendment, in part, reads, 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,'" Broyles said. "And that's the key part: 'prohibiting the free exercise.' We believe this is a substantial government burden on the free exercise of religion." He continued, "If one's home is one's castle, certainly you would think the free exercise of religion, of all places, could occur in the home."

Broyles confirmed the county official followed through on

his threat. The pastor and his wife received a written warning ordering the couple to "cease/stop religious assembly on parcel or obtain a major use permit."

"The Western Center for Law and Policy is troubled by this draconian move to suppress home Bible studies," said the law center in a statement. "If the current trends in our nation continue, churches may be forced underground. If that happens, believers will once again be forced to meet in homes. If homes

are already closed by the government to assembly and worship, where then will Christians meet?"

On a personal note, Broyles added, "I've been leading Bible studies in my home for 13 years in San Diego County, and I personally believe that home fellowship Bible studies are the past and future of the church. ... If you look at China, the church grew from home Bible studies. I'm deeply concerned that if in the U.S. we are not able to meet in our homes and freely practice our religion, then we may be worse off than China."

Broyles also explained to WND that oppressive governments, such as communist China or Nazi Germany, worked to repress

home fellowships, labeling them the "underground church" or "subversive groups," legally compelling Christians to meet only in sanctioned, government-controlled "official" churches. "Therein lies my concern," Broyles said. "If people can't practice their religious beliefs in the privacy of their own homes with a few of their friends, that's an egregious First Amendment violation."

WND contacted a spokeswoman for San Diego County, who acknowledged the description of the incident seemed "bizarre," but who was unable to locate the details of the account. She simply could not provide comment yet, she said, until she could become familiar with the case.

Broyles said the WCLP is nearly ready to file a demand letter with the county to release the pastor and his wife from the requirement to obtain the expensive permit. If the county refuses, Broyles said, the WCLP will consider a lawsuit in federal court.

Broyles also told WND the pastor and his wife are continuing to hold the Bible study in their home.



Faith Under Fire

FAITH UNDER FIRE

Churches outraged at state's interference Proposed law dictates how congregations must be governed

Posted: March 10, 2009

By Drew Zahn

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Following widespread outrage from Roman Catholics, Connecticut lawmakers have postponed a highly anticipated public HEARING over a state law that would dictate how local parishes organize their governing structures.

Critics blasted Connecticut Raised Bill No. 1098, "An Act Modifying Corporate laws Relating to Certain Religious Corporations," as a blatant attack on constitutional freedom of religion.

"The State has no right to interfere in the internal affairs and structure of the Catholic Church," writes Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport Bishop William Lori on his blog. "This bill is directed only at the Catholic Church but could someday be forced on other denominations. The state has no business controlling religion."

The bill, proposed last week by the co-chairmen of the Legislature's Judiciary Committee, Rep. Michael Lawlor, D-East Haven, and Sen. Andrew McDonald, D-Stanford, would reorganize the internal structure of local parishes to remove priests and bishops from financial oversight to replace them with boards of laypeople.

"The [church] shall have a board of directors consisting of not less than seven nor more than thirteen lay members," the bill states, then assigns all financial oversight to the board, specifies the board's governing duties and even dictates how often the boards shall meet. The bill further mandates that archbishops and bishops not be allowed to vote on the boards.

The Catholic News Agency reports Anthony Picarello, general counsel of the U.S. Conference of Bishops, blasted the the bill as "blatantly unconstitutional," saying it "targets the Catholic Church explicitly and exclusively, and attempts to use the civil law to alter Church governance."

Objections came from outside the Catholic Church as well. "You cannot tell a church how it can govern itself," said Marc D. Stern, general counsel for the American Jewish Congress in

New York.

"The church is entitled to govern itself any which way it wants." Now, the Associated Press reports, Lawlor and McDonald have postponed the hearing until the state's attorney general reports on the constitutionality of Connecticut's religious corporation laws.

McDonald told the Connecticut Post the impetus for the bill was the publicized case of a priest in Darien, Conn., who was convicted of stealing up to \$1.4 million from lay donations,

demonstrating the need for laypeople to be more involved in their parishes' financial affairs and to be able to hold their leaders accountable. LifeSiteNews, however, reports critics of the bill have charged Lawlor and McDonald with being adamant advocates of same-sex marriage legislation and trying to punish the church for standing against their agenda.

"This bill," writes Bishop Lori, "is a thinly-veiled attempt to silence the Catholic Church on the important issues of the day, such as same-sex marriage."

In a joint statement, Lawlor and McDonald claimed their only agenda in bringing the bill forward was to honor other Catholics concerned about church scandals.



The Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus speaking at the Rally which gave rise to the State of Connecticut's unconstitutional persecution of the Catholic Church

"We are keeping an open mind to what these parishioners have to say about their church, and we respectfully ask that others give them the courtesy of listening to their proposed changes in the existing state law governing Roman Catholic corporations," the legislators wrote. "We ourselves are questioning certain aspects of their proposal and even the consti-

tutionality of the current law. Despite what has been portrayed, we have not endorsed nor are advocating for this proposal."

One such parishioner is Dr. Paul Lakeland, a former Jesuit Priest and Fairfield University Chair of Catholic Studies. Lakeland had been scheduled to testify before the Connecticut General Assembly on behalf of the bill.

"I see absolutely no chance whatsoever of the institutional church making a change in this direction without pressure from somewhere outside the [Catholic] church," Lakeland told the Catholic News Agency. "There's not even the most remote likelihood that the church would adjust in this direction itself. I think this is a way of putting pressure on them to make changes and bringing the issue into a more prominent setting."



Peace in the Middle East?

Iran's Election Ahmadinejad Re-elected Amidst Controversy, riots, and killings

The Lede

The New York Times News Blog

June 13, 2009, 11:16 AM

Landslide or Fraud? The Debate Online Over Iran's Election Results



KARIM SADJAPOUR, ANALYST AT CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE:

"I don't think anyone anticipated this level of fraudulence. This was a selection, not an election. At least authoritarian regimes like Syria and Egypt have no democratic pretences. In retrospect it appears this entire campaign was a show: (Supreme Leader) Ayatollah (Ali) Khamenei wasn't ever going to let Ahmadinejad lose."



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES IN LONDON:

"I'm surprised at the regime's audacity in declaring such a large margin for Ahmadinejad, given that in the run-up, the momentum seemed to be in the other direction. The hardliners in the regime seem to have exercised all their levers of power to keep Ahmadinejad in place. Undoubtedly, one of the key reasons was their concern about losing control of the country through policies such as willingness to engage with the United States.

Cont. from p. 1

The goal-establish a lasting peace in the Middle East. The new theology is simple: reach out with soft words and extend an outstretched hand indicating that we want to be friends. Can simple dialog accomplish what thousands of years of countless conflicts, trials, and wars could not accomplish. The sad reality about all these efforts is, those attempting to accomplish this peace simply do not know the scriptures, or if they do, they ignore or deny them.

The much awaited speech delivered by President Obama from Cairo, Egypt, in particular from Cairo University, is now in the history books. It was attended by many dignitaries from around the world, including King of Mecca, King Abdulla of Saudi Arabia and the grand Mufti Ali Gomaa There have been much ado from both sides of the gallery.

The messages coming from those meetings have brought about grave concerns from Israel.

Can There be Peace in the Middle East?

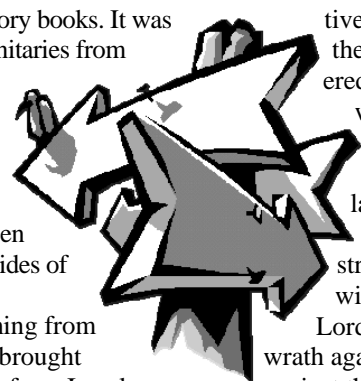
Since the delivery of the speech there have been many moves underfoot from those nations who either do not agree with the President's speech, or have chosen to ignore it, including Israel, China, N. Korea, and Iran. Each of those nations are moving to prepare to protect their interest and defend themselves in a changing world.

God's people are fully aware of the scripture in Luke 21: 20 "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. 22 For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written.

It is clear before the return of Jesus Christ, there will be armies surrounding Jerusalem. These armies will be sent in to try and maintain a peace that doesn't exist except through

military oversight and control.

"Because they lead my people astray, saying, 'Peace,' when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash, therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall. Rain will come in torrents, and I will send hailstones hurtling down, and violent winds will burst forth. When the wall collapses, will people not ask you, "Where is the whitewash you covered it with?" Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: In my wrath I will unleash a violent wind, and in my anger hailstones and torrents of rain will fall with destructive fury. I will tear down the wall you have covered with whitewash and will level it to the ground so that its foundation will be laid bare. When it falls, you will be destroyed in it; and you will know that I am the Lord. So I will spend my wrath against the wall and against those who covered it with whitewash. I will say to you, "The wall is gone and so are those who whitewashed it, those prophets of Israel who prophesied to Jerusalem and saw visions of peace for her when there was no peace, declares the Sovereign Lord." Ezek 13:10-16



The Flimsy Wall Covered With White Wash

Are we witnessing the "Flimsy wall of whitewash," or true peace? Lets see what is going on.

According to a report from WorldNet Daily it was stated that, the Palestinians will have Jerusalem as their capitol. Quoting from WorldNet Daily: "Obama informed Abbas [Palestinian Leader], he would not let Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu 'get in the way' of normalizing U.S. relations with the Arab and greater Muslim world. We were told from this new administration they will not allow a Netanyahu government to hurt their efforts of rehabilitating U.S. relations with the Arab and Islamic world, which is a

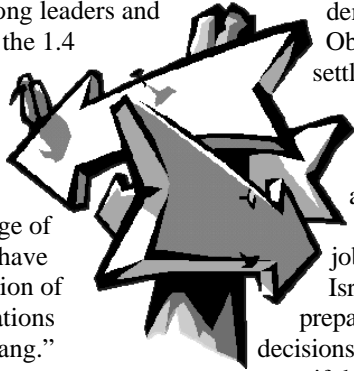
Cont. on p. 11

Peace in the Middle East?

Cont. from p. 10

high priority of Obama.”

The visit to Egypt was the second such visit to a Muslim World. The first visit was to Istanbul in April, 2009. When Obama was elected President, his first call to a head of state was to Mahmud Abbas. While, many in the Muslim world are enjoying the beginning of this new found relationship, many more in the Muslim world do not see it that way. Tzvi Ben Gedalyahu writes; “The Muslim world’s expectations of the historic speech varied from cautious hope to deep skepticism among leaders and spokesmen for the 1.4 billion strong Muslim world. The buildup to the speech was so intense that a wide range of commentators have stated the creation of “Great Expectations Could Boomerang.”



“Great Expectations” Could Boomerang

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is well aware of the fact that when it comes to defending his country and its citizens from an Iranian nuclear weapon, he is all alone. America, under President Obama, is quite willing to sit back and permit a nuclear-armed reactor in Iran. Israel looks at the establishment of a nuclear program as the establishment of the second holocaust.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and IDF chief of staff Gabi Ashkenazi are beating the war drums against Iran this morning. On Monday, Netanyahu said that if Israel does not remove the Iranian nuclear threat, no one else will.

Based on that knowledge, Netanyahu is making preparations to go it alone in dealing with the Iranian threat. According to reports leaking out of

Israel, Israel is reportedly preparing to attack Iran once the word is given. They are even conducting Civil Defense drills to prepare for the retaliations. (See related article “Israel stands ready to bomb Iran’s nuclear sites.”)

The world is cozying up to the fact that they can live with a nuclear powered Iran. But, make no mistake, Israel has made it perfectly clear that it cannot and will not live with a nuclear Iran.

Netanyahu has stated that they are preparing to go it alone to defend itself. He dismissed demands by Obama to freeze settlements. He dismissed those demands as being unreasonable. He told the Knesset that his job was defending Israel and he is prepared to make decisions to defend Israel, even if those decisions are not popular with the masses around the world.

[NOTE: Since these comments were stated, Netanyahu has softened his approach. To what degree will we see in the months ahead.]

Following those statements Israel conducted their largest emergency drill in the nation’s history. It was a five day drill, called Turning Point Three being conducted in public areas of schools, military bases, and government facilities to prepare them for war.

It appears from all accounts that Israel is willing to go their separate ways to protect their existence rather than follow a plan that will put their safety at risk, even if it means losing America’s backing with the UN Security Council.

God’s Warning to All Nations Going Against Jerusalem

The change in policy by the current administra-

April 18, 2009

Israel stands ready to bomb Iran's nuclear sites

Sheera Frenkel in Jerusalem
Times Online

The Israeli military is preparing itself to launch a massive aerial assault on Iran’s nuclear facilities within days of being given the go-ahead by its new government.

Among the steps taken to ready Israeli forces for what would be a risky raid requiring pinpoint aerial strikes are the acquisition of three Airborne Warning and Control (AWAC) aircraft and regional missions to simulate the attack. Two nationwide civil defence drills will help to prepare the public for the retaliation that Israel could face.

Israel has made it clear that it will not tolerate the threat of a nuclear Iran. According to Israeli Intelligence they will have



the bomb within two years ... Once they have a bomb it will be too late, and Israel will have no choice to strike — with or without America,” an official from the Israeli Defense Ministry said. Ehud Barak, Israeli

Defense Minister recently stated on public radio; “...the chance the dialog [referring to president Obama] has of stopping Iran’s nuclear efforts is very low.”

He shares the sentiments of nearly all of Israel. Ehud Barak is Israel’s highest decorated war hero and former Prime Minister during President Clinton’s administration, he is loved and highly respected by the Israeli people.



Cont. on p. 12

Peace in the Middle East?

Cont. from p. 11 tion of favoring Islam over Israel, will put this entire nation at risk from the wrath of our Creator. The abandoning of our brother will not be overlooked by the Eternal, but will in fact, bring about His Wrath upon us.

Jesus lamented over Jerusalem: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" *Matt. 23:37* We can see from His words the love that He has for Jerusalem.

The leaders of the world today are ignorant as to the prophecies that are coming to pass with each action they take against Jerusalem, and in particular the nation we know today as Israel.

Zechariah 12 tells us the conditions we'll find pertaining to Jerusalem before the return of Jesus Christ. Notice Zech 12:3: "And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very

heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it." Does this sound like peace to anyone?

Jerusalem Should be Divided Into Three Parts?

While the world tries to chop up Jerusalem into a two state capitol striving for peace, Pope Benedict XVI's recent visit to the Middle East told everyone that Jerusalem should be divided into three parts, while at the same time, Benjamin Netanyahu has stated: "The flag that flies over the Kotel is the Israeli Flag... Our Holy places, the Temple Mount – will remain under Israeli sovereignty forever. Jerusalem was always ours, will always be ours, and will never again be divided."

While it appears that everyone wants a piece of Jerusalem, God's word tells us they had better leave her alone. No other city on

Cont. on p. 13

Barak: Nuclear Iran is Unbearable

Defense Minister Ehud Barak said on *Channel 2's* "Meet the Press" weekend show that "Israel is the strongest element in the region, and I do not see anyone daring to try and destroy us." He estimated that Prime Minister Netanyahu would demand in his current trip to Washington that America's talks with Iran be "short and to the point."

"Beyond that," he added, "we think that no option should be taken off the table, and we suggest that others act likewise."

"A Middle East with a nuclear Iran is an unbearable thing, and all of the moderate forces in the region understand this," he said. "If Iran has nuclear [weapons], we will not be able to prevent leakage of technology and nuclear materials to terror groups." After talks with Iran are taken to their limit, he said, "We should approach a new and effective sanctions regime. An attack on Iran is not something to talk about. I repeat: all options are on the table and I would rather not add a single word."



Envoy renews US support for Palestinian state

By Ezzedine Said – June 10, 2009

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AFP) — US envoy George Mitchell met Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas on Wednesday and reiterated that a Palestinian state is the only viable answer to the Middle East conflict. "The president of the United States (Barack Obama) and Secretary of State (Hillary Clinton) have made our policy clear -- the only viable resolution to this conflict is for the aspirations of both sides to be met through two states," Mitchell told reporters after the meeting in Ramallah.

"As President Obama said last week, America will not turn... (its) back on the legitimate Palestinian aspiration for dignity, opportunity and a state of their own," he said of Obama's address to the Muslim world.



Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas (R) shakes hands with US envoy to the Middle East George Mitchell.

Peace in the Middle East?

Cont. from p. 12

the earth has caused more controversy and conflict than Jerusalem. Satan knows that this will be the home of our soon coming King, and Satan will stop at nothing to destroy it. The world is a pawn in Satan's hands to destroy the city loved by Jesus Christ.

Notice the words left to us through Zech. 12:1-2: The burden of the word of the Lord against Israel. Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the

earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem."

We are witnessing the profound "drunkenness" of those striving to destroy Israel. Although God's word tells us that the Eternal will allow Jerusalem to go through trials because of their rebellion; the Lord also tells us He would not abandon Jerusalem. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, "The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the Lord of hosts, their God. In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place--Jerusalem. The Lord will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabi-

tants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah. In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them. It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem." Zech 12:5-9

We know that God will not totally abandon Jerusalem. He has

promised to restore it, and save the remnant who have remained faithful to His Word.

The story surrounding Jerusalem will continue to unfold daily. As it does, Ministries International will do its best to cover it with all diligence. Pray for God to grant us the wisdom and the insight to focus on those issues that pertain to God's Holy Word, that we may do our part in the warning that must go out.

In future issues we will be covering the warnings pertaining to Dan 11:32 "Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." Are we witnessing the time of flatteries, against the covenant of God's people?

"They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. Peace, peace they say, when there is no peace."

Jer 23:11-13 *"Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the Lord your God. Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations--these that remain among you--and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you, know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the Lord your God has given you."*

Deputy FM: Assad Does Not Want Peace, Just a Peace Process

by Gil Ronen

Syrian President Bashar Assad "does not want



peace, just wants a peace process," Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon said during a live interview show on stage Saturday in Be'er Sheva. His

statements are being interpreted as a response to a recent statement by Assad that peace talks with Israel have been suspended because there is currently "no partner" on the Israeli side.

"The Syrian president is aware that the price he will have to pay for peace will be to open up his regime to the West, and this could topple him," Ayalon said. "Through a peace process," he explained, "Assad is interested in taking his country out of international isolation and removing the pressure of the international community on him."

"If Assad truly wants peace, he should come to the negotiating table without preconditions," Ayalon said. "One cannot want peace and support Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad and arm them."

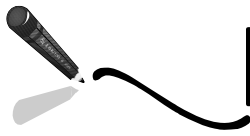
Regarding Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's upcoming meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama, Ayalon said: "The alliance between us and the Americans is a natural one and we have common global interests like stopping the nuclear military program in Iran and Pakistan."

Netanyahu Sees Iran as Amalek, Advisor Says

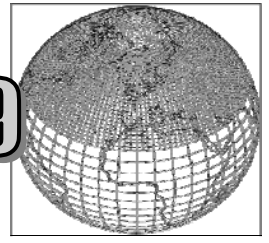
by Gil Ronen (IsraelNN.com)

An advisor to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has compared Netanyahu's attitude towards Iran to the traditional Jewish view of Amalek, the ultimate enemy which must be destroyed.





Feast of Tabernacles 2009



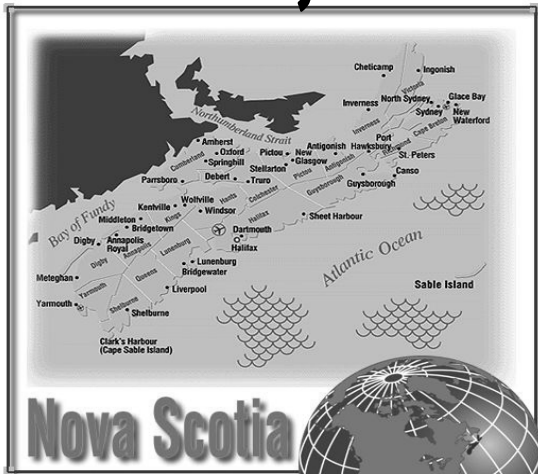
Trinidad - Tobago



For Information on the Feast in Trinidad—Tobago

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No. 9 Mandarin Circle, Santa Rosa Circle
Arima Trinidad and Tobago
868-667-3964

Halifax Nova Scotia, Canada



Canada now requires all citizens of the United States to have a Passport



For Information on the Feast in Nova Scotia Canada

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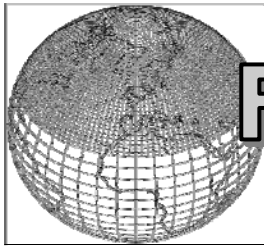
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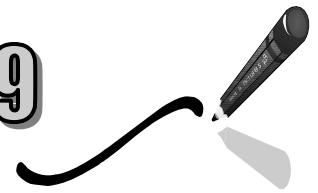
For More information Contact :

Mike Gladden
20 Buckingham Dr.
Red Lion, PA 17356
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Feast of Tabernacles 2009

Auburn, IN



Northern Feast Site back again in new location 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

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We are presently awaiting prices for this year.

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

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Building a Leadership Teaching Team



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. Editors note: Began on June 12, but it's not too late to sign up.)

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

Consisting of 7 Lessons; this course

will be presented in various combinations 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 The website address is: <http://www.thetruthofgod-leadershipcourse.org>