



Christian Church of God Newsletter

Volume 19, Issue 2 March 2010

Hello My Brothers & Sisters of Grace,

As we move into the holiest time of the year, the season of the New Testament Passover and the spring Holy Days, it is fitting to prepare for and move into the spirit of this holy season. In his first letter to the church at Corinth in the first century, we read the Apostle Paul's admonition to those early Christians and all Christians since to prepare for the holy sacraments.

1 Cor. 11:27 *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. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.* NKJV

Sunday evening, March the 28th, disciples of Jesus the world over shall come together to

observe the most sacred service of the Christian year, the Christian Passover. Jesus at His last Passover with His disciples established a new Christian Passover.

Mark 14:22 *And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.*

23 *And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.*

24 *And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.* KJV



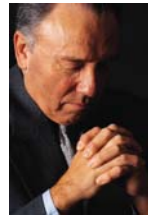
As our Passover Lamb, He was the fulfillment of the original Passover. The bread, without leaven and broken, is the symbol of His sinless sacrifice and broken body.

1 Peter 2:24 *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.* KJV

The wine is the sacrament of His blood shed for our sins.

Eph 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;* KJV

The Pastor's Pen



When they said, "Let's go to the house of God,"
 my heart leaped for joy.
 Psalms 122:1 (MSG)

Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but

Contact the Editor at
 jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net
 or P. O. Box 33134,
 Amarillo, TX 79120

Inside this issue:

<i>Brush Arbor</i>	9
<i>Chuckles</i>	7
<i>Holy Day Announcements</i>	11
<i>Moral Compass</i>	10
<i>Heartbeats</i>	8
<i>Celebrations</i>	4
<i>Guest Column</i>	6

CHECK THIS MEDIA

Email:
 CCofGod@suddenlink.net
 Our sermons broadcast on
 KGRO Radio 9:05 AM
 Sunday.
 www.pan-tex.net
 Our Home Page:

Christian Passover/Lord's Supper
 Sunday, March 28th

Footwashing Ceremony ~ 7:30 pm.

First Day of Unleavened Bread
 Tuesday, March 30th

C.E.P. Bible Class ~ 11:00 a.m.

Last Day of Unleavened Bread
 Monday, April 5th

C.E.P. Bible Class ~ 11:00 a.m.
 Holyday Worship Service ~ 11:45 a.m.

A MORAL COMPASS¹⁰

Directional Principles for Right Living

Give me your lantern and compass, give me a map, so I can find my way to the sacred mountain. (Psalm 43:3, MSG) O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8, NLT)



It is so easy to lose one's way. Airports. Highways. Forests. Mountains. Seas. Mankind has the capacity to get lost. Great discoveries have been made down through history by explorers who, to put it plainly, were simply lost.

Israel of old, God's chosen race, mostly mumbled and grumbled for forty years, thinking they were lost. Actually, God was guiding them through Moses. But their "lostness" was beyond geographical: it was spiritual. Paul wrote about it in his letter to the church at Corinth (1 Cor. 10:1-12, MSG):

1. Remember our history, friends, and be warned. All our ancestors were led by the providential Cloud and taken miraculously through the Sea. 2. They went through the waters, in a baptism like ours, as Moses led them from enslaving death to salvation life. 3. They all ate 4. and drank identical food and drink, meals provided daily by God. They drank from the Rock, God's fountain for them that stayed with them wherever they were. And the Rock was Christ. 5. But just experiencing God's wonder and grace didn't seem to mean much—most of them were defeated by temptation during the hard times in the desert, and God was not pleased. 6. The same thing could happen to us. We must be on guard so that we never get caught up in wanting our own way as they did. 7. And we must not turn our religion into a circus as they did—"First the people partied, then they threw a dance." 8. We must not be sexually promiscuous—they paid for that, remember, with twenty-three thousand deaths in one day! 9. We must never try to get Christ to serve us instead of us serving him; they tried it, and God launched an epidemic of poisonous snakes. 10. We must be careful not to stir up discontent; discontent destroyed them. 11. These are all warning markers—danger!—in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are parallel—they at the beginning, we at the end—and we are just as capable of messing it up as they were. 12. Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.



Life is full of twists and turns; don't forget your Compass: "God-confidence." Distractions often set you up to make a wrong turn, a bad decision, a misguided assumption. Remember to look to the Rock, Christ Jesus, who stays with you all the way!

~ JDM

" . . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed." — James 5:15-16.

Prayer Requests

3



Brian Booth: Jeff's, brother undergoing chemo for colon cancer.

Lisa Carlson: Baby daughter of Cathy Carlson, diagnosed with RSV.

Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.

Betty Clark: Hospitalized with a MRSA infection.

Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.

Bonnie Cryer: Had surgery for removal of lung malignancy. Her prognosis is encouraging.

Bobbie Farris: Sister of Bonnie Cryer suffered a heart attack and is still recuperating.

Mary Jo Flatt: James Bailey's sister had a malignant bladder tumor removed. She is doing well, having completed treatments.

Paul Flatt: James Bailey's brother-in-law suffered a heart attack. He is undergoing alternative treatments & is improving.

Bobbie Gatson: Mother of Velvet Green nerve and back problems making it difficult to walk..

Bella Gonzales: To undergo out-patient procedure this week.

Harry Gonzales: Complications of pneumonia and other health problems. He is showing some improvement.

Velvet Green: Suffers from schizophrenia.

Benny Ray Hicks: Betty Clark's daughter's brother-in-law, diagnosed with leukemia.

Anna Law: In need of a kidney transplant; she has dialysis three times a week.

Larry Lyles: Diagnosed with liver cancer; he is undergoing chemo.

Dollie Meil: Suffering from pneumonia and admitted to Grace Medical Center, a respiratory hospital.

Rudolph Rankin: Has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, will undergo radiation treatment..

Ted Rankin: MS; however, he is showing some improvement.

Jane Shaffer: Sister of Joe Kirkpatrick, breast cancer that she survived 18 years ago has recurred in her brain evidenced by several lesions. She will undergo treatment.

Laura Stephens: Mother-in-law of Shannon (Sehorn) Stephens, cancer in lungs, kidneys & liver.

Jeanne Vincent: C.B. & Darrell Sehorn's sister, breast cancer which has metastasized to the bone. She is stable but very weak.

Ron Vorheis: He is still having serious health issues.

Janet Voss: Undergoing chemo for ovarian cancer recurrence.

IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR.
jerrydalemc@sbcglobal.net

Celebrations

<u>Birthdays:</u>		<u>Anniversaries:</u>	
Ron Vorheis	03-06	Manuel & Lydia Salazar	03-17
Linda Booth	03-11		
Dollie Meil	03-12		
Jerry McClenagan	03-23		
Betty Clark	03-25		
Lydia Salazar	03-25		
Weldon McAlister	03-27		
Martha McClenagan	03-31		

30th Anniversary

OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

It isn't 'all-day singing and dinner on the ground' as in days long ago But it's close. Please join us on a Sabbath in April (to be announced in the next newsletter) for a special celebration: a grilled-steak dinner fit for kings and queens, extra music of praise and worship, and a special speaker!

Brush Arbor Meeting on Hackberry Creek



Raised on a small farm in Oklahoma in the thirties and forties, I had the privilege of country experiences that I wish my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren could enjoy — if only for a short time. A part of that rich heritage was the church life. I'll be periodically sharing vignettes of that part of my life in these pages; it has stretched out to cover over seventy years of my life. Portions of the memories are a bit fragmented, but true at the core. Yes, I've embellished a scene or two, and most of the names are conspicuously absent. But I've kept the tone and spirit accurate.
~ JDM, Editor

CHAPTER 2 / THE NIMBLE THIMBLE MAN

A wee lad was I, attending Sunday School in a community church at Hitchland, Texas. We owned a small farm in Oklahoma, one mile from the state line. The preacher, tall and lanky, worked for my father during wheat harvest when we had a crop worth harvesting.

Today, he stood on the platform at the front of the church, and with his long, nimble fingers, began to do tricks with a thimble. It appeared that the thimble jumped from the forefinger on one hand to the forefinger on the other. He also seemed to swallow it, then would magically produce it from behind an ear of one of the enraptured kids on the front row. I was one of them, and in later years practiced this trickery on occasion, although I never mastered the art to the degree that Brother Paul had.

It was effective ministry as our young and tender hearts were held in his sway, so that we all knelt at the front in a childlike act of repentance. Granted, we didn't know what repentance was, or salvation, or faith. But I'm sure Heaven smiled favorably on our simple, tender hearts.

The singing got my attention as well. I remember my grandfather's booming voice drumming out the bass to *The Little Brown Church in the Vale*. ♪ *Come, come, come, come* he sang, while the rest of the congregation sang ♪ *Oh come to the church in the wildwood, Come to the church in the vale . . . No thought is so dear to my childhood As the little brown church in the vale*.

It was in those early years that I and my brother, two years older than me, stood beside our mother at that dark mahogany upright piano and sang along as she played those Gospel songs as old as that piano. As the years rolled by a friend took me under his wing in the church choir and helped me learn to read different parts: alto, tenor, bass— as well as the soprano, or lead. My proclivity to music enabled me to make rapid progress. By the time I was in high school I would have the honor and satisfaction of singing barbershop harmony, mixed quartet, solos (including one of the lead soloists in a cantata), and compete at a state level which resulted in numerous accolades.

In college, a major in music was not my forte. After one semester I realized that I wasn't cut out to teach music; performance was my predisposition. So I would continue to sing. Sometimes in concert with Mario Lanza; other times on stage with Eddy Arnold; at times with Bing or Vic or Frank. My one extravagance, when the money permitted, was to purchase their 78s and sing along in our four-room house. The solos continued, as did the song leading, and as youth camps and camp meetings and Bible school came along, I became proficient in the Stamps style of southern quartet singing.

My days of singing 'high tenor' are over. And I won't be doing a final world tour with Pavoratti [still living at the time I wrote this]. But I will continue to participate in music as long as my vocal chords permit.

So to this day, music is an intrinsic part of my life, and will echo through the pages of these memoirs. ■





Heartbeats

Editorial
Jerry McClenagan

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Prov 4:23 (NIV)

“SEE THAT YOU ARE NOT TROUBLED.” Strong words from our Lord and Savior. Actually, the whole verse reads, “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet” (Matt 24:6, NKJV). As I look at the context of the so-called Olivet Prophecy, and view it in today’s world climate, I find it virtually impossible to not be “troubled.” As Jesus expands on the caldron of unpleasant events that are ever unfolding, and states that these are “the beginning of sorrows” (v. 8), I’m troubled. As I read on about “the love of many will grow cold” and “he who endures to the end shall be saved” (vs.12b, 13), I’m troubled. So how can I adhere to Jesus’ advice?

First, I examined the phrase in several translations: “don’t be alarmed” (Phillips); “see that you are not frightened or troubled” (Amplified); “keep your head and don’t panic” (Message); “see to it that you are not afraid” (Centenary). So I reassessed the phrase: Jesus wants us to trust in Him and not cave in to fear in view of world events! Then I began to reflect on such passages of Scripture as Psalm 37, the latter verses of Matthew 5, the opening verses of Philippians 4 . . . and other powerful passages that emphasize our security and well-being in our Savior, such as the entire 91st Psalm, which begins, “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty (Ps. 91:1, NKJV)! ■

Excerpted from a book by this title by Rebecca Manley Pippert ©1979 by InterVarsity Press

OUT OF THE



& INTO THE
WORLD

CONTINUING PIPPERT’S evangelizing efforts:
Two things concern me about Cathy and so many young Christians I meet. I am distressed by a frighteningly debased view of the truth. Many students may be convinced that Christianity is true, but the truth of something doesn’t seem to have any binding consequences. Second, there seems to be a disease of superficiality in their faith. This stems, I fear, from our impoverished understanding of what it means to call Jesus Lord. . . .

Unless seekers clearly understand the gospel, both its costs and privileges, before they commit themselves to God, our harvest will be poor indeed. We must communicate that salvation is clearly tied to a relationship to the living Christ

as Lord as well as Savior; it is tied to objective truth that demands a total response. Warm feelings and shivers are not enough; they are not even required.

Cathy believed in Jesus but she failed to integrate his person into her life. If we fail to integrate, what does that say about our spiritual beliefs in the first place? What does it mean, then, to allow Jesus to be the Lord of our lives? What does it mean that anything is the lord of our lives?

Just this: Whatever controls us is our lord. . . . If Jesus is our Lord, then he is the one who controls, he has the ultimate power.

[Read: Galatians 2:20; John 15:10]

The Pastor's Pen



| cont. pg. 5 ►

Jesus instituted these new sacraments, often referred to as the Lord’s Supper, to impress upon all who have accepted our Savior’s sacrifice the staggering cost of this grace. It may be free; it most certainly is not cheap. He submitted to the humiliation and agony of the Cross because His selfless love for us knew no bounds.

He directs us to take up our cross and follow Him (Mark 8:34). We Christians partake of this Holy Night to renew our baptismal covenant with God, accept anew our Lord’s sacrifice and honor the gravity of His selfless sacrifice.

1 Cor. 10: 16 *Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?*

17 *Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.* NAS

The Passover of our Lord is upon us. So much of the anti-Semitism we see in the world is the result of blaming the Jews for the death of Jesus. It was not the Jews who caused the death of Jesus, nor was it the Romans. They were but instruments carrying out what Jesus accepted and God decreed. God’s only begotten Son came to die on the cross so that the sins of mankind might be forgiven. Those who have partaken of Christ know who killed Him. It was you and I and all mankind for the truth is....ALL have sinned.

Rembrandt’s painting, *The Raising of the Cross*, is a self-portrait. The soldier raising the cross as Christ hangs from it is Rembrandt himself. Who killed Jesus? Rembrandt knew. He did. And I did. And you did. We’re the ones who sent Jesus to the cross laden with our sins.

The Days of Unleavened Bread, exonerating us from the leaven of sin are also at the door. Paul tells us of the new spiritual celebration for these spring Holy Days.

1 Cor. 5:7 *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 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.* NKJV

Jesus is the bread of life and as such has released us from the leaven of sin.

John 6:51 *I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.* KJV

Jesus died for us; be there, accept this priceless gift anew by accepting the sacraments of His shed blood and broken body, and thank Him for His selfless sacrifice. Come to the Lord’s Supper, show your love for our Savior and give thanks and praise to Jesus, for in Him only do we have eternal life!

Your brother in Christ,

Jeff Booth



Curtis K. Shelburne

PREACHING POLITICALLY CORRECTLY IS NOT EASY

I just talked to a friend who's mighty close to boiling over. Since we're the kind of friends who prefer to boil over together rather than letting off steam on the general populace, he vented, and I listened, offering helpful comments and keen insight.

Don't broadcast this, but I don't know anyone I'd rather hear preach. He knows what he's doing and is uncommonly good at it. He's also a member of a professional organization in another field (not ministry), has become well-respected in that field as well, and was recently invited to give the sermon at a prayer breakfast for their statewide convention.

Nice honor! And he was feeling honored—until a list of rules for the sermon came in the mail. Among other things, he is to refrain from using the name of Jesus and is not to quote from the New Testament. They're looking for a "To Whom It May Concern" sort of sermon, something dedicated to "An Unknown God."

Some folks work hard to be politically correct. You've never seen a religious legalist as religiously legalistic as a true purveyor of political correctness.

My preacher friend is not a newcomer to public speaking in general. He's almost housebroken, even without a list of rules. He's not given to long altar calls even at church. I don't think the convention folks would have to worry about their hashbrowns getting cold as he intoned, "Every head bowed and every eye closed . . ."

I doubt he'd feel a serious need to run through the plan of salvation lest some poor soul choke on a chicken bone during the convention and it be everlastingly too late. I've never heard him say "Jesus" in more than two syllables, and his sweet wife does not have pink hair.

My first advice to him was to say, "Thanks, but no thanks," and give the whole thing back to the Indians (make that "native Americans.") It was his first reaction, too, but that might reinforce the wrong image the rule-

writers already seem to hold.

My final suggestion was that he trash the letter and do well what he was going to do well anyway. What can they do? Jail him? I doubt they'll feel a need to once he's done his thing.

But I had another thought. Maybe he should cover all the bases. Shoe-polish his face so as not to offend anyone of color? (On second thought, that would be truly offensive.) Go in drag so as not to offend any gals? (Oops, worse!) Burn some incense to Buddha? (That might offend a fire marshal.) Work in a good word about Mohammed or the Dalai Lama? I dunno.

He'll steer the right course. They really don't need to worry.

I know what I'd do. As I walked in, I'd locate the thin, nervous-looking, pinched off paragon of political correctness stationed somewhere near the door. I'd hand her a couple hundred copies of "Just As I Am," wink at her, and say, "Okay, watch me close, and just after I say, 'Every head bowed,' hand these out."

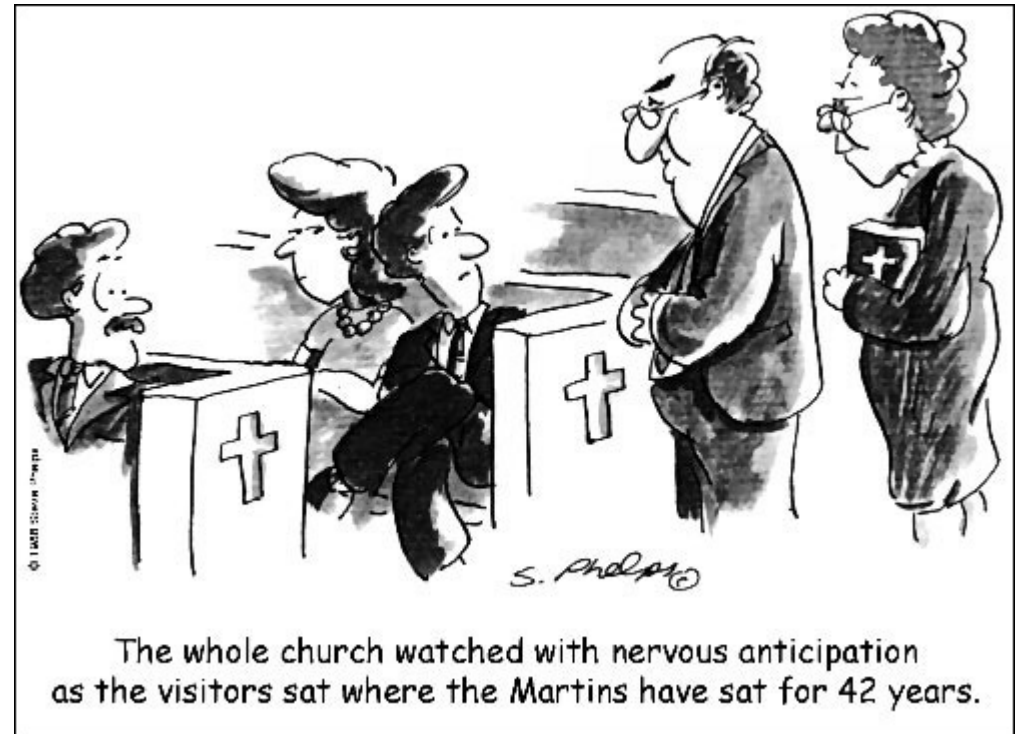
I wouldn't use them. But I bet I'd have her very prayerful attention during the sermon.

~ Reprinted from The Christian Appeal, Series 2, Volume 6., pgs. 16, 17. Mr. Shelburne is the editor of this superb publication. If you would like a bundle of back issues to distribute at your church or elsewhere, please send me your address via e-mail or P.O. Box (pg. 2). They are free, but any donation for postage will be appreciated.

{EDITOR'S NOTE: I must admit that I hesitated for a brief moment before including this in the newsletter, asking myself if it was too "politically incorrect". It is just sad that such a thought crossed my mind.}



7 A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired. —Proverbs 17:22, MSG



My Seat

Published in The Banner Press
Zean Carney, Editor

A lady took my seat in church a while back. It's not that important, really. She is a very nice lady, kind and considerate. A good friend, in fact. There were several other seats available. I can sit any place. The people in our congregation are as friendly and caring as you will find any place in the world. A person should be comfortable sitting any place. It's no big deal. My seat is in the seventh row from the front of the church. I'm sure she didn't intend to take my seat. She just wouldn't do that. Nor would anyone else in our fine church. It doesn't make that much difference. My seat is on the end of the pew on the north side by the windows. On your left as you come into the sanctuary. I can rest my left arm on the end of the pew. It's a good seat. But I would never raise a fuss about a seat.

She probably didn't intend anything personal by taking my seat. I would never hold a grudge... Actually, it was about three months ago when she took my seat. I really don't know why she took it. I've never done anything to her. I've never taken her seat. I suppose I'll have to come an hour early now to get my seat. Either that or sit on the south side. She really took it because it's one of the best seats in the house. That's why she took it. She had no business taking my seat. And I'm not going to go to church two hours early to get what was rightfully mine from the beginning. This is the way great social injustices begin: abusive people taking other people's seats in church. This is the way the seeds of revolution are sown. A person can only stand so much. Where is it going to end? If somebody doesn't stand up and be counted, nobody's seat will be safe. People will just sit any place they please. And the next thing they'll do is take my parking place too. World order will be in shambles.