

The Journal

News of the Churches of God

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Issue No. 128 (Vol. XII, No. 5)

Founded 1997

May 31, 2008

Nursing home calls former COG patient 'miracle man'

By Darlene Warren
GILMER, Texas—Robbie Tuel is known in these parts as the miracle man. After spending 7½ months in a nursing home under hospice care, Mr. Tuel has moved in with his mother, Gwen Tuel, and his health continues to improve.

He credits his dramatic recovery to God, the nursing staff and the many people who showed concern for him during his time of trial.

Mr. Tuel, 55, was suffering from various ailments, including, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder), diabetes and congestive heart failure.



Robbie Tuel

When he arrived at Upshur Manor Healthcare Center in Gilmer he was in such bad shape he was in jeopardy of losing both his legs.

"The sores on my legs were so bad my mother couldn't bear to look at them," he said. "I knew that if I were to lose my legs the rest of me might not have much of a chance."

Sore predicament

Mr. Tuel was in quite a predicament, being unable to walk because his feet were covered with open sores

and unable to lie in a bed because of severe abdominal pain.

With the help of the medication the hospice people administered him, he could lie in bed and elevate his lower body, thereby reducing the swelling in his legs.

Last days

Hospice care is a program designed to allow a person to spend his last days in as much comfort as possible and to die with dignity and without pain.

"I chose to come to Upshur Manor so their staff could be my final caregivers," Mr. Tuel said.

During his stay in Upshur Manor, Mr. Tuel, a baptized member of the Church of God since the early '90s, began trying to track down a copy of *Mystery of the Ages*, written by Worldwide Church of God founder Herbert Armstrong.

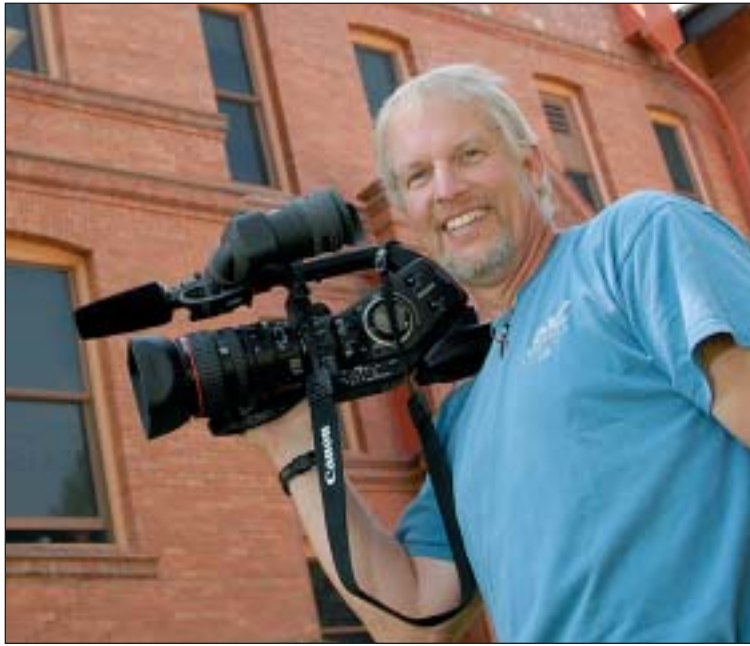
He had long since lost his original copy, but through a bizarre set of circumstances Mac Overton (JOURNAL staff member and editor of *The Gilmer Mirror*) became aware of the search and delivered a copy to him.

Renewed friendship

Mac and Robbie had been friends but had lost contact with each other.

With the help of Mr. Overton, Church of God brethren throughout the United States heard about Mr. Tuel's situation, and thus began an

See COG MEMBER, page 24



AN INQUIRY INTO VALUES—Lee Glover of Nampa, Idaho, a former WCG member, begins six weeks of research and filming June 15, 2008, for a documentary motion picture to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the motorcycle ride of Robert Pirsig that led to the 1974 classic novel *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. A photographer for the student newspaper at Montana State University took this photo of Mr. Glover, 48, on the MSU campus in Bozeman. Mr. Pirsig had an office on the campus in the 1950s. The book was all the rage among staffers of *The Worldwide News* at Ambassador College in Big Sandy for a brief period in the late 1970s. Mr. Glover is the son of Bill Glover, founder of Living God Ministries, Eugene, Ore. [Photo by Kelly Gorman, Montana State University News Service]

Christians wage war over proper day of worship, clashed for centuries over Command's relevance

This article, which ran March 16, 2008, at WorldNetDaily.com under the headline "Sabbath vs. Sunday: The Rest of the Story: 'Deception': Christians War Over Worship Day; Centuries-Old Clash Continues Over Disputed Commandment," is reprinted here by permission. The writer is executive news editor at WND.

By Joe Kovacs
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Two thousand years after Jesus walked the earth, Christians are at war with each other concerning—as strange as it may sound—a day of the week mentioned in the Ten Commandments. The issue boils down to: When is God's Sabbath?

In other words, what is His holy day of rest? Most Christians today think it's Sunday, when the majority of churches hold services. But others confidently say it's Saturday, calling Sunday worship "the most flagrant error of mainstream Christianity," believing Sunday-keepers are victims of clever deception.

Some high-profile evangelical pastors such as California's Greg Laurie say it's simply "wrong to set Saturday apart as a special day for worship."

Today some high-school sports teams refuse to play in state tournaments for the sole reason the events are held on Saturday: what they say is God's Sabbath.

Conversely, the 1981 film *Char-*

iots of Fire was based on the story of Eric Liddell, a Scottish sprinter and Christian missionary who disqualified himself from his best event at the 1924 Olympics because the race was on Sunday: the Sabbath, in his view.

Christians seem irreparably split, since this issue goes back to the beginning of time itself.

In the beginning

There are seven days in a week, but historians have no consensus about the weekly cycle's origin, since it has no basis in astronomy.

The Bible, though, indicates God created the earth and its life-forms in six days and then rested on the sev-

See JERRY FALWELL, page 4

Book fleshes out the lost tribes; Assyria treated them civilly

The writer is a longtime Church of God member, a frequent JOURNAL contributor and editor of The Gilmer Mirror.

By Mac Overton
GILMER, Texas—A remarkable new book on the "lost 10 tribes" has just become available to the public. *The Assyrian Exile: Israel's Legacy in Captivity* by Cam Rea (Wordclay, Wordclay.com, also available at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble) contains new original research.

I have researched information about the lost 10 tribes since the late 1960s, even before I became a Church of God member.

This fascinating, well-written book is a great contribution to literature on the subject. I read its 204 pages (my review copy was a PDF computer file) in two evenings.

Author Rea, a COG member who lives in Kendallville, Ind., does not rehash or belabor the migrations of Israel, as many of us believe, from the Middle East to Northwestern Europe. That is well covered by other modern authors, including Yair Davidi and Steven Collins.

What Mr. Rea does do is flesh out what happened to the northern 10 tribes ("lost Israel") in the decades after the remnants of the house of Israel (house of Omri, or Beth Khumri) were finally subjugated about 721 B.C. and relocated to the frontiers of the Assyrian Empire.

For example, Mr. Rea shows by

quoting Assyrian documents that, once the Israelites surrendered, they were not treated as horribly by the king of the conquest as we have been led to believe.

Certain of the late Assyrian kings may have either had wives they took from Hebrew royalty after the conquest, which occurred in several stages, or been half Hebrew themselves, Mr. Rea argues.

Captives were not treated like the Nazis treated the Jews, as we've often thought, possibly because the king of the final conquest was half Israelite.

From page 52 of the PDF: "There are many accounts of the Assyrian King giving instructions on how to treat and provide for the refugees. The refugees were to be fed during journeys, while also being treated by physicians to keep hygiene up and to keep disease out . . ."

"Assyria was not a melting pot of nations like the United States or United Kingdom. The Assyrians wanted to preserve the identity of the deportees for social and military strength and to lessen the possible acts of rebellion."

Indeed, Mr. Rea documents that Israelite regiments, especially the charioteers, were incorporated into the royal Assyrian army and maintained their separate identity there.

For all this "new truth," this is a readable book that anybody with more than a superficial interest in the lost tribes should buy and read, especially considering the low price.

In 12th year, SN continues with new 64-pager

By Dixon Cartwright
It's been a while since his previous issue, but Norman Edwards has just published Vol. 12, No. 1, of *Servants' News*, a "newsletter for servants of the Almighty Eternal Creator, wherever they may be."

The 64 pages of the July-August 2008 issue include "Are Sermons Biblical?" by Roj. Beaumont; "Treasures in Heaven" by John E. Robinson; "The State of the Church Today" by Michael R. Zaeske; "The Chronology of the Old Testament" by Floyd Nolen Jones; "Why Our Children Are Not Continuing the Faith" by John Qavah; "People of the Passover: From Best to Worst," by Mr. Edwards; and several articles to update readers on the Port Austin Bible Campus, or PABC.

Original mission

Speaking of the PABC, Mr. Edwards informed THE JOURNAL that he seeks "individuals or a group that

would first make it financially possible to do our original mission or a similar mission here at Port Austin."

The original PABC mission was to operate a boarding school for young Sabatarian Christians on the 30-acre grounds of a former Air Force base near Port Austin, Mich.

As reported in THE JOURNAL of July 31, 2004, Mr. Edwards envisioned the school as a place to educate young people in Bible basics and help them "prepare for ministry within their marriage, family, church and community," including the learning of "life-sustaining skills."

Further, it would serve "older brethren" by providing a way for retired people to serve at the facility

as mentors and teachers.

Things have not worked out for the PABC and its mostly volunteer staff the way Mr. Edwards had hoped. A protracted legal battle involving Mr. Edwards and other Church of God members who were originally his supporters in the project ended in an out-of-court settlement in November 2007.

(See "Bad Axe Lawsuit," THE JOURNAL, November-December 2007.)

Determined to continue

Mr. Edwards told THE JOURNAL July 18, 2008, that, even if he cannot find anyone to help with or take over the PABC project, he will continue to publish *Servants' News*.

"I am going to keep SN no matter what," he said.

Contact Mr. Edwards and *Servants' News* at P.O. Box 474, Port Austin, Mich. 48467, U.S.A., or nedwards@servantsnews.com. See also servantsnews.com.

The Journal's Tabernacles list expands

For the latest listing of Feast of Tabernacles observances for 2008 sponsored by Church of God ministries and individual members, see page 23 of this issue of THE JOURNAL.

Almost 200 Feast sites in several countries will play host to the annual observance.

Most sites will follow the traditional dates of the Jewish calendar, which this year will be Oct. 13-21. But check the listing for details because several observances will follow other systems of determining the dates.

If your site isn't on this month's list, THE JOURNAL encourages you to send in your information as soon as possible.

You may E-mail, fax or snail-mail info@thejournal.org, (903) 636-9097 or P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A.

COG member graduates from hospice

Continued from page 1
outpouring of love and concern for a brother.

"I received a beautiful handmade card that was signed by about 50 brethren from Fort Wayne, Ind., whom I've never met," he said. "Janice McKee made that card, and somebody told me she even makes her own paper."

Mr. Tuel has received phone calls and face-to-face visits from numerous ministers, not to mention family and friends from around the country.

He is especially proud of the lamb-skin-covered Bible Fred Coulter of Hollister, Calif., sent to him.

"Not only did all of this love and support strengthen me spiritually, I think it made all the difference in the world in my physical healing," Mr. Tuel said.

Personal history

After graduating from high school in Gilmer, Mr. Tuel attended Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, until some college buddies convinced him to join the Marines in 1971. He served for "seven years, three months and 14 days."

He then worked for the IBM Corp. in Longview, Texas, for 16 years. It was there that he first became aware of the seventh-day Sabbath.

"I noticed that the people who cleaned our office never cleaned on Friday evenings," he said.

"They told me they kept the Sabbath beginning at sundown. Back then [around 1987], Worldwide had a closed-door policy, so they had to get permission for me to come to services. "I wish I could remember their names.

"They're the ones who gave me my first copy of *Mystery of the Ages*."

The WCG allowed Mr. Tuel to visit a local congregation, but by that time



IBM had transferred him to Lufkin, Texas.

Closed door

After moving to Lufkin Mr. Tuel discovered that a WCG congregation was meeting less than a mile from his residence.

Again, the problem was the church's closed-door policy.

Then somehow Mr. Tuel became aware of the Church of God International, which met on the shore of Lake Palestine, south of Tyler, whose doors were open to anybody.

So, instead of driving three quar-



RECOVERY—Robbie Tuel is up and about and doing well after a dramatic recovery from health problems that landed him in an East Texas nursing home. **Above:** Mr. Tuel and friends celebrate at his going-away party in the nursing home. **Above left:** Mr. Tuel and his mother, Gwen Tuel, at home in Gilmer after his move from the nursing home. [Photos by John Warren]

party complete with cake and balloons.

John Warren, a new friend of Robbie's and longtime resident of Big Sandy, attended the farewell party.

"The people there were so amazed at Robbie's recovery," Mr. Warren said.

"They said he lifted everyone's spirits. The nursing staff, administrators, doctors, social workers—all said it was a pleasure to work with Robbie Tuel."

The administrators were so thrilled with Mr. Tuel's abrupt recovery that they featured him in a large advertisement the nursing home paid to run in *The Gilmer Mirror*.

"Visiting Robbie has always been very inspirational to me, even when his health was not as good as it is now," Mr. Overton said. "It is like the sun coming out on a cloudy day."

Mrs. Tuel thinks the folks at the nursing home call her son the miracle man because "he's the first person the staff ever knew to graduate from hospice."

'Not only did all of this love and support strengthen me spiritually, I think it made all the difference in the world in my physical healing.'

ters of a mile to worship, he drove 70-80 miles each way every week to attend services with the congregation at Lake Palestine.

In more recent years Mr. Tuel had stopped attending with any formally organized church group.

Going away

When Upshur Manor released him on May 30, 2008, the nursing-home staff gave him a surprise going-away

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Thanks for reading *THE JOURNAL!*

Notes and quotes

CGI Feast in Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica—The Jamaica branch of the Texas-based Church of God International will again sponsor a Feast of Tabernacles observance in the tourist-resort area of Ocho Rios, announced CGI Jamaica pastor Ian Boyne.

At the largest indigenous Feast site in the Caribbean, the brethren will fellowship at the scenic Ruins Resort, with the meeting room overlooking a breathtakingly beautiful waterfall.

Mr. Boyne expects about 350 people at his site.

The CGI will sponsor another site in Jamaica, near Montego Bay, with about 100 Feastgoers expected.

For information write Mr. Boyne at iboyne@jis.gov.jm, or phone him at (876) 926-8428.

No PABC Feast this year

PORT AUSTIN, Mich.—Norman Edwards announces there will be no Port Austin Feast of Tabernacles observance this year sponsored by the Port Austin Bible Campus (PABC).

(See the "Notes and Quotes" item immediately after this one for a Port Austin observance sponsored by another Church of God ministry that also uses the abbreviation PABC.)

Because of the uncertain future of the Port Austin Bible Campus, no on-site 2008 Feast is planned, Mr. Edwards said. (See more information about the campus on page 1 of this issue of *THE JOURNAL*.)

However, Mr. Edwards is helping get the word out about a Feast site in Wisconsin sponsored by some of his friends.

That observance is scheduled for Oct. 14-21 for the Timber Ridge Resort at Lake Geneva, Wis., about an hour and a half north of the Chicago O'Hare airport.

Site sponsors are Aaron and Lori Baker, John and Yvonne Bensing, Matt and Viola Gaffney and Jeff and Sharon Ledy.

About 100 people are expected, Mr. Edwards said. The format will include regular services and Q&A sessions.

For more information go to www.feast2008.org, or contact Mr. Baker at P.O. Box 111, St. Johns, Mich. 48879, U.S.A., or (517) 281-2073.

PABC Feast this year

PORT AUSTIN, Mich.—Homer Kizer and his wife, Carolyn Smith-Kizer, announce a Feast of Tabernacles observance for 2008 at Port Austin sponsored by the Port Austin Bible Center (PABC).

(Somewhat confusingly, two Church of God ministries use the same abbreviation, PABC, for their very similar names. See the "Notes and Quotes" news item immediately preceding this one.)

"The Port Austin Bible Center, PABC, in conjunction with the Philadelphia Church Port Austin, will again hold Feast of Tabernacles—Sukkot—services in Port Austin, Mich., from Oct. 15 through 22," Ms. Smith-Kizer told *THE JOURNAL*.

The theme of this year's Feast will be "The Sign of Jonah."

For more information or to make reservations write PABC, P.O. Box 640, Port Austin, Mich. 48467, U.S.A., or info@portaubinbiblecenter.com, or phone (989) 738-0022.

Living University

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—The new online Living University sponsored by the Living Church of God, the latter founded by Roderick C. Meredith in 1998, kicks off the 2008-09 academic year this fall.

LU's Web site, at livinguniv.com, provides information such as courses of study, degrees available and faculty and staff curricula vitae.

Classes begin Aug. 13, 2008, with registration from mid-June through Aug. 12.

Offered will be associate's and bachelor's degrees in the theology, a diploma in biblical studies and a certificate in New Testament studies.

On the faculty and administration, besides Dr. Meredith, professor of the theology, are Michael

Germano, LU president (the only full-time faculty member); Richard Ames, speech and theology; Janth B. English, computer systems; Brenda Germano, admissions; David Maas, English; Sheldon Monson, physical education; Melodee Overton, family studies, Annette Triplett, nutrition; Douglas Winnail, biology and health; and Scott Winnail, health.

Not everyone on the faculty is an LCG member. For example, Dr. Maas and Mrs. Overton, both of whom live in the Big Sandy, Texas, area, are members of the Church of the Great God and Church of God Big Sandy, respectively.

For LU information write 2301 Crown Centre Dr., Suite A, Charlotte, N.C. 28227, U.S.A., or admissions@livinguniv.com. Or phone (704) 844-1966.

Predicting European history

TUKWILA, Wash.—Harold Hemenway has written a book, *European History Foretold*, 197 pages of historicist commentary on the book of Revelation from a British-Israel viewpoint. It is published by Xulon Publishers and sells for \$14.99.

"It mentions Herbert Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God," said Mr. Hemenway, who attended Ambassador College in the 1980s.

Contact the author at jewishchristian@seanet.com or (206) 244-2222. Order the book at www.british-israel.us.



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