A spate of deaths results in cooperative funeral services

This article includes opinions of the writer, who, with his wife, Linda, publishes The Journal.

By Dixon Cartwright

The Journal

IG SANDY, Texas—Has anyone else noticed that it sure seems like a lot of people have died lately?

From the beginning of 2014, Linda and I can count 20 people we have some connection with who have passed on.

An example is the passing of Ray Karr, a relative and close friend in Oklahoma, on May 2. A few days ago we heard about our friend Cindy Curley in Ahadara, Calif., who died July 23.

Two of the demises were on the same day. My mom, Helen Cartwright, and our friend Thalia Hutchins. They both left us on a July date.

Another friend was a Church of God old-timer, Al Mischnick. Mr. Mischnick was 93, but his passing on July 16 in Altadena, Calif., who died July 23.

Mischnick was 93, but his passing on July 16 was also felt far beyond the immediate family.

Mr. Mischnick’s memorial service was on July 27 in the building owned by the Church of God Big Sandy (CGBS). Although he was a CGBS elder and retired CGBS employee, he mostly attended church services at the CGBS with his son Don.

Mr. Mischnick’s service was a celebration of his life and ministry, and was reportedly the highest-attended event in the building’s seven-year history. About 560 people were there, which averaged a weekly Sabbath attendance, is oversees by Don Ward, local UCG pastor, conducted the service. Speakers also included friends and relatives in other Church of God groups, and the people in the audience were from more than one denomination.

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"Why can’t we all just get along? If one examines Scripture, the answer is simple. “Sensual causes divisions, not having the Spirit.”

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Jesus stated in any article, letter, editorial, essay or other feature in The Journal, are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers and should not be viewed as the official position of any group or organization, nor do they necessarily reflect the views of anyone on the staff of T he Journal. Articles, letters and features are presented in the interest of furthering communication and discussion among readers of this newspaper. Journal readers are invited to submit letters and articles of response to Journal articles they agree with or disagree with.

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For the United States, Australia, Britain, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, and the Eastern Hemisphere (church-of-god.info) in an article called “Natural Disasters Are Not Getting Worse.”

Witnesses could have been written by the council of elders of the Jehovah’s Witnesses or excuses for it and the people doing it. “For the greater good” is a label or justification or excuses for it and the people ask anyone to do this?

If a Christian is compromising his faith to please God and he knows that the Lord could have forgiven it, and he asks God and knows that God has forgiven him, and the Lord asks him to do it to promote the greater good, is the Christian doing it. “For the greater good” is a label or justification or excuses for it and the people doing it. “For the greater good” is a label or justification or excuses for it and the people doing it. “For the greater good” is a label or justification or excuses for it and the people doing it. “For the greater good” is a label or justification or excuses for it and the people doing it. “For the greater good” is a label or justification or excuses for it and the people asking anyone to do this?

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How will you feel when your brother is found?  

The writer began reading The JOURNAL in 1997. 

By Jeffrey Caldwell
Walnut Creek, Calif. 

Since I first began working with the Churches of God, the question “What does God want?” has loomed in my mind. Shortly after my baptism I read the entire Old Testament and then the New Testament with that question in mind, an edifying exercise I recommend to all. It was no credit to me that it took me so long. I finally grasp what I believe to be the most effective focus for the answer to my question. 

For our own good 

Scripture tells us God disciplines us for our own good so we may share in His holiness (Hebrews 12:10). The discipline spoken of here, I believe, refers not merely, nor by any means necessarily primarily, to punishment. Rather, it’s about our whole upbringing by God to all He teaches us by word or experience. “That we may share in His holiness” is a concisely worded reason of all that God is about with us. 

Homer A. Kent Jr. in The Epistle to the Hebrews: A Commentary talks about “what is profitable that we may partake of his holiness.” God is “for our being holy in the same way that He is holy.” 

Fifty joined citizens 

Sharing God’s holiness has every- thing to do with being fully fitted together with Him and each other as citizens of his Holy City. 

That’s the city Abraham, the father of the faithful, was looking toward: to the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God (Hebrews 11:10). The Holy City, brothers, is God’s thing. He is building it. 

“Again the word of the Lord Almighty came to me. This is what the Lord says: ‘I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jeru- 

What does God want?  

What’s He fired up about?  

The writer began reading The Journal in 1997. 

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“Again the word of the Lord Almighty came to me. This is what the Lord says: ‘I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be the most righteous, page 7
Friends and fellow ministers recall the Kiesz and Armstrong personalities and ministries.

This article is reprinted and updated from a version that appeared in The Journey May 27, 1996. See also pages 1 and 5 of this issue of The Journey.

By Linda Moll Smith

A man lying stretched out on the bed. He smiled. “The good old days or the good old days.”

“A picture of him, and he laughed, as if he was surprised,” Mr. Moll said.

But I don’t think he was surprised. He seemed to have fallen asleep, glasses ed out to us, we found an elderly gentle- man lying stretched out on the bed. He seemed to have fallen asleep, glasses ed out to us. We talked with him, and then we left.

What had we hoped would be a straightforward interview was turning into a challenge. Mr. Kiesz was no longer on this earth, and we needed to find someone who could tell us what it was like to be around him. We found someone who could.

His name is Mr. Burrell. He is a retired minister, and he was one of the last people to talk to Mr. Kiesz.

Mr. Burrell said Mr. Kiesz was the minister for the Church of God in Belknap Springs, Oregon. He had been Mr. Kiesz’s pastor for many years, and he had worked with him in many capacities.

Mr. Burrell said Mr. Kiesz felt a profound loss at the death of his wife, Mr. Moll said. “He conducted Katherine’s funeral in 1980, and he was very close to her. He was a kind of leader, even though he was not a leader in the formal sense.”

Mr. Moll said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of strong character, and he was known for his dedication to his faith.

Mr. Burrell said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great intelligence, and he was known for his sharp mind.

Mr. Moll said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great compassion, and he was known for his ability to comfort others.

Mr. Burrell said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great faith, and he was known for his ability to help others understand their own faith.

Mr. Moll said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great dedication, and he was known for his commitment to his church and his community.

Mr. Burrell said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great humility, and he was known for his ability to listen to others.

Mr. Moll said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great strength, and he was known for his ability to stand up for what was right.

Mr. Burrell said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great wisdom, and he was known for his ability to teach others.

Mr. Moll said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great love, and he was known for his ability to love others.

Mr. Burrell said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great grace, and he was known for his ability to forgive others.

Mr. Moll said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great courage, and he was known for his ability to stand up for what was right.

Mr. Burrell said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great faith, and he was known for his ability to help others understand their own faith.

Mr. Moll said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great dedication, and he was known for his commitment to his church and his community.

Mr. Burrell said that Mr. Kiesz was a man of great humility, and he was known for his ability to listen to others.

Sabbatarians John's and Katherine's lives were a music ministry.

Mr. Kiesz and Mr. Armstrong were both Sabbatarians, and they were both musicians. Mr. Kiesz was a teacher and a preacher, and Mr. Armstrong was a musician and a pastor.

Mr. Kiesz and Mr. Armstrong were both known for their dedication to their faith, and they were both known for their ability to teach others.

Mr. Kiesz and Mr. Armstrong were both known for their ability to stand up for what was right, and they were both known for their ability to love others.

Mr. Kiesz and Mr. Armstrong were both known for their ability to forgive others, and they were both known for their ability to teach others.

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Mr. Kiesz and Mr. Armstrong were both known for their ability to help others understand their own faith, and they were both known for their ability to stand up for what was right.
We started from Eureka, S.D., with our 1929 Model A coupe. We towed our little two-wheel utility trailer, loaded with tent, beddengo, cookstove, dishes, etc.

In some cases, doctors do everything they can to make money. But, commonly, doctors are fearful of litigation and do whatever they're asked, with little feedback, to avoid getting in trouble.

I could far more easily have left Jack's care to the authorities as a possible homicide. Nothing came of it, of course. Jack's wishes had been spelled out explicitly, and there was no framework to prove it. But the prospect of a police investigation is terrifying for any physician.

In some cases, doctors do everything they can to make money. But, commonly, doctors are fearful of litigation and do whatever they're asked, with little feedback, to avoid getting in trouble.
A son fondly remembers his ever cheerful and encouraging dad

Continued from page 2

The Journal

Issue No. 164 (July 31, 2014)

A former unchurched region

A San sodding remembers his ever cheerful and encouraging dad

By Edward Malone

NACOCA, La.—Two hun-
dred years ago the region
called Western Louisiana was called a "bastard state" that owed no
harmage to any government.

Yes, the Sabine River and Calcasieu rivers once and again serve as the
eastern terminus of 19th-century Spanish Texas and the western for-
tier of the Louisiana Purchase, the region which included the
Ship. No-Man’s Land or the Sabine Free State. It was lawless by
nature.

It was an outlaw’s utopia into which people came to lose money:
robbers, runaway slaves and desperadoes.

What a place?

This formerly unchurched region is a site for the gathering of its people for worship, study, peace, community, hospital-ity, teach-
ing of children and preaching of the gospel.

The Church of God Anacoco, in the 31-square-mile Western Louisiana
village of Anacoco, which is inhabited by only 866 souls, is open for business
and welcomes all comers.

Grandpa on February 1946, he took the Army Spe-
cialist Training Program, which is similar to the GED high-school-equiva-

To avoid deception by false doc-
tines, Mr. Stillwell encouraged listen-
ers to rely on the Scriptures as opposed to the mere opinions of men, because the Scriptures were, according to Pe-
ter, written by prophets and apostles, and their words were inspired.

"We have to watch out for "points of views," cautioned Mr. Stillwell. "People are quick to give you what they think. It might just be someone who is being deceived."
Shepherd’s Voice magazine unaffected by two-church merger

Continued from page 1 referred to as the black hymnal. The book features a plethora of songs by Radio/Worldwide Church of God songwriter Dwight Armstrong, with the inclusion on its last few pages of a handful of African American gospel hymns at the insistence of the Chicago church’s former song director.

The members of the church of God Downers Grove, on the other hand, have over the years sung from the hymnal of Ron Darl, a Texas-based Christian Educational Ministries.

The CDM hymnal contains no Dwight Armstrong songs and primarily features hymns written by Protestant writers such as Fanny Crosby and Johnson Oatman, with lyrics sometimes edited to reflect Church of God beliefs.

According to Chicagoland Church of God copastor Jim Patterson, the churches plan to compile a new hymnal to accommodate the various music preferences. The combined congregation will most likely be accompanied by its singing by pianist Ambert Warrington.

Magazine project

On another note, it is apparently settled what role the church of God Downers Grove will play in the publication of Shepherd’s Voice magazine. With the Chicago church’s board or perhaps the congregation purchasing a magazine unaffected by two-church merger.

Mr. Svehla said he didn’t yet know enough about the magazine “to take a side at this point.”

Christian renewal

The Church of God Downers Grove is not without projects of its own. As it has done for many years, the group will play host to its annual Christian Renewal Conference on Aug. 23, 2014.

Church of God Big Sandy pastor and JOURNAL columnist Dave Havir is confirmed as the Chicagoland congregation’s main speaker at the conference. Deacon Howard Downers Grove will also sponsor a Feast of Tabernacles cruise in October. Departing from Cape Liberty, N.J., on route to the Caribbean, the cruise will feature nine nights of sailing to destinations including Bermuda, St. Maarten, Aruba, Curacao and the Bahamas.

Talk of a building

The merger of the two congregations represents the melding of two of the largest Church of God International (CGI) congregations in the world.

Before the splits and breaking up, the Chicagoland CGI congregation under the pastorate of Harold Comyard and subsequently Don Deekins in the 1980s and ’90s enjoyed a membership of more than 200, a plurality of elders and speakers, an overwhelming budget and relative harmony.

There was even talk at the time about the congregation purchasing a building of its own. People wanted to be able to have their own building where they could gather, have Bible studies and do other things.

Preoccupation stoning

That peace and tranquility were challenged in 1995 after Deekins, in a sermon, speculated that the Jews might have stoned Jesus Christ for blasphemy immediately before His crucifixion, leading some people within the Chicagoland congregation to complain about Deekins to the CGI’s headquarters in Tyler, Texas.

The CGI leadership stripped Deekins of his ministerial credentials and removed him as pastor of the congregation. Rather than appoint or allow the local congregation to select a new pastor from the one remaining local church, the CGI leadership installed an interim pastor to govern the church from Texas.

A group loyal to Dr. Deekins and unhappy at what they believed were the CGI’s strong-arm tactics persuaded him to form a locally governed congregation that became the Church of God United.

Two new spin-offs

The next year saw two additional spin-offs from the Chicagoland CGI. Around the same time the CGI deposed Don Deekins as church pastor, CGI denominational president Garner Ted Armstrong became embroiled in a controversy that prompted elders and other members to call for his removal.

The events of ’96

Beginning in March 1996 dozines of ministers and their congregations broke away from the CGI and formed a locally governed congregation in Chicago. The merger of the two congregations was exceptional. Ken Svehla and a group of his associates in the Chicago congregation formed the Church of God Downers Grove.

Another group of congregations broke away to form the Active Bible Club of God under the pastorate of Ken Svehla.

Mr. Armstrong’s side

When Mr. Armstrong himself was no longer a member of the CGI beginning in 1998, some members of the Chicagoland CGI took Mr. Arm- strong’s side. The group affiliated with CGI’s headquarters in Tyler, Texas.

What was left of the Chicagoland church of God International severed legal ties with its headquarters in Tyler four years ago.

The members of the Church of God Downers Grove will play in the publication of Shepherd’s Voice magazine.

The congregations represented the melding of two of the largest Church of God International (CGI) congregations in the world.

Shepherd’s Voice magazine unaffected by two-church merger

When you’re out and about on the Web, stop in at

The Journal

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The Journal lists Feast sites for 2014

Continued from page 2

for the problem as to when Jesus ate His Last Supper and the na- ture of that meal from results of our be- liefs revealed in the Bible who did a lousy job.

Mike Baran
Sydney Australia

Orchards and garnisons

This is in response to Don the Heretic in the Sheffield (in the Connections section, page 20, Issue No. 163, dated June 30, 2014). Don assumes that I’m a Preacher of Hershey... So Says Fred Coulter.

You, Don, answered Fred’s mis-guided teachings in kind. He clearly failed to read the “preaching cate- gory that Scripture and the Almighty view them.”

You did two things. First, you en- couraged women to take the right to choose for themselves, their personal responsibilities, in their pursuit of spiritual salvation. Second, you right- answered Fred.

But you were able to answer Fred because he had not hidden himself. You claim the right to answer others, yet you refuse the right of others to know who you are so they can answer you. Shame on you. You have the free-

Although I wrote this letter as a response to Don the Heretic, I think it applies to a larger audience than just Don.

In other words, if the shoe fits please consider wearing it.

—E. Daly raydaly@thebuceudio.net Lincoln, N.D.

I” spent quite some time comparing past weather (going back about 100 years) to the present weather, as well as comparing America to places like India, China, Africa and the Middle East.

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Connections runs classifieds:

Resources

顺应时代的潮流，我们必须认识到，任何一种信仰都必须在科学的基础上建立和发展。只有这样，我们才能真正理解信仰的本质，并在实践中将其付诸实施。否则，我们将陷入无休止的争论和争吵中，无法达到真正的和谐与统一。
God’s Holiness

By Art Mokarow
P.O. Box 1197 • Montgomery, TX 77356 • Art@Mokarow.com • www.GodsPuzzleSolved.com

The world varies widely in its religious beliefs. Certain aspects are similar in their basic contents. All have “gods” who are diverse in their abilities, powers and purposes. Some have one God, and others include a multitude of gods, going back to Zeus, who was represented as any man who states he is a savior.

Every Christian faith has one God as the catalyst of everything it believes in. Some call Him a male, the Father of one God as the catalyst of man who states he is a savior. This article addresses who is a saint, “saints” and “holy gods.”

All had two components—“saints” and “holy gods.” The Olympiads had 55 gods, the Roman Empire. The French, Italian, Spanish, and others include a multitude of gods, going back to Zeus, and others in all the books ever written.

The image of Rome

The West (formed by the Roman Empire) used Latin as its predominate language. Individual states of the Roman Empire’s daughter countries had their own individual languages, but their root words were based on Latin. They actually followed the image of the Roman Empire. The French, Italian, Spanish, and others, believed they had the truth as and its purpose. The East, with India, China, Japan and others, believed they had the truth as determined by their own professors and universities.

Human Gods

You probably know little as to the purpose of God for you. The wide variety of religions worldwide attests to that reality. Even Christianity, the supposed followers of Jesus, are diverse in their faiths.

At the time of Christ’s appearance on earth, there were about 28 Jewish sects of different beliefs in God: the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Ebionites, Zoroastrians and Valentinians, ad infinitum. Who knows the count, considering the Kabalists and the various gnostic groups? John, the apostle, related that all Christ did and said could not be included in all the books ever written.

In the West, from the time of the birth of Jesus, many universities studied how the universe came to be and its purpose. The East, with India, China, Japan and others, believed they had the truth as determined by their own professors and universities.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
German, Russian and many more followed Rome. So many in the world follow the image of the Beast (read Daniel 2).

Their universities taught the Catholic philosophy because it was all they had. If they did not teach it, they were persecuted or martyred. But then the Bible was printed and many began to study.

Eventually, Luther found 95 Catholic teachings that he disagreed with. Many began to protest and became Protestants. The Thirty-Years War and the Hundred-Years War divided many beliefs in Europe, including the British Isles.

Many schools and universities searched for a compromise. Philosophers, especially those involved with astrology and the mathematical systems, tried to determine “truth.”

They called it science, a system of measurement by experimenting with how the universe works.

**A new god**

Copernicus to Newton to Einstein did the same. Science, relying on human intelligence, became a new god. Science continues to follow astrology through mathematical guessing—by equations repeating themselves often enough to determine the truth, but still remaining a theory.

Science decided God, the Creator (Hebrews 3:4), was no longer necessary and had become very distant. Each scientist learns his own partial truths that are constantly in disagreement with some other point of view. Over the centuries, the theories and disagreements are compounded.

**Back to polytheism**

Mankind went back to polytheism (many pagan gods), which is idolatry. Today, many gods are still worshiped. God foretold that two cannot walk together unless they agree (Amos 3:3).

There seem to be so many differing conclusions for each individual. Those at other universities believe in absolutely opposing scientific ideas, including religion. Science is like any other human religion: believing what is partly right and partly wrong. There is always more to it than anyone knows at any given time.

**Saints and Holy Ones**

With the one God and Father who made all things, God teaches the truth of reality in two ways: through the saints and through the faithful ones.

Does the Bible clearly outline this mystery so you can know the difference? The Ephesians received a letter informing them of some information they needed to know. The Ephesian church was told what it lacked as a church. They had lost their “first love” (Revelation 2:4).

What is to be your first love? The works and labor of the apostles were good. They hated evil and liars and kept the name of Christ. They never stopped doing the work of God through Christ.

**Who you should worship**

The Ephesians lost sight of the One who loved them and who did all the work. They were great Christians, but what is everyone’s first love? Very simply, Jesus tells who you should worship. God, not Jesus, is to be worshiped (John 4:24).

Jesus never told you to worship him. Christ always honored God Almighty, his Father. Jesus always told you to believe God and, then, you would begin to know who the true God was. Jesus was per-
Ask God for Mercy, Which Pardons Sins

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

fect and in the image of God. It was never about Jesus. Jesus was sent by God and only did what God, his Father, told him to do. God is to be your first love.

When God the Father gave Israel the Ten Commandments, He said: “And showing mercy [forgiving sin] to thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments” (Deuteronomy 5:10). “The love of God” means you want to be “just like the one who loves you so much.”

Become the Bride

What was primary was to love God and ask for mercy. Mercy pardons sins. Then, keeping the Commandments allowed them into the Promised Land of God to be blessed or cursed. They were still able to receive salvation. They must become the Bride of Christ to be at the Wedding Feast.

You must first repent: “Hear, O Israel: the LORD your God is one Lord [master]: And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart [desires] and with all your soul [life] and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). Individuals must love God so much they really want to be in the exact image of God, like Christ.

The Great Commandment

Jesus agreed and said Deuteronomy 6:4-5 is the Great Commandment of God. “The first love” is above all other commandments of God. Sins cannot be forgiven until you love God as He loves you. Why does God want you to love Him? Does God have an ego? No, no, a thousand times no!

Your loving God completes all of God’s love for you. When you love God as He loves you, it will make you love all His creation. God loves the creation because it was perfect, or, as God said, it was “very good” (Genesis 1:31). This is what made the seventh day the rest of God—because all He created was holy. No man did any of the work; only God did. The work of God is holy.

To be in the image of God, individuals will have the power, love and sound (healthy) mind of God. The Holy Spirit of God comprises all three abilities (power, love and a sound mind). The love of God is the essence of God.

Read what The Ephesians had to do: “Remember therefore from where you are fallen [who made them] and repent and do the first works [what God taught]; or else I [Christ] will come to you [return] quickly and will remove your candlestick out of his place, except you repent” (Revelation 2:5).

Paul’s letter to the Ephesians was to define who the saints and the faithful are (Ephesians 1:1-2). In Greek the word saints is the hagios, the holy ones, while the “faithful,” in Greek, is tsaidacs. The faithful ones fear God and keep the Commandments (out of fear of the Lord). This is the “beginning of knowledge and wisdom.”

Love casts out fear

They are babes in Christ but still carnal like young animals: “He that loves not knows not God; for God is love” (I John 4:8). What does the love of God do? “There is no fear in love; but perfect love [hagios] casts out fear: because fear has torment [the lake of fire]. He that fears is not made perfect in love. You love him [God] because he first loved you” (I John 4:18-19).

The holiness of God consists of all of the power, love and the healthy mind of God. He gives you this as long as you repent and remain faithful. Faith guarantees your salvation to keep growing spiritually, to be in the Holy Spirit of God.

When you grow into the Love of God, you will have completed all laws (Romans 13:10).
Jesus Christ said, "I will build My Church." He did not say "Churches," denominations, "sects." He said the gates of hell would not prevail against that Church. Somewhere that original true Church exists today. But WHERE? WHICH? (WHERE Is the True Church booklet, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong).


Dear Brethren,

T o those of you concerning the end of this age are now beginning to be opened up to the understanding of those who have remained faithful to the restored teachings Jesus Christ used His late apostle and His general prophetic teaching to restore His True Church as was foretold by God in prophecy.

In view of the prophecies that speak of the terrible things to befall this earth at the close of this age, the Lord God inspired His prophet with the overview and conclusion of them, with a very solemn warning of the necessity of REMEMBERING His LAW, His Ten Commandments with the statutes and judgments (Malachi 3:1-3).

And to proclaim His Remembrance and Warning of the very end-time, the Lord God promissed to send a man in the office of the Prophet before the return of Jesus Christ to this earth: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD..." (Malachi 4:5-6).

And to His disciples Jesus Christ confirmed what was said by His prophet, and fulfilled it:

“And His disciples asked Him (Jesus Christ), saying, ‘Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first (His return–Matthew 16:27)? Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Indeed, Elijah is coming first AND WILL RESTORE ALL THINGS (the Law–Matthew 24:14, doctrinal teachings–the faith once for all delivered to the saints, Jude 3:2; while unfulfilling the Ezekiel warning message, Ezekiel 33:7-12)’ (Matthew 17:10-12).

For all those who were ministers and members of the Worldwide Church of God prior to 1986, if honest they would admit that Jesus Christ and Herbert W. Armstrong to fulfill both offices of Apostle and the promised Elijah, theirs was a true and faithful position.

What they came to believe and preached was learned directly from him or from those who were also taught by him from all those restored teachings! There has been no other before or since regardless of those who claim to be the promised Elijah! They have nothing to offer of God’s teaching that he had not already restored.

Understanding Prophecy: As promised, Jesus Christ also opened his mind to His Holy Spirit to understand the prophecies that are now being seen coming to pass in the House of Joseph, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia.

The Spirit of Truth... will guide you into all truth...” (John 16:13).

And he spoke and wrote about them just as he was directed by Jesus Christ to do...

... ‘Write the visions (with understanding), the revelations of the Almighty (God) and make them known on tablets (Plain Truth, Good News, book-lee–for everyone), so that he may run who reads it (the message). For the visions and the revelations of the Almighty that were given him at the Appointed Time will it speak (in messages) in the spirit of truth, and it will be so, because

Though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry (Habakkuk 2:3; Ezekiel 3:3).

For the vision is talking about the revealed visions of the prophets along with his preaching. Mr. Armstrong always cautioned the Church to watch the man-uals! It is the 19th century the nations are seeking to conquer and they will be met. In the end there will need to be the final fulfillment of the prophecy of the Revelation...

Presently it is in fiery conflict with terror-ist factions fighting and struggling with one another for the power of leadership while others are seeking to destroy Israel! Without their realizing it, this is leading to the final fulfillment of the prophecies that he preached during his lifetime ministry.

A Trigger Prophecy: The stage is being set for the final fulfillment of a particularly prophecy that will lead like a domino effect to other prophecies falling into place and their fulfillment; they will lead into the Book of Revelation: 'The Book of Prophecy.'

There will be a significant prophecy that will open the way for the other prophecies to come!

The Sactifical Offerings: This is the prophecy that reveals the meaning of the sacrificial offerings will soon begin being offered (Daniel 12:11), and—further—ephedra (Daniel 12:11) which are offered on the very same site where they were once offered.

All necessary things have already been prepared by the Jews to begin the daily offerings except for the red Heifer (Numbers 19). Recently they found it. Also, the altar has been in place to be transported to their place of offering.

Recent news articles make known that are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to begin the construction of the Temple, at which time the offerings will begin to take place.

The Construction of the Third Temple: Similar to King David, who stockpiled materials for the first Temple (1 Chronicles 22:3), so have the Jews stockpiled materials for the building of the third Temple. However, concerning the complete upper portion of the entire nation ready to do an all-out battle with Israel at their first move, virtually anyone would say this is impossible for them to actually be taking place at all! They will be before the coming of the Messiah.

The Scriptures are very clear! This will in- deed take place—and we must be ready to think about the might be the coming of the Messiah or the nation or the present world...” (Matthew 24:15-16).

Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, standing in the Holy Place (whichever reads let him understand), This is the beginning of the end. This is why Jesus fled to the mountains...” (Matthew 24:15-16).

So have the Jews stockpiled materials and authority of their general leaders to fit them to fulfill those prophecies. Everything is in place, to fulfill those prophecies.

The leaders of nations put together will be unable to stop Prophecy! Scripture reveals the daily sacrifice taking place. The Ten Commandments with the statutes and the book of Ezekiel are now beginning to be fulfilled, but not the year—for that is yet to be determined. The details of this prophecy will be made known in our next publication of the Philadelphia Remnant Magazine.

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The Neuehe Throes of the House of Joseph: Viewing these once great nations now being in their death throes due to God’s curse on the present ungodly, inane, inanity, Jesus Christ is everywhere Passover and their fulfillment; they will lead into the beginning of the Sactifical Offerings to be followed by the construction of the third Temple. And this will soon come to pass and established in their former places. Some might say: How can that possibly be, with the former Temple? The Angels of God: the war that is on-going between Israel and the Hamas terror-ists thousands of rockets have been directed at the Dome of the Rock over the place of the former Temple?

The Holy of Holies: But the Holy of Holies does not appear in Ezekiel's vision at the time the offerings will begin to take place. HAMAS IN GAZA SAY THAT THE JEWISH Temple will be completed in 2015.

Biblical history teaches that God will not restore the war-mongers, foes of mankind, all these nations put together will be unable to stop Hamas in Gaza. Hamas is the front line of God’s timing. And nothing escapes His at-tention that would stand in the way of these prophecies taking place. The Most Sovereign Almighty God is Sovereign Ruler: The leaders of nations and kingdoms of mankind are blinded to the coming of the Great Tribulation and are not able to see what is coming or what will happen. And nothing escapes His at-tention that would stand in the way of these prophecies taking place. The Most Sovereign Almighty God is Sovereign Ruler: The leaders of nations and kingdoms of mankind are blinded to the coming of the Great Tribulation and are not able to see what is coming or what will happen. And nothing escapes His at-tention that would stand in the way of these prophecies taking place. The Most Sovereign Almighty God is Sovereign Ruler: The leaders of nations and kingdoms of mankind are blinded to the coming of the Great Tribulation and are not able to see what is coming or what will happen. And nothing escapes His at-tention that would stand in the way of these prophecies taking place. The Most Sovereign Almighty God is Sovereign Ruler: The leaders of nations and kingdoms of mankind are blinded to the coming of the Great Tribulation and are not able to see what is coming or what will happen. And nothing escapes His at-tention that would stand in the way of these prophecies taking place.

But WHERE? WHICH? (WHERE Is the True Church booklet, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong).
provide instructions on how and when to kill
ifies Christ). But even Sephardic Jews in
from them. Most Jews are Ashkenazi de-

Goliath by Max Blumenthal (2014)

As just.”

T he US has been described as giving Israel a blank check to spend on whatever it wants—be it a nuclear weapons program, the black market and criminal activity. It is

The rapes of female Israeli soldiers by Arabs is almost unheard of, but often is done by fel-

told a filmmaker that “The orders were clear. If a car came within 200 meters of me, I had to attack it. And if it was a woman, I had to

bystanders watched but did nothing while one

The rape of female Israeli soldiers by Arabs is almost unheard of, but often is done by fel-

as national policy, but became worse advo-

mentation as a necessary, albeit unpleasant securi-

so called by accidents and by their own hands!

102 Lebanese women and children huddled in

So 47 unarmed men were massacred. Those in

Sheen argued with Israelis against the violence of military force, and was shocked that that attitude was so mainstream.”

This is a page from CONNECTIONS: MEMBER TO MEMBER, Issue No. 164 (July 31, 2014)
Feast of Tabernacles • “Rejoice Before the Lord”
San Antonio, Texas • October 9—October 16, 2014

The Church of God San Antonio (with the Churches of God Outreach Ministries) will host the Feast of Tabernacles in beautiful San Antonio for the 17th year. All brethren, regardless of organizational affiliation, who wish to “Rejoice Before the Lord” in unity and love are welcome.

The Church of God in Christ, 775 North Loop 1604 West, San Antonio, Texas 78248
Phone: (210) 696-4766
Fax: (210) 696-6698
E-Mail: comfortinfiesta@aol.com
Web Site: www.comfortinn.com

(Worship Services held next door at the Elks Lodge with breakfast meeting space at the Comfort Inn.)

How to make reservations
1. Call the Comfort Inn-Fiesta at (210) 696-4766
2. Tell them you are attending the Feast of Tabernacles
4. Room rate is $59.00 plus 16.75% tax ($9.89 = $68.89)
5. All rooms not picked up by this date will be released and be subject to a higher room rate.
6. If you wish to be a child of the Creator and serve you better by making your reservation as early as possible and well in advance of the cutoff date.

What the Comfort Inn-Fiesta offers
All rooms have been renovated with new furniture and small microwave and refrigerator. Free Deluxe Continental breakfast and newspaper in lobby. Free local phone calls, Wireless Internet service. Remote satellite TV. HBO, ESPN, CNN. Sparkling outdoor pool. In-room coffee makers, hair dryers, irons and boards. Interior corridors, elevators, free parking. You will find the rooms especially comfortable. Satisfaction guaranteed. The hotel with its indoor corridors is arranged so you will experience instant fellowship as soon as you step out of your rooms. It makes possible a very intimate and family oriented Feast.

For more information
Contact Julian Cruz, Festival Coordinator and Pastor, Church of God San Antonio, 219 Whitefield Ave., San Antonio, Texas 78223; phone 210/333-7228; E-Mail: jrcruz132@satx.rr.com.

Church’s Web page: www.chuchofgodsa.com

Please E-mail, write or telephone Julian Cruz and let him know if you are attending this Feast site along with the number in your family and age of children. This information will help us plan activities and serve you better.

Meeting Place
COMFORT INN-FIESTA at SIX FLAGS
6755 North Loop 1604 West
San Antonio, Texas 78248
Phone: (210) 696-4766
Fax: (210) 696-6698
Web Site: www.comfortinn.com

Worship Services held next door at the Elks Lodge with breakfast meeting space at the Comfort Inn.

How important is what you know compared to what you do?

“But he doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (Jas 1:22). “But whoever has this world’s good, and loves his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?” (1 John 3:17).

If one doesn’t show the love of God, does Christ live in him? The churches of God like to distinguish themselves from one another by what they believe. Some think they have the ‘correct’ form of government. Many seek to unravel prophecy. Some think their leader is the rightful heir to Herbert Armstrong. Some have a fundamental ‘doctrine’ that allows for only one God. For others, it is being a ‘milk and honey’ church. Only they can maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be taken unawares (Titus 3:8).

If you wish to be a child of the Creator conduct yourself after the example of our Creator. “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven, for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?” (Matt 5:44-46). “This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men” (Titus 3:8). “And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful” (Titus 3:14). “For you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like men? For when one says, ‘I am of Paul,’ and another, ‘I am of Apollos,’ are you not carnal?” (1 Cor 3:3).

Gom is having a grasp on reality is good. Is it a noble thing to have the right church government? Will understanding prophecy help us wrestle the entrance into your kingdom? Was Jesus Christ asleep when Joseph W. Tkach was made heir? Is doing His will insufficient unless you understand certain spirit being relationships?

“...And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk all in His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?” (Deut 10:12-13). “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matt 7:21).

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“How important is what you know compared to what you do?” This page is part of Connections: Member to Member, the advertising section of The Journal.
Chiang Mai, Thailand 2014
Feast of Tabernacles

Every year Legacy Foundation in Thailand sponsors a Festival of Tabernacles site in Chiang Mai. Attendees include international visitors as well as local Church of God members and families. Activities and amenities include . . .

- Daily worship services
- Bible seminars
- Cultural events and performances
- Visit to Legacy Foundation School
- Queen Sirikit agricultural Demonstration Farm tour
- Elephant Farm tour
- Teakwood Carving and tour of Handicraft Center
- Accommodations provided by the Empress Hotel and Convention Center
- Extra—Festival activities abound: Local shopping at the Night Bazaar or Sunday Market
- Tourist attractions: Tiger Kingdom, Flight of the Gibbon, Night Safari, etc.
- Western food: Starbucks, McDonald’s, Pizza Hut, The Duke’s and much more

For more information please contact
Anita Showers • 330-852-2709 • mail@legacyinstitute.org • www.legacyinstitute.org

Anacoco fills La. and Deep East Texas void

Continued from page 6
the Western Louisiana/Deep East Texas region who are looking for a place to meet with other saints on the Sabbath and other holy days. Persons residing in this region would have to travel hundreds of miles each Sabbath to meet with Church of God brethren in the nearest moderate to large cities. For example, a person living in San Augustine, Texas, would have to drive 90 miles one way to attend Sabbath services in Shreveport, La.; 106 miles one way to attend services in Big Sandy; 160 miles one way to Houston; or 323 miles one way to New Orleans.

The Church of God Anacoco is not without its problems. Church scheduling coordinator Mr. Stillwell and frequent guest speaker Charles Groce both note that several members have quit attending services in recent years. However, there are no visible signs of bitterness among the remaining attendes, and Anacoco members insist that anyone is welcome to join them.

Perhaps the remote location of the Anacoco church has insulated its members from the jaundice and chauvinism that some in the more-institutionalized Churches of God have contracted from recent splits and schisms.

Things will work out

“There have been a lot of conflicts in the churches over the years, but God will work that out,” said congregant Mary Patton.

“We are a loving, sharing group, and we show love to all. We encourage anyone to come.”

Comfortably situated in the piney woods of west-central Louisiana, the Anacoco area offers recreational opportunities for hunters, sportmen, fishermen, boaters, campers, hikers and other lovers of the outdoors.

The church meets just inside Anacoco's eastern boundary at 4472 Port Arthur Rd. Sabbath services are each week at 11 a.m. For more information phone Mr. Stillwell at (409) 565-1357.

The Journal
Issue No. 164 (July 31, 2014)

Issue No. 164 (July 31, 2014)

The Church of God is not prepared for The Return of Jesus Christ

Read it here: ChildrenOfGod.net
PO Box 30132
Little Rock, AR 72260

Feast Site Announcement

The Great Lakes Church of God will be keeping the Feast of Tabernacles at Sevierville, Tennessee. Those who wish to visit or attend are encouraged to call or e-mail for details.

906-440-1414 • RRKicker@lgc.net • TheBeautifulThoughtsOfGod.com

Your Choice of Four Sites!

Big Sandy
- For the 20th consecutive year
- Church services and activities at our church building.
- The building is on Highway 80, a half mile west of town (1106 West Broadway)
- Daily refreshments
- Senior citizens’ luncheon
- Coordinator is Melodee Eishen at (903) 571-2322

Destin
- For the 17th consecutive year
- Pelican Beach Resort
- Make reservations through the Church of God Big Sandy by calling Shelly at 1-800-946-5545. By booking through the church there is no sales tax.
- Main Pelican building on beach: 1 bedroom, $108 per night; 2 bedrooms, $128
- Terrace building, 50 yards from beach: 2 bedrooms, $95; 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, $135; 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, $156
- Coordinators are Neil and Martha Mtiver, (903) 714-8800

Myrtle Beach
- For the 12th consecutive year
- Avista Resort
- Make reservations by calling 1-800-968-8986. Mention group code 1842051
- Rooms are subject to tax and resort fee
- 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $66–$85; 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, $107–$110; 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, $132–$140
- Coordinators are Lyle and Kathy Kerby, (304) 354-7147.

Flagstaff
- For the third year (previously in 2008 and 2012)
- Double Tree Inn (a Hilton property)
- Make reservations by calling (928) 773-8888 and identifying yourself with “Church of God”
- Rooms are subject to tax and resort fee
- Room rates are $119 and suites are $149
- Coordinators are Dennis and Vickie Moulard, phone (928) 460-0230

We invite you to join us in 2014 at a Feast site sponsored by the Church of God Big Sandy

P.O. Box 690 • Big Sandy, Texas 75755 • churchofgodbigsandy.com

Each of the four is a small, friendly Feast of Tabernacles observance with inspiring messages and excellent fellowship
How Can I Justify Myself? 
Let Me Count the Ways

N
o, I'm not going to talk about how God sent Christ to provide salvation, because there are plenty of articles about that already. What I want to discuss is how we humans can justify nearly any action we want to.

I heard once someone say their lawyer told them there is no reason anyone in America should be in jail. All they have to do is find a good enough lawyer.

It's true. Lawyers are wordsmiths. I use building materials to create structures. They use words to get their clients what their clients want.

We both use something to accomplish our goals. Mine is tangible. Theirs is not. I can build a beautiful building, or I can build a missile silo. They can create contracts that are just, or they can get cold-blooded murderers acquitted.

Just as I can justify in my mind the reasons I have to work on a site that can launch a missile that can kill millions of people at one fell swoop, they can justify to themselves why Mel Ignatow should have been acquitted. (He sexually abused his girlfriend and murdered her—and had a very good lawyer. He was acquitted. Later the photos his ex-girlfriend took while he tortured her showed up under the floor of his girlfriend's house.)

How is it we can fool ourselves into believing we are not to blame when there is obvious evidence most reasonable people would see to make them question our decisions? Human nature is part of the answer.

But, above that, Satan and the demons stand ready to help us ease our conscience. God warns us of Satan's wiles. My warning is that we take the threat of Satan too lightly.

We listen to snappy tunes like "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" or watch movies like The Devil's Advocate, Lord of the Rings, or other "mystical" shows.

We know Satan is the third most powerful being ever. We know no human could ever outmaneuver Satan short of having a full measure of God's Spirit, as Christ did.

Yet we let this 'training' from Satan seep into our minds. We are what we take in, and taking in this kind of entertainment will help him to kill any inherent ability we have to see the truth.

I was made aware of this during a relatively recent event at my place of work. I was responsible for managing projects. That entailed negotiating contracts, making sure the work was done in a timely manner as the owner intended, and in a manner to allow the company to make a profit. (Companies have to make a profit or they can't employ people.)

Many times those things are in conflict. My overarching operating principle has been a principle taught by HWA, that being if we pro-vide a valuable service God will see that we are rewarded eventually.

While I have not always been able to provide the money to my employers as those around me do, I have seen on nearly a daily basis God's intervention in projects so I and the company are protected from 'problems.'

This incident I'm referring to is one of those kinds of conflicts. My company was directed to bid a job as 'prevailing wage,' meaning the amount we had to include for wages included money to be paid to the workers matching what they would have received if they were union workers.

Government projects sometimes have to have these prevailing wages included in the bid if the contract is over X dollars. In this case, the estimate was right at the break-over point. Therefore, to make sure to have an accurate bid, the architect and owner said to include those amounts.

Now, when the bid was completed, it was 5% below the estimate used by the architect to decide if we had to pay prevailing wages. So neither we nor our subcontractors had to pay those extra wages.

My immediate boss texted me on a Saturday, telling me I needed to tell the subs they had to give us money back for the difference in wages, even though we were not required to give back those wages to the state. (It was a state project.)

The immediate reaction in my mind was, "I'm not doing that. It's not how I want to be treated, and I won't do it to others." However, I kept that opinion to myself and did not respond. As I thought more about it over the rest of the weekend, and while I went back and forth some, the same Second Great Command kept coming up in my mind.

While I listened (sitting behind my desk, higher in stature because of his chosen seat) I almost fell for it. If he had presented it this way at first, I would probably have fallen for it.

The words were just right. The logic was obfuscated enough so I could not immediately reason it through clearly. His presentation was just right, down to the subtle height difference in seats. He appeared in a subjugated manner, both verbally and physically.

He came to me using kinds of reasoning similar to the reasoning Satan used on Christ.

And, if God had not seen fit to make him trip up on Saturday, I would not have been as astute as Christ was. I would probably not have used my mind to fall back to God's word as Christ did.

As my wife says I was given a visual demonstration of the subtlety of Satan's devices. I was slammed in the face with the reality of the situation first, and then presented the spin-doctor version after I was given the opportunity to see it for what it really was.

I sincerely pray that this will stick with me for the rest of my life, because it's a very real example of exactly how we are fooled into justifying our actions. I know it does not convey the same level of immediacy to you as it holds for me, but I hope you may be able to at least see a bit of the problem.

To finish the story, I do not control wages or else I would have paid the men the wages also, since we had the money in the bid to do so. There has been a price to pay for this, but I value the opportunity to have learned what to look for just a little more now. The lesson was worth the price.

Lastly, let you say I was undermining my boss and had an obligation to follow orders, let me end by reminding you of two things. (1) Even our military sees the reality that underlings have to exhibit judgment, and their higher command is to disobey illegal orders. And (2) as Peter and the other apostles told the Chief Priests, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Please remember that most of the time we are not given this clear a choice to judge. Most of the time the questionable situations we face are shrouded in nearly indecipherable convolutions that Satan designed to trip us up.

Monday came and in the afternoon John (my immediate boss) came up and pulled up a paper box (shorter than a chair) in front of my desk and proceeded to tell me he probably didn't present it well Saturday. He went on to say that it's just asking back for something they really weren't entitled to and that it really didn't hurt anything because they already had the hours figured into their bid to do the job completely.
Memorial services for Alfred John Mischnick, 93, of Big Sandy, Texas, were held at the Church of God Big Sandy on July 27, 2014, with pastor Dave Havie officiating. Mr. Mischnick passed away July 15 in Big Sandy. The family conducted a private interment service on July 24.

Mr. Mischnick was born Jan. 30, 1921, in Stirling, Neb., to August and Louise Mischnick. He was a World War II veteran, having served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He graduated from the University of Nebraska, as an electrical engineer and was a Church of God minister for 50 years before his retirement. Mr. Mischnick is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, Donald and Michele Mischnick of Big Sandy and Sandy and Michael Mischnick of Mineola, Texas; daughters and sons-in-law Connie and Gordon Sealey, Batavia, Ohio; Joan and Joe Rollins of Yukon, Okla.; and Sandra and Randy Hedrick of Wylie, Texas. He is also survived by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Florence, and his second wife, Ruth, his daughter, Diana, and his brothers and sisters.

Common Faith Network

Common Faith Network is excited to announce that the 2014 Feast of Tabernacles will be held at the Emerald Coast Convention Center in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. Common Faith Network is excited to announce that the 2014 Feast of Tabernacles will be held at the Emerald Coast Convention Center in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. Common Faith Network is excited to announce that the 2014 Feast of Tabernacles will be held at the Emerald Coast Convention Center in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

In the Florida Gulf Coast, including beach front accommodations.

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The first Holy Day is Thursday, October 9, so make plans now to see your friends at the 2014 Feast of Tabernacles.

Stay in touch with us via social media and our website.

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Response to Brian Convery’s Mystical View of the Nature of God

By Ken Westby

Do We Really Have Two Gods? Or Just One God?

Mr. Convery’s eight-page ad included an attack against the doctrine of One God in the June 10, 2014, issue of The Journal by calling it “a Perverted Gospel About Christ.”

I must compliment Mr. Convery for his zest to engage in the debate and put up his own money to do so. However, I found his lengthy arguments confusing or weak, wanting of basic scholarship, and his assertions simply add up to an uncritical acceptance of Protestant/Catholic Trinitarian orthodoxy—with a Binitarian twist of HWA theology.

Mr. Convery, who placed a similar ad in The Journal in 2011, is apparently on a witch-hunt to rid the church of heresy and heretics, hence his enthusiastic name-calling.

Mr. Convery wrote that “the one-god being doctrine is filthy to the core and an incredible deception of the devil. Our opposition to it should be shouted from the rooftops.”

Mr. Convery astoundingly wrote that “sexual immorality” is “one of the filthy outcomes of the one-god doctrine . . .” And so on.

Let me state for the record that I do not believe Mr. Convery to be Satan’s servant, nor do I believe that those who hold the doctrine of two or three Gods in a mystical Godhead are at war against God or Christ or the church. I just believe God (YHVH, Yehovah or Yahweh)—the God and Father Jesus prayed to and who resurrected Jesus from the grave—is the one true God and that there is no God besides Him (Isaiah 45:5; 44:6; 43:11; John 17:3).

I believe that Jesus was born of a woman and is the firstborn Son of God. I think Scripture is rather plain on these facts. Those who acknowledge two or three YHVHs (Gods) must deal with the fact that Yehovah’s unique name is used 6,828 times in the Old Testament, always with singular pronouns and accompanying singular grammatical forms for associated Hebrew nouns and verbs. There is no plurality to Yehovah!

We are called by Jesus to sanctify his name (Matthew 6:9) as the Holy One, the Sovereign (can there be two sovereigns)?

The same is true of elohim, the more-generic Hebrew term for a god that is often used for Yehovah but almost always accompanied by verbal agreement indicating clearly that one (not two or three) person or being is in view. In the OT there are about 10,000 singular pronouns used of God. This host of evidence can’t be dismissed by quirkily analogies that “one” doesn’t really mean “one” but could mean one group of two or more, etc.

“Hear, O Israel: Yehovah our God [elohenu, from elohim], Yehovah is one” (Deuteronomy 6:4).

That’s the introduction to the First and Greatest Commandment. I suggest it be taken at face value. Moses and Jesus certainly did.

How we think about God is the most important thing about us. If what we conceive God to be He is not, how then shall we think of Him?

How did Jesus and Moses and David think about God?

David said his soul thirsted for knowledge of God, and he “followed hard after thee.” God wants us to know what He is truly like, His character, His love, His mercy and His spectacular plan. He invites us to love/seek Him with all our body, soul, spirit. This is the First Commandment, and it holds the highest claim on our being.

We can’t assume that traditional Christianity has the correct understanding of God. We must challenge it by the evidence of Scripture and by the life and words of Jesus, who knew the Father better than any other human.

It is of immense importance that our idea of God correspond as nearly as possible to the true being of God. Our old ideas about God may lie buried under the religious rubbish of conventional orthodoxy and require of us an intelligent and vigorous search to unearth the truth. Only after an ordeal of painful self-probing are we likely to discover what we actually believe about God.

The key to right religion and practical Christian living is a right conception of God. Jesus’ prayer was: “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they [the disciples] know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known . . .” (John 17:25-26).

It is a feliz on God’s character to assume that God is other than He is and to substitute mystical man-made images of multiple gods-in-one is to disrespect the Holy One. A prime ministry of Jesus today remains to make his Father known to his disciples—you and me.

The Association for Christian Development
17837 1st Ave. S., #400R, Normandy Park, WA 98148 • www.Godward.org • acd@Godward.org

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Do the Jews Really Postpone God's Annual Sabbaths?

Church of God, In Truth

The question is, which calendar? This is the crucial point at issue. The answer is, God’s true calendar is not some “oral tradition” passed down from generation to generation, but the written scriptures. In fact, everyone will agree that the Hebrew/Jewish Calendar is God’s sacred calendar. God provided the Hebrew/Jewish Calendar in the Old Testament, and the Church of God has always used it. In the seventeenth century, Mr. Herbert Armstrong wrote about the Hebrew Calendar: “The Hebrew Calendar is God’s calendar.”

The Hebrew Calendar is the Bible’s “Sacred Calendar” of God. It is the calendar used by the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. It is the calendar God chose, ordained, and sanctioned to be used by His worshipers. It is the calendar that God mandated in the Old Testament through the command to observe the Sabbath. The question is, is this calendar sacred? God said: “It was God who actually preserved the exact same written words of the scriptures . . . to the church (Romans 3:2).”

There you are! God’s twelfth century apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, accurately and dogmatically stated that the Hebrew/Jewish Calendar is the sacred calendar of God! If we don’t believe they have that right, why do we trust them with the rest? For all we know, this is nothing more than a simple exercise of plain absurdity and madness of an irrational mind at play. They may not realize it, but it is not the Spring Holy Days alone that they have innocently manipulated, but all the other feasts of God down to the Last Great Day! (Please call or write for our free booklet on God’s Holy Days and the Postponements.)

Again, here is his statement at a Worldwide Church of God convention: “If shown to be wrong I will change.” Yes, he then made the correction, proving what he had often said, “If shown to be wrong I will change.” He also added, “That willingness to change, when shown to be wrong is an important difference between God’s true church and the denominations of this world.”

And, mind you, why did Christ say, “If I am wrong, you can’t depend on me” (John 2:13). When Mr. Armstrong realized the magnitude of the error the church had made, and notwithstanding the strong resistance from within, he did not give a second thought but instituted an immediate correction by changing it to Sunday in accordance with the clear instruction from the Book of Life—the Holy Bible!

Yes, he then made the correction, proving what he had often said, “If shown to be wrong I will change.” He also added, “That willingness to change, when shown to be wrong is an important difference between God’s true church and the denominations of this world.”

Again, here is his statement at a Ministers’ Refresher Program given in February 27, 1985, less than a year before he died. Notice that in those short remaining months of his life he still expected God’s people to make changes as they grow in grace and knowledge: “If there is any place we are wrong, or that I am wrong, that’s the first thing I want to change. That’s the most important thing in my life, to get that change and make it right. Now the hardest thing in the world for the average person to do is admit he’s been wrong. That’s not the most difficult thing for me to do.”

“You know, if I admit that I am wrong and I change it, someone says, ‘Well, you can’t depend on Armstrong. He’s always changing all the time. I’ll change as often as I am wrong and I expect to continue doing that.’ ”

A legacy of spiritual Israelites today seem to have completely forgotten. And, mind you, why did Christ through the epistle of His most beloved apostle, John, significantly put it on record that the Jews’ observance of these feasts has been attributed in their own name instead of God’s? Notice: “. . . And the Jews’ Passover was at hand” (John 2:13).
**Church of God, In Truth**

Continued from previous page

**“After this, there was a feast of the Jews” (John 5:1).**

**“Now the Jews’ feast of Tabernacles was at hand” (John 7:2).** Strange? But enough so, if you know what I mean. After all, God calls things the way they are. If they are His Feast He call them “My feasts . . .!” (Lev. 23:2).

God saw to it that the Jews preserved what was entrusted to them, but, carnal-minded and unconvinced as they are, they preserved it all right. But they did not obey and believe it!

The Pharisees and the Sadducees, two prominent groups contesting for power in religious matters of the day, believed in the one true God, but did not believe that God is a family.

Regarding the Jews. They are not even of one accord with regards to the resurrection. Imagine the "oracles of God" committed to them, yet the Sadducees did not even believe in the resurrection of any of their own! If the Jews—virtually every time He confronted them!—called them "vipers, liars and hypocrites, blind guides" (Matt. 23:13-22), they were merely told, "You are of your father the devil, and the lust of your father you will do" (John 8:44).

The New Testament account is filled with lots of harsh name-calling and straightforward condemnations that Christ directed toward the Jews—virtually every time He confronted them!

Later, fearful that they would lose their most coveted position in the temple, they willfully conspired and eventually succeeded in murdering Him with the most horrible and painful of death ever devised by man.

It is true that when the curtain of human civilization was raised after the garden of Eden, the Israelites and their descendants, the Jews in particular, have always been at the forefront of the human drama. But their rejection of the Christ is its one clear indication that they understood very little of that which they were entrusted with—the oracles of God.

For some time, it has been carelessly argued, "And the Gentiles? They produce a calendar from the Bible. That is a satanic lie that has been accepted as truth by the many. Knowing the heart of man to be deceitful above all things, would an all- and ever-knowing God entrust to man, apart from His Holy Words, a matter as delicate as His true calendar? Even to entertain such an idea would certainly be an insult to the sound exercise of one’s mental faculties. The Hebrew Calendar is just but one of the many pagan calendars that came into existence as a result of man’s innovative ingenuity. It is a counterfeited skillfully woven by the rebellious nature of people whom God has patiently wielded in His loving arms. Their calendar is a clever look-alike—riddled with errors and deceit, clothed with some semblance of truth that even the very elect, if not careful, can be deceived by!

The many splintered groups of God’s churches have been operating under what is commonly called the “Jewish Calendar.” And what’s it is? It is their calendar and when the Jewish Calendar was that of Julius Caesar and the Gregorian Calendar was that of a Pope named Gregory! In all respects, it is entirely different from God’s calendar of the Bible.

On page 15 of his book “The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar,” Arthur Spier openly admitted that in “. . . 60% of all years Rosh Hashanah (Trumpets) does not occur on the day of the molad, but is postponed according to one of the deihith (rules).” In other words, even though the new moon has already been erroneously reckoned at the molad, the Holy Day for the Feast of Trumpets (among the Jews) is still postponed 60% of the time ever since they could remember! If the true new moon conjunction is considered, the Jews are 100% in error!

There are postponements, all right, but it was the already erroneous Jewish molad that was “postponed” and not the use of many of their four applicable “postponements rules.”

It is the postponed molad of the 7th month that serves as the Hebrew Calendar’s starting point in determining all the so-called holidays of the Jews (they count backwards 177 days from this postponed date to arrive at the “beginning of the new year that the Spring Holy Days are determined from). We think we can safely assume that none of God’s true, ordained Holy Days have been in any way postponed!

To postpone means “to defer, to delay, to put off, or so deliberately set aside the celebration of an event from a fixed date of reference to a latter date.”

Since the new moon of the Jews is officially reckoned at the molad or middle conjunction, it is therefore their own feast that has been postponed to the appearance of the faint crescent moon. There would be no postponements of God’s Holy Days if the Jews recognized the true new moon conjunction as the correct reference point for the observance of God’s feast days.

Unfortunately, they do not. According to the Encyclopedia Judaica, the Jews know there is a difference between the true new moon conjunction and the molad or middle conjunction. It is true that the molad is still within the darkened phase of the new moon, but it is important for us to recognize according to the many Observatories literature that “there is a difference between man’s astronomical mean, or middle conjunction, and God’s true conjunction. There is always a true conjunction before a mean or middle conjunction . . . a time variation of 14 or more hours between the Hebrew molad and the actual beginning of the new dark moon phase. That is plenty of time to put you into the next day from the true conjunction of the dark moon.”

The Roper Mountain Science Center and Observatory affirms that observation when it says “the very beginning of the new dark moon phase can be pushed back as much as nearly a full day from the middle conjunction.”

In the Philippines, there are about 10 annual holidays officially declared by law. The celebrations are held on fixed dates of the year. Most often in the Philippines, the moon phases are associated with the most significant events in our history. One of these is the Declaration of our Independence every twelfth day of June. It is commemorated every year to remind us who live in the Philippines that formerly, for almost 400 years, we were under the sovereign rule of the colonial power of Spain. Once in a while, these are postponed to accommodate the whims and pleasures of the ruling power. But June 12, regardless of what they do, will forever remain the day of our deliverance.

I am also inclined to believe that the Sabbath of the Bible is no longer binding to man. It is their belief that it was a commandment for Israel in the Old Testament and that when Christ came there was a change of the law. They believe that Easter Sunday commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and thus Sunday is the day we should worship on. The 7th day Sabbath of the Bible is far from their mind.

In God’s true Sabbath, weekly and annual, are to be kept at the times specifically designated in the Old Testament. They are prescribed by God’s law. And regarding this time, we are dealing with the Supreme Lawgiver of the universe. They were designed and given to us for a very important reason: Compliance to God’s law will allow us understanding of the grand purpose of our being.

We may choose to obey or not to obey, but God doesn’t give us (or the Jews or anyone else) the right to change or postpone His annual Sabbaths!

**Church of God, In Truth • P.O. Box 1120, Kimberling City, MO, USA**

This page is part of CONNECTIONS! Member to Member, the advertising section of The Journal.
Jesus was just a man for 300 years. How did he become God?

By Mark Bosserman

Most of us have been exposed to the Trinity and other extrabiblical teaching, but how many of us know 300 years after his death? That's another extrabiblical teaching, stemming from his incredible life and resurrection. Like all legends, they change over time and evolve into something completely different.

As word of the life and resurrection and miracles of Jesus spread over the known world, the Second Adam, our High Priest and Mediator, became the very God he came to proclaim. Satan, the god of this world, was determined to make sure that the one God and Father of all would be placed in the background of the one who was raised up by God to reconcile man back to Himself.

We know this by the language in Revelation 21:3: "Then He the Father Himself shall be our God and we shall be His people." Jesus, the appointed King, shall also be High Priest during the Millennium, serving our God and his God.

Is it possible that “one God” means exactly that? One, not two or three? The concept of two or three Gods took root in Constantine's council some 300 years after Jesus' death.

"Well said, Teacher," a scribe said to Jesus. "You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He" (Mark 12:32).

This scribe’s words are the open door for Jesus to declare his God status. But he does not do that. Instead, he agrees with the scribe that there is only one God and no other, which is what Isaiah 44 and 45 say.

"He" is a singular pronoun, and Mark 12:32 is an explicative statement. Jesus responded to the scribe’s wise comment: "You are not far from the kingdom of God" (verse 34).

Jim Franks (who was then with the UCG, an organization whose leaders believe there is no God) was asked to allow the doctrinal committee of the United Church of God to have meetings with the five ministers in the UCG in 2002, who wanted to have face-to-face doctrinal discussions on the nature of God.

Jim refused and would not even allow Don Ward to attend the annual One God Seminar (godward.org) to debate the long-standing tradition of two Gods taught by Herbert W. Armstrong.

Christians are to grow in grace and knowledge until their death or the Second Coming. It is commanded that they not play prevent defense and walk backward into the Kingdom of God. Here is a quote from the UCG's World News & Prophecy publication from August 2008 (in an article titled "History of the Church, Part IV," which should have inspired people to ask questions): "The emperor [Constantine] was not a Bible student and not even a Christian at the time of the council, but he was clearly in control of religion."

Here is a comment by John Anthony McGuckin in his article "The Road to Nicea" from Christian History journal, winter 2005: "The concept of two Gods [from Constantine] was to resolve the question about the eternal and divine status of the Son of God... That should be clearly understood: The issue of exactly who Jesus was and His relationship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit was resolved by a biblically illiterate non-Christian serial killer in a single day."

Brethren, in a single day three of the most important doctrines of the Bible were changed, and the consequences have people like James Malhm calling me a heretic, even though I don’t believe the Sabbath is Sunday and I believe the Passover is to be observed and I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he was flesh and blood like you and I.

But I do not believe Jesus is God the Son, as Constantine and church tradition would have us think.

Did you gasp when you read the quote from the McGuckin article above? We see that not just the Sabbath was changed to Sunday and Easter was to replace Passover, but the monumental deception of our First and Greatest Commandment was compromised by changing "Son of God" to "God the Son," a phrase that is not in Scripture.

This in turn changed the focus of our Brother and High Priest and Mediator between God and man into a second God who overshadows the only one who is truly God. The true God is the Father, the God of our fathers (Acts 3:13) and our Creator (Mark 10:6).

This is so great an understanding that Jesus said that knowing the only true God sums up our Creator (Mark 10:6).

Brethren, do you understand what I'm trying to say? To believe there are two Gods—that Jesus is God the Son rather than the Son of God—we have to alter the numerical meaning of the word one to allow for a second, or third, God.

But is that acceptable? Should we presume to change God's Word to fit our doctrine? How many times have you heard a sermon in which the speaker refers to when Jesus was "the Word" or when he was "the God of the Old Testament"? The William Tyndale Bible shines light on our Trinitarian translators with his 1534 Bible translation of John 1:1-2, which reads: "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God."

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If Jesus is God, how is it that he "bar a God, yet Yahweh has no God before him? Because he is God? How is this the ultimate paradox for Trinitarians or people who believe in two Gods?

Yet Genesis 1:26—"Let us make man in our image—does not give clarity to who the he is. Read out of context, could it conceivably be Jesus? Yes, Could it be the 24 elders? Yes. So at best this is one imperative statement. Yet it is followed in the book of the Bible by 10,000 singular pronouns describing the one God.

"So God created man in [His] own image; in the image of God [He] created him; male and female [He] created them. Jesus quotes the above—the Genesis account of God's creation of man in his own image—in Mark 10:6: "But Jesus answered and said, 'You God, forgot who Jesus was for a moment in the awesome presence of God but one . . . For us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live?"

We saw above that Constantine canonized the multiple-Gods heresy and that eventually led to the Trinity concept of two—as one. And can anything be plainer than 1 Corinthians 8:6-7: "We know that an idol is nothing, and that there is no other God but one. . . . For we know that an idol is nothing, and that there is no other God but one . . . For us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live?"

If Jesus was God, then his supposed death would have to be a sham—because, brethren, the Eternal God by definition cannot die! Therefore God (his God and our God) has high privileges to take on the role of the servant. 2:5-9: Jesus, born King, was visited by kings, with this incredible human being. Philippians 2:5-8: "For your sake he became a servant—"Jesus turned out to be a servant—"Jesus became a servant—"Jesus who could genuinely die and serve as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God."

If Jesus is God, and since his supposed death would have to be a sham—because, brethren, the Eternal God by definition cannot die! Since God, being eternal, cannot die, when Jesus died who died? If Jesus is God, and since his supposed death would have to be a sham—because, brethren, the Eternal God by definition cannot die! Is it not true that Jesus would have to be God in order to die for our sins, otherwise we would not be an effective sacrifice for all humanity? But where is the scripture to back up that emotional rationalization? What does Romans 5:19 say? "For one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one man's obedience many will be made righteous."

If Jesus was God, then his supposed death would have to be a sham—because, brethren, the Eternal God by definition cannot die! Only someone who could die—a real human being—could serve as a genuine sacrifice. The one who had the ability to sin if he had chosen to do so, but also by one man's obedience many will be made righteous."

If Jesus was God, then his supposed death would have to be a sham—because, brethren, the Eternal God by definition cannot die! What makes Deuteronomy 18:18 finally make sense, resources and links.

This page is part of Connections: Member to Member, the advertising section of The Journal

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Go to www.tinyurl.com/wpogblog for further information, resources and links.

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If Jesus was God, then his supposed death would have to be a sham—because, brethren, the Eternal God by definition cannot die!
The Journal wants angel series to reappear

By Dixon Cartwright

RG SANDY, Texas—The seventh and final three issues from 2009 to 2011, The Journal published several stories that their witnesses or experiencers believed were miraculous. Several of them involved persons they later concluded may have been angels.

Eight years earlier, in 2003, The Journal had run a story about a Church of God minister who escaped one of the towers of the World Trade Center and credited the help of an angel for her escape.

Thanks to a suggestion, The Journal is inviting readers to send in more such stories.

If you have had an experience you think might have involved angels, The Journal would like to hear from you. Send your article, along with your ad- dress and phone number and a good-quality photograph (preferably a print or a jpeg), to info@thejournal.org.

The Antions established Guardian Church of God in 1960. According to Mrs. Antion, the church’s headquarters in Milford, Ohio, was recently accommodated 85 refurbished, modern, efficient and exempt religious organization that is not-for-profit, but They Don’t Like Trucks Driver Was An Angel” in issue No. 136 of The Journal.

“Angels Can Be Helpful, but They Don’t Like to Be Served” in issue No. 137.

“CGI Member Escapes World Trade Center Blaze, Says Nothing Will Ever Be the Same” in issue No. 140.


“The Impossible Happens: No Crash, Not Even a Dent!” in issue No. 142.

“Visiting Hubo Expresses Miraculous Angelic Kindness” in issue No. 143.

“Angel Has a Suggestion for a Church of God Member” in issue No. 144, dated May 31, 2011.

In addition to sponsoring Feature of Tabernacles sites, Guardian offers sermon tapes for individuals and groups, weekly “sermongrams” by which those who call in may hear sermons, and personal visits to fellowships groups and congregations by longtime Church of God minister Dr. Antion.

For more information about the coming Feast, which many will observe Oct. 8-16, or about Guardian Ministries and the Church of God Southern California, call the Church of God office in South Pasadena, Calif., 91115, U.S.A.

Dr. Antion plans to present a seminar titled “Dating and Mating: Why Do So Many Marriages Go Bad?” designed to an- swer questions posed by dat- ing-age singles and provide in- formation Dr. Antion has ac- quired from more than 50 years as a pastor and psycholo- gist.

Tony Kuczyn- niek, a member of the United Church of God in Milwaukee, Wis., plans to give a seminar concerning the family: “Dysfunctional Family Issues and the Family of God.”

Pastor Jeff Henderson of Believers Church of God in Redwood City, Calif., is also expected to attend and speak at the Feast this year.

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What’s new in media?

MILFORD, Ohio—The United Church of God’s Beyond Today television program featured a program by Gary Petty taking about Angelic Kindness and death experiences.

According to a program schedule in United News, the church’s member newsletter, Gary Petty, programs by Mr. Betty, Dr. Antion has acquired by dat- ing-age singles and provide in- formation Dr. Antion has ac- quired from more than 50 years as a pastor and psycholo- gist.

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In addition to sponsoring Feast of Tabernacles sites, Guardian offers sermon tapes for individuals and groups, weekly “sermongrams” by which those who call in may hear sermons, and personal visits to fellowship groups and congregations by longtime Church of God minister Dr. Antion.

For more information about the coming Feast, which many will observe Oct. 8-16, or about Guardian Ministries and the Church of God Southern California, call the Church of God office in South Pasadena, Calif., 91115, U.S.A.

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