Chamber leaders have doctrinal agenda?

The following article, one of sever- al appearing in this week's issue of The Journal, was written by Mac Overton, John Robinson and Linda Moll Smith with help from Scott Ash- ley and Dixon Carter.

A version of this article first appeared in THE JOURNAL on Jan. 25, 1995, issue of the Independent Church of God newspaper published by Mr. Robinson for 22 Sunday issues 1995- 97. (Mr. Robinson died in 2006.)

In its original headline was “Did WCG Leaders Have Doctrinal Agenda?”

Because of its historic significance for the church, it was revisited here (that includes minor updates).

ONE VIEW 18 YEARS AGO

An artist in 1997 illustrates the way many Worldwide Church of God members who had recently left that church for other groups felt about the WCG. May 1 was a day character is an apparent depiction of the third pastor general of the WCG (which later became GCI), Joseph Tkach Jr., wielding the mallet of orthodoxy. See the related arti- cle on page 6 of this issue. (Artworks by Greg Radke)

Here are news and opinions about Spring Feast observance.

REPORT FROM MARYLAND

By Beverly Ramon-Woodland

BALTIMORE, Md.–First Cen- tury Church of God has offered services throughout the week for the Feast of Unleavened Bread for April 3-10, 2015.

Pastor R.F. Woodland and the brethren decided to do this when they first began this practice in 2004 at their former location in Baltimore. They realized among themselves that the Feast of Unleavened Bread would be more effective for spiritual enrichment and fellowship if they could provide services again for brethren who want to meet during the week for morning or evening services.

Services were 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

The evening services were well attended much better than the morning sessions. Hence it was unanimously decided that, for 2016 and on, only evening-session services will be provided in addition to the mandatory first and last holy days.

Pastor Woodland explained that for the past seven years our congregation has been working with the CGI project in Gaithersburg, Md., for keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The Gaithersburg brethren would come to Baltimore for the first holy day, and the Baltimore brethren would go to Gaithersburg for the last holy day.

This year was no different, except that a group photo was taken on the last day under a Feast of Unleavened Bread banner and a picture was published on First Cen- tury Church of God.

Several board including minis- ters expressed their delight to be able to attend services after work during the weekdays of Unleavened Bread.

See the photo of Baltimore Spring Feast attendees on page 6 of this issue of THE JOURNAL.

WHILE I WAS GONE TO THE FEAST

By Dan White

ARTVILLE, Mo.–While I was gone to the Feast I received a church brochure about planning for the Feast.

Was this insult or just irony? I guess it’s just coincidence that some “Feast keepers” sent a Tabernacles- planning brochure that was deliv- ered while other Feast keepers were observing the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

To prepare for the fall festival while observing the spring festival, though, is emphasized of all the themes at the expense of the other, like planning a date with Jill while out with June.

Back in the early 1960s Herbert Armstrong decided that Christians did not need to observe the whole week for morning or evening services. It could provide services again for brethren who want to meet during the week for morning or evening services.

One BSA focus was to encourage

Chamber represents WCG conference agenda

The business meeting on Sunday, May 3, would be the heart of the annual get-together, the business meeting that is to include reports from the chairman and the voting for bylaw updates and the election of four elders to keep their seats or oc- cupy new ones on the council.

Sunday’s session would also recognize “men and women who have been faithful servants in their labor of love toward God and His flock for over 50 years” (counting their service in the WCG before they joined the UCG).

The Journal expects to include a after-the-fact coverage of the general conference in next month’s issue.

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D and translated: the worldviews and political how the canon of Scripture has been that has been around a long time.

2 THE JOURNAL

their choices are. That's all politics too.

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That's all politics.

"preaching the gospel, feeding the flock

world's politics" should not displace

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I read with great interest the article

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20th century, I wanted them to be aware

Among other things the diary testifies

and direct participant in those momen-

Sandy at that time, I was both a witness

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Mr. Hawkins states that “since Christ

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THE JOURNAL
The writer is a longtime Church of God member and retired newspaper editor and reporter.

By Mac Overton

IG SANDY, Texas—After considering my retirement last July after spending almost all of my life in newswriting and photography, I now see that my enthusiasm has gotten worse. It does not matter that I no longer have to get up and meet a daily schedule. But it leaves me with a lot of time in which I find only a minimum of.Web sites, and I don’t feel quite up to Bible study or reading. Today, I find that I subscribe to too many of those Internet services that let you watch nearly all old TV shows. In my case it’s the Hulu app, although there are others. Some are free. For others there is a small monthly fee. With the free ones you have to watch ads, just like on commercial TV.

Favorite show

This has given me access to some of the shows I never got enough of in the last days of Sugar Hill. One of my favorites is Lou Grant, a drama about the city editor of the fictional Los Angeles newspaper. I have worked on both small and large papers, mainly the medium-size weeklies and biweeklies, three different monthly church newspapers (all in the United Pilgrim Church). And I have contributed to many, many other publications.

So I identify with Lou Grant. While quaffing the reporters and editors on that show use electric typewriters and darkrooms and pay phones—it’s set in the early 1980s—instead of computers and digital cameras and cell phones, the interaction of the reporters and editors and their differing personalities is similar. A journalism professor at the University of Texas at Tyler, where I got my master’s, predicted the show wouldn’t last “because it’s too good.” Still, it went on for several seasons.

Echoes of the church

Last night was a trip down memory lane for me. True Journal, as March reported, the WCG had encased a book by the late novelist Terry Prudden.

Lou Grant, season 3, episode 4, broadcast in 1979, deliberately or otherwise (it’s hard to remember what we old-timers in the church (I just turned 65 and was baptized 45 years ago) I never thought I’d be an “old-timer”) remember as the “receiv- eird’s curse” of the 1970s and early 1980s.

The episode, titled “Charlatan,” starring Ed Asner, who played the newspaper man Lou Grant, deals with a fundamentalist-Christian ministry based in Rosemead, Calif., noted for its beautifully landscaped campus and extensive expensive art collection, as well as a grand auditorium, among other things.

We are to hold the Sabbath apart from the other six days. Few people (some) have witnessed the discussion around the world and brings in millions of dollars, “nutrition for new disciples.”

More than many questions

Joe Rossi, intrepid reporter for the Tribune, notices that the number of founders of the church have been removed from a dedicatory plaque. Through contacts, the Tribune reporter found the husband and wife who were kicked out of the church because he had edited the church magazine, beginning noticing discrepancies and asking too many questions about church income and expenses.

For example, moneys supposed to be 

<see APPARENTLY, page 8>

Keep score on the Sabbath? 

The writer is an independent Church of God member. He is married and has two natural children for and serve them because they keep the Sabbath, we should go to him. We are to hold the Sabbath apart from the other six days. Few people (some) have evidenced may not matter as much as we think.

Wesley Worthen

You may be critical of others who disagree with your view while you may be even more at fault than they are! If we find error, it should be in ourselves or our children, and we should work to correct that with action and prayer. If we feel our brothers’ or their children, we should go to him. You may not agree with him, but you can hear what he feels, and each learns from the other’s ideal. Prayer is also a great and however, I must caution you not pray for the other. It is wrapped neatly in a season package and delivered to us with a ribbon on it.

Is believing same as knowing? 

The writer is a longtime Church of God reader and writer for THE JOURNAL. Mr. Griffith continues the discussion of the Bible canon that began in this newspaper in issue No. 146 (dated 20 Dec, 2011).

By Philip L. Griffith

ELKTON, Md.—Mike Baran introduces more thoughts into the canon discussion on page 171 (dated March 31, 2015).

(Baran’s article was headlined “What’s the Canon Have to Do With It?”) Is believing the same as knowing? Moreover, is it wrong to doubt that someone is as well informed as he says he is?

The statement that some knows the canon is the Word of God or the inerrant Word of God is so weak that any casual observer can see the speaker only believes (rather than knows) it at best.

Is Scripture the same as canon? Different people at different times have had different canons and different scriptures. What I suggest is the Word of God is not a concept that we can accurately claim it is wrapped neatly in a season package and delivered to us with a ribbon on it.

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Was there ever a WCG doctrinal agenda? If so, whose was it?

Continued from page 1

converted in this age, (10) those not converted in this age, (11) salvation through the Great White Throne Judgment, (12) Christ and the resurrection of the dead, (13) remembered on the Sabbath, (14) 1,000 years, (12) the Holy Spirit coming into us only begets and opens our minds to spiritual understanding of what He is trying to do, (13) Christians are begotten rather than born again, (14) hearkening to the author of the Jewish calendar and messianic prophecies, (15) a principal key to understanding prophecy, (16) the authority of the Jewish calendar and messianic prophecies, (17) secular historians, (18) the time of Mr. Armstrong’s death, (19) the annual festivals, (20) prophetic reference to Jesus Christ, advocating a less Jewish, more Protestant (16) the annual festivals, (17) prophetic reference to Jesus Christ, advocating a less Jewish, more Protestant

of God for decades, dating to a time before the death of Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Tkach, through his statements, raised the question as to whether he had hidden his beliefs from Mr. Armstrong in order to be named as his successor. Mr. Tkach has admitted he was working on a “plan” since 1963 and was ordained a WCG minister and later director of the entire ministry in 1978. The Plain Truth, (see page 5)

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A researcher and analyst working with The Plain Truth said he did research into possible Worldwide Church of God doctrinal changes in 1987.

Mr. Armstrong later told me he had a “high priority” for his strength, firmness and dogged determination in the rechristening crisis of 1979. He said his belief was to the church to be named as his successor. Mr. Tkach has admitted he was working on a “plan” since 1963 and was ordained a WCG minister and later director of the entire ministry in 1978. The Plain Truth, (see page 5)

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In the aftermath of the departure of Mr. Armstrong in 1986 and the resignation of his right-hand man, Mike Feazell, then director of the WCG’s Spanish-language ministry, in 1987, there were increasing hints of major doctrinal changes (15) a principal key to understanding prophecy, (16) the annual festivals, (17) prophetic reference to Jesus Christ, advocating a less Jewish, more Protestant

Concerned in 1987

Donald Ward, until late 1994 many top WCG ministers and lay members began to conclude that there was indeed a close agenda to re-form the WCG into a mainstream Protestant organization, or to “lead a church” in the terms used by the council of elders at the time of Mr. Armstrong’s death. Mr. Tkach, a 1960 graduate of Ambassador College, has been an elder since 1971, and has been the WCG’s evangelist in 1981. He said that shortly before Mr. Armstrong’s death the WCG pastor general had been undecided about who to name as his successor. “One day he’d be leaning toward Mr. [Leroy] Neff [who died in 2014]. Another day he might be leaning toward someone else,” Mr. Walker said. Mr. Tkach said his changes were coming, he told Dr. Walburn. “The answer? Let’s let the coworkers decide.” Mr. Tkach was there. Greg Albrecht, degree,” he said. “I was there while Mr. Armstrong was doing research into the Jewish calendar and messianic prophecies, (16) the annual festivals, (17) prophetic reference to Jesus Christ, advocating a less Jewish, more Protestant

THE JOURNAL

Issue No. 172 (April 30, 2015)

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THE JOURNAL

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Mr. Feazell was warm, warm and friendly, and candidate in '92

Continued from page 4

the Trinity formula.

We laughed at that. My wife asked, "What do you mean?" I said, "Just consider me your angel!"

"My wife said, "That would not have been my first guess."

"Then he told about the plans for another 50-hour Sabbath and voluntary holy-day observance and voluntary tithing, and then he mentioned introduction of Christmas into the church and eventually moving to a Sunday worship.

"Later, when we would see these things about how to happen and someone would say, "Do you know?" we would jokingly say our angel had told us. But he literally outlined for us, before the next Sabbath, everything that was going to happen, and it was helpful for us because the pastor was among the only ones to be there after the first round or two."

Can't make up this stuff!

When the Merritts subsequently heard of plans for more major doctrinal changes from other sources in Pasadena, "then we realized that [the old-line ministers] weren't just making up this stuff."

Dr. Walburn said that, as early as 1978, "There were some among some WCG staff in Pasadenarting to do a personal doctrinal change," but he was willing to lose up to 50 percent of the church membership to get major doctrinal changes through.

"We felt a 50 percent drop in mem-

berhood was conceivable, although not probable. And that was the kind of change that the church was not willing to go through."

"At that time Mr. Sheppherd had just become WCG's Feast of Tabernacles at

Elkhart, Ind., congregation from De-

nunciation's conversation.

"I didn't hear any of this stuff before," he said. "I believed what I had been taught just a few years earlier at Ambassa-

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"Actually, in 1992 I was very pleased with the general direction the church was going. I had no issue with the issue of Sabbath and the ten percent for tithing, so I didn't need to be judgmental and more open to others. As a minister, I had a general sense not at all was well."

At that time Mr. Sheppherd had just become president of the church after leaving a successful $2 million business in Bend, Ore., at age 33 to attend Am-
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He attended from 1985 to 1987 and served as associate pastor of the Pitts-
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"In other words, stop being Jewish and join us in our Christian heritage of freedom from anything Jewish. Re-

member the Christian community has a long-standing hatred of the Jewish people.

"You must then accept the Trinity, the concept that the family of God is a chosen people, and you must not adhere doctrinally to the need to observe the holy days or Sabbath. Otherwise you will be ostracized."

"Ultimately the question is, 'What kind of Christianity do you accept by main-
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Mr. Feazell outlines beliefs

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"Ultimately the question is, 'What kind of Christianity do you accept by main-
stream Christianity?'"

Mr. Feazell outlines beliefs

Steve Sheppherd, 43 years old in 1995, served as pastor of the WCG's Elkhart, Ind., congregation from De-

nunciation's conversation.

"I didn't hear any of this stuff before," he said. "I believed what I had been taught just a few years earlier at Ambassa-
dor College."

"Actually, in 1992 I was very pleased with the general direction the church was going. I had no issue with the issue of Sabbath and the ten percent for tithing, so I didn't need to be judgmental and more open to others. As a minister, I had a general sense not at all was well."

At that time Mr. Sheppherd had just become president of the church after leaving a successful $2 million business in Bend, Ore., at age 33 to attend Am-
bassador College.

He attended from 1985 to 1987 and served as associate pastor of the Pitts-urgh, Pa., congregation before as-

suming his first pastorate in Indiana. Her father had been a pastor and so "the handwriting was on the wall."

"And we knew we were in trouble when we visited the church. There was a sta-
tle of the church's evangelical efforts was taken out of print. Dr. Walburn wrote, "Our family was aware that the church had changed."

"In other words, stop being Jewish and join us in our Christian heritage of freedom from anything Jewish. Re-

member the Christian community has a long-standing hatred of the Jewish people.

"You must then accept the Trinity, the concept that the family of God is a chosen people, and you must not adhere doctrinally to the need to observe the holy days or Sabbath. Otherwise you will be ostracized."

"Ultimately the question is, 'What kind of Christianity do you accept by main-
stream Christianity?'"
Some Church of God brethren are expanding spring observance

Continued from page 1
serve only Passover and the first and last days. Since there is no Bible example for those days, some churches have a 12th and last day of the feast. Herman Hoeh said this was a “church administrative decision.” That was not a Bible doctrine, just a church doctrine.

Obviously, when the 12-year-old Christ and His family observed Unleavened Bread, they did not go to work the middle of the feast. Actually, the Boy Messiah did go to work on the feast, schooling the disciples.

It’s been posited that we should work during the feast because Jews follow that practice, but Christians are usually more comfortable following the Bible than the practice of that than of the Jews.

Still, “Feast keepers” agree with that church administrative decision.

The Bible actually mentions people observing the spring festival more than we remember people keeping the fall festivals. Therefore, if you’re going to shorten the spring festival, shouldn’t you reduce it to one day the same way? With what some don’t know.

There are 19 festival days, and 6 days of Unleavened Bread.

Those are the Feast of Tabernacles sites for 2015. The Aziz Ann was aware when she wrote The Feast of Tabernacles. For the listing comes from Web sites and information sent directly to THE JOURNAL by Feast organizers listing comes from Web sites and information especially acknowledges the information available in Feast of Tabernacles, James Pollitte, jamespollitte@tianchurch.org/content/tabernacle_welcome.php.

If what HWA said about the Spring feasts, why did these people continue to keep the Passover, Unleavened Bread.

They are God-hungry. They are swimming the other way. Surrounded by evil, they want more good. In the midst of hedonism, they search for a world that shows the spirit of Satan, they simply want more God.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread All the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

It is more than just taco time away. It is time work away, for a high calling, for a deeper meaning. It is the Feast.

So why do so many “Feast keepers” not keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

Because they want to be God-hungry. They are sick of God’s world and want to spend time with Him. They will not spend time with Him. You will look for excuses to join Him.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, the whole feast, is one of those exes.
Connections runs classifieds

Widow, nurse, longtime COG member looking for a gentleman age 69-90 for a long-term relationship. Friendship 1st. Please send info and pic to Laura, P.O. Box 133174, Tyler, TX 75713, U.S.A.

Val Leech

Val Leech

Obituaries

Gerald Gill, 82, of Mantown, Pa., died April 25, 2015, at Cedarside Nursing Home in Allentown. He was the husband of the late Camilla E. (Harry) Gill, 85. Born in Hazleton, Pa., May 25, 1929, Gerald was the son of the late Lucian J. and Theodora (Fitzsimmons) Gill. He served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era. Gerald was employed as a meat cutter for Lanco in Lehighton, Pa., before retiring.

Graeme Marshall died April 26, 2015, at his home in the Toronto, Ont., area. T Graeme and Lynn Marshall served in the ministry for almost 50 years. He was one of the pioneers of the work of the Church of God in New Zealand, serving as regional director there for eight years. He later served in Australia and most recently in Toronto. T Graeme was a humble man, health challenges on and off, and over the past 10 months his condition deteriorated considerably. He also lost a lot of weight during that time. T Graeme loved the church and the work of the ministry and helped his wife with all the tasks. Canadian office light to his end of his life. T Graeme leaves his wife, Lynn, and two grown children. T Graeme is an outstanding Presbyterian and her memory will be forever cherished.

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

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Independence Hall of thinking—Psalm 37:4:

Psalm 116:13

Verses 5-6: "Commit thy way unto the Lord; and He shall bring it to pass."

T Paul admonishes us to think.

Paul admonishes us to think.


This is an expression for going out all the way to comply with what God says in His word. See also companion verse Ephesians 6:17 and 1 Thessalonians 5:8.

Be an Independent Thinker, Part 4

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A sunset-to-sunset weekly Sabbath is not in the Bible!

For many, the question of what exactly Sabbath is, and whether it is a weekly or a sunset-to-sunset event, is a pressing concern. Some argue that the traditional Sabbath, from Friday evening to Saturday evening, is the closest thing to what the Bible describes. Others, however, believe that the weekly Sabbath, from Saturday evening to Sunday evening, is the correct interpretation. In this article, we will explore the evidence for both perspectives and discuss the implications of each for modern believers.

Why do you tithe on money?

Few of us have taken a closer look at the Scriptures to see what it really says about tithing. Honestly, where does the Bible say, or even hint, that we are to tithe on the money we earn? What truly is Biblical “increase”? Few doctrines have fewer adherents than tithing. Most of us have taken a closer look at the Scriptures to see what it really says about tithing. Few of us have taken a closer look at the Scriptures to see what it really says about tithing.

A Virtual Church

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Connections: Member to Member

Issue No. 172

Published by THE JOURNAL: THE CHURCHES OF GOD

April 30, 2015

Free live audio and video streaming of the weekly Virtual Church is available at www.godward.org Check website for coming topics and speakers
Walton Beach, Florida September 28th—October 5th. Once again this Feast
Come join us at the ECCC located just across the bridge from famous Destin,
opportunities available on the Florida Gulf Coast, including beach front
Many Feastgoers are familiar with this facility as well as the wonderful
Ministries, Common Ground Ministries and Church of God Cincinnati.
site will be a collaborative effort with Church of God International, LifeResource
Ft. Walton Beach, Florida
Feast of Tabernacles 2015
Common Faith Network
Common Faith Network is excited to announce that the 2015 Feast of
Tabernacles will be held at the Emerald Coast Convention Center in Ft.
Beach of Tabernacles 2015
Common Faith Network
Visit the Church of God Big Sandy on the Web at
www.churchof
godbigsandy.com
(Ray is shown here with his wife, Pam.)
Accordingly the WCG inspired a
1979 Lou Grant episode on TV
Anything the WCG inspired a 1979 Lou Grant episode on TV
Kol Yehuda: A voice from Judah connecting you to Israel.
Be a part of an amazing, unique experience in Israel.
The Connect To Israel Tour / November 1–13, 2015
www.Kolyehuda.com
(Ray is shown here with his wife, Pam.)
(Ray is shown here with his wife, Pam.)
This page is part of Connections: Member to Member, the advertising section of The Journal
The Ezekiel WATCHMAN
God’s Warning Message

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful Day of the LORD (Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:10-11).”

“A Warning Voice Crying Out”—Out of office and politically “in the wilderness” during the 1930s, Winston Churchill took the lead in warning about Nazi Germany and in campaigning for rearmament.

After the Nazis came to power in 1933, Churchill spent a great deal of time warning his countrymen about the perils of German nationalism, but Britons were weary of war and reluctant to get involved in international affairs again. Likewise, the British government ignored Churchill’s warnings and did all it could to stay out of Hitler’s way.

“Peace in Our Time”—In 1938, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain even signed an agreement giving Germany a chunk of Czechoslovakia—“throwing a small state to the wolves,” Churchill scolded—“in exchange for a promise of peace.

A year later, however, Hitler broke his promise and invaded Poland. Britain and France declared war. Chamberlain was pushed out of office, and Winston Churchill took his place as prime minister in May 1940.

The London Blitz, 1940—The appearance of German bombers in the skies over London during the afternoon of Sept. 7, 1940, heralded a tactical shift in Hitler’s attempt to subdue Great Britain. Hitler turned his attention to destroying London in an attempt to demoralize the population and force the British to come to terms. At around 4:00 p.m. on that September day, 348 German bombers escorted by 647 fighters blasted London until 6:00 p.m.

Two hours later, guided by the fires by the first assault, a second group of raiders commenced another attack that lasted until 4:30 the following morning.

Terror Amidst Destruction—Fires consumed many portions of the city. Residents sought shelter wherever they could find it—many fleeing to the Underground stations that sheltered as many as 177,000 people during the night. Londoners and the world were introduced to a new weapon of terror and destruction in the arsenal of twentieth century warfare. More than a million London houses were ruined or badly damaged, and more than 20,000 civilians were killed in the city alone. (Esto-ly 40,000 civilians were killed in the whole of England.) Excerpts from the Internet and Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

History Repeating Itself—The astute observer should clearly see the obvious parallel of Winston Churchill trying in vain to warn heedless politicians and society at that time, and the voice “in the wilderness,” God’s late apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, for over 50 years, warning of the now emerging Roman Empire with Assyria leading the way to soon use blitzkrieg nuclear warfare against the House of Joseph! (Ezekiel 6:6; 12:20). Sadly, people do not care.

Millions to Die—Multiple millions of people in England and America will be killed (Ezekiel 5:12). Meanwhile, the leadership uses appeasement as did Britain. This will work to the advantage of Germany as it did with Hitler when PM Chamberlain gave him what he wanted. Germany’s promise will soon be fulfilled with no retaliation! (Ezekiel 7:14).

World War III—Seeing Germany was losing World War II, the last words of an anonymous German military spokesman over the Nazi radio in Brussels on Sept. 1, 1944, spoke the ominous warning promise: “One day we shall come back. Until then, A Bientot—“Goodbye A Soon” (quotes from “The Plot Against The Peace” by Michael Sayers and Albert E. Kahn).

Vigilance—While obeying the admonition of Jesus Christ to “WATCH AND PRAY ALWAYS” (Luke 21:36), it should become easy for the discerning eye to see the handwriting is on the wall for America and Britain (Luke 21:29-36). And what affects these two nations will also affect the corporate churches as well.

It should be understood from the Scriptures that only the Philadelphia Era of God’s Church has the promise of protection from the horrors of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 7:1-3).

Protection or an Illusion?—Are you under the possible illusion you will be among those to be protected? To be sure—check up by listening and reading the “Recorded Works” of Mr. Armstrong, who is still crying out the warning on our websites, as did Winston Churchill during that crucial time. Soon the nuclear bombs will fall on a heedless and sleeping people! Where will you then be—a corpse, martyr, slave, or—in the place God will have prepared for His faithful Elect? The decision is yours to make—and yours alone.

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Why America Fights (2009)

Section 1: Why America Fights

America is often criticized by our allies and enemies for its desire to spread Christianity and be a Christian nation. Americans argue that the US was a Christian nation and that its troops fought for free speech and democracy. However, the reality is that US military intervention was often undertaken to further US economic interests and gain control of natural resources.

Section 2: The Good War

The US military has often been criticized for its lack of moral justification for military actions. The US military has been accused of committing war crimes, enforcing policies that are detrimental to American interests, and using propaganda to influence public opinion.

Section 3: The Power of Prejudice

The US military has often been accused of outsourcing its war efforts to other countries. This has been done to reduce costs and to avoid legal and political consequences. However, the reality is that these actions are often detrimental to US national interests.

Section 4: The Future of War

As the US moves towards a more globalized economy, it is likely that the US military will continue to play a role in shaping global events. The US military will need to be able to adapt to new technologies and to new forms of warfare.

List: War and Peace

- The majority of US military action has been driven by economic interests.
- The US military has often been criticized for its lack of moral justification.
- The US military has been accused of committing war crimes.
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- The US military will need to adapt to new technologies and forms of warfare.

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Part 2: STOP SINNING

Stop following your Bible, then the ministers will lose their Hitler type control over you!

Truth is not just something that you believe. Truth is something that "IS," and cannot be argued about. Read your Bible and see: ‘YOU MUST OBEY ALL of God’s Bible’, Rev 22:18. ("IF" you do not do all of what I say, then you are NOT my disciple, John 8:31.)

The ministers say you are their disciples if you have Yah’s Last Dinner on the 17th. Rev 22:17: "Whoever has this word...

Realize the greatest form of control is: For you to be sitting in a prison cell of ministers’ deceptions and not just something you believe. TRUTH "IS": BELIEVING IS SEEING! Join in耶和华的圣安息日，不要随意更改。" Leviticus 24:8. You must obey "ALL" the Bible, because: "IF" you do not do all of what I say, then you are NOT my disciple, John 8:31. 

The ministers will lose their Hitler type control over you! Truth is not just something that you believe. Truth is something that "IS," and cannot be argued about. Read your Bible and see: ‘YOU MUST OBEY ALL of God’s Bible’, Rev 22:18. ("IF" you do not do all of what I say, then you are NOT my disciple, John 8:31.)
The Bible (in Genesis) begins with a Greek word that should be in Hebrew. The Old Testament is in the Court of the Throne of God. God is putting all readers on trial. Legally, this is called a deposition and is written by God Himself. This book is a legal document witnessing the judgment of God between the innocent and the guilty.

Witness of the Stars

Paul, the apostle of Christ, reiterated to the Romans what the Holy Spirit of God taught Him. Paul noted that the invisible, secret things about God are clearly seen in your mind by the things physically made (Romans 1:20 paraphrased).

Now you can understand why you were made from the earth.

By the dust from which you came, you are to find God and, by seeing earthly things, you can know how God thinks and why you were born.

Everything is here for you to see if you would only look.

“The Word” starts and manifests the numerous suns that make up the increasing galaxies, including the Milky Way, of the universe.

Stars Represent Celebration

The word celebrate designates having a party—a dance because everyone is so happy they cannot sit still. They are full of life because God has reproduced Himself into many galaxies (Isaiah 40:28-31).

This is a Jubilee. On the earth, every person celebrates those who accomplish some unusual event that many dream about. These are celebrities, movie stars, athletes, artists, dancers, inventors and so on without number.

Why without number? Simply it is because God can be and freely chooses whatever He decides.

The Two Highways

Obviously, God has bestowed two paths, roads or highways for you to follow, to live in His holy house as well as the entire estate of God. His estate includes far more than His house. This is a Temple because it is very holy since it is always pure and thoroughly clean.

Jesus, the first-begotten Son of God, is also part of this Temple and is where He presently lives (Revelation 21:22).

The rest of mankind can choose to follow human...
works or Godly “works,” where only God does the work and not the works of man.

Jesus as the Son of Man said the same thing. Jesus said He could do nothing of Himself but only what His Heavenly Father told Him (John 5:30 paraphrased).

Did you know the original Satan, who became a devil and is acting like a lion, will finally destroy the Family of God by being the first Antichrist? He blinds whoever follows him (II Corinthians 4:1-4; I Peter 5:8 paraphrased).

This is why Paul said there are many other Antichrists who follow Satan the Devil. Anyone who follows Satan as their bishop becomes an Antichrist.

When Satan, in the garden, was acting as the helper of God, he was a duplicate of Jesus. He was humble as could be. Satan knew God was reproducing Himself, which is why Satan told Eve she would become just like God.

Satan failed to tell her she would die. Satan baited her and she became a hooked fish, ready to die.

Throughout world history the devil was a good fisherman. Many Antichrists think they were and are “in Christ,” but they follow Satan.

God does not ever go fishing by baiting a hook. God always uses a net. Net fishing is a much better system of catching fish since not one fish gets hurt (the mouth of the fish is not harmed).

Jonah, when he refused to be the prophet of God so the people of God (Israel) would not be conquered in the future by the Ninevites, decided to leave the area by boat. He fell in the sea as bait. He was hooked by a special great fish by God.

It is sort of silly that Jonah thought he could hide from God. Even if he stood on the top of a cliff and fell into the sea, the fish would still get

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
The Call of God

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

him. There is nowhere to run from God. God knows how to bait future Christians who are looking for a better life.

The Call Of God

God is very concerned not to let His children drown as were the evil ones in Noah’s Flood. Wickedness is mankind’s enemy—it is better to follow God. God calls His church family according to His will and not mankind’s will.

Do not be a Jonah and do it the hard way. The Heavenly Father will always forgive you and teach you the truth when you look to Him.

Jonah was selfish and this was his sin. He was more grateful for the shade of the gourd than concerned with sparing 60,000 people (Jonah 4:10-11). Thank God He had more feelings for the 60,000 individuals than the shade of a gourd.

John’s Love

John was the disciple Jesus loved. John was chosen by God and Jesus to fulfill all laws (Romans 13:10).

John had the love of God, just like Jesus. For this reason, God and Jesus, who think alike, picked John since all three had the same love. All three thought and lived the same. These three, God, Jesus and John, having the duplicate of the love of God, always followed each other as family. All three are holy. They are the Eternal Ones (John 5:24).

Fulfillment

Once all the Prophets and the Law are fulfilled, they are finished (Matthew 5:17-18). When something is full, there is no more room in the House of God.

The rest of the guests, Israelites and the Gentiles, can only visit the Temple of God in the Court-yards. The others, those not invited, can only come to Solomon’s Porch. This was the only place the uninvited could come and speak.

Jesus was allowed to teach but nowhere else in the Temple. When Christ went into the Temple where animals for sacrifice were sold, He became furious and said they should not make His “Father’s house” a place of merchandise (which is a personal business).

The gifts of God are always free, just for the asking, especially for the needy.

The thoughts and mind of God are so much higher and better than the mind or thinking of mankind. Read Job 42:1-7.

Once you know part of the truth, God tells you there will always be more to understand. The minds of mankind are not capable to know all there is to know—what God knows. God is eternal and you will never catch up to Him.

The Temple of God is and always will be free for the asking. Because He is a loving Father, run after Him crying out Abba Father, my Father, my Father, come to the earth.

Everyone should want to think like God! Amen.

God is concerned not to let His children drown as were the evil ones in Noah's Flood. Wickedness is mankind's enemy.
Notes and quotes

Bible course and more

BASINGSTOKE, England—New Horizon magazines and the Churches of God Outreach Ministries (CGOM) offer a 32-lesson Bible-study course. CGOM's website lists more than 100 Bible-based articles that address questions “frequently on the minds of Christians.” Website visitors can download any of the articles or request printed copies.

There are also online audio sermons, links to groups associated with CGOM, back issues of New Horizon magazines and “an online magazine for young readers.”

To go to cgom.org or write P.O. Box 25525, 6 Slimgate House, Reading Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 8PH, or P.O. Box 5452, Tulia, Oklahoma 79088, U.S.A.; or P.O. Box 476, Don Mills Station, Don Mills, Ont., Canada M3C 2T4.

Foundation Institute

ALLEN, Texas—The UCG's ABC classes aren't the only ones that are available at the Churches of God. The Church of God's Worldwide Association (CGWA), also known as Cogwa, has Continuing Education classes at its facility in Allen, Texas, north of Dallas.

The full title of the program is Foundation Institute, Center for Biblical Education, and will consist of two seminars at the headquarters office in the summer of 2015.

Each of the seminars, which will be essentially identical, will include about 30 class hours of instruction provided by experienced instructors and administrators.

Most of the instruction will come directly from the Bible.

The CGWA also sponsors a number of programs on groups of classes, “a dynamic in-depth study of the Holy Bible,” which cover topics such as “If Church members of God other than from CGWA would be welcome to Foundation Institute classes.

An inquiry from a Journal writer to a CGWA official was not responded to by the deadline for this issue of The Journal.

However, the information is readily available to the public at the church’s website, so periodic applications from non-CGWA members as well as CGWA members would be considered.

Faculty members listed on the website are Jim Franks, Douglas Horschak, David Johnson, Erik Jones, Clyde Klugh, Ralph Levy, Joel Meek, David Myers and Richard Thompson.

For more information write P.O. Box 1009, Allen, Texas 75013, U.S.A., or visit foundationinstitute.org.

Challenger camp

MILFORD, Ohio—A camp called the Challenger Program has been planned for northeast Ohio in August 2015.

The camp, sponsored by the United Church of God, is for “a small but dedicated group of young adults” that are ready to tackle the woods of early America’s heartland later this summer.

Challenger is a wilderness-based adventure leadership program for adults age 18 and older.

Its theme will be “Back to the Basics.”

For more information and to see if you qualify to participate, contact camp director Randy Stiver at randy_stiver@ucg.org. Or write the UCG at P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, Ohio 45254, U.S.A.

Applications for ABC are now being accepted.

MILFORD, Ohio—Another opportunity from the United Church of God is its accepting applications for its Ambassador Bible College class for 2015.

Applications can be downloaded at abc.ucg.org/applications.

For answers to your questions about ABC, contact Frank Strickler at frick@ucg.org or P.O. Box 541-8006.

End-judgment planning

Construction of the ark was also discussed. It had to be quite sophisticated, since the sloping of waves could have knocked wooden boards loose and caused the boat and all life on it to sink.

The author suggests that it was constructed through a labor-intensive method called “end-jointed planking,” which would give it extra strength.

There were speculations that many species of animals may have been represented by DNA, used to recreate them after the Flood.

Sabbath directory in 11th edition since 1957

Continued from page 1

The directory is available for $12 plus shipping. Add postage, or three copies for $25. Add $3 per book for extra postage for non-U.S. orders.

Following is the “Bible Sabbath Association’s Sabbathkeeper’s Pledge”: As a follower of Jesus Christ,

I pledge to give my first love and loyalty to the true God, who reveals Himself to me in the person of his Son Jesus.

I will not let the church group that I belong to, or the church group that people who do or don’t belong to it dictate to me.

I pledge to emphasize that the seventh-day Sabbath is more than a law to be obeyed; it is also a unique gift of God to be enjoyed and celebrat

ed with great benefit by all who receive it in faith.

I pledge to remember that the power of people is to know God’s love and grace in the gospel, and that their need to know and observe His Sabbath is secondary to their need for Christ.

I pledge to receive the churches that keep God’s Sabbath as a valued and respected family within God’s house, and extend to them all the opportunities I have to encourage and support their keeping of this holy day.

I pledge to love my neighbors, my fellow Christians and my fellow Sabbathkeepers as myself, according to the second great commandment of the Lord.

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