Former Ambassador PR man recalled slain friend

Bob Haworth of Orlando, Fla., died Aug. 20, 2016, at the age of 90. Mr. Haworth was a Canadian or Canadian-American. He was a driver's license from a U.S. state, in Canada, you probably need the execution of Joseph Stanley Faulder, who was put to death by the State of Texas, June 17, 1999, for the brutal stabbing to death of Lawrence Phillips. Mrs. Phillips, a 75-year-old widow, died with a butcher knife in her heart in her Glendale home. July 9, 1975. Mr. Faulder’s tenure of more than two decades on death row at the Texas and U.S. capital prison in Huntsville had prompted delegations of Canadians over the years to visit the Texas and U.S. capital to protest his incarceration. The protests claimed that, under international law, the Texas court system should have informed the government in Ottawa of Mr. Faulder’s arrest. The protesters also claimed that, the presence of Mrs. Phillips’ surviving relatives provided them an unfair advantage by enabling them to privately finance the investigation that led to the capture of her killer. Texas officials say they did not know Mr. Faulder, who was carrying a driver’s license from a U.S. state, was a Canadian.

Scene from a movie

The news of Mr. Faulder’s demise brought back memories of Mrs. Phillips and her late husband, Loyce. Mr. Haworth believes he, his young daughter, and a friend of his daughter were the last people to see Mrs. Phillips alive. He and his former Sandy Holliday, had known Mrs. Phillips and her late husband, Loyce, for years.

The morning after Mr. Haworth’s brief visit with Mrs. Phillips, her body was discovered. She had been bound, gagged, beaten and stabbed with a butcher knife that was still embedded deep in her chest. Her residence, on Mrs. Phillips, page 4

P

Virtual Church lets go with both barrels

ORMANDY PARK, Wash.—Ken Westby of the Association for Christian Development and his online- and telephone-based Sabbath fellowship group — the Virtual Church — let loose its version of the weekly Sabbath service Sept. 11.

This is the Virtual Church’s version of the “world-famous Ezekiel Airship,” based on the original description in the book of Ezekiel, is reprinted here with permission from the Tyder Morning Telegraph (tylerpaper.com) of Aug. 29, 2016. See also the photo on this page.

As an example, the Feast of Tabernacles site is sponsored by the Church of God Cincinnati, Lighthouse Source Ministries, the Church of God International and Common Ground Ministry Christians. These organizations assume the financial costs for conducting the Feast site, and donations are processed and receipted through a separate bank account reserved for CFN use that is managed by the Church of God Cincinnati.

However, there is no overriding corporate entity to which they all belong.

Churches and individuals are the source for speakers, organizers of activities, music, and our children’s programs: all the things needed to make for an enjoyable Feast of Tabernacles experience.

For 2016, the site immediately prior to the Feast a small team of coordinators meets weekly through teleconferences to do all the Fine-print planning.

The Virtual Church is now associated with the Church of God. It is no longer the independent group that it once was. They have changed their name to something more descriptive of their activities.

The first Feast of Tabernacles was in 2011 in San Destin, Fla., and CFN now uses the Emerald Coast Convention Center.

By Jacque Hillburn-Simmons

I t will soon be Feast of Tabernacles time, especially in East Texas, where dozens, maybe scores, of Feast sites will pop up for the festival on parts of nine days on the Gregorian calendar. In 2016 most sites will observe the Feast beginning Oct. 16 and continuing through Oct. 24.

Typically Feasts go out and around and see the sights near their site of choice, and a sight for sore eyes in East Texas hangs from the ceiling of a former train depot in the town of Pittsburg, 40 miles north of Big Sandy on Texas Highway 271.

The following article about the world-famous Ezekiel Airship, based on the original description in the book of Ezekiel, is reprinted here with permission from the Tyder Morning Telegraph (tylerpaper.com) of Aug. 29, 2016. See also the photo on this page.

Museum in East Texas location of replica of ‘Ezekiel Airship,’ which maybe flew before Wilbur and Orville Wright

It seems local lore, the ship’s inventor, a local Baptist minister, the Rev. Burrell Cannon, had a gift for engineering and he was forever tinkering with new gadgets to test his ideas. The Wright brothers built there a landing field, a start of a new industry that later became the American aviation industry. The Wright brothers flew in 1903.

The Pittsburg museum is now a site for the world-famous Ezekiel Airship, which might make a worthy Feast-time visit to the Pittsburg site, and donations are processed and receipted through a separate bank account reserved for CFN use that is managed by the Church of God Cincinnati.

By Dixon Cartwright

Bob Haworth

By Jim O’Brien

Ormandy Park, Wash.—Ken Westby of the Association for Christian Development and his online- and telephone-based Sabbath fellowship group known as the Virtual Church announced his new “double-bureled approach” to his Sabbath service, which is a practice he has been using for years.

Mr. Westby’s good friend Noel Rude of Scottsburg, Ore., has appeared with him lately during the weekly online broadcast to bring “to Scripture an additional level of revelation contained in its rich use of symbols, images, small details, remnants, poetry, symmetry, numbers” and more.

Both men said, Mr. Westby is “willing to challenge orthodoxies regardless of the cost, not just to be a rebel but to fight for the pure teaching of Torah, the apostles and Jesus.”

They listen in as they call in (916) 233-0562 at 11 a.m. Pacific time each Sabbath. Or visit godward.org.

See the listing of 228 Feast sites on page 20

The Journal is listing contact information, locations and dates of Feast of Tabernacles observances for 2016 in several countries. If you haven’t already, you’re invited to send information to THE JOURNAL at P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A., or info@thejournal.org. Or fax it toll-free at 1-888-488-6603.

Many observances this year will fall from Oct. 16 through Oct. 24. The Feast is 17 full days, counting the last day, but falls on different Gregorian days on the Gregorian calendar.

See page 20 of this issue for the fifth 2016 listing.

Roderick Meredith names a probable LCG presiding-evangelist successor

One of the founders of Common Faith Network talks about that ministry

A replica of Ezekiel’s flying machine might make a worthy Feast-time visit

Daniel Botha sees problems with our understanding of prophecy

Common Faith Network wants everybody to work together

The writer, with his wife, Donna, is a founder of Common Faith Net- work that is the hub of the Church of God Cincinnati and Church of God Lexington.

By Jim O’Brien

By Dixon Cartwright

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By Jim O’Brien
I

for the Exodus and destruction of Jubilees. Research, looking for historical refer-
tional key historical data will be found.

A man as “reverend” because the cation. Whoever proofread my article of these (psych evaluation).

half of what is needed for the foremost tion for “proportional resentencing” the purpose of expressing my grati-

Castro Valley, Calif. 94546, phone

tions when that happens. All funds must

permanently confiscated and I’m es-

never be sent to me in prison. All is

However, only the year 1497 B.C. will satisfy all of the other historical records. Counting forwards from the Exodus.

I Kings 6:1. In the 480th year after the Exodus they started Solom-

of their care and faith and donated both

HWA). But we are still breaking the

Rev. breaks the Second

I was delighted to see that people in

I agree. I read that of THE JOURNAL

I received a comment later from a

I would also point out that, if the

So “Avoid all forms of sin” should be the most accurate rending. And,

Keep up with news of the Churches of

have passed: 49 cycles completed

I would like to clarify. In the last issue of THE JOURNAL that I would like to clarify.

I thought I would try to explain my understanding of the difference be-

The Old is based on laws, rituals and the like, something like: Do and

So I am moving ahead here in faith

So “Avoid all forms of sin” should be the most accurate rending. And,

TheJournal

THE JOURNAL

I am 76. Looking back, I now be-

in the last issue of THE JOURNAL, and wanted to make a clarifi-

card of thanks

I wholeheartedly wish to thank all of the

I have permission to publish an

article [A Prisoner Needs Your Help]

mates in California Prison Tells His Story,” in both issue no. 183, dated April 30, 2016 and who acted upon their

care and faith and donated both from their heart and pocketbook to help this fellow Christian in my sit-

could be freed from 33 years of illegal imprisonment.

Please let this humble piece serve the purpose of expressing my grati-

to any-

the Exodus occurred in a year in which the Nisan sun was in Aries (Josephus’ Antiquities 3:10:5). Only the years 1480, 1483, 1490 and 1493 B.C. have any possibility of having the Nisan sun be in Aries and thereby can be an alternative year for the Exodus.

At this point we have reached only

Temple stood 410 years.

1 Kings 7:1. Solomon built his own house for 13 years.

The Temple was built for the first time at the hands of Neb-

Buzaradan [captain of the guard], that day was the ninth of Av, and it was the day following Shabbat [a Sun-

day] … (“The Talmud, The Second

Edition”)

The 9th of Ab cannot be on a Sun-

day in the other years around 587 B.C.

The year 587 B.C. is within the 60th Jubilee from creation (51 + 17).

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Abraham L. Lazon

Sotheby, Cali-

Nailing down the Exodus

Regarding the letter by Don Ed-

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and wanted to make a clarifi-

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I thought I would try to explain my
There are problems with old prophecy beliefs

The writer, born in South Africa in 1943, was a pastor in the Worldwide Church of God for many years. Mr. Botha graduated from the Bricket Woods College of Ambassador College in 1967. He lives with his wife, Helen, in a suburb of Dallas.

By Daniel Botha

DR. FRANCISCO "Frisco" Recio, from many years I viewed Russia as part of the biblical "Gog, of the land of Magog" (Ezek. 38:2).

I had learned from the late Herbert W. Armstrong, arguably the greatest preacher on prophecy in the 20th century. He wrote in the July 1956 issue of The Plain Truth:

"I have conclusively proved, as all students of prophecy know, that 'Gog' in the land of 'Magog' is Russia. "Meshech" and 'Tubal', identified in Genesis 10 as the sons of Japheth, are the yellow races. Ethiopia and Libya (or Pharaoh) are descended from Ham.

"The Bible map will show the descendants of Japheth migrated north and northeast, like the territories occupied today by Russia, and the oriental races."

"Believability problems"

The above is what I believed for many years. There are serious problems in that belief. Let me explain.

If we believe the Bible record we have to accept that all people on earth descended from Noah and his family, the "eight souls", who were saved through water (the Flood) (1 Peter 3:20).

"Three racial groups exist on earth: Semitic or Semitic, Hamitic and Hemitic. Each came after the three sons of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth."

"How did God bring the three races, which all originally came from Mother Eve, "the mother of all living" (Gen. 3:20), through the Flood?"

If Noah and his wife were of the same race, their three sons would have been the same. The three races could have come through the Flood only through the three daughters-in-law.

"That is why God allowed eight people to survive, four from Shem, four from Japheth."

"Is your church boring?"

Servant leadership was measured by the Executive Servant Leadership Energy Index created by Dr. Leroy Reed. The scale has five dimensions that mean you can find servant leadership, which includes moral integrity, egalitarianism, interpersonal support, spiritual vitality and church attendance.

"Church attitudes, or church climate, are measured by the Church Attitude Inventory (CAI) created by Dr. James Baxter.

See CONGREGATIONAL, page 22.

Come ye, My people, out of the Republican Party

The writer and his wife, Nancy, live in Big Sandy and attend the Church of God International. Write Mr. Whitel at whitel5hts@yahoo.com.

By Wes White

"Come ye, My people, out of the Republican Party."

How does our journey prepare us?

Mr. Edwards, 60, has worked as a computer programmer and analyst, publisher of Servants' News and director of Port Austin Bible College. He and his wife, MaryAnn, graduated from Ambassador College in 1978 and married in 1983.

They have four adult sons, three daughters-in-law and five grandchildren. Mr. Edwards has never founded a church but publishes many books at cbtm.info.

By Norman Edwards

A few families

The New Testament features Pharisees, Sadducees, priests, Levites, scribes, lawyers, Zealots, Herodians, Helleniasts, disciples of John the Baptist, disciples of Christ, the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Acts 6:9), preoccupationists Christians (Galatians 2:12; Colossians 4:11; Titus 1:10), Christians who primarily follow

See ONE CHURCH, page 12.

Come ye, My people, out of the Republican Party

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See ONE CHURCH, page 12.
Mrs. Phillips hardly opened the back door and was very nervous

Continued from page 1

North Main Street in Gladewater, had been ransacked and burglarized. Mr. Haworth’s last visit with Mrs. Phillips could have been a scene from a movie. Her 5-year-old daughter, Holly, and Amy Dickerson, 5-year-old daughter of Dick and Karen Dickerson of Big Sandy, stopped up at the door. Phillips’ back door to hand her some produce from the Haworth’s garden.

“We always went to the back of the house,” Mr. Haworth told this writer. “We knocked, and she came to the door a little disheveled looking. She hardly opened the door, and she was very nervous. I thought she wasn’t feeling well. It was strange. We both had some suspicions.”

Looking back on that incident, Mr. Haworth believes the murderer and his female accomplice were present with Mrs. Phillips but concealed behind the barely opened door. Mr. Haworth thinks the elderly Gladewater resident said, “She was a wonderful lady, and her husband was a wonderful man. We knew the whole family.”

Although several Canadians figured prominently in protests of Mr. Faulder’s frequently rescinded execution, another group, the Canadian Justice Foundation of Calgary, Alta., wrote to Gladewater businessman Jack Phillips, son of the murder victim, to express a different view.

“Many Canadians believe that Faulder should be sentenced to death and are angered by Canadian politicians and soft-on-crime advocates who are trying to help Faulder escape punishment for his crime,” wrote foundation director Shawn Howard as quoted in The Gladewater Mirror of June 23, 1999. “Canadian citizenship is not a get-out-of-jail-free card.”

Mr. Haworth criticized his government for failing to extend sympathy to members of the Phillips family and said it had “shown contempt for them by trying to free Faulder.”

Continued from page 1

Train enthusiasts especially love the historical features of the old depot: the original ticket counter and telegraph equipment and scheduling memorabilia.

As luck would have it, a random phone call in 2002 seemed to set the wheels in motion for a sudden surge in the museum’s popularity.

Fate altered

The caller posed a fate-altering question: Was the museum interested in acquiring a replica of the old Ezekiel Airship for free?

It seems the local Optimist Club had used an old photo to create a reproduction craft a few years earlier to display in a nearby hot-link restaurant.

When the restaurant closed its doors the airship stayed put, gathering dust until it was offered to the museum.

Mr. Holcomb said there was zero hesitation in jumping on the offer and across the street, right into the museum. “We rolled it up the ramp and we had the top open. It was dank and doorless,” said Mr. Holcomb. “Just like that it was ours.”

Chipping donors

Donors chipped in to help build a special display area for the aircraft, and museum officials worked to round out the feature, adding a mannequin dressed in old-time attire.

The new display caused a stir among area aviation enthusiasts, but the legend of the Ezekiel Airship really took flight with the announcement of the Wright flight anniversary of the museum.

Alas, there were only a handful of witnesses and no official documentation of the flight, so in essence there’s no proof it actually happened.

Consequently, the Wright brothers took the prize for being the first. And, as luck would have it, Mr. Cannon’s beloved Ezekiel Airship and its original plans were accidentally destroyed sometime afterward.

Mr. Haworth would make other attempts to redo what was undone, but more than a century later his brilliance will largely be lost amidst the passage of time—except in Pittsburg.

Landing the big one

The town’s award-winning museum doesn’t have a shortage of visitors. It’s been, after all, housed in the town’s rescued railroad depot, which was previously a song and dance hall lovingly restored with community elbow grease and funding.

A few RPMs can make a world of difference in the success or failure of a flight. ‘I think they got it airborne and didn’t mean to.’

Kansas City star: Musical about Ezekiel’s airship comes to C.

Continued from page 1

But, ahead of the anticipated launch, something awful happened.

One Sunday morning, presumably just before the supposed flight, Mr. Faulder was murdered, and that’s what her son wrote to Gladewater businessman Jack Phillips, son of the murder victim, to express a different view.

The preceding article is updated from one that appeared in issue No. 29 of The Journal, dated June 30, 1999. See Mr. Haworth’s obituary on page 5 of this issue of The Journal.

Leaders go too boldly when preaching about Matthew 24:14

Continued from page 3

Seen around the world

Instead of printing all of Revela-

tion 11:3-13, I will mention a few items:

Verse 9 says “the peoples, tribes, tongues and nations” will see their
dead bodies.

Verse 10 says “those who dwell on

the earth” will rejoice over them.

Verse 12 says “their enemies

saw them.”

To every tongue

Instead of printing all of Revela-
tion 14:6-11, I will mention a few
items from verse 6.

Having the everlasting gospel.

Preaching to those who dwell on

the earth.

Preaching to every nation, tribe,
tongue, people and nation.

Actions speak louder than words

Someone could ask: Is there any
thing people can do to preach the
gospel?

Answer: Of course.

There is nothing wrong with peo-
ple supporting the nice service proj-
ects and the very good, benevo-

tent branches of the Church of

God. But the greater responsibility
comes with members of the Body of Christ

preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of

God—by their example.

Paul wrote to the saints in Philippi.

He shared things without complain-

ing and disputing that you may be

come blameless and harmless, chil-
dren of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse gen-
eration, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the

word of life, so that I may rejoice in the
day of Christ that I have not run

in vain or labored in vain” (Philip-
pians 2:14-16).

Consider what Peter wrote to the

wives (and the sure to apply it to the

behavior of the husbands as well):

“Wives, likewise, be submissive to

your own husbands, that even if

some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the con-

duct of their wives” (1 Peter 3:1).

Brethren hold to a common faith

Continued from page 1

ference Center in Fort Walton

Beach.

In 2015 about 985 people regis-
tered to attend the Feast with us.

There are five things CFN

attempts to do each year at the Feast:

Provide some doctrinal teach-
ing on our common faith in church

services.

Offer a mix of upbeat tradition-

al and contemporary music.

Provide an exceptional experi-

ence for children and young adults.

Organize our Feast using peo-

ple’s God-given gifts and talents.

Consider what Peter said about

having the right words (verse 15) and the rights (verse 16).

What a world if God were in your

hearts, and always be ready to
give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in
you, with meekness and fear; having a
good conscience, that when they

speak evil of you, they may reproach

the one who revile your good conduct in Christ may be

 ashamed.”
Connections: Member to Member

Issue No. 187
Published By THE JOURNAL: News of the Churches of God
Aug 31, 2016

Connections runs classifieds

Obituaries
Qian honored Bob’s family in the way they supported their children. One of his sons, Daniel Haworth Xue, and three of his four grandchildren, James, Matthew, and John, have been as badly misrepresented as the doctrine of Babylon. They are related to Bob in the direction of Griffin Funeral Home in West Monroe with Dr. Don Ward officiating. Interment was at Bourbon Cemetery in Bourbon, La., under the direction of Griffin Funeral Home. Irene was born in July 1942 and had her first child, Holly, in January 1970. They were also blessed with a baby boy, Brent, in February 1973. When Holly was illness, Bob worked for the Ambassador College Cultural Foundation, where he was in charge of public relations. Later in his life Bob worked as an art director. He enjoyed helping people select beautiful works for their homes and offices. Bob’s family moved to Florida in 1990. In the late 1990s Bob met Donny Xue while shopping in a grocery store. Donny is originally from China and was in Florida studying art dealer. He enjoyed helping people select beautiful works for their homes and offices. Donny flew to Orlando as soon as he heard that Bob was sick. Bob helped a lot of Bob’s friends and family members including Bridget Xue family. Donny and his family moved to Florida in 1990. In the late 1990s Bob met Donny Xue while shopping in a grocery store. Donny is originally from China and was in Florida studying art dealer. He enjoyed helping people select beautiful works for their homes and offices.

Obituaries
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Connections: Member to Member

Issue No. 187
Published By THE JOURNAL: News of the Churches of God
Aug 31, 2016

Connections runs classifieds

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Can We Be Worthy? Absolutely Yes!

August 21, 2016 • Kendall, New York • Happy Sabbath! • abibofgod.com

Our Peace We Give to You

Dear Brethren,

Today we are going to look at the question of can we be worthy. If so, worthy of what and how do we qualify to be worthy of it?

There are some today who look at any mention of being worthy as a detrimental concept to brethren who have a problem with low esteem. They believe that the subject should never be brought up for fear it may impact them in a way that they just give up trying. Is that biblical rational thinking? Why? Because we have many specific commands and lessons in Scripture which teach us differently.

We are to speak the full gospel of the good news of the Kingdom Of God and the Plan of Salvation to everyone in spite of circumstances. This timeline we have been called in during the Plan of Salvation, the building of the Family of God, is absolutely awesome as to our potential functions in it. Everyone called by the Father in this timeline is very special to Him and has His confidence that they/you/me are capable of filling the function in His household as an eternal helpmate to His Son.

On the other hand, there are some who preach that to be “worthy” one must belong to their organization and be obedient to their means and methods and dictates. Is that biblical rational thinking?

Absolutely not! That is the same type of thinking that Satan the devil most assuredly used on the angels he convinced to align with him rather than God.

I believe, after we look into this doctrine of the Father as it pertains to the members of the body of Christ, that we will all have a much clearer focus as to the part we personally play in any understanding of “being worthy” from the patterns established in the word of God. Those patterns of scriptures will teach us in depth not only understanding what the Greek words used for worthy and unworthy and their contexts they are used in. That way we can’t be misled by another’s definition of these words used out of context to promote either of the situations I mentioned above in opening, which in two words can be summed up as timidity and exclusivism. Neither is looked upon favorably by the Father or the Son.

Vine’s tells us the Greek word axios #514 is at the core of the Greek translation to English of “worthy” or “worthily.” It can be used as an adjective or as a verb axios #515 or as an adverb axios #516.


Under reward Vine’s states. “In Luke 23:31, axios; worthy, belittling, used in the plural, is rendered the due reward, literally, things worthy.”

Strong’s says of axios #514; “Probably from 71: deserving, comparable or suitable (as if drawing praise); due reward, meet, [un]worthy.”

We also find axios being used in forming the adverb anaxios #371 and as an adjective #370 which translates as “unworthily” and “unworthy.”

Anaxios #370 used as an adjective, “a, negative; n, euphonic, and axios; worthy is used in 1 Cor 6:2. In modern Greek it signifies incapable. Note: In Acts 13:46, “unworthy” represents

The word of God is a two-edged sword and it needs to be used and understood by a spiritually mature mind, not one diseased with dominion over things, not one so touchy-feely, mind-set of today’s psychological therapists who in reality are “de-nablers and apologists” of people who are too timid and too cowardly to face reality regardless of the excuse. If you have the privilege of God dwelling in you and are prone to these excuses, please shake them off.

It is a very unfortunate thing that there are some who use the concept of “worthy” to provoke brethren to look down their noses at others—just as it is unfortunate that some flee from its use because some may feel they are incapable of ever being worthy of anything. Neither of these actions or lines of thinking are acceptable when dealing with this very import teaching and understanding (application) of what Christ is instructing us, as His body, when it comes to what He (and thus our Father) declare is worthy and what is not.

I stress the point “what” and not “who.” It is my sincere belief that we, of ourselves, can’t be worthy of some very important parts of the plan of salvation such as the sacrifice of Christ. In this simple study, however, we will see how we can become “worthy” of some functions in the plan and how this is made possible. So if you are one who is of “low esteem” be encouraged for you have the hope which is in Christ to carry that which you can’t seemingly do on your own to fruition, because there is not one of us who can become worthy on our own efforts. But!!! We must all the same make a very sincere effort to do so individual-ly, and boldly, in fact. I think many will be surprised just how simple God has made the process, and, yes, it is a process available to every person called of the Father unto His Son.

We do not need any man or any organization of men to make it possible, for that is an impossibility. We must be awake and mature to this and not willing to remain babes in Christ when it comes to applying such doctrines in our walk with our Savior.

Continued on next page
Worthy?

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Hebrews 5 tells us, "babes" are not depicted as those of low esteem. Read verses 11-14. It is expected of us all to become of full age, mature, who have been gifted the holy spirit and the gifts of Christ individually to grow in favor, acceptance and knowledge and then to put it to use.

Do not let any man declare you unworthy for that is a judgment of condemnation that only God can give. He does not use unrighteous judgment in doing so as we will all see from His word. However, this does not relieve us from the requirement for judging in our lives and in our walk with Christ. In fact, we are commanded to do so.

Let’s look at two very simple applications of these words to show the wide reach that God uses them to in instruct us in “unworthy.”

1 Corinthians 6:2-3: “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy (#370 unfit) to judge the smallest matters?

Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more, things pertaining to this life.”

There is nothing hard to understand here, nothing controversial in its application. Paul is telling us that at a future time, we will judge the angels. Why? Because we are going to have our reward. If the Father expected us to meet a certain standard of behavior, then we can leave all the excuses at the door, knowing that God is instructing us in "unworthy." Unworthy is not a standard of self-evaluation. It is accomplished by God’s holy spirit working in us so that we are capable of judging in small matters as well as in big.

That basic strength comes in the form of His holy spirit working in us so we can leave all the excuses at the door, of which false humility is a leading candidate as well as deluded and deceptive teachings. Just think: the prince of the power of the air, the father of lies, does not want you to understand such things. Why? Because we are going to judge the beings of his kingdom, both of them: the world and the angels.

If we are called of God we are given an enhanced ability to function as God deems fit. Thus we can become worthy (or fit) to function as judges in this particular case we are addressing, and much more. It is a process, but, if we let low esteem, false humility, or timidity crimp the spirit of God working in us, then we are subject to falling from the favor and acceptance the Father has granted us.

Let’s apply this character trait prior to your calling to a purpose of God such as judging. Just think if you have been timid in mind what a tremendously valuable perspective you can bring to a judgment after your calling, after you have received the enhancing gift of God to your abilities and awareness. You are thus unique in such things. Remember we are to confound the mighty. Timid does not confound the mighty, does it? You will have a background of experiences which can be used to help millions of other human beings who are just like you were.

Now, let’s look at a very extreme use of the word.

Acts 13:46: “Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, It was nec-

is something we in the body are commanded to do so that the body can be edified and come to the fullness and the stature of Christ. However, there is to be no dominion or vanity in it.

So here in the two representative uses we have looked at of God using the word unworthy, we can see it has a common theme of use. The Author of creation uses it to instruct us that we can actually function in an unworthy manner in His eyes when it comes to things which are expected of us.

He has not set a bar so high that we can’t jump over it; He has promised you that. So why would anyone be discouraged to the point they declare themselves unworthy (or unfit) of something expected of us by our ever merciful and loving Creator?

When we are called of the Father and given His spirit we are empowered beyond what our past abilities were. When digesting teaching examples such as 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 there are some who say they do not want to judge another, for God tells me not to. What a delusional mind-set that is, for that scripture and context are not put it to use.

Luke 12:47-48: "And that servant who knew his masters will, and did not prepare himself or do according-

ly to his will (two scenarios, with one being bad enough), shall be beaten by many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few. (What credence can be given to a judge in a matter. Both are guilty but one will receive more punishment than another. Why? Because of the level or degree of knowledge in each case! What was the critical criterion being used as the basis for this particular judgment? Knowing the master’s will and preparing oneself. Please do not lose sight of this when it comes to being worthy.) For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to who much has been committed, of him they (the Father and the Son) will ask the more.”

(What a complement of growth from the Father and the Son. They actually have confidence the individual can do more.)

One final fact brethren, there is no misunderstanding what is said here. We have often stressed how our Cre- ator is “just” and not “fair.” As such, it is obvious from Scripture that we have things that are required of us. There will be no excuse for shirking these responsibilities. God will not dismiss such conduct even if we plead ignorance. Guilty is guilty.

But if the ignorance is genuine He will apply a greater degree of mercy in assigning a punishment or, in most cases better stated, correction. Now let’s continue this with an example of man’s application of it.

Luke 23:13-15: “Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, You have brought this man to me, as one who misleading the people. And indeed having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to Him; and indeed nothing worthy of death has been done by Him.” (Yet they murdered Him. No righteousness in this judgment of men. They even broke their own laws.)

This simple use of the word axios/worthy can be clearly understood in these simple terms of its usage. Let’s look at it being used in the same man ner and terms in regard to Paul.

Acts 23:29: “I found out that he was accused concerning questions of their law, but had nothing charged against him worthy (axios) of death or chains.”

Acts 25:11: “For if I am an offender, or have committed anything worthy of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can driv- er me to them. I appeal to Caesar.”

Verse 25: “But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and that he himself had appealed to Augustus, I decided to send him.”

Unfortunately the apostle religious leaders have convinced many that judging people equates to condemning people.

Unworthy and the advertising section of the THE JOURNAL
Worthy?

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Verse 28:5: “And when they had gone aside, they talked among them- selves, saying, this man is doing noth- ing worthy of death or chains.”

Now, in a much broader sense as to all in creation.

Romans 3:22: “Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

What things?

Verse 29:31: “Being filled with all righteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malicious- ness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful.”

Just think, these 22 very specific actions of men are worthy of death according to God. He has declared a sentence of condemnation for their unrepentant actions. Please notice the broad spectrum they encompass. Even to the point that, if we give our approval of such behavior, to do so we become worthy of death!

The fuzzy-feely types will be screaming at the top of their lungs at me that I am reading this all wrong, and that I am not fair, not godly, not Christian to say and present such things when discussing being worthy in God’s eyes. The simple fact here is these are God’s words and insightful wisdom towards us.

Remember, guilty is guilty. How- ever, the application of the punishment is up to God. We need to be able to judge for ourselves and rely on anoth- er to tell us otherwise. We need to free from the many unmentioned activities if there is an unrepentant attitude to- wards them.

Revelation 16:6: “For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink, for they are worthy of death!”

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

VERSE 3:19: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be real- ous and repent.”

All of this should be simple for us to comprehend. In addressing this exam- ple of unworthy I am not pointing the finger at anyone. The manner and con- texts in which God uses the words translated as “unworthy” and “worthy” with the root axios are to be taken very seriously by each and every one of us.

There is a right way to be walking in the way of God through Christ, and an obvious wrong way. Unfortunately many today abuse this instruction to justify watered-down behavior or use it to elevate themselves beyond others. Both are very, very wrong and can result in many being sick, naked, hun- ery, thirsty, estranged, wounded, or- phaned, imprisoned and dead. These are brethren who were called of the Father unto His Son, Jesus the Christ.

Now let’s get the full measure of the meaning of axios/worthy from God as He teaches us the incredible and mer- ciful applications of it to our being in Christ. We will drink the wine of many scriptures and varying contexts, but as you will see it all boils down to the same underlying premise which is

We can be taking the Passover in an unworthy state, whether done in ignorance or not.

Verse 29:32: “For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink, for they are worthy of death!”

It is based upon what we do and don’t do. We have seen that through the scriptures we have read today. It is a steadfast pattern throughout the scrip- tures which we have all read over and over. Now let’s tie this simple and clear to the selection of the bride of Christ.

The context of Matthew chapter 22 is not something that can be disputed by a rational mind, with or without the spirit of God. We know it as a history of chronological events in the select- ing of the bride over the span of two covenants, and those who were used to facilitate it happening. It focuses on who is worthy and who is not in no uncertain terms.

Matthew 22:8: “Then he said to his servants, the wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not wor- thy.” This context is wrapped up in verse 14 with “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Not a very flattering thing for those who were invited. What criteria did they use to determine his worthiness?

Verse 5: “For he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.” Clearly it was predicated on what he did. The pattern continues.

Luke 10:7 (in regard to the 70 being sent out): “And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house.” (What were the tasks they were given to perform?)

Luke 15:19 (which is the context of the lost son): “And I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”

Verse 21: “And the son said to him, father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight that I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

Once again the idea of worthy is predicated and based upon ones actions which we were told here were sinful. Once again very important! Re- member the 22 activities and behav- iors we read earlier from Romans the first chapter? They all deserved death by God’s standards, but if we were to evaluate them by man’s justice system they would not have been. Some would not even qualify to be judged by the judicial system of man for they are accepted norms.

Now a myriad of applications.

John 1:27: “It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal straps I am not worthy to lo- ose.” We can read the same under- standing in Acts 13:25.

1 Timothy 5:18: “For the scripture says, you shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain, and, the laborer is worthy of his wages.”

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
**Worthy?**

**CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

1 Timothy 6:1: "Let as many servants as are under yoke count their masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and doctrine may not be blasphemed."

Hebrews 11:38: "Of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, dens and caves of the earth."

Revelation 3:5: "I know your works, your love and faith and service and patience, and that your last works are more excellent than the first." Verses 9 and 10:

Verse 9: "And they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

Verse 12: "saying with a loud voice: worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Now to solidify our base of understanding and use by God of the term worthy, let’s look at it when it is used as a verb (αξίοο). Please take in the entire context we are about to read in 2 Thessalonians 1. It is very instructive in many ways.

Verses 1-12: "Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church (called out) of the Lord which is in Thessalonica: Grace (favor and acceptance) to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting because your faith grows exceedingly (How do they know that? By witnessing their works!) and the love (outgoing concern) of every one of you all abounds towards each other (seen in their works or outward expression of it towards one another), so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches (others who are called) of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure (why is that so special? Because when confronted by persecutions and tribulations, many would have and fallen away, taken the opposite direction that the Thessalonians chose. It is at those times of endurance that our faith and patience are forged and tempered in the furnace. It is also at those times that the love of many waxes cold), which is manifest (or very plain to see) evidence of the righteous judgment of God (which they were clearly being observed as so doing in their decisions and behaviors), that you may be counted worthy (#2601 καταξοο from #2606 and #851; to deem entirely deserving-accounted worthy) of the Kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with affliction those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting (complete) destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints to be admired among all those who believe (and not only the many who believed, all the calling of the many among you was believed. Therefore we pray always for you that our God would count you worthy"

**Revelation 4:**

Verse 4: "Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice: "You are worthy to open the scroll and its seals." Verses 5-6: "And I saw another strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice: "Your will they exist and were created." Verses 11-12: "He [the Lord] to receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." Verses 13-14: "We give glory, giving honor and power to Him," and verse 14: "Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Now to solidify our base of understanding and use by God of the term worthy, let’s look at it when it is used as a verb (αξίοο). Please take in the entire context we are about to read in 2 Thessalonians 1. It is very instructive in many ways.

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**Revelation 5:**

Verse 4: "Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice: "You are worthy to open the scroll and its seals." Verses 5-6: "And I saw another strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice: "Your will they exist and were created." Verses 11-12: "He [the Lord] to receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." Verses 13-14: "We give glory, giving honor and power to Him," and verse 14: "Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Now to solidify our base of understanding and use by God of the term worthy, let’s look at it when it is used as a verb (αξίοο). Please take in the entire context we are about to read in 2 Thessalonians 1. It is very instructive in many ways.

Verses 1-12: "Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church (called out) of the Lord which is in Thessalonica: Grace (favor and acceptance) to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting because your faith grows exceedingly (How do they know that? By witnessing their works!) and the love (outgoing concern) of every one of you all abounds towards each other (seen in their works or outward expression of it towards one another), so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches (others who are called) of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure (why is that so special? Because when confronted by persecutions and tribulations, many would have and fallen away, taken the opposite direction that the Thessalonians chose. It is at those times of endurance that our faith and patience are forged and tempered in the furnace. It is also at those times that the love of many waxes cold), which is manifest (or very plain to see) evidence of the righteous judgment of God (which they were clearly being observed as so doing in their decisions and behaviors), that you may be counted worthy (#2601 καταξοο from #2606 and #851; to deem entirely deserving-accounted worthy) of the Kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with affliction those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting (complete) destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints to be admired among all those who believe (and not only the many who believed, all the calling of the many among you was believed. Therefore we pray always for you that our God would count you worthy"

**Revelation 6:**

Verse 11: "Therefore we pray always for you that your love and faith and service and patience, and that your last works are more excellent than the first."

Verse 12: "saying with a loud voice: worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!

Now to solidify our base of understanding and use by God of the term worthy, let’s look at it when it is used as a verb (αξίοο). Please take in the entire context we are about to read in 2 Thessalonians 1. It is very instructive in many ways.

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**Revelation 7:**

Verse 9: "And they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

Verse 12: "saying with a loud voice: worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Why?

There is a free gift of God, but it will not be given freely to everyone. We have our part to play in becoming worthy of the gift of salvation. To think differently is to be deceived.

Matthew 19:16-17: “Now behold, one came and said to Him, good teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life? So He said to him, why do you call Me good? no one is good but one, God (all glory given to the Father by Christ for He was human at the time He said this). But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (which is the expression of the love of God).

Brethren, please do not allow anyone to steal your crown. The simplicity of the plan is found throughout the Scriptures in the patterns left for us to follow and build upon in our lives. When we are called by the Father unto His Son we are given the ability to understand them in their simplicity. To one not having the spirit of God they are folly and childish. Yes, we have works to do on our behalf in our lives. When we are suffering, we need to get back up and continue. Suffering is not the end. It is indicative of the judgments we hold true to, and the commitment we have made to our Father and our Husband Jesus. We need to do our part in this limited physical existence. Need further proof of this?

Colossians 1:9-14: “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Why?): that you may have a walk worthy (#516 axioo the adverb of #514) of the Lord, fully pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all spiritual understanding (Why?), that we may grow up in all things (man or demon), for all patience and longsuffering with joy, giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness (deceits of Satan) and translated (or simply put: the expression of the love of God). The Father has qualified us to use the gift of God and men, especially during times of duress. It is at those times that we are most vulnerable to failure. They are often surrounded by the fiery darts of Satan and his minions and our own lusts and deceit. If we stumble, we need to get back up and catch our balance and get oriented along the path again. We need to show strength and Brother that we are trusting Them and no others. We know we willingly turn our back on that calling and become an enemy of Christ and God the Father. Personally I do not believe many will choose that way, as we have often stated in past studies. We must all grow and work hard in our own growth so we can assist others from actually falling away, just as a loving, dedicated mom would do.

When looking into the doctrine of being worthy, we have a lot of examples in Scripture which stress what is required of us; we have just touched upon them here. We are to use the gift of the spirit to assist us in growing in the grace (favor and acceptance) and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Simply put, that means the gifts and the ability to use them to develop a character which is pleasing to God. That growth, in favor and acceptance and knowledge, is manifested or evidenced in our righteous acts and judgments in life, every one of them from the simple to the complex. At this time the Son is looking to choose a virtuous helpmate for eternity from among those called by the Father. To be accounted worthy of that function is a very special privilege in the Plan of Redemption. It is not an easy process, as Scriptures instruct us. But it is not impossible either as they clearly instruct us as well. There is one suffering with Christ, and that is inclusive of His body as well. If we manage to be consistent in our efforts, that will get Christ’s attention, and He will assist us further in working and growing in His favor and understanding.

So, yes, we can be accounted worthy, brethren. Do not let a de-nabber or apostolic convince you otherwise. What a wonderful and awesome Creator we have guiding and loving us. Our peace we give to you.

—Brian and Linda Convery

AhlhofGod.com

This page is part of CONNECTIONS: MEMBER TO MEMBER, the advertising section of The Journal
One Church of God group wanted to buy a piece of property in Petra

Continued from page 3

towered certain leaders (1 Corinthians 1:12-13) and seven churches in Asia Minor, all with different strengths, weaknesses and conditional rewards (Revelation 2-3).

Indeed, some groups look through these seven churches to find the best one and proclaim their church organization to be that group.

Will all the people in these groups be in the first resurrection? Probably not. But are some people from each of these groups likely to be? Probably so.

Where does our Church of God experience fit in? Has there been one right church group throughout our lifetime?

Does our place in the first resurrection depend upon being in that right group? Or does God work with a diversity of people in different ways throughout the Bible and up to this minute?

We do not have to guess! There is a chapter in the Bible that tells us. Let us read it and apply it to our Church of God journey.

My former vision

Before studying this chapter, this writer would like to divulge what he used to believe.

I thought I was a member of the one true church, which was going to preach the gospel to the world and then the end would come.

I had been convinced that the church leadership would invite its members to go to a “place of safety” or “place of final training.” Members who had faith in “God’s government” would leave, but those lacking faith or who were simply “tare among the wheat” would remain behind.

Shortly after our exit to this place—probably in Petra, Jordan—the final three and one-half years of great tribulation would begin.

Cataclysmic wars, famines, disease and pestilence would sweep the globe, killing off a large percentage of it. During all of this time, the church would be miraculously preserved in a Feast of Tabernacles-like atmosphere.

As the armies of the north gathered together for the Battle of Armageddon, Christ would descend from the heavens, and all believers in graves would rise in the air to meet Him, followed by those of us on the ground in our place of safety.

I sort of envisioned that Christ might shake our church leader’s hand and acknowledge everyone’s job well done.

Whether a “wedding supper” would fit in right now or some other time, I was never sure. But certainly we, the church leaders, will have similar teachings. Some are put forth as the truth, some as lies.

Whether each church is mostly good or mostly bad, some will be chosen and others will be left behind.

The reward is certainly the first resurrection. It starts by explaining how the Old Testament prophesies of God’s kingdom.

The writer would like to divulge what he used to believe.

One group tried to buy a piece of real estate in Petra for the occasion. Another told its recalcitrant members they might not get the phone call to flee the tribulation if they do not come to services regularly.

How does this idea fit with the dozens of larger Church of God organizations and hundreds of smaller ones today? Will members of only one right church organization get to go to the place of safety? Or will participation in the first resurrection?

Are multiple church organizations heading for a place of safety and the first resurrection? Will they continue their disputes over doctrine and leadership there?

Will Christ’s first job be to resolve church politics and doctrinal disputes before He can set up His Kingdom? No. The Scriptures indicate that Christ hand-picks His team without regard to organizational lines. The rewards to the seven churches of Revelation 2-3 are not to the whole congregation but to “him who overcomes.”

Whether each church is mostly good or mostly bad, some will be chosen from each.

The elect are to be “gathered from the four winds” at Christ’s return (Matthew 24:31). People will be working together (not in a separate place) and “one will be taken and the other left” (Matthew 24:38-42; also Isaiah 11:12; 56:8). Numerous scriptures tell us we do not know when Christ will return.

What we need to know

Hebrews 11 explains who will reign with Christ and why. It is useful for understanding what God expects of us. It starts by explaining how the Old Testament elders received their “good report.” The reward is certainly the first resurrection.

For WHERE DOES, page 18

The House of God

Our churches are an open door to those who seek God and fellowship with like-minded folks. God’s only identifying mark on His people is the Sabbath for a reason. So the world will know who they are.

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DANIEL 2:34, that a ROCK will strike the FEET OF A REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE in the latter days and usher in GOD’S KINGDOM ON EARTH

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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).

The Dark Side of This Evil World

“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who DECEIVES THE WHOLE WORLD; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” —Revelation 12:9

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

Time is Fleeing—Though we have read the above Scripture and heard it in sermons, but in view of this very serious time in which we now live, there is a much greater need than ever to really grasp what it is saying, for all of God’s people will be affected very soon by Satan and his demons, either directly, or indirectly, as never before! (cf. Ephesians 6:12-13; Revelation 12:9-13).

The Study by History—Studying history in view of the Holy Bible reveals how Satan the devil has been at work from the beginning to destroy mankind and God’s purpose for them. Satan does his work in many ways while using yielded human instruments to accomplish his ongoing goal without their even realizing it; and it continues today.

The Apostle Paul wrote—... The prince (Satan the devil) of the POWER of the air who NOW WORKS in the SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE ...” (Ephesians 2:2).

Powerful Broadcasting—Similar to the many radio stations and television channels broadcasting, Satan also BROADCASTS from his many radio stations and television channels and continues in the highest levels of government (Ephesians 6:12).

History Repeats Itself—To enable one to grasp how the Devil works through human instruments to achieve his deadly objectives can be understood by taking a look into WHEN the assassination of President John Kennedy, November 22, 1963, and comparing it with the present.

A Quote from the Hidden Life of the Kennedy—”[President] Kennedy went against the best interests of the elite on several occasions by attempting to go against the CIA, the Federal Reserve, the military-industrial complex, and big oil companies. Indeed, Kennedy took bold steps towards limiting the powers of organizations that act in total secrecy and who give absolutely no accounts of their actions to the public. He went against the shadow government which works in the dark, and soon after, he was assassinated in broad daylight. Fifty years later, the official theory is that a lone gunman killed Kennedy. Is that plausible? ...” End of Quotes

Satan’s Power of Darkness—When considering these few quotes (one may read its entirety in my Blessed Comments—www.cog-ff.com), one should be able to see not only does Satan the devil work in the political arena, but his overall purpose is to bring the leadership in all areas together with mankind into the darkness of his satanic forces of evil—the occult. And he continues to be very successful (cf. Colossians 1:13; Acts 26:18; Ephesians 2:2).

The Presidential Elections—Reviewing the WHEN of President Kennedy’s assassination should enable one to see a DEFINITE PARALLEL with the powers at work then, and ongoing today, in the presidential process with Donald Trump. To understand, consider the following quotes by Bill Bennett, Ph.D.—Secretary of Education under Ronald Reagan Cultural studies at the distinguished and renowned Heritage Foundation.

What I See Happening in a Trump Presidency, by Bill Bennett—”They will kill him before they let him be president. It could be a Republican or a Democrat that instigates the shutting up of Trump. Don’t be surprised if Trump has an accident. Some people are getting very nervous. Barack Obama, Valerie Jarrett, Eric Holder, Hillary Clinton and Jon Corzine, to name just a few. It’s about the unholy dynamics between big government, big business, and big media. They all benefit by the billions of dollars from this partnership, and it’s in all of their interests to protect one another. It’s one for all and all for one ....

But for once, the powerful socialist cabal and the corrupt croony capitalists are scared. The over-the-top reaction to Trump by politicians of both parties, the media, and the biggest corporations of America has been so swift and insanely angry that it suggests they are all threatened and frightened ....” End of Quotes

Serious Times—Look at this quote again and compare it with the “WHY” of the assassination of President Kennedy! Is there an obvious parallel? Scary times! Terrible things could begin taking place near the Fall Holy Days. Are you prepared and protected by God?

Mystery of the Ages—Study your Bible together with the last book Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: the unedited MYSTERY OF THE AGES, ISBN 0-9368-8773-6, and believe it. This could save your life from the worsening troublesome times before us. Remember—Mr. Armstrong was the man Jesus Christ used to teach all of us His truth (II Timothy 3:13-14).

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Links to websites maintained by the Church of God Faith Flock: http://www.cog-ff.com/links.html

P.O. Box 130 • Valley Springs, CA 95252 • (209) 772-0737
1947 was aided by the Muslim League that had
sion, and 20 million had to find new homes
it had to let India go, it took the area that became
(2012)
So the British knew how bad the Saudis were,

stated was the description of the great liberator of the
world, but actually ‘free’d it for British control.
As installing the Sand to start Saudi Arabia.
His cruel regime executed 400,000, and a

million people turned to revile their own, and
heads amputated, the severe punishment for
stealing. While the House of Sand claims to be
holy Muslims, women have been put to death
for the most minor of crimes.

Kuwait also accepted and held sterling, instead
suade it to want the British to protect it. And
key Syrian officials by proxy, but they could not
1950s, the CIA began funding them, too.

British had terrorists pose as from his political
gated his ouster and the CIA aided. But first the
in 2000 reported that CIA

THE JOURNAL

Plane Truth Part 23

The main US role in aiding Muslim jihads to

war crime.
he main US role in aiding Muslim jihads to

militants, and the US supplied arms to both sides, includ-
ing the old ones to the Contras. Argentina pro-
insurgency that became the biggest US scandal

The turning point was when a ski lift fell, hit by a US military jet

Leaders of the new regimes in Central America.

command of his study groups to visit some. He sought out

Thatcher government allowed US planes to use

bases can use many American ones).

bases operate 170 golf courses globally (home
even a dictator against his people’s wishes.

plane was shot down by a US fighter jet. While the US

bases and 3000 minor military facilities.

in 43 nations had 375 foreign major military

In 1961, 135,000 US troops were in

the transitional governments.

in 2000 reported that CIA

bases.

‘for future deployment. About 80% of US troops,

private contractors, housing things like drones,

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1982, it also trained Pol Pot’s geno-
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**CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

### Toxic environments

1. **Issue No. 187 (Aug. 31, 2016)**

...the Pentagon claims the government owes it $1.8 billion. Contractors profit from taxpayer funds, but pay relatively few US taxes, by legal or illegal means. Uncle Sam's payments to the Cayman Islands that exist on a computer screen have been counted, not taxes on sales and liability. One contractor representative, US Major Elliott, was asked: "What if we want to fire flak [missiles] and destroy NATO withdraw from Afghanistan?" He replied: "God forbid."

### Girls, women, and the military

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...the US military is the third sexiest in the world. At the Okinawa base, local women were... The US military is the third sexiest in the world. At the Okinawa base, local women were... The US military is the third sexiest in the world. At the Okinawa base, local women were... The US military is the third sexiest in the world. At the Okinawa base, local women were...

### War and the economy

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### Corruption

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Does Satan Lie?

First I promised I’d address the feedback I received from the article in issue 184 on lying. I received several responses not as many as I had hoped for, though. The most recent pointed out language in the commandment forbidding bearing false witness appears to refer to a legal proceeding, or a situation in which a person is being judged or could be judged. Perhaps in conversations where a person is judged by his neighbors.

Another commentator pointed out lies can be professed by omission as well as outright statements. His example pointed out a minister discussing tithing and the priesthood, reading from the Bible. The minister abruptly stopped, the very next verse, which this commentator saw as contradicting the point the minister presumably was attempting to make.

Another gentlemen, John, brings some intriguing verses to the fore on this subject. He goes to I Kings 13, Acts 5 and II Thessalonians 2 to point out the seriousness of lying and the consequences. Those verses, in my opinion, tend to lend credence to the side that says a liar is one who knows they are telling a falsehood.

The last verse John mentions is I John 2. The context I see from this chapter is the author was working to keep this flock on the straight and narrow. They were being challenged about what they had been taught previously. In verse 22 he tells them anyone who comes claiming Jesus was not the Christ is a liar. It can be seen from the context these previously. In verse 22 he tells them anyone who comes claiming Jesus was not the Christ is a liar. It can be seen from the context these comes claiming Jesus was not the Christ is a liar. It can be seen from the context these comes claiming Jesus was not the Christ.

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Sometimes he was telling the truth, but the times he was not. It was simply impossible to tell. And when confronted, he appeared to fully believe what he was saying. When I finally realized his pattern, I first thought I had been naive, but too many others were taken in the same way.

Back to Satan. He was originally Lucifer, the son of the morning stars. Without going through his history, it’s clearly obvious he is far and above any other being, created or born as a human, with the two exceptions of God the Father and Jesus the Christ. I’ll go out on a limb here and speculate. Would arguably the second most intellectually advanced being of all time be subject to making an illogical decision that would jeopardize his future for all eternity?

I don’t think so. There are people willing touffer for their religion now and die in the process of promoting it. There have been Christians who have done the same. People have died saving others from harm. What do all of these have in common? They have a rational base for their actions. Take the members of ISIS. We may think they have no logic in their actions, but we are horribly mistaken. They may not think as we do, but they are still rational. They have an ideology and/or reward they are willing to suffer and die for. It’s different from ours. But it nonetheless is still what they believe.

We have the same strength of values based on our ideals. Ours are an outgoing concern for others. We, too, believe in an ideology and reward that we believe.

Could Lucifer then have been any different? Did he know his rebellion was an impossible task to accomplish? I say no, he fully expected to be victorious over God. Now, we know he was not, and we know he is now twisted to the point he appears to be irretrievably lost to his false ideals.

Where does this lead? To my conclusion that Satan believes the falsehoods he spouts. Think about it for a moment. If Lucifer thought he could fly up and over the angels and conquer their Creator, who had 2/3 of the angels with Him, then we know Lucifer/Satan was no longer thinking clearly. His thought process was so warped he believed he was more powerful than God.

As such, he no longer can be trusted to differentiate between true and false. (Not that we should ever trust anything he tells.) However, the dictionary definition of a lie as a statement by a being who knows they are putting forth an untruth does not fit with the term God describes Satan by.

God calls Satan a liar, plain and simple. I believe I have shown Satan cannot be relied on to think rationally. It’s also reasonable to believe he cannot tell what truth is anymore. As such, it is highly likely he actually believes the untruths he tells.

For instance, in the garden, when he told Eve she and Adam would not die from eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God calls Satan a liar, plain and simple. I believe I have shown Satan cannot be relied on to think rationally. It’s also reasonable to believe he cannot tell what truth is anymore. As such, it is highly likely he actually believes the untruths he tells.

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Three Tithes Are Wrong

To the remaining portion of the 144,000 firstfruits of Rev. 14:1:

In this article, the Bible will prove that under the New Covenant three tithes are not required. I’ll prove this by refuting a little booklet called What You Should Know about Tithing, published by the W.C.G., copyright 1959, 1984, 1989. This tithing booklet provided the foundation tithing belief of many C.O.G. groups. In this booklet, on the first page, it states: “And he (Abraham) gave him (Melchizedek) tithes (plural) of all,” Genesis 14:20. The only version of the Bible that I own that has Abraham giving tithes (plural) is the King James Authorized Version.

If we realize the Hebrew language has two very similar words for “tithe” (Strong’s Maaser or Maasah) and then another similar word for “tithes” (Maasrahs), then only one word number (Strong’s 4643) for all three words, then we can better understand why the translators made this mistake.

All other versions have Abraham giving a tithe (a tenth) to Melchizedek. Even the New King James Version has corrected that mistake. This tithing booklet of the W.C.G. conveniently forgot to tell you that Jacob (Israel) said: “All that you (God) give me I will surely give a tenth to you,” Genesis 28:22. Even the Authorized Version has Jacob (Israel) giving a tenth in this verse.

This W.C.G. tithing booklet goes on to say in the fifth paragraph: “So tithes were being received even in Abraham’s day, centuries before the Levites were made priests.” That statement is misleading. If we paid a tithe every month out of our paychecks, then tithes (plural) would be the correct word in describing our tithing. But it would still be a tithe (one tenth) and not tithes.

To prove my point: In paragraph seven this tithing booklet goes on to state: “What Paul is pointing out is that Abraham didn’t demand three tithes then you are partly and indi-

rectly paying a fourth tithe through paying taxes. Most countries support their poor and that would include the church poor. The U.S. government does.

Should we pay a tithe before or after taxes, and what is an increase? Under the Levitical Priesthood there was no taxation by the government. You might say your tithing was your taxation, except one would be to God and the other to the gov-

ernment. With this view in mind, just what is tithing on an increase? Just what is an increase? Is it a profit?

The tithing system under the Levitical Priesthood was a system based on farming and herding. That system was simple com-
pared to our economic system of today. Since there was no taxation under the Levitical Priesthood, an increase of today would be what we tithe on after taxes.

It’s fairly certain the first-century Church of God, under the apostles, was not demanding a tithe. They were oper-
ating the church on freewill offerings and working with their hands. Acts 4:32-37 describes how the church members, who had land, sold it, and laid the proceeds at the apostles’ feet. Notice Acts 2:45: “Now after many years, I (Paul) came to bring alms and offering to my nation (the church at Jerusalem)” (emphasis added throughout).

Romans 15:22-28 describes how the Gentiles made a contribution, and Paul was to deliver it to the church in Jeru-
salem. The apostle Paul worked with his hands and taught the church that they should also work with their hands.

1 Thess. 4:11 and 1 Cor. 4:12 describe how the church was to work with their hands, and that included the ministry. Why can’t the ministers work with their hands 40 hours a week? They could then pay a tithe and not be a burden to the church. Paul worked with his hands and was not a bur-
den to the church, 2 Cor. 12:13.

This is not an attack against keeping God’s Holy Days. The Holy Days picture God’s salvation plan and should be kept. They were kept by the first-century Church of God. The firstfruits should pay their own expenses in keeping the Holy Days. If someone is too poor to keep the Holy Days, then the church should pay their expenses out of the tithe (the one tithe).

How did we go so wrong? Is this why we have no real miracles in God’s church of today?
Historically the churches of God have taught adultery was justification for divorce. Yet Christ diminished the Law of Moses that allowed divorce for adultery.

Moses used and translated ‘un-cleanness’ (Deut 24:1) as justification for divorce. It is also used throughout Leviticus 18 and translated ‘nakedness.’ Leviticus 18 shows this word to be a euphemism for sexual relations (Lev 18:15, 20:21, 24:18). Moses then allowed divorce if a wife does not maintain her sexual fidelity. Did Christ underscore that instruction only to again allow divorce for any sexual infidelity? (Matt 5:32)  

Christ allowed divorce for porneia. If porneia = sexual immorality, Christ understood porneia for all divorce for the same reason. This makes no sense.

Greek English lexicons disagree somewhat as to the primary meaning of porneia. Most notable among lexicons is the exhaustive Liddell & Scott Lexicon that claims ‘prostitution’ is the primary meaning of porneia. The highly respected Arndt & Gingrich lexicon indicates the same. Strong’s indicates ‘prostitution’.

Church researchers seem to have ignored this. Some have relied heavily on commentaries, which by their nature are a reflection of the typically Protestant theology of the commentator.

Why would prostitution be the primary meaning of porneia? Consider that in Classical/Koine Greek, porneaus means ‘to prostitute.’ A porne is a prostitute. A porneus is a male prostitute. A porneus is a house of prostitution, or brothel. Pornidion brothel keepers means to go a-whoring or prostitute yourself. Kalaptheros means to make a prostitute. Pornokopeo is a whoremonger.

Can a prostitute be what she is, a prostitute-house be what it is, a prostitute to mean any sexual misconduct that is misunderstood about the marriage ceremonies, jobs and courts. This writer and other older brethren insist conscientious-objector status to avoid suffering at the hands of corruption.

Many of our readers have fought for their religious beliefs in schools, governments, jobs and courts. This winter and other older brethren contested conscientious-objector status to avoid suffering at the hands of corruption. Many of our readers have fought for their religious beliefs in schools, governments, jobs and courts. This writer and other older brethren contested conscientious-objector status to avoid suffering at the hands of corruption.

Don’t assume this is the only thing that is misunderstood about the marriage ceremonies, jobs and courts. This writer and other older brethren contested conscientious-objector status to avoid suffering at the hands of corruption. Many of our readers have fought for their religious beliefs in schools, governments, jobs and courts. This writer and other older brethren contested conscientious-objector status to avoid suffering at the hands of corruption.

Did Christ think adultery justified divorce?

God did not divorce Israel until her unfaithfulness. God did not divorce Israel until her hard-heartedness. God did not divorce Israel until her worship of foreign gods.

Knowing the stories of people chosen to reign with Christ helps us prepare to reign as well. Hebrews 11 makes no case for clerical uniformity or organization membership.

This is good news for the Church of God groups. God is not bringing church organizations into His Kingdom, but individuals. You can be there, no matter what kind of organizational troubles you have endured and, yes, maybe even because you have endured them. The Hebrews 11 club

Hebrews 10:24-27 emphasizes the need to assemble with other believers, so there is a valid reason to attend or start congregations, even when many fail. Have you worked hard to come out of the world and work to see much of the plan of God fulfilled in your lifetime? Do you realize you may not see many of God’s promises fulfilled in this life? You will enter the Hebrews 11 club (verses 13-16, 30-23). If we have prayed for families, friends and ministries, we do not have to despair about God’s answer. Some of the patriarchs waited hundreds or thousands of years for their answers. We can wait and be content too. We are just in school now. The real thing, eternal life, is yet to come.

We gave up a lot. For what?

Some of us gave up a lot to remain true to our beliefs. We were alienated from family and friends who thought that Sabbaths, feast days, clean foods, three times, the one true church and end-time prophecy were weird religions. We could have gone to a better college, found better employment, gotten involved in public service—if we’d had a normal religion. In hindsight we see that some of our convictions were biblical and some were not.

Even so, whatever is not from faith is sin (Romans 14:23). God expects us to act on what we truly believe until we know better.

Has God made our journey too tough? Think about Noah and his family (verse 7). They had to endure 120 years of building an ark in a sinful society that ostracized them.

Note of this has escaped the leaders, can we think nothing else has escaped them? If this has escaped the leaders, can we think nothing else has escaped them?

Don’t assume this is the only thing that is misunderstood about the marriage ceremonies, jobs and courts. This writer and other older brethren contested conscientious-objector status to avoid suffering at the hands of corruption.

Did Christ think adultery justified divorce?

God told Abraham, a prosperous man, to leave the wealthy culture where he grew up. He left his family, except for Lot, and then had a dispute with Lot. Moses was a son of Pharaoh, but gave up all that power to follow God. He learned to keep the Passover rather than the popular Egyptian days. This is good news for the Church of God groups. God is not bringing church organizations into His Kingdom, but individuals. You can be there, no matter what kind of organizational troubles you have endured and, yes, maybe even because you have endured them.
Response to Binitarian/Trinitarian Mystical View of the Nature of God

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

By Ken Westby

A lengthy article railing against the doctrine of One God appeared in The Journal a while back. It began by calling it “a perverted and different gospel about Christ!”

I found the overlong arguments confusing or weak, wanting of basic scholarship, and their assertions simply add up to an uncritical acceptance of Protestant/Catholic Trinitarian orthodoxy—with a Binitarian twist of HWA theology.

Some in the Churches of God are apparently on a witch-hunt to rid the church of heresy and heretics, hence their enthusiastic name-calling. An example is the following assertions:

- “The one-god doctrine is a filthy rag of unrighteousness . . .”
- “We who stand for biblical monotheism are called ‘deluded teachers’ enticing people to take that ‘forbidden fruit.’
- “The concept that ‘God is One’ is a fake doctrine of men inspired by the twisted and demented prince of the power of the air.”

And so on.

Let me state for the record that I do not believe Binarians and Trinitarians 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 Old Testament there are about 10,000 singular pronouns used of God. This host of evidence can’t be dismissed by quirky 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 and 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 libel 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
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This page is part of Connections: Member to Member, the advertising section of The Journal
A crossroads: It is either continuing to do the same thing that brought us to this point in the first place and continue to have the same results, or we must make a change to stop and think about our methods. I don't feel that we can do both. It seems clear to me that we must choose one way or the other. If we are to continue to do the same thing, we must then be content to have the same results. If we are to change, we must be willing to risk something.

Major shift

This purpose of the article is to suggest that the Churches of God consid- er a major shift in methodology. It is obvious that our methods are not growing our congregations into the next generation. If we continue business as usual, we will not see any improvement in our membership numbers. In order to have any significant growth, we must be willing to change some of our methods.

We are in an era where people are looking for guidance and direction. We must be able to provide this guidance and direction. We must be able to offer people a new way of life. We must be able to offer people a new way of thinking.

We must be willing to change and be willing to take risks. If we are not willing to change, we will continue to have the same results. If we are willing to change, we will see improvement in our membership numbers.

To be successful in this endeavor, we must have a clear vision of where we want to go. We must have a clear understanding of what we are doing. We must have a clear understanding of why we are doing it.

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Church of God Christians owe a huge debt to other Christians.

Continued from page 18

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Samson sinned with women so much he lost his power and went blind.

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In the telling of the story of Samson, the author emphasizes the importance of faith. When Samson faced temptation, he chose to follow his desires rather than his faith. This led to his downfall, as he lost his strength and was eventually taken captive. The story serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of giving in to temptation and the importance of maintaining one's faith in difficult situations.

The story of Samson also highlights the idea of divine intervention. As Samson lay bound in Gaza, the Angel of the Lord appeared and strengthened him. This is a reminder that even in our weakest moments, God can provide strength and guidance.

In the story of Samson, the value of faith is illustrated through the contrast between his strength and weakness. Through his battle with Delilah, Samson learns the importance of faith and repentance. The story of Samson is a testament to the power of faith and the importance of remaining steadfast in one's beliefs, even in the face of adversity.
How could Russia’s leader claim his people were Europeans?

Continued from page 3

Under Soviet rule, the Russians had long been the main ethnic group in the country. They now feared that constricting the Russian Orthodox Church would allow other denominations to flourish, which they saw as a threat to their cultural and religious identity. The church’s influence was significant, and the leader’s move to restrict it was seen as a way to maintain control over the people.

From the Berlin Wall in West Germany...

...to the U.S.S.R. in 1945, the Soviet Union was a major force in world affairs. It was a superpower, and its influence was felt far beyond its borders. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 marked the end of the Cold War, and the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991 was a major event in world history. The new Europe was born, and the world was changed forever.

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Who was the nice doctor who helped Jody?

By Bob Schenfield

CLEVELAND, Ohio—It was Tuesday evening Aug. 9, 2016, when my wife, Jody Schenfield, started to experience pain in her abdomen. Throughout the night the pain escalated and her abdomen had become distended. She was nauseated and vomiting. On Wednesday she was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic via the emergency room.

Both an ultrasound and CAT scan had revealed a severe blockage in her colon at the site of near-inconspicuous from a previous resection surgery. The colon had closed up, creating a life-threatening blockage.

The doctors said surgery would be the only way to clear the blockage. The colon would have to be cut and reconnected.

Avoiding surgery?

At Jody’s and my insistence the doctors agreed to attempt a dilation of the blocked area to see if surgery could be avoided.

A dilation is accomplished via a nasogastric tube that allows the doctors to examine it. But there was an area to examine. It was the fifth day.

Pain medication and a nasogastric drainage tube were in place to perform the dilation but they did not do the dilation because they could not find anything wrong. Everything was perfectly normal.

The part of the colon that was “brittle,” closed up and totally blocked, was now moist, pliable, fully open and functioning with no sign of the blockage.

Jody’s attending surgeon said, “Jody, you look amazing, and I can’t explain what happened. It was never seen that before.”

He had no idea why her abdomen had closed up. It was a mystery to him. But not to us. By His stripes we are healed. Jody had requested anything and all prayers.

Calm young man

Before the doctors went to perform the dilation, some interesting occurred. A young man in a doctor’s coat came into Jody’s room, a light-skinned, green-eyed man with what looked to me like Jewish features. There was nothing unusual about him due to a calmness he seemed to have.

I asked him for his business card. And the doctors at Cleveland Clinic have one. He said he didn’t have one because he was international. I asked what country he was from and he said Israel.

He asked if he could touch Jody’s abdomen as to examine it. He smiled patiently and said he would not be needing that nasogastric tube much longer.

He said goodbye and left. He had said few words, but he had something about him that caused us to listen.

After he left I realized that we were thinking the same thing. Could it have been...?