News of the Churches of God

20 years since conference helped launch The Journal

By Dixon Cartwright

B RAGG, New Orleans—It’s been 20 years. Where has the time gone?

A triety calendar can help you de-
termine where time has gone and help you keep track of it.

Twenty years ago, in 1997, calen-
dar conferences were in the air in the Churches of God. Two church mem-
bers, Lawrence Maayth and Michael Turner, who at the time worked at the
 SVM, set out to settle the dust in the air about the calendar as part of their
their Scattered Brethren ministry.

They presented their conference in a

dallas hotel Jan 3-5, 1997.

It was their observation that the
date and other ministries wend-
ing their way out of the old World-
wide Church of God in the ’90s were
itting on the calendar story, perhaps
because they had trouble explaining to the brethren why they should ob-
serve the nabulous intention of
postponements.

Postponements are regulations built
into the Jewish calendar that can delay for up to two days the beginning of the
festival year. Postponements aren’t
in the Bible, so why should we be con-
cerned with them?

The answer was usually they were
strong’s claims about Mr. Arm-
strong would sometimes
say God is one in that He is one fam-
ily. But that one family, he went on to
cally, consists of two beings: the Father
and Son. Trinitarians, likewise, at least
many of them, say God is one, but one
God in three persons or hypostases.

The Churches of God with origins
in Mr. Armstrong reject God as three
in that they do not think of the Holy
Spirit as a separate person or entity.
Rather, most of them say that the Holy
Power is the power of God, not a sepa-
rate consciousness.

Complicated matter

Complicating matters in the Church
of God movement, Ken Westby and Anthony Buzzard, among others, ar-
gued since the 1980s that God is one:

They do accept Jesus as the Son of
God and Savior and Messiah, but to
them Jesus is not God.

The Journal, over the years, has
told about how the Calendar-conference
has grown intensely over the years.

The UCG makes available study
materials about the nature of Jesus
A member of the famous (in church
circles) Grabbe family remembers
The United Church of God names a
new member of its council of elders
Can you believe Don Billingsley’s
ministry has 17 websites?

The Journal invites readers
Feast things

CAMP VINE IN EAST TEXAS— About 30 campers from age 11 through 23
temporarily resided on Camp Baptist Camp & Conference Center near
Little, Texas. Camp Vine, sponsored for three years now by the Church of God Big
Sandy, organized the three-day event June 26-30, 2017. Counselors provided
workshops to help guide campers through Bible studies and discussions to delve
deep into the concepts of justice, mercy and humility. See the article about the
camp on page 16 of this issue of The Journal. (Photo by Karina Moody)

UCG releases study nature of Jesus, rejects Trinity, in favor of Unity

By Dixon Cartwright

The United Church of God (UCG) is an International Association (ICG),
based in Milford, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio, released several
documents in June 2017 that pertain to the church’s opinions and doctrines
about the nature of Jesus.

In the documents, the UCG comes
down solidly on the side of Binatar-
ians when it comes to understanding
what the church’s leaders believe the
Bible says about whether God is
one or two.

Most Churches of God derived from
the old Worldwide Church of God
founded by Herbert Armstrong
decided on as some sense two.

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The UCG makes available study
materials about the nature of Jesus
and Anthony Was-
or one-God controversy including Mr.
Westby’s and Sir Anthony’s one-God
conferences, which ran during Mr.
Westby’s lifetime for 13 annual gath-
erings from 2002 through 2013.

It is not widely known that more
than one UCG elder who was in
agreement with Mr. Westby about the
nature of Jesus lodged leaders of the

UCG to consider changing its doctrine
about the nature of Jesus.

For the UCG, this is not the first time
UCG elders could be thought of as of a
close agreement as some sense two.

Neubauer is dead—

My early life in the old
RCG and WCG was stressful

My early life in the old
RCG and WCG was stressful

By Crockett Grabbe

USTIN, Texas—Sometime
in 1981, then moving down to
astronomy department, headed by Pro-
Rainer Salomon, Miro Seigle, Rex
Sexton, Don Ward (council chairman)
od Anthony Was-

The Journal asked a longtime el-
der, who first served with the Radar
Worldwide Church of God and later
as a founding member of the UCG in
1965, what were the significant
events of this year’s conference.

Dr. Grabbe (pronounced graybee) re-

He has a personal and in the
UCG official a few years ago stated
were the election of Mr. Dowd and re-
I was a young man in high school and she
was really an attractive young woman.

Crockett Grabbe grew up in the Texas
panhandle and received his Ph.D. in
applied physics from CalTech in 1978.
He is an experienced scientist who
does research and consulting in applied
physics, as well as writing and speaking
on science and technology, including
issues of the World Trade Center collapse
and 9/11. This is in spite of adversity
issues of the World Trade Center collaps-
on science and technology, including
issues of the World Trade Center collaps-
\n
He was a research scientist at the Uni-
versity of Texas at Austin for 30 years,
going there to work in the physics and
atmospheric department, headed by Pro-
essor James van Allen (of radiation-belt
Sams) in 1981, then moving down to
Austin, Texas, after retiring.

The Journal presents Dr. Grabbe’s re-
membrances here as part of its contin-
ing series on the history of the modern
day Churches of God.

When my mother still did not move I
more forcibly tried to
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Pentiction soon to turn 50

In 2017, Pentiction will mark the 50th year Penticon, B.C., has hosted the Feast of Tabernacles. It all began December 1968 with Herbert W. Armstrong speaking in a Penticon church and asking for financial support and approval, and the rest has been history in the Penticon region. Contact the Penticon office and search for “Pentiction” for a PDF of From The Good News featuring Penticon. You will enjoy.

Churches of God including the WCC, LCIG, CBIG, CEG and CGI celebrate the 50th year of Penticon’s existence and growth in Penticon. Dr. Meredith’s passing

We are sorry to announce the passing of Mr. Daris McNeely, Norbert Link and many others. From the “world’s largest tent” holding thousands to several COIQs in the same year, Almighty God’s name has excitedly been praised and glorified.

Keep up with news of the Churches of God and your friends in all the groups by referring to the current issue of Reformation Audio Recordings.

Letters from our readers

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The apostle John seems to have loved puzzles.

By Reginald Killingsley

IG SANDY, Texas—In his Gospel, John wrote about 153 verses. He did not hand deliver his gospel but brought it before Jesus by some scribes and Pharisees to trap Him.

They quoted part of the law of Moses that stated such women were to be hunted and asked Him what He thought. At that point Jesus bent down and started to write with His finger on the ground. The text doesn’t tell us what He wrote.

We’re not sure

So what did He write?

The short answer is we just don’t know. The longer answer: That doesn’t stop us from speculating.

One possibility is that in the law, both Leviticus 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22 refer to an adulteress—and an adulterer. Perhaps all in one, if the woman was indeed “caught in the act” as the scripture puts it. Later verses (John 8:4), where was her partner in sin?

Could Jesus have been writing out these Old Testament verses as possible indicators to them that He knew it was not a sin, but a question or a setup?

Another possibility: Jesus may have been backing back to Jeremiah 13:10: “Lo! all who reject you will be put to shame; those who for- sake you will be inscribed in the dust, for they have rejected the source of living water, the Lord.”

Last prior to the incident under dis- cussion, Jesus had gone up to Jeru- salem to attend the Feast of Taberna- cles (John 7:10).

“On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and said: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as scripture says, ‘Streams of living water shall flow from within him.’ ” He was speaking of the Spirit, which believers in him would later receive” (John 7:37-38).

Could it be that in the account in John 8 Jesus is referring to the fact that the scribes and Pharisees, in their con- vinving rejection of Him—clearly demon- stratred by their coming up with a test designed to trap Him—were in fact used to have their names inscribed in the dust? They were evidently not believers. They would not be receiving the Spirit.

Their blind spot

Names inscribed in the dust, unlike names inscribed in the Book of Life, disappear. Quickly. And permanently.

In any event, it doesn’t appear the woman’s accusers read what He wrote. Or, if they did, perhaps their hardened hearts blinded them to the meaning of the message Jesus may have been try- ing to communicate to them.

In fact, John writes that they started leaving, the eldest first, when they realized they were no longer able to read what He wrote.

They disappeared, just like names written in the dust.

So did Jesus indeed write the pas- sage that left them “thrown down” as the case may be but we cannot claim it is what He was after. He did say “I did not come to bring peace but a sword.”

The larger lesson, though, is be- yond dispute. We don’t have to puzzle over it. Scriptures. Streams of living water will flow from within us.

Appropriate time appointed

By Kathleen McCann

M ITLON KEYNES, En- gland—Most people who anticipate the return of Jesus Christ expect Him to return after about 6,000 years of human history, at the start of the seventh mil- lennium.

Even though it is virtually impossible to prove that Adam and Eve were created about 4,000 years be- fore Christ, this dating is gen- erally accepted in the Christian world whenever people think in these terms.

However, on this basis did the ancient Israelites have any aware- ness of time concluding and an end to human history? Did they make any connection between the Feast of Tabernacles and the “last” or “last” days? Is it only in recent years that we have made such a link?

To offer a possible answer to these questions, this essay makes a link between the Feast of Tabernacles, the “blessings” and the seventh mil- lennium, when Jesus Christ is ex- pected to return to the earth.

Context for holy days

The content for the holy days is found in Leviticus 23 and Deuter- onomy 16, where we see the word “feast” translated from Hebrew moed, which means “an appointed time.”

It can also mean an appointed place. In other words, Jehovah want- ed to meet with His congregation at an appointed time and place.

The word also means “season,” and hence there was something entirely seasonal about the holy days.

See DID ANCIENT ISRAEL, page 4

>*</p>
Continued from page 3

When we observe the Feast of Tabernacles today we observe a festivity that focuses on a certain season, but the precise dates move slightly backwards or forwards in chronologically. We also believe that it heralds the seventh millennium in the plan of God for the salvation of mankind. Did the Israelites before Jesus’ time have any concept of a “7,000-year plan” or of what would be an “end of time” in human civilization or history as they knew it?

Job understood

Job certainly knew about some end times. For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and when my skin is destroyed, then know I, that in my flesh I shall see God” (Job 19:25-26).

Just as Job realized that Jehovah was real and He would appear in the future to deliver His people, we as Christians should know that our God is real and He will come at a time of which we cannot know the exact date. I suggest that Job was anticipating what we know as the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Job knew through “the vision of God” (in my flesh) indicates the second resurrection. Did Job know about both a future and a second resurrection? May it be it was not important at that time to designate the exact time of the second resurrection.

Into the future

Before the Exoduses, when the Israelites were in Egypt, we have readings in Genesis 49:25-30 that show how the patriarchs in the days of Jacob knew about some end times. While most Israelites in earlier days and Jews in later times would simply see the Feast of Tabernacles as a time of appointment with Jehovah so they could look back on the Exodus from Egypt, it was the latter prophets who began to see a connection between the mo‘edim of the nation and the mo‘ed or appointed time in the future when Jehovah will return for His people. Of course, most of the Jews in Jesus’ time would not make this connection, or understand the meaning of the loss of kingdom and their longing to have it restored (Acts 1:6).

Therefore, in the Old Testament a verse that shows how the Son of God exhibits the trait of a true witness: Peter then, in Acts 2:17-21, clearly points to “the last days” as the time when Jesus would return to earth and there would be peace on earth between the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh. He was quoting from Psalms 2:8.

“Beloved, but do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8). Peter was reminding the disciples of Scripture’s promise that the Messiah would come a second time. This scripture is generally used to define the 7,000-year plan of God, with the last 1,000 years starting about 4,000 years before Christ. We are not discussing the end of the world. Peter’s words, “for the day of the Lord will come as a thief,” are fulfilled in the Passover lamb, but not as a world event when world events would come to a climax.

With Daniel there comes an understanding that “an appointed time” means the end of tabernacles of the Feast of Tabernacles every year, but additionally an appointment with God concerning that last annual harvest but not on a specific date, but the feast would be celebrated by the coming of the Messiah. Daniel 11:36-35. In the New Testament times Peter and John make it clear that there will be an “end time,” this world “is passing away” and “this Age” (1 Peter 1:5, 18, 20). The Second Coming of Jesus Christ will return. John 12:24: “Little children, it is the last hour, and he that will live through the Age cometh, and no man can receive this Age unto himself.”

Jesus’ words and the other passages concerning the future tell us that the Messiah, the Antichrist, and the false prophet are to be destroyed. Revelation 19:10-21: “And the king said unto his servants, ‘Seethe the heads of these men.’ And the heads of the four kings he put in jars and delivered them into the hand of his servants.”

This verse is the beginning of the end of the antichrist system of government. As Jesus said in Matthew 24:36:

Verse 37 says, “But £he heavens and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

Jesus is ascribing to His words and the Bible itself the same immortality that He attributes to Jehovah. John 17:2: “He is the one life, the immortal one, the invisible God.”

The context of Isaiah 49 tells us that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts” (Judges 13:7).

“Last” here means the uttermost, and “time” (chronos) describes extent or quantity of time. So there would be the Last Time, a longer period of time at the very end, after a certain counted number of years.

The context is that in the last hour, and as you have heard that [the] Son of Man will come in His Father’s name with power and great glory, and all the angels of heaven would come, by which we ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:5).

Peter, in 2 Peter 3:8, reminded the disciples that the Messiah would come a second time. This verse defines the 7,000-year plan of God, with the history of mankind starting about 4,000 years B.C. (continues on page 4)
The accuracy of their “dating instruments” as (They want long periods for it to try to prove
work. All natural forces are opposite. All natural laws
ural creatures be brought into existence (as was

It GRAPHICALLY depicts the prophecy of

THE ITALIAN BOOT PROVES THE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE

DANIEL 2:34, that a ROCK will strike

GOD’S KINGDOM ON EARTH

in the latter days and usher in

It Should Be Called ‘Evilution’

Evolution is an idea from the warped mind of Charles Darwin (but started by the man we call “Adam” as he claimed he came out of the sea—Dagon).

Darwin did not want to have a supreme being over him who could bring him into judgment.

The accuracy of their “dating instruments” as for carbon 14 is inaccurate beyond measure. The material selected is varied from area to area and is subject to many conditions.

(They want long periods for it to try to prove their theory and disprove the accuracy of the Bible.)

There are no natural forces to make evolution work. All natural forces are opposite. All natural laws are contrary to it. (This preposterous idea.) These laws do not permit the union of such creatures. Only by technology and human ingenuity force can unnatural creatures be brought into existence (as was done by Adam, which is called Genesis 6:4. “Giants” is a mistranslation).

Many scientists hate God and will do anything to promote that indifference toward Him.
More on Rossou's book

T ip companies gouge people the costs of their drugs. Each new drug must be tested in countries around the world, because the food is grown in these countries around the world, but the human guinea pigs get paid little for taking risks. Corporate doctors use these "breast implants" to get favorable laws, as not liable for bad effects of vaccines. And bad effects of vaccines are just a few of the serious effects, even if their patients die from them. The public has fought back against all of this. Generic companies have caused the price of vaccines to go up, because of the shocked increase in sales. Even withdrawal of the pill caused many heart attacks, and some cancers. The pill caused many heart attacks, and some cancers. Proscutors attacked drug firm salespeople for kickbacks and other perks as vacation trips or

FDA used to be good, but . . .

...and even radioactive radon were banned. The class action suit, so Monsanto was to pay $600 chemical spills and PCB pollution in Anniston, damages of Agent Orange in Vietnam for class ration of the entire food chain GM crops though by random wind.

Doing God's work. The world will think we're processed food has GM ingredients (2005).

If a car is hit, the insurance companies will pay for the damage and could do what they wanted. Over 100,000 die each year from drug reactions, 4th, 5th to 6th of the world.) More than twice as much is spent on medical care in the US than in any other country. At the FDA start, it kept those peddling advertising and prevent health risks noted in the novel The Jungle about meat-packing horrors. It did lead to the passage of laws, medicine boxes and meat production. But many numbers were even higher, since the manufacturer Merck suppressed the facts.

But the numbers were even higher, since the manufacturer Merck suppressed the facts. The FDA did find that thalidomide used for preg- nancy, causing birth defects. The Merck Company had given out a million free samples to doctors to test on deformed babies. Rumfard, buck when he was head of Scare in 1977, saw he could profit much from the artificial sweetener aspartame. But the FDA did receive 10,000 complaints of adverse effects and demanded it be rejected. Yet new FDA commissioner Arthur Bayer allowed it, and later on it was found to be deadly.

The FDA allows irradiation of food to kill bac- teria. And is not labeled as such in a processed edible food. Drug firms donate old drugs to disaster relief. Some are sold for use when very third may be usable. Worse, in Bosnia a $34 million incinerator had to be bought to get rid of the penicillin.

Monsanto was forced to withdraw its Vioxx off the market. Why would it want to stop its cash cow of Celebrex, a similar drug. So even though it had lost a lawsuit, it continued selling it without advertising.

Monsanto that brought us Agent Orange and PCBs is fiddling with GM food and helped get law so it does not have to be labeled as such. [Consumers can vote with their dollars, just organic food.] About 70% of US such. [Consumers can vote with their dollars, just organic food.

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**US Suicide**

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

all right by the US to kill civilians around the world and use drones on their own. The US military is one of the most militarized in the world and has been engaged in conflicts around the globe. As a result, US military personnel are killed or injured in combat every day. It is estimated that over 5,000 US military personnel have died in combat since the beginning of the war in Iraq in 2003.

**Issue No. 196 (June 30, 2017)**

While 3 officers took turns beating him, a ser- geant barked out orders to do so. King was called a thug. The taxis were forced to pull up, so that he endorsed this kind of behavior and the outcome was violence.

King was hospitalized for many broken bones and injured kidneys and multiple surgeries were performed. On January 25, 2009, he heard officers bragging and joking about some of his injuries, among others. He attributed the action taken against the officers who beat him, to the fact that the court case was in mostly a white area. "LA was in flames," he stated. He called this kind of police brutality in the past. These groups find that the only way for them to get any jus- tice is to oppose the authority in charge which has overstamped its assigned duties.

Police are armed with the military to have the force to over power. A black cop in Miami noticed that white officers would over react and thus be the feared and restricted Blacks, both free even though white protestors may be treated cruelly. As tree-suckers in California trying to protect big trees, they were directly shot with less pepper by sheriff by spy. Other cops went out of control-

Police only rarely report on excess violence in their ranks. Investigation into this is usually covered up. Even from people like B. King by the police will backfire, reporting the abuse to the FCC, police will use their power to disqualify the police only if the evidence is substantial. Most importantly it is used to prevent the year of false arrest. If nothing will be done anyway, or they won’t believe the Bureau. The police brutality is subject to audit by 1st hand accounts of a cop who felt abused by the police reported it. This police does not report, but the black police tend to discourage filing complaints.

And police cameras tend not to be revealed. The video footage from a man who said he was a magazine ran the article "Blacks in this country are more vulnerable members, they made their lives worse. A black grandmother was dragged naked into a hallway by a cop who thought she was a threat. A 9 month pregnant woman was gobbled for a choker on the side. A woman of 30 was thrown to the ground and a Taser was abused children. A black woman 5-10 years old was not liked by the police. She was abused by the police. Regretfully she used great power want. "Those in power do not enforce it) and so can dish out the punishment. After the disaster following hurricane Ka- 

**Police and Power in America by Kristian Williams**

The Preface (written 35 years in the rest of the book) is about how becomes society.

In Colorado the late 1980s, it was the 1999 Seattle demonstrations against the Free Trade Area of the America protest- ers who felt abused by the police reported it. After the 1929 stock market crash, 300 were charged, 130 were indicted and 12 were convicted.

It was predictable since the court case was in mostly a white area. "LA was in flames," he stated. He called this kind of police brutality in the past. These groups find that the only way for them to get any jus- tice is to oppose the authority in charge which has overstamped its assigned duties.

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And police cameras tend not to be revealed. The video footage from a man who said he was a

**History of US policing**

In many areas policing was done by the whole community, each was to maintain order. In the past, preachers were given duties through enforced law or criminal. And many were corrupt, taking bribes. Where there were more slaves than Whites, the Whites could have done what they pleased.

slave. Slave patrolsIntimidated Blacks, even taking away books and paper. Patrols were more slaves than Whites, the Whites could have done what they pleased.

And many were corrupt, taking bribes. Where there were more slaves than Whites, the Whites could have done what they pleased.

**Police in Ferguson**

In 2009 a cop shot black Oscar Grant in the back while he was lying down on handcuffs. Many of the black cops were not talked to by police. They were later found not guilty by a grand jury. So 170 cities broke out in riots. Ferguson, Missouri, 2014 when Michael Brown was killed though unarmed and did not resist arrest. Ferguson police used tear gas, fatigues and body armor, carrying assault rifles. 170 cases were blocked off with armored cars, snipers were waiting.

Riots continued off and on for months. And reignited when officer Wilson was cleared of guilt by a grand jury. So 170 cases were blocked off with armored cars, snipers were waiting.

A black grandmother was dragged naked into a hallway by a cop who thought she was a threat. A 9 month pregnant woman was gobbled for a choker on the side. A woman of 30 was thrown to the ground and a Taser was used. Velika Young was thrown to the ground and a Taser was used on her stomach.

Another cop named D-price fatigues and body armor, carrying assault rifles. 170 cases were blocked off with armored cars, snipers were waiting.

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We invite you to join us in 2017 at a Feast site sponsored by the Church of God Big Sandy

Each of the four is a small, friendly Feast of Tabernacles observance with inspiring messages and excellent fellowship.

**Big Sandy**
- For the 23rd consecutive year
- Church services and activities at our church building.
- The building is on Highway 80, a half mile west of town (1106 West Broadway)
- Refreshments
- Senior citizens’ luncheon
- Coordinators are Ron and Linda Avey, (903) 636-4238

**Destin**
- For the 20th consecutive year
- Pelican Beach Resort
- Make reservations through the Church of God Big Sandy by calling David Havir III at (903) 714-3007. By booking through the church there is no sales tax.
- Main Pelican building on beach: 1 bedroom, $110.25 per night; 2 bedrooms, $132
- Terrace building, 50 yards from beach: 2 bedrooms, $103.50; 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, $136.50; 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, $175.95
- Coordinators are Neil and Martha McIver, (903) 714-8800

**Myrtle Beach**
- For the 15th consecutive year
- Avista Resort
- Make reservations by calling 1-877-238-4487. Mention group code 2088171
- Rooms are subject to tax and resort fee
- 1 bedroom, 1 bath, $80–$93; 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, $121–$122; 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, $146–$150
- Coordinators are Lyle and Kathy Kerby, (304) 354-7147.

**Prescott Valley**
- For the first year (last year we met in nearby Prescott, Ariz.)
- Because of the good relationship that some Sabbath-keeping friends in the area have with their regular hall, we have the opportunity to have our church service at the Faith United Community Church (1061 N. Old Chisholm Trail, Dewey, Ariz.), which will be excellent for potluck opportunities and fellowship.
- For assistance in housing, please contact the Feast coordinators.
- Coordinators are Dennis and Karen Benson, (928) 899-1337

**Your Choice of Four Sites!**

Church of God Big Sandy
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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 Coming Judgment of God!!!”

T

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley
be Judgment Seat of God—The Apostle Paul wrote of the coming time of judgment for everyone: “For we must all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in his body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad, knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men . . .” (II Corinthians 5:10-11; cf. Hebrews 10:27).

No Fear of God—There are many who have no real fear of this coming Judgment and their individual part in it, whether it be life or death (Revelation 20:11-15). Tragically, these Scriptures seem to have no meaning of where they might be in the hereafter. What the Apostle Peter wrote should make them seriously think about themselves:

“The Unjust Reserved for Judgment—The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the House of God. Perhaps the shortcomings of these great men chosen by God can best be illustrated by what Scripture reveals about Elijah:

“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for 3 years and 6 months. And he prayed again (3 years and 6 months later—still in God’s loving care and use of him), and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit” (James 5:17-18).

God’s Purpose for Mr. Armstrong—I, should be realized by believers of the Holy Bible that some man had to come to fulfill the prophecies of the end-time Elijah (Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:10-11)! If one did, what would he restore that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong did not restore?

Destroy the Man—Satan the devil well knows that if the credibility of a chosen man by God can be destroyed so will what he was used by God to teach His people. And this was accomplished by the Tkach Administration, which began destroying the credibility of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong shortly after his death in 1986. This was done little by little over an eight-year period of time.

Innuendos and Dishonesty—These were used in deceptive speech and writings against Mr. Armstrong to accomplish their objective! As the result all of the true teachings, including the Ten Commandments of God, fell to the ground (Isaiah 59:14-15; Amos 7:10). The masses walked away following the Pied Piper all of us the fullness of His true teachings are believed and taught by His Church are only mentioned by believers of the Holy Bible together with this last unedited book Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, ISBN 0-396-08773-6, and please wake up! This could save your life from these worsening troublesome times before us. Remember—Mr. Armstrong was the man Jesus Christ used to teach the house of Israel” (Ezekiel 3:11).

God’s True Church—For those who know and believe the teachings of God’s Holy Bible, Scripture reveals God has only ONE CHURCH (Matthew 16:18)!! And in His Church are only those whom God has selectively called and added to it (John 6:44; Ephesians 4:1-16); a little, little, Church (Luke 12:32; Matthew 7:14). And in God’s true Church the fullness of His true teachings are believed and taught by His true and faithful ministers (Revelation 3:7-13).

MYSTERY OF THE AGES—Study your Bible together with this last unedited book Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, ISBN 0-396-08773-6, and please wake up! This could save your life from these worsening troublesome times before us. Remember—Mr. Armstrong was the man Jesus Christ used to teach all of us the fullness of His true teachings (II Timothy 3:13-14).

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This page is part of CONNECTIONS: MEMBER TO MEMBER, the advertising section of The Journal
In the Bible we have overwhelming scriptural evidence that Jesus Christ, at least during His ministry, was a God Being. But yet some are still teaching against all scriptural evidence that Christ was not a God. I don’t know if the ones teaching this doctrine realize it or not, but they are in effect teaching that a God being didn’t die for our eternal life. (Emphasis mine throughout.)

Jesus Christ was not the most High God, nor was Melchizedek. In Old Testament times Melchizedek was the priest of the most High God as explained in Genesis 14:18-20. But notice this: Melchizedek “was without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually” (Hebrews 7:3).

From this plain description we can know this Melchizedek, this priest of the most High God was also God. The writer of Hebrews, perhaps the apostle Paul, is telling us that Christ in Abraham’s time was called Melchizedek.

Previously Abraham had met Melchizedek after the defeat of Chedorlaomer (Genesis 14:17-20). Notice in these verses the term God Most High is used three times. In Hebrews 7:1 the term God Most High is used to differentiate the rank between Melchizedek and the Most High God who is now God the Father.

In Hebrews 7:4, most translations render Melchizedek as a man. The Interlinear Bible of Hebrews, Greek, English states: “Now behold how great this one was.” That rendering is much more plausible because no man could be without genealogy. This Melchizedek had to be a God because angels are created beings. This Melchizedek was even made like the Son of God and Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Melchizedek was to be priest continually and now Jesus Christ is our High Priest and lives continually.

In Matthew 12:8 Jesus Christ Himself said: “For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” The number one meaning of Lord in Strong’s dictionary (2962) is “supreme in authority,” and can also mean God. Elsewhere the Jews and the disciples are constantly addressing Christ as Lord and He does not correct them. In His ministry Jesus Christ was also the Son of Man, but He was also the Lord just as He said. When you really think about it, this is a very revealing statement made by Christ.

Colossians 1:15-18: “He is the image of the invisible God. For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

Let’s stop and dwell and think deeply on the phrase “through and for Him.” Evidently all things were created through Him and of course by Him. This means that Jesus Christ had previously lived and created all things, directed by the Most High God. Let’s continue: “And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

It’s not revealed in the Bible when Jesus became Christ, a God. But the more I study and research the subject, the more I’m convinced it was when He was baptized. Notice that immediately after being baptized Jesus was tempted by Satan.

Matthew 4:6 quotes Satan as saying, “If you are the Son of God throw yourself down.” Verse 7 quotes Jesus as saying: “Jesus said to him, ‘It is written again, you shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”

In this verse Jesus is claiming to be Satan’s Lord and God. Remember, now, it’s Jesus being tempted by Satan and not God the Father. In verse 10 Jesus shows His superiority to Satan by saying, “Away with you, Satan, for it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.” Verse 11: “Then the devil left Him obeyed Him) and behold angels came and ministered to Him.”

In 2 Corinthians 4:4 the apostle Paul described Satan as the god, or is it God, of this world? If Satan can be a god or a God, surely Jesus Christ could be a God. When Paul wrote this in Greek, we don’t know if he capitalized god, God or not. Strong’s dictionary uses a small g but I doubt if they really know. I believe Strong’s is just trying to minimize Satan’s role and power. In Strong’s, God or God has the same number, 3160, and both have the same meaning.

Jesus Christ said in Matthew 28:33 “or do you not think that I cannot pray now to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?” Could a human being pray to the Father and be provided with more than twelve legions of angels? I don’t think so. Christ said He could.

Here comes the clincher. Only God is the Lawgiver. Isaiah 33:22: “For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King, He will save us.”

James 4:12: “There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?”

Under the Old Covenant the people were allowed to swear with an oath. But Christ said in Matthew 5:34: “But I say to you, do not swear at all.” In the New Covenant Jesus Christ is changing and giving the new law. Only God gives the law. Jesus Christ was God and giving the new law. It was Jesus Christ, in His ministry, and while He was on this earth, who changed and gave the law on how we keep the Passover. Jesus Christ also changed the way we keep the Sabbath. Previously, under the Old Covenant, the Israelites were not permitted to leave their place of residence on the Sabbath (Exodus 16:29). Jesus Christ changed that restriction by being the “Lord of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:28).

Remember, only God is our Lawgiver. We can now, under the New Covenant, leave our place of residence on the Sabbath day and even prepare a meal (Mark 2:23 and Luke 6:1).

In John 14:28 Christ said: “My Father is greater than I.” The disciples of Christ had seen the awesome miracles Jesus Christ was performing and were beginning to believe He was perhaps the Most High God, so Jesus Christ said, “My Father is greater than I,” indicating that He Himself was a lesser God than God the Father, who is the Most High God. Not once in the New Testament is anyone addressed as Lord (when capitalized), other than Jesus Christ or God the Father.

If Christ is not God, then why did the disciple Thomas say to Christ in John 20:28, “My Lord, and my God?” Verse 29: Jesus said to him: “Thom as because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
Many years after the events being described. Noel, when did God ever have to have the consent of any mere human being?

Second, the angel did inform Joseph of what God was going to do. So Joseph did have knowledge that God was to work.

Can you just imagine a human having to give his consent to God? What arrogance! Noel, it was not sex. This was a divine creative act of God.

When I first read your articles, the first thing I noticed was that you both avoided John's gospel, which proves that Jesus was more than a human being. I will list those scriptures later in this article.

It's my belief that God the Father, using the Holy Spirit, took the seed of Joseph, who was of the seed of King David, impregnated Mary and Jesus was born. Then, sometime during the life of Jesus the Godly person, called the Word by the apostle John in John 1:1-3, a high-cheked (in Hebrews) merged with the person Jesus and they became one.

In the Bible we are given examples of spiritual beings merging with human beings. This is the only explanation I know of that would satisfy all scriptural requirements. I will give us on the lineage of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Son of David and the Son of Joseph. The Bible does not use the terminology we use today of grandson, great-grandson, etc. Instead, the Bible uses the terminology of generations in describing lineage.

Several times in the gospels, Christ tells us that He came down from heaven, that He even had glory in heaven with His Father before the world was (John 17:5). We know that Jesus came from Galilee, the city of Nazareth, born of Mary, but here in his ministry Jesus Christ is telling us that He came down from heaven.

Again the question is: Just when did Jesus become Jesus Christ? This proves beyond question that Jesus Christ, at least during His ministry, was God. And surely, as a boy, Jesus was not called Jesus Christ. Just when in His life Jesus was called Jesus Christ is not revealed in the Bible. The name Christ means The Anointed One, The Deliverer of Israel, or the Messiah. It's hard to believe, as a boy, Jesus was called by the name of Christ.

Evidently the leader of the two gods, "the Word," agreed with His higher God to become man in 'Our' image. My conclusion is, yes, the Bible proves beyond question that God was a unit. Jesus Christ was God. Again I say: Just when did Jesus become the "Anointed One"?

There is more, but because of space I'm stopping here. Anyway, if you can't believe Jesus by now, you won't believe.

In a blocked space on page 19 in The Journal Ken stated that John 1:1 reads that God is the only true God. It is God being identified as the only true God. Noel, you also wrote that the idea of a divine generation from a virgin is completely impossible. Here is a quote from Jesus Christ: With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible (Luke 18:27).

Now back to Genesis 1:26: "Let 'Us' make man in 'Our' image." My conclusion is, yes, the translation did render "Us" and "Our" correctly. These are plural words, and that fits perfectly with all scripture proving two Gods in unity, as having always existed.

The reason there is so much scripture in the Old Testament dealing with God as a singular person is because it was not yet time to be revealed that God was a unit. Jesus Christ revealed to us that God was one and He could be part of that unit. I'm sure in the next phase of God's salvation plan more will be revealed.

I have a lot of questions to ask. I pray that all of you will have a lot of questions to ask and that your prayers will be answered.
Are divisions divine?

The real problem is that the churches have taught a surface understanding of what the commandments are. Fundamentally they are the guide for proper love, care and respect for our neighbor and our Creator. If we are not treating our neighbor and brother in Christ with love and respect, we have proven that we don’t really understand the commandments, and especially not His new commandment: “... that you love one another; as I have loved you ...” (John 13:34). He gave His life for us all, including our bumps, warts and everything. He expects us to live to His standard (1 Pet 3:15:2). It was only the twelve disciples who were present when Messiah gave His new commandment. Could it be He knew especially the leadership needed this instruction? Unfortunately, they either haven’t been paying attention or are at a loss as to how to do it. Choose the faithful and true source, not men ordained of men. Examine carefully His instruction for us, starting with His covenant, His law, especially His judgments that detail it, so we know how to resolve scriptural differences of opinion or know what is important and what is not. If the leaders are unable to make peace among themselves, whose spirit is the driving force? The membership is often unable to identify the voice of the Master in His word and order their life accordingly. They think they must choose sides and follow a man or organization. They know only to trust human leadership and their perspective.

For over 40 years the Head of the church has been shaking it. He wants His people to look to Him and His word rather than a corporation or a man. The continuing splits and division are evidence that men are not the source of the spirit or peace of God. Some teachers can help us along the path, but they must be pointing the way beyond themselves into the word of God. Indeed, they should be encouraging everyone in the congregation to be able students of His word so they know the way, His way, on their own. One of the least effective ways of doing this is with a sermon.

His way is the keeping of the commandments (Deu 6:5). “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Mat 19:17). Since it is Christ’s position to judge and he will accept those who are keeping the commandments, who are we to turn back on those He might accept? If we can’t get along now, why would Christ trust us to get along in His kingdom?

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remember every little thing like it was only yesterday." I guarantee every man reading this can relate to this line from the song "Paradise by the Dashboard Light." Yes, it refers to the first time a person engages in sex. Sorry if that offends anyone, but the reality is God made you this way. Sexual activity in any ungodly situation will have any man remember "every little thing."

For years, we have been told sex is an activity all humans know how to engage in. It’s hardwired into our DNA. I don’t disagree with this. Without casting judgment, if you look back at the religions and societies that have attempted to prohibit sexual activity, you will see the prohibitions have not been universally adhered to. Without casting judgment, there is more unregulated behavior in these situations.

Victorian European societies are prime examples. While the respectable veneer of history seems to present these as for the most part sexual-pure societies, the reality is sexual activity was not limited to the marriage bed, and was tacitly accepted.

Which brings us to the issues of why God admonishes marriage and celibacy in marriage. Sex is most definitely not ‘free’ and there is a substantial price to be paid for the misuse of it.

According to Mark Turrell and many others (http://markturrell.wordpress.com/2013/07/18/the-brain-how-neuroscience-may-soon-change-all-our-relationships/), there are multiple chemicals in the human body that respond to a sexual encounter, and the response of our brains to this activity.

The main players are: dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, and vasopressin. These are in addition to the well-known testosterone and estrogen. The latter two are mostly responsible for giving our bodies the energy to bond to other humans. Testosterone does play a specific role in sexual arousal, but, as far as I can find, neither plays a major role in how our brain encodes memories of these events.

That’s where the first four come into play. All four can act as neurotransmitters. Our brains are made up of neurons. These cells can be compared to the billions of transistors embedded on a computer’s processor chip, or memory chip. Cells themselves, each cell can’t do a lot. But, when you group 100 billion neurons (average in our brains, https://www.human-memory.net/brain_neurons.html), each with up to 10,000 connections to other neurons, with the potential of 1,000,000 data storage points, the work they perform becomes obvious. To put this in perspective, the entire Library of Congress contains approximately 10 terabytes of data.

As you can see, the human brain may remember absolutely everything that has happened to us ("The Encyclopedia of the Human Mind," © 2013 Philadelphia Church of God) is very likely possible.

Memories are developed in a very complex and only partially understood process. From the same article above:

“Human memory is fundamentally associative, meaning that a new piece of information is remembered better if it can be associated with previously acquired knowledge that is already firmly anchored in memory. More specifically, the association, the more effective the encoding and consolidation of information. Elaborate processing that emphasizes meaning and associations that are familiar tends to lead improved recall. On the other hand, information that a person finds difficult to understand cannot be readily associated with already acquired knowledge...”

We humans want to pretend it’s all because of God and why you need to obey Him. “Cursed is the man who knows not that which the lamp is for and why the lamp is for” (Gen 4:11). I guarantee every man who knows that bonding to happen. Why? Because we as humans have known since Adam sex causes bonding between two people. We have also known we don’t necessarily ‘want’ that bonding to happen. Why? Because we are selfish beings. Anything that causes us to be called ‘alimony’ is not to be responsible for our actions is typically not pleasant to us, and we work to avoid that responsibility.

Now, sexual acts, on the other hand, are pleasurable for the most part, unless something has happened prior to the moment. So we have something we like, say ice cream, but we know we need to be careful with it, or we end up on "My 600 Pound Life" on TLC.

Overeating eventually shows up on our bodies, and we have to consider the consequences. Everybody sees it. However, being a sexually monogamous individual, or even a fully-fledged ‘married dog,’ is not so obvious, unless you come down with a disease.

Our species has fooled ourselves into believing Satan. You will not surly die. All of the results. Husband walks in and shoots wife and lover caught in the act. Wife removes body part of cheating husband. These are extreme but are nothing new, and, while thankfully are somewhat rare, the emotionally devastating actions of sin are.

We humans want to pretend it’s all because of how we were ‘socialized.’ It’s all just holdover from ‘prudish Victorian morality.’ The facts are, our bodies are hardwired to respond to sex in a bonding manner, so that, even if we don’t particularly care for the person we have engaged with, the bonding that memory is the inner recesses of our very being.

We can work to break those habits, and have times successful. Which creates even more trouble. God can’t ‘severing our conscience’ (1 Tim 4:1-2). In my opinion (I haven’t studied that far yet), we can pretend we forget, we can pretend we don’t care, and pretend the connection’s dead. But, from what I have read, what I have seen from others, and in my own life, those memories are permanently embedded in our brain’s circuitry.

This brings us to note #2 above. I have studied enough to know sex is acting as a highly problematic activity for individuals who have not matured to a point their psyche is able to understand or deal with these intense feelings and emotions. I’m referring to child sexual molestation. Note #2 above addresses this, and explains one of the reasons why premarital sex is a problem.

Premarital sex has two problems. One, it typically takes place between people are mature enough to properly deal with this action. Granted, I’m working from experiences in North America. Here the range of sexual activity has been increased precipitously after World War 2. We now see the results of that drop. People who are unable to properly commit to relationships. Divorce has skyrocketed. Progressives will blame any number of causative factors. However, one key point to the acceptance by the general public of premarital sexual activity. It cannot be discounted as a major contributing factor.

Second, when immature minds are exposed to the emotions and sensations they don’t possess the full training to properly process them. Note #2 kicks in. It directly tells us why this is the cause for the emotional, physical, and spiritual conflict inflicted on families where one or both partners have been seen to have this kind of emotional ‘baggage’ they carry. From past research, I have found that overcoming these impossible to ignore traumatic (to the unprepared) memories permanently ruins the emotion-al well-being of these poor people and anyone emotionally linked to them.

So, to conclude, why is the misuse of sex bad? Plain and simple, sex is the natural equivalent of nuclear fusion power. A force that we have only begun to understand and which, once released from Pandora’s Box, is impossible to put back in. Anyone who believes the media, the progressives, or their Sex Education instructor, who said sex with anyone and everyone is different from seeing a movie together, has told you one bold-faced lie. Trust God. He knows the consequences when this happens in your mind. He answered how you are designed, and you are to trust those who trust in man, and will lean his arm of flesh upon him, while his heart departs from the Lord” (Jeremiah 17:5; Louis Veuon).
I remember telling my schoolteacher in the first grade that I was going to be a teacher. The idea of teaching was something I had been thinking about for a few years, but I had never really given it much thought until then. I knew that I liked to help people, and I thought that being a teacher would be a great way to do that. When I was about 9 years old, I went to the library and looked up information about teaching. I found a book called "The Art of Teaching" and read it cover to cover. It was then that I knew I wanted to be a teacher.

The process of becoming a teacher is not easy, but it is worth it. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication, but the rewards are well worth it. I love seeing the light come on in my students' eyes when they finally understand something that had been confusing them. It is a great feeling to know that I am making a difference in the lives of my students.

As a teacher, I have had the opportunity to work with many different types of students. Some are bright and eager to learn, while others are more challenging. But no matter what their level of ability, I try to give each one of them the best education possible. Some students may need extra help, while others may need more encouragement. But I try to meet their needs and help them succeed.

I have been teaching for many years now, and I still love it. I am constantly learning new things, and I am always looking for new ways to improve my teaching. I am very grateful for the opportunity to do something that I love so much.
Notes and quotes

School for young Sabbath-observing Christians
“OWWOBO, Moh.—A Long View School has served Sabbath-keeping students for nearly 70 years. According to a news release from the Church of God Cincinnati, pastored by Jim O’Brien, Spring View also provides online learning that can be used as a virtual school curriculum or in combination with home-schooling programs. Spring View was founded in 1946 by members of the Church of God 7th day. Spring View is currently enrolling students for the fall 2017, which starts in August. For more information contact Helen Caswell at (888) 725-2391. See also springview.org.

Free books
AUBURNDALE, Fla.—Obie Benton, who publishes a magazine called The World to Come, has available several free books while supplies last. They include What in the World Do You People Think You Are Doing?; The Most You Will Ever Read; What on Earth is God Doing?; Shadows of Things to Come; A Royal Priesthood; a Holy Nation; Seven Times Around Circulo; So You Want to Be a Christian?; The Two Witnesses of Revelation; The Habakkuk Formula for a Radical Proposition; and The Missing Dimension in Human Education; Vols. 1, 2 and 3. Write Mr. Benton at PO Box 1635, Auburndale, Fla. 33823, U.S.A. or call (209) 772-0737.

The writer of this column is a cofounder of Camp Vineyard and attends the Church of God Big Sandy.

By Clay Forrestier
LEINIALE, Texas—This year Camp Vineyard was pleased to welcome 30 participants from across the United States for its annual youth camp July 24-28, 2017.

Deep in the Piney Woods of East Texas at the Timberline camp facility near Lindale, campers were treated to all the recreational activities that should offer like canoeing, archery, rifle, skeet shooting, mountain biking, zip line.

However, Camp Vineyard, sponsored for the third year in a row by the Church of God Big Sandy, always strives to provide more fun experiences to its campers, such as an opening-night glow-in-the-dark pool party or midcamp fun-in-the-sun games like slip-and-slide kickball.

This year the camp’s organizers were pleased to offer two full hours of late-night laser tag through Power Laser Tag (of Jacksonville, Texas), whose personnel came out to set up campers with the coolest gear and guide them through tactical laser games. As always, Camp Vineyard, whose name is a reference to John 15:3, ended the week with a lively dance complete with a laser-light extravaganza, deejayed by WeBeRocKn Entertainment, a family-friendly deejay service based in Longview, Texas.

Through all the fun that Camp Vineyard offers, the main goal is to inspire campers to view their future as a child of God, and to come to a deeper understanding of His Word. This year’s theme was “Justice, Mercy and Humility,” based on Mi- cab 6:8: “He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Clay Forrestier

The Church of God Big Sandy provided workbooks to help guide campers through personal Bible study, full Bible study and small group discussions each day of the camp, to delve deeper into the concepts of justice, mercy and humility.

All in all, this year’s Camp Vineyard summer program can be described as the best year yet.

For information on—or to inquire about making donations to help support—this youth ministry, please follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/vineysummercamp) or on Instagram (@campv). Or E-mail the Church of God Big Sandy by filling out the contact form at its Web site and see a photo of Camp Vineyard campers on page 1 of this issue of The Journal.

The writer is a cofounder of Camp Vineyard and attends the Church of God Big Sandy.

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