

CHURCH OF GOD-21ST CENTURY
P, O. BOX 893909
TEMECULA, CA 92589

August 1, 2008

Dear Brethren,

As mentioned in my last "Dear Brethren" letter, it is my desire to help prepare the Bride for the return of Jesus Christ. Nothing could be more vital in our personal lives during this end-time.

Enclosed I have compiled a list of basic points that will help each of you in continuing to become more spiritually grounded in God's Truth. For many years, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong taught us the general basics. This was needed so that we could develop a strong footing and a solid foundation.

Remember, brethren, we are training for future "offices," which Christ is preparing for us. He tells us, "In my Father's house are many mansions [offices]; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go and prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). Our continual preparing, learning, and training, will qualify us for the fulfillment of this scripture.

During our years in God's Church we are being tested over and over to see whether we are growing spiritually to eradicate our character flaws. Certainly God needs to know whether we qualify to be in His wonderful Kingdom.

I pray that each of you receives this ultimate reward. Now is preparation time, our testing time brethren! None of us will be given endless chances! Please take seriously what God is inspiring me to teach you.

I am enclosing a few comments from letters written to us:

From a minister in England regarding our July letter. "Hope you are doing okay. Thanks for the letter [it] came some days ago. Very good letter, if I may say that. And you are so right about Mr. Armstrong. As time moves along we are more and more convinced that he was the Elijah to come. There was no one like him over the centuries, and there was no one like him while he was here and doing the Work, and there has been no one like him since! You are to be congratulated Raymond for continuing to get letters out even though confined to bed at this point. There must be a cause of some frustration. But hopefully you'll get free of the problems and be able to be up and about and functioning again as you want to. We pray for that. Take care."

A letter from a supporter and member of Cog-21: "We think of you all the time and you're in our prayers all the time. We also pray that our support for you and the Church goes un-failing and that others who come out of disappointment due to bad ministry or false doctrinal teachings may find joy in finding you. But more importantly finding that God is our true Teacher and that Christ is our spiritual Pastor especially when He comforts [us] through His Holy Spirit in our lives. Thank you for the regular monthly letters and website. It keeps us positive and holding fast to the Truth taught to us in the past. Without it we would truly be lost, without guidance from you."

Another note from a member in Scotland: "Once again in your very fine news letter, Mr. McNair...you cover issues that are so relevant for Church members to consider and act on. By including a number of HWA's statements, it enhances and substantiates the points you are addressing.

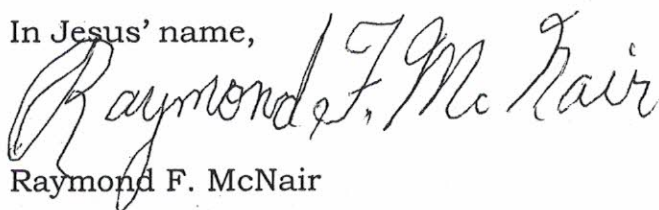
"Your tremendous dedication to duty continuing as an evangelist writing, whilst in your situation, is indeed a great example to all Church members. I really appreciate you sending me your letters. Regards."

Remember, we are family, and in serving you I want to serve you in the same manner, which Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong accomplished for so many years. I wish to continue to maintain a personal relationship by posting my monthly letters to each of you rather than sending them by e-mail.

My wife and I wish to thank all of you brethren, for your loyalty to God and His Son, Jesus Christ. I am making wonderful progress and now have an occupational therapist to help me in my next phase toward recovery. Your continued prayers have provided us someone with years of professional experience whom my wife and I believe is perfect for the job.

Thank you for the love all of you have shown to my wife and me during this difficult trial. Your words of encouragement have helped us in many ways. May God continue to be with you as we all look forward to the time when we will be serving with our Brother, Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name,



Raymond F. McNair

"Stand, therefore, having your loins girded about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness"
(Eph. 6:14).

HOW TO DEVELOP SPIRITUAL CHARACTER

by Raymond F. McNair

In Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's book, "The Incredible Human Potential" on page 81, he describes the parable of the *pounds* (Luke 19:12-2). On page 83, he mentions the parable of the *talents* (Matthew 25:14-30).

Mr. Armstrong then writes, "Yet God has given each of us a mind of his own. If one refuses to acknowledge God or His ways—*refuses* to repent [change] of the wrong and turn to the right, God cannot take him and create Godly character in him" (pg. 83).

God holds NO negative thoughts!

In his book, *Living Constructively*, the author states, "The rule to observe is [to] replace every negative thought immediately [after] it arises, with a positive thought. All thoughts of failure, weakness, fear, despondency, etc., should be countered at once, by strong, self-determination of success, strength, [and] confidence" (pg.91).

Continuing in Mr. Armstrong's book, he states, "Yet we ourselves must do our part in this spiritual development. In reproducing Himself God requires righteous CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. And that requires CHANGE (pgs.83, 85).

"But can any man go, immediately and all at once, this new way he now learns about? Can any man, all at once, break all habits he now sees are wrong? No, he finds he has a fight against acquired former habits. He still has this pull of this invisible but powerful Satan to overcome. This pull has been instilled as a law working within him—produced by the broadcasting of Satan the devil—the prince of the power of the air. The whole world is in tune with the mind of the devil!

"We are in truth, the work of His hands. Yet we ourselves must do our part in this spiritual development.But if we have the strength of character to yield, of our own will, to put ourselves in God's hands, He will instill within us His Spirit and by it His righteousness—His character—open our minds to His spiritual knowledge. We have to want it! We have to work at it! We have to put it first, above all else.

"As we receive the character of God through the Holy Spirit of God, more and more God is reproducing Himself in us" (The Incredible Human Potential).

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).

Listed below are seven basic guidelines we must develop to build strong spiritual character.

Basic Attitudes & Virtues

1) Love and Kindness. Do everything in the spirit of genuine kindness and godly love (1 Cor. 13:13; 16:14). Develop the habit of being slow to criticize and quick to praise, never slander anyone! Remember, Satan is the "accuser of the brethren" (Rev. 12:10).

"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another" (Jo. 13:35).

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and everyone that loves is born of God, and knows God. He that loves not knows not God; for God is love" (1 Jo. 4:7, 8).

"As your mind goes, so goes your body. At your disposal, under your direction, are the health-preserving and health restoring powers of your mind. Beware of uncontrolled combativeness of *hate*. I have yet to see a neurotic illness caused by *love*. I have seen much illness traceable to *hate*. 'Love God and love your neighbor' are the words of Christ, paraphrased, in the Bible. Those two commandments embrace the Alpha and the Omega of instinct-management. Love is higher in the sense that it is a function of the soul. It is a *spiritual capacity*" (Your Mind Can Make You Sick or Well, Curt S. Wachtel, M.D.).

2) Serving and Giving. Seek to serve and give, rather than to be served and to receive. Serving must come from the heart. If not, it is only a physical action and is being carried out in service. On the other-hand, serving from the heart, the spirit, and with genuine enjoyment, is true serving (Acts 20:35; Gal. 5:13).

"The final thing you need to understand about people is that when you help one person, you're really impacting a lot of other people. What you give to one person overflows into the lives of all the people that person impacts. The nature of influence is to multiply. It even impacts you, because when you help others and your motives are good, you always

receive more than you can ever give" (Becoming A Person Of Influence, John C. Maxwell, Jim Dornan).

3) Faith and Hope. Develop an unwavering spirit in the virtues of *faith* and *hope* in God and His Word. "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me" (Phil.4:13; 1 Cor.13:13).

"Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone. Yes, a man may say, 'You have faith, and I have works, show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works'" (James 2:17, 18).

"*Faith* is given to us, to help and comfort us when we stand in awe before the unfurling scroll of human destiny" (The Wisdom of Winston Churchill, F. B. Czarnomski).

"The acquiring of dynamic *faith* is accomplished by prayer, lots of prayer, by reading and mentally absorbing the Bible.... 'According to your *faith* be it unto you' (Matthew 9:29). So, the bigger your problem, the bigger your prayer should be" (The Power of Positive Thinking, Norman Vincent Peale, pgs. 6, 7).

4) Meekness and Humility. Cultivate genuine meekness and humility in your thoughts and actions. Being modest and unpretentious are Godly traits (Matt. 5:5; Jas. 4:10).

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in *lowliness* of mind let each esteem others better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3).

"God's character travels in the direction of His law—the way of love. It is an outgoing concern for others. God has that character! He has an outgoing concern for you and for me. He gave His only begotten Son to reconcile us to Him and make the joys of His character and everlasting life possible for us. He showers on us every good and precious gift. He even puts within us His divine nature—when we repent and turn from the wrong ways of this world, begin to resist it, and turn to Him through faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour! God's divine nature is the nature of love, of giving, serving, helping, of outgoing concern. It is also the nature of HUMILITY" (The Incredible Human Potential, Herbert W. Armstrong, pg. 139).

"If you have a positive attitude about people; believe the best of [in] them, and act on your beliefs, you then can have an impact on their lives. It all starts with the way you think of others. ...effective communication is *not* persuasion, it's listening" (Becoming a Person of Influence, John Maxwell, Jim Dornan, pg. 113, pg. 85).

5) Cheerfulness. Maintain a cheerful spirit and a sense of humor (Prov. 15:13; 2 Cor. 9:7).

"To become a happy person, have a clean soul, eyes that see romance in the commonplace, a child's heart and spiritual simplicity. Yet it is a

fact that to a large extent, by our thoughts and attitudes, we distill out of the ingredients of life, either happiness or unhappiness for ourselves. Happiness is achievable and the process for obtaining it is not complicated. Anyone who desires it, who wills it, and who learns and applies the right formula, may become a happy person" (The Power of Positive Thinking, Norman Vincent Peale, pg. 72).

"A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken" (Prov. 15:13).

"...he that shows mercy, with *cheerfulness*" (Rom. 12:8).

"He who sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give, not begrudgingly, or of necessity; for God loves a *cheerful giver*" (2 Cor. 9:7).

God loves a cheerful, positive spirit. Music encourages cheerfulness. God enjoys hearing us when we sing songs in praise to Him (Psa. 100:2). God's throne is surrounded with music and singing (Job 38:7). Singing, listening to good music, praising God with a song, cheers the heart of God as well as our human souls (Eph. 5:19).

6) Patience & Perseverance. Learn to endure, to persevere and "hang on" no matter how difficult. "But that which you have already, hold fast [persevere] till I come" (Rev.2:25).

"If you continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which you have heard..." (Col.1:23).

"Perseverance is more prevailing, than violence; and many things which cannot be overcome when they are together; yield themselves up when taken little by little" (Familiar Quotations. Passages, Phrases, and Proverbs, John Bartlett, pg. 726).

7) Moderation. Diligently strive to be temperate in everything (2 Pet. 1:6; 1 Cor. 9:25, 27).

"There is a price to pay for all *unbalanced* conditions. The tragedy of our times is that large numbers of people do not know how to conduct their lives in a satisfactory manner. They go through the motions, that is all. When a person is organically fit and emotionally *balanced* [moderation] he derives pleasure simply from being alive. There is a Chinese proverb: 'He who is wise won't work too hard, and he who works too hard won't be wise. It is medically recognized that living under constant stress dissipates energies rapidly and, incidentally, gives rise to a variety of vascular and cardiac troubles. ...our society functions on *adrenalin drive*, for many people literally *burn* themselves out" (Living Constructively, John Everett, pg.72).

* * * * *

CHURCH OF GOD-21ST CENTURY

P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

July 4, 2008

Dear Brethren and Co-Workers in Christ,

Each day brings us closer to the long-awaited time of Christ's return. Keeping this in mind, I wish to explain why my letters make little mention about future events and prophecy.

Flooding, earthquakes, draught now occurring worldwide, prove that this evil age is closing in. The media covers most *important* news, which allows God's people to witness the fulfillment of prophecy as it progresses.

Brethren, I believe I have been *called* into God's ministry to *preach* the gospel, to *warn* the world, and to *prepare* the "Bride" for Christ's *dramatic* arrival.

During my early days at Ambassador College, I was *trained* to be a *journalist* and *reporter*, as well as a *minister* of God. During my travels, I was *blessed* to write various articles for the Worldwide Church of God publications. In 1953, my training continued as God ordained me one of the *first pioneer* evangelists in the Worldwide Church of God. I was sent on the *first* baptismal tour across the United States.

While in God's ministry, I have been *blessed* with various responsibilities, and with God's help I will *continue* to fulfill my calling until Christ takes me into His *loving* arms. I have learned—especially through this present physical trial—that my work in God's Church, as one of His *Senior Evangelists* is *not over*. There is much work yet for me to do.

One main purpose for *not* covering *prophetic* events at this time is that there is a more *urgent* need in God's Church before Christ returns. That is, to help *prepare* His "Bride" during this end-time. You, dear brethren, have been called to learn and to grow during these "preparation years." Your eyes are *continually* being opened and God is adding new knowledge in training you. "But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear" (Matt. 13:16).

Are you seriously preparing for this awesome event, for Christ's Second Coming? Or do you think you will *automatically* receive your reward? It is my responsibility to *teach* and *guide* you, but you must *diligently* work at this goal. God will *judge* each of us at His Second Coming.

My intention is *not* to expound on prophecies for now, even as they unfold and become more intense. At present I am *incapacitated*, thus making it *difficult* for me to study and research as I used to. I feel it is my "calling" and my *duty* before God to *remind* you to *continually* be aware of the *spiritual progress* you should be making.

Are you able to recognize growth or fruits of God's Holy Spirit in your life? If not, then you are not growing or preparing for Christ's return, but you are only maintaining a *place* or *position* in God's Church, which you think will *automatically* escort you into God's Kingdom!

How seriously do you take Christ's *warning* that in the end there will be "weeping and gnashing of teeth"? Who do you think this scripture pertains to? It is meant for those whom Christ *warned* but did not heed while there was yet time. At the end they found themselves in a very *sobering* and *frightening* situation! Sadly, it was too late!

Many of you have written that my letters have helped you in one way or another. I am *pleased* to learn this. My intention is to *help* prepare you for your future journey toward a *new beginning* into the world tomorrow. A future when you will *teach* mankind what you are now learning through God's *chosen faithful* servants. None of us is able to obtain the *righteousness* of God *without* His Holy Spirit, so you must *continually* pray for God to *graciously* grant you more of it. This is needed brethren, in order that we "put on Christ" (Rom. 13:14).

When I learn of any *negative* comments made by those in God's Church toward a minister, his wife, or a brother, the necessary effort must be made to correct such error. I will do my best to eradicate any such evil being foisted upon God's people, especially when the attack is against God's *true servant*, a brother or His Truth (Ezek.34)!

I wish to warn you that *misguided* messages are being preached to God's people. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong taught us solely from God's Word, the Bible. Yet, I am being told that it is being taught to some brethren, that "Christ never had to qualify to be our Savior, He was *preordained* from the beginning. Neither did He need to *qualify* to unseat Satan." Brethren, do you believe this doctrinal

heresy, this twisted Satanic lie? If you do, then God calls you blind, gullible, ignorant and unworthy of His Kingdom!

Any minister, who thinks he is serving God by teaching this diabolical untruth to His people, is in essence *harming* himself as well as God's innocent sheep! The time will come when God will *sternly* correct anyone who thinks he can *arrogantly* mislead His people!

Brethren, Jesus Christ was severely tested! He had to die an *excruciatingly painful* death to become our Savior, to *qualify* in paying the penalty for *our* many sins. READ IT IN YOUR BIBLE! Christ had to be TESTED to replace Satan, the devil. How can anyone twist such inspired scripture?

"Then was Jesus Christ led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be TESTED by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward hungry." Continuing in verse 7 of Matthew 4, "Jesus said unto him (the devil), 'THOU SHALT NOT PUT THE LORD, THY GOD TO THE TEST.'" God ordained that Christ *HAD TO BE TESTED*. Christ had to become *human* in order to *fulfill* His part of God's plan of salvation for mankind. It is my *calling* to *protect* you from those who would *attempt* to *mislead* you and *pervert* God's Truth.

The time will come when it will be too late. "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves *thrust out*" (Luke 13:28). This is not just a *warning* to ministers and brethren, but also a *serious* warning to our children. Frightening as this may seem, it will become *reality*!

Some children growing up in God's Church, sitting in various congregations year after year, have abandoned God's Church. I have learned some do not even believe there is a literal devil. Through their own *blindness* they cannot see who is really behind this world's *sufferings*...suicides, mental institutions, demon possession, witchcraft etc. "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them who believe not... (2 Cor. 4:4). Many worldly religions believe and understand this knowledge, yet some of God's people carelessly thrust it aside.

Even more sadly, some of our children have joined *worldly* churches thinking they are a part of God's Truth. They have *ignorantly* traded Truth for Satan's *misguided lies*. Remember Christ's warning? there will be weeping....

Some of you are now adults, remaining *faithful* in the Truth. You know that a "Higher Power" exists, whose master plan is taking place on this earth. Thankfully you

sincerely want to be a part of God's awesome plan. You will be rewarded for standing firm and remaining faithful.

We recently received Holy Day offerings for the day of Pentecost. I wish to thank all of you, including the little children who gave *generously* to God's Work in the Church of God-21st Century. It is a *tremendous* joy for my wife and me to see their parents *guiding* them in the right path. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

Since my illness I have been blessed with the very best personal care. God has provided me with a peaceful environment and I am given excellent nutrition with lots of T.L.C.

During my illness, my wife has *suffered* near collapse several times. She has a very *heavy* load, carrying many responsibilities as she works by my side. She is my *loyal* helpmate and as other wives, she also fulfills Proverbs 31. For many years we have "long-suffered" together, *diligently* serving God's people. With God's help we intend to *continue* together to the end.

Many of you have also *suffered* diverse trials; my heart reaches out to each of you. God commends you for your *determination* to remain loyal. Be patient and of good courage, trusting Him, for your reward will be great and yet lies ahead.

Brethren please remember our Church website, **COG-21**. God is blessing His Work as we remain obedient to Him.

Space permitting, I would like to share two brief notes, which I recently received: "Just wanted to let you know, I really liked the last letter. It was right on target. Thanks"

And another: "Hi Mr. McNair, I'm thankful that your health shows signs of improvement. You are in my prayers. The letters of encouragement are very much appreciated. The website is very helpful. Your friend. D.J."

May God richly bless you all!

Sincerely, in Jesus Christ's name,


Raymond F. McNair

"Our only defense is the shield of faith in the armor of God." (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, April 17, 1981).

CHURCH OF GOD-21ST CENTURY

P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

May 6, 2008

Dear Brethren,

In this letter I would like to touch on a subject, which is familiar to many of God's people. Since the "*scattering*" of God's Church and after the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, God's people have had to make decisions, which have brought on a certain amount of loneliness in order that they *remain* faithful to God and His Truth. Many of God's people worship *alone* in their homes on God's Sabbath. Only a *very few* are able to find a church with which to meet with other members. Those keeping the Sabbath in their homes must *endure* a certain amount of loneliness.

I wish to *encourage* you brethren because God knows your *dilemma*. He is aware of your sacrifice and obedience to Him and His Commandments. God's Word promises that any *trial* or *sacrifice*, *pain* or *discomfort*, will be *richly rewarded* one day. May God bless each of you who must go through this trial.

Brethren, I believe God's people should be reminded of a sermon, which Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong gave on October 2, 1982, in which he strongly *admonishes* God's people. In his sermon he begins by saying, "Brethren, if you come into the Church, you are a student and you are to *learn* and to *study* the Word of God, the very book of life. If you think *just accepting* Christ and *warming* the seat of a Church services is going to get you into the Kingdom of God, you are of all people *most deceived!* And I tell you, I worry about so many of our own people, and I *wonder* how many of them really are *converted.*"

He continues: "...Jesus didn't call everybody, yet He only called *twelve*. Now others followed Him. At the end of His ministry of three and a half years, only a *hundred and twenty* were still with Him. Because many began to leave Him who had followed Him and were students under Him...."

"In John 6: 44, Jesus said, 'No man can come to me, *except* the Father, which sent Me, *draws* him.' God only called a few. He didn't call for volunteers.... He said to His disciples, 'You *did not* choose Me, I chose you.' *No one* can come to Christ, except the Father draws him."

At the end of Christ's ministry, there were only *one hundred and twenty* remaining with Him. From 1930 to 1986, the *Radio Church of God*, later renamed the *Worldwide Church of God*, had about *one hundred and thirty thousand* members who were called into God's Church during that time.

After the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in 1986, and after a scattering of God's people, very few *remained faithful* to Mr. Armstrong and his teachings through Jesus Christ. Just as in the days of Christ, many *originally* were with Him, but later some chose *not* to walk with Him anymore (John 6: 66).

But who are those remaining faithful in God's Church today? Are they just brethren who *fellowship* on the Sabbath? No brethren, God is no *respector* of persons! Remember, Mr. Armstrong mentions in his sermon, "If you think just accepting Christ and warming the seat of a Church services is going to get you into the Kingdom, you are of all people *most deceived!*"

Those who must *obediently* worship in their homes on God's Sabbath and Holy Days are making a huge sacrifice. God is aware of your needs. But is this sacrifice along with accepting Christ all that is required of us?

My wife and I have kept God's Sabbath in our home for nearly seven years. We know how it feels to be in this same situation. There is a feeling of *emptiness*, a *loneliness* that is felt when one is unable to congregate with others. Christ promises to either change circumstances for you, or give you the *strength* to endure. Your *loyalty* and *commitment* to *stand firm* and endure to the end will merit a *rich reward* in God's Kingdom.

Living a life of *leisure* with *no trials* or *tests* to overcome will *not* reveal your *true spiritual character* to God. Are you *content* not having any trials? If so, then how can you *grow spiritually*? How can God know whether you will be qualified to inherit ruler ship or any office in His Kingdom? If you are not on the job training now, in this physical life, then how can you be *qualified* or *prepared* to rule?

As Mr. Armstrong repeatedly warned, "Brethren, I wonder if even 10% of you are converted." This is a *frightening* statement by God's apostle toward those whom God has called into His precious Truth. Many blindly believe they are *solidly* prepared to *fill* a position in the very Kingdom of God, when *realistically* they are not!

God has called us for a *specific purpose*, and at times we must be willing to make sacrifices. Are you making any sacrifices? Or are you living your life each day as you did before you were called? During our spiritual lives in God's Church, we must *endure trials*, which produce Godly character needed in God's Kingdom. Some trials may seem *easy* to overcome, but some trials will be *very difficult* to bear. God's chosen people need to keep in mind that trials, the *testing* of your faith, your *obedience*, your *willingness* to endure, your *sacrifices*, is how God *determines* your salvation and which *position* you will receive in His Kingdom. Be willing to *accept* whatever trial God knows you need and be *assured* that God truly loves you no matter how difficult the suffering may be. Remember, God called you and He remains *totally* in control.

Brethren, as the saying goes, "Nothing is permanent." Time has a way of *healing* or *changing* circumstances. Time has a way of *eliminating* painful situations if we choose to make the right decisions. Time has a way of helping us *endure* our trials, trusting that God's *deliverance* is there, just as He promised.

At baptism we made a *serious* lifetime commitment to God. We must not become *weary* in whatever trials God *allows* in our lives. Remember, He knows us better than we know ourselves and knows what *character development* is needed. What a wonderful blessing! Can we really comprehend the magnitude of God's miracle gift to us?

I wish to touch on an *important issue* concerning Mr. Armstrong's *admonition* to God's people about *proper physical appearance* during Church services. Some of you are familiar with this sermon, which he gave, but for the sake of those who are not, I would like to *support* his teachings on this subject of *proper dress* when appearing before God.

Sadly, in his sermon he makes a comment that *most* of God's people were *not spiritually* ready at that time. It is my prayer that things have *changed* since then.

One thing some of God's people have *not yet totally* learned is mentioned in this sermon. He says, "Let me tell you some things you have not yet learned. Some of you come to services IMPROPERLY DRESSED! Some of you men don't even wear a jacket. You come in your shirtsleeves! You come in work clothes, any old way! Some years ago...I was to meet the President of Israel.... I was in the office of one of the professors of the Hebrew University. We started down the hall and he was just in shirtsleeves, so he said, 'Wait! Wait! I've got to go back and put on a jacket, I am going in the presence of the president! I can't go in the presence of the president like this, I've got to be better dressed!' So he went back and put on a jacket.

"You know, Jesus gave a parable of a man that came to a wedding and he *didn't* have on the proper wedding garment. It shows God talking to him and saying, 'Cast this man clear out, he is not worthy.' YOU COME, SOME OF YOU JUST COME DRESSED ANY OLD WAY! WHEN WE COME INTO A CHURCH SERVICES BROTHERS, OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH GOD, THE FATHER, AND OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH CHRIST, THE SON! AND WE ARE COMING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE! HOW DARE YOU COME INTO GOD'S PRESENCE LIKE SOME OF YOU DO? HOW DARE YOU?"

"Yes, I see some sitting out in front of me in your shirtsleeves, not dressed up. And I imagine it's all over the United States, Canada and Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia. We are coming in the presence of the Holy Almighty God! You don't have to go out and buy something you can't afford, I didn't say that, just wear the best you have, but dress the best you can. HAVE RESPECT FOR GOD! HONOR GOD! DON'T COME IN BY THUMBING YOUR NOSE AT HIM, AND INSULTING GOD BY THE WAY YOU DRESS! YOU WOMEN, LIKEWISE, DRESS WITH THE BEST YOU HAVE.... You don't have to dress formally, I don't mean that, but at least be *well dressed* when you come into the *presence* of God...!"

"Now the time is coming, beginning of the Millennium. God will begin to pour out His Spirit upon all flesh, AND WE, BROTHERS, ARE THE ONES WHO ARE GOING TO HAVE TO TEACH ALL OF THEM. AND EVERY ONE OF YOU MAY HAVE TO TEACH TWO OR THREE HUNDRED OTHER PEOPLE! Are you qualified to teach two hundred people? If you're not, you're not ready yet!"

Brethren, I want to *emphasize* the *seriousness* of this *admonition* by God's end-time apostle. Some of you brethren choose to *fellowship* with another church group other than the church with which you support as a member. When *fellowshipping* with these churches, are you *upholding* the *appropriate appearance* in your dress, which Mr. Armstrong mentions in his sermon? Have you *let down* as others have, believing it is acceptable when in fact you are *not* pleasing God? I am *supporting* God's apostle when it comes to his *admonition* regarding our appearance when in the presence of a King or dignitary!

Brethren, please strive to be the proper *example* to those around you. When coming to Church services before God, we must honor Him, just as Moses did when he stood before his Creator on Mt. Sinai. We must not *justify* our shortcomings when going before God *improperly* dressed. Try to look at things as God sees them.

I hope you women in God's Church will keep a *feminine appearance* and not follow the poor example as in today's worldly churches. Today's fashions and fads should not be the "rule" in the Church of God! We are *not* to *remain* a part of this world's

system. These *distasteful* fashions are *not conducive* with God's teachings in the Bible. Brethren, we are God's chosen! God tells us, "Come out of her, My people!" (Rev. 18:4). God's instructions are clearly expressed in the Bible so that we may *avoid* heartache. Obedience to Him is our *only* way of life! God's *faithful servant*, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, *taught* us the correct way to live as Christians under Jesus Christ. We must make *right* choices and *obediently* follow these Biblical guidelines.

In closing, I wish to share a brief letter we received from Church members in Ohio: "Greetings! Hopefully this card finds you doing better. We've been praying that Mr. McNair would be healed and that God would bless you both. Thank you for the *compassion* and *concern* you have shown to the scattered brethren. The enclosed check of our *first tithe* is to help you continue to serve the brethren. We hope you will have a very meaningful and joyous holiday season. In Christian love."

My wife and I wish to *thank* all of you for your *tithes* and your *liberal support* to the Church of God-21st Century. It is with these *tithes* and *offerings* that we are able to further God's Truth to the world during this end-time.

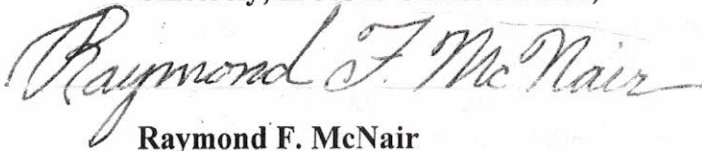
In a recent telephone conversation, I was *deeply moved* to over-hear a member's comments to my wife concerning my "Dear Brethren" letters. He stated: "Mr. McNair's letters are '*treasures of gold*' and we continue looking forward to receiving them. His recent letter got us through the Days of Unleavened Bread, in a *meaningful* way. We *appreciate* the work you both are doing. There is *nothing* out there! Our *real* fellowship is with the Church of God-21st Century."

This is both *humbling* and *encouraging* to my wife and me. Even though, at this time, I am *unable* to accomplish all that I would like, I am *pleased* that what I am able to do is *appreciated* by many of you. Yet, I would like to *concentrate* more of my writings on *prophecy* and *future events*. But for now, I can only do as Christ *leads* or allows.

Brethren, I *ask* your prayers that my wife and I will find the right *physical therapist* in helping me to *walk again*. I am still making *very good progress* as God continues to provide. Whatever His will, is ours as well.

Please know that you are all in my *daily* thoughts and prayers. May God be with you, His special chosen people.

Sincerely, in Jesus Christ's name,



Raymond F. McNair

P.S. Brethren, I am proclaiming a Church-wide fast on June 1, 2008, asking that each of you beseech God in my trial, and that He will totally heal me and raise me up.

"But be thou an example of the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim.4: 12).

CHURCH OF GOD-21ST CENTURY

P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

April 14, 2008

Dear Brethren,

By the time this letter reaches you, many of you will have already partaken of Christ's Passover. Following the Passover and after an evening of feasting and celebrating the Night To Be Much Observed, for the next seven days we again begin to take seriously, God's command to put sin out of our lives.

As God's Word teaches us, the Days of Unleavened Bread are given to us to examine ourselves and to make the necessary changes toward becoming more God-like. We are instructed that by our obedience in eliminating the physical leavening from our surroundings, we honor and obey our heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

Brethren, let us take to heart this awesome sacrifice, which Jesus Christ made so that we may receive this precious knowledge of God's Truth. This Truth is given to help us in eliminating our human carnality and in its place, putting on the spiritual clothing needed to obtain ruler ship with Jesus Christ in His Kingdom.

At times does it seem difficult for you to continue obeying God's Biblical instructions and commandments? It shouldn't be when we believe God's promises in the blessings, which will follow for those who will overcome. How wonderful to know God's Truth and be given inheritance into His family for all eternity, ruling, instructing and guiding those whom God is bringing into His Kingdom.

By taking a few moments each day and meditating on God's promises, we can be encouraged to strive even more to overcome and grow spiritually. As Paul mentions in 1 Peter 1:13-16, "Wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end, for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance. But, as He who has called you is Holy, so be you holy in all manner of life. Because it is written, be you holy; for I am Holy." Ponder these words brethren, for they will give us true meaning to life.

I now wish to touch on a matter that has come to my attention, which I would like to make clear with the members of the Church of God-21st Century. As one of the first seven evangelists in the Church of God, having been ordained by Jesus Christ in 1953, I wish to make it very clear, that no human being will ever take my position as evangelist in God's Church from me. To do so or to make an attempt would be like a slap in the face of Jesus Christ Himself, and would be assuming a prerogative, which God had not delegated.

Since my illness, with the help of Jesus Christ and my wife Eve, I am able to continue this Work, which God has ordained for me to do. And with His help, I intend to instruct, encourage, warn and admonish you brethren to the best of my ability. Why?

Because I truly love each and every one of you! Although I have not met some of you in person, your concern for me touches my heart. I am very grateful for this and for your desire to learn and grow in God's Work. God will continue to inspire me, and as He continues to heal me, I will be more powerfully effective in preaching His Truth.

Many brethren contact my wife and me regarding my health, which is steadily improving. God has His timing as to when He will totally heal me. Until then, I want to assure you that with His help, it is my desire to trust Him and do His Work.

From time to time my wife and I have visitors and ministers in our home. We recently enjoyed visiting several ministers and their wives from Germany, Canada and England. Having guests is very uplifting for me ~~since being bed-fast~~. God provides the necessary encouragement needed in the treatment of my recovery. He is the One I look to, my Strength, my Healer, my All!

I enjoy sharing letters we receive, so once again I will share a few recent letters with you.

From Jefferson, Missouri, a man wrote: "I came across your website and took a historical tour, you have compiled quite a history. I became a co-worker at the age of 17, in 1967.... It seems to me that you were at the Lake of the Ozarks church in the late 70's. I remember your name and many of your writings and I do remember you as a well respected minister. With the many splits the Church has gone through, it is hard to keep up with everyone. I was thinking that you had initially gone with (name of church). I see your website is the Church of God-21st Century, which I wasn't aware of until just now....

"I am concerned to see that you are suffering from some health issues. I went through a very difficult year in 2007 with my health. Thankfully I seem to be over it, but I realize how discouraging and draining such things can be. I will certainly pray for you and PLEASE let me know how you're doing so I will remember to continue to pray for you. The human mind can be so weak, you know.

"Thanks for taking the time to listen to what's going on in my mind. I have written to you only because I believe you are a man of integrity whose desire is to serve God. For that, you're my friend!"

Although I believe I have not yet met this person, I will be honored to come face to face with him in the future.

Along with a "thank you" sent to us from a member, we received the following comment. "We think of you both often and pray for you (our little Elizabeth, age 3, has asked God to heal you). We love you and look forward to each newsletter that is sent our way."

How encouraging to know that a three year old is concerned for my health as well, and is asking God to heal me. Surely it is God's delight to see how Elizabeth's parents are teaching her God's way at such an early age. May God pour His blessings on this special family.

A short while ago, we received a request from a member needing an anointed cloth for her son who had received a 2nd degree burn on his face and hand, which occurred while attempting to put out a fire in his kitchen.

She explains: "I believe God intervened as soon as the call went out for prayer, because (son's name) was expected to stay the night (hospital), but they asked him if he

wanted to go home.... In the meantime, thanks for being there for us at a low point in our lives. I give God the praise and thanks for His wonderful blessings of healing.”

A month later came a follow-up letter: “I wanted you to know my son (name) was up this weekend. I was looking at a miracle! The face is almost normal [and] the color is back. You would not know his face was burned if he did not tell you. ... When I saw him I just hugged and kissed the burned side of his face. It is so smooth and soft. I really thank God. The healing was fast.... Thank you and others who prayed for God’s healing. I am so thankful to have someone to call on for prayer. I really know how much it means to a person when he can ask for prayer in faith. I am thankful for the family of God. We need each other more than ever. We need the prayers of others with like minds, more than ever.”

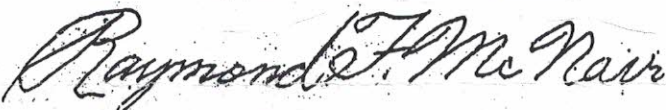
Trials do draw us to each other. How wonderful, that even though we must suffer these difficulties, the end result is always positive and fruitful! We need one another, brethren. As members of God’s special family, we have everything to gain and nothing to lose if we will only trust God and obey His instructions. It is His desire to bless us with enjoyable and fulfilling lives.

May God continue to watch over all of you and protect you during these dangerous times. My physical therapist recently told my wife and me of her sister’s schoolmate (since childhood), who was butchered just a few days ago outside his home only a few miles from where we now live. The reason for this brutal gang murder is not yet known, but it is believed that because this young man was an upright and clean-cut individual, he would be made to pay the price for living this way.

Times are becoming more and more dangerous, as we witness much evil around us. We need God’s protection and that of His holy angels. I encourage you to beseech God for His protection each day, for yourselves, for your families and for God’s people as well.

My wife and I again wish to thank all of you for your cards and letters, your phone calls and emails, and your loyal support to God and His Work in the Church of God-21st Century.

Sincerely, in Jesus Christ’s name,



Raymond F. McNair

“Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Phil. 4:8).

CHURCH OF GOD-21ST CENTURY

P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

March 24, 2008

Dear Brethren,

As God's people well know, the Passover is a *memorial* of Christ's sacrifice. He sacrificed His life so that we might have life. Each one of us, as God's chosen, ought to be *reflecting* on our past, to see whether we have made any *progress* in our own spiritual growth and *overcoming* during the past year.

The purpose for the Passover symbolically *washes away* our past sins, so that we may enter a new year with *renewed commitment* to work even harder in building the spiritual character, which God desires of us.

During the Days of Unleavened Bread, we are reminded that God *commands* us, at this time to put *all* leavened products out of our premises. By doing this, we follow the scriptural command to observe these days in a manner that will please God.

Brethren, since we are to put sin out of our lives, just which sins is God referring to? The Bible refers to sins such as lust, greed, fornication, adultery, hatred, covetousness, vanity, lying, envy, jealousy, gluttony, gossip, bitterness, murder, competition, laziness, false accusations, profanity, slander, self praise, narcissism etc.

Fulfilling the requirements of a *true* Christian is not an easy task. Each day brings us *challenges* as to whether we will do our utmost to fight or put down our human nature. *Only* with the help of Jesus Christ, can we accomplish this. By going to Him each day for the help needed, we *progress* in spiritual growth and true Christian character. During the Days of Unleavened Bread we are more mindful of our need to change and go forward to reaching our goal in putting these sins far from us. It is my hope that all of you will see some progress, which you have made since the *last* Days of Unleavened Bread. We can be encouraged knowing that with God's help and His power *living* in us, we are *changing* and becoming more *God-like* and less "*self-like*."

One of the sad things we must cope with during these last days is the scattering of God's people. This "scattering" (or "shattering") of the *power* of the "holy people" could only happen *if* God permitted it. I have been *greatly concerned* about the tendency for some leaders of various "Church of God" organizations to believe *their* people comprise not just "a part of the Body of Christ," but that their group is "**the** one True Church," all the while *claiming* that brethren in other Churches of God have either "*fallen away*" or are *lukewarm* "Laodiceans."

Why are so many in the "Churches of God" so *confused* concerning the *true identity* of the One True Church? I, as others, have experienced *much sorrow* in seeing certain men *attempting* to *dismantle* God's Church. Jesus Christ said that He would "build" His Church and the gates of "hell" would *never* prevail against it (Matt. 16:18)!

Christ revealed that the *majority* of Christians at the end of this age would be *spiritually blind*, and *naked*—thinking they were "*spiritually*" OK! Christ foresaw that the

“end-time generations of Christians” would be spiritually *wretched* and *miserable!* Clearly, Jesus prophesied that the *general condition* and *attitude* of the Christians living in the final Church era would be characterized by *deplorable lukewarmness, spiritual blindness, and shameful nakedness*—rendering them spiritually “*wretched and miserable*” (v.17). The *condition* and *attitude* existing today in God’s Church, as foretold by the living Head of God’s Church, is cause for repentance among ALL of God’s people.

Christ once told a man, “Follow me” but the man made excuses. And another also said, “Lord, I will follow thee, but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.” Jesus said to him, “No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God” (Luke 9:58-62). God *does not* appreciate a minister or any servant of His ever turning back on his calling. We must *never* forsake our duties as a called and chosen servant. We must proceed *forward* no matter what!

What about you? You did not “join” the body of Christ. God made you a part of it through His Holy Spirit after complete repentance, baptism, and a *total change* of attitude. You remain in the one True Church only by *continuing* in this right attitude and overcoming through prayer, faith and obedience.

DO YOU CONTINUE DAILY IN YOUR REPENTANCE?

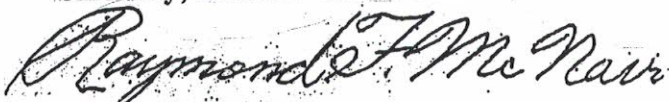
The “small still voice” instructing you, “this is the way, walk you in it” guides you to repentance daily. It is God’s Holy Spirit dwelling in you, the same Holy Spirit He gave Jesus Christ. If a person, because of the *hardness* of his heart, ceases to listen to that “small still voice” which convicts us of sin, then we begin the fall from grace. To repent means much more than being sorry, or remorseful. It means a *change of heart—a change of attitude*—a change from “*get*” to “*give*.” From competition, vanity, coveting power and position, to harmonious co-operation. God teaches us, there is *only* One True Church. It exists in the *here* and *now*. I ask the question, “Have we ever really repented”—in love, not only for ourselves, but also for God’s True Church? God’s True Church will continue to exist no matter. God’s *promises* will be upheld without you! The True Church will proclaim the *last warning message* and then receive the *final crown of immortality* at Christ’s hand... WITHOUT YOU!

Brethren, I wish to remind you that during the Days of Unleavened Bread, we should *abstain* from eating leavening of any kind. Does God’s command mean we must eat unleavened products for seven days or we are sinning? No! Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong made this very clear before his death. *If at all possible*, we should *partake* of some kind of *unleavened* products during *each* of these *seven* days.

Obedience and *attitude* is what God looks for during these days of personal, spiritual examination, as we *strive* towards perfection. We need *continual* help from Almighty God. Then and only then will we be able to *develop* the spiritual growth needed in our lives.

My wife and I wish all of you a very meaningful Feast.

Sincerely, in Jesus Christ’s name,



Raymond F. McNair

“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another” (Jo.13: 35).

CHURCH OF GOD-21ST CENTURY

P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

February 25, 2008

Dear Brethren in Christ,

It is my hope to those of you living in areas where the weather has been *dreadfully* severe, that no danger or *serious* threat to your safety is imposed. California has had one of its *coldest* winters my wife and I have experienced in our many years living here. We are counting the days and looking forward to this springtime when we can enjoy warmer temperatures and God's creation in full bloom again.

Many of you might wonder why my trial has continued for so long. Think for a moment how Christ *suffered* and gave His life so that we in God's Church might learn the lessons needed to become teachers, rulers and kings in the Kingdom of God. During our years in God's Church, surely at times our trials have been so heavy that we became discouraged. We have all had to cry out to God for the *strength* to endure, the *faith* to trust Him, and the *patience* needed for deliverance.

Brethren remember, we are in *training* and are now being *judged!* God must test us in order that He knows what *substance* we are made of. He must learn how each one of us will handle certain situations to *qualify* for ruler-ship. There is a need for more laborers in God's harvest to be educated God's way in *changing* this world's system so that all mankind will live in *peace* and *unity* for eternity. Not as the world prepares its leaders, but as *God* prepares those whom He calls to *overcome*, and to *qualify* for this office, which is high above any *physical* office imaginable.

World leaders have *neglected* to fulfill their duties in a manner, which would bring about *positive* results for mankind. But this world's leaders have not learned the *true values* one must possess in order to assume a position of ruler-ship in God's Kingdom. They are not able to qualify in *fulfilling* their role of ruler-ship God's way, not having developed Godly love, compassion, or understanding and a real concern for others. Look around you, throughout all the years, has our country been able to bring about *real* peace and *prosperity* by various world leaders? Something is *definitely wrong* with this country's political system. The average American or person living in this world is *not* aware that Jesus Christ is the only One really qualified to bring peace to this world. Most have left God out of the picture!

Many in this world's offices of leadership, including some in God's Church, put their *carnal* desires first, seeking power, position, personal wealth and temporary things of the flesh. Sadly, some have not yet experienced great loss, pain, or true suffering needed in order to deal with humanity. How could one in a position of leadership rule God's way, unless he has met the needed qualifications *under* God's government?

As you know, our country is now campaigning to elect a new president of the United States for the chief office of the presidency for the year 2009. This political race is

now going on as Americans eagerly seek to elect who they believe will be the best-qualified person to govern our country and fill the *highest, most influential* office in the world. One whom they believe is “most qualified” in obtaining peace and prosperity to our nation. Will he succeed in establishing this? God’s Word tells us, “The way of peace they know not; and there is no justice in their goings; they have made them crooked paths; whosoever goeth in them shall not know peace” (Isa. 59: 8).

For many years I have tried to keep abreast of events happening in our country and in this world. Recently, I have been following the political campaigns on TV, and have concluded, as you may have, that again and again, no human is qualified to rule our country wisely, not even for a four-year term. Lately, the political race seems to be getting *dirty*, with the main contributors making *critical* and *slandorous* remarks against their opponent. Is this God’s way? Is this political race based on *fairness*, and *good sportsmanship*?

I can only ascertain that the main objective of each delegate seems to be bent on *competition, unfairness, mudslinging, and personal greed* to outwit their opponent. Competition is not a fair game; it is Satan’s way, not God’s! Competition in God’s church, whether among God’s people or among the ministry, must be *eradicated!* God *will not* use anyone who is *competitive*, no matter the flimsy excuse one might have that it is “friendly competition.”

Brethren, are you aware that you are in a race to hold a specific office in the future? It is a race that will provide mankind an *opportunity* to live in such peace that will ultimately last forever. Yes, God has a plan and is now testing and trying His chosen ones to see if they will qualify to finish this race for that ultimate reward, an office so fulfilling, so awesome, that nothing in our human lives can ever compare or duplicate its magnitude! This office or position is unlike that of this carnal world’s; it is an office that will not last for just a few years, but forever! It is an office given to those who overcome, who endure, no matter the pain, anguish, or longsuffering.

“If we suffer, we will also reign with Him...”(2 Tim. 2:11). God gives us His promise if we endure till the end. “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”(Rom. 8:18).

What promises for real peace will those who hold high positions in this world be able to fulfill? Do they have God’s Truth, this “pearl of great price” which you and I have been privileged to partake of? God tells us in 1 Timothy 6:12, “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, *unto which you are also called* and have professed a good profession before many witnesses.”

Brethren, if we *endure* to the end, will we be able to *resolve* this world’s many problems and bring about *real peace*? You can be *assured* that with the help of Jesus Christ this *massive* task will be accomplished.

We, God’s people, unlike worldly delegates who continually promise peace, as our nation gets deeper and deeper into debt and wars, will actually be able to bring about this Utopia. Christ will return to *establish* tranquility, governance, unity, and love which the whole world so badly yearns for.

My personal *trial and suffering* is for a moment. In the near future all will be forgotten, just as your sufferings will also *not* be remembered. Will you *endure* to the end? My wife and I *surely* intend to! Can we keep in mind that Christ’s admonition to His saints, is to pray each day for *deliverance* and for His Kingdom to arrive soon? This

world badly needs of a Ruler who *knows* how to rule. This world will not recognize peace unless Jesus Christ brings that *ultimate* peace to this war-weary earth.

Brethren, this is why we have been called into God's Truth, that we might learn His precious Truth. This is why we must *endure* severe testing in our lifetime. The Kingdom of God will arrive whether you or I make it or not. Will your trials, tests or sufferings keep you away, get you *discouraged* and cause you to *lose hope* and even your *salvation*? I sincerely hope not! My desire is that God will continue healing me so that I may continue teaching, guiding and encouraging God's people no matter who or where they are. Personal trials now and in the future will become even more *intense*. Where will you stand? Are you developing the *fortitude* to overcome, no matter what trials God *allows* or sets before you? My wife and I are fully *determined* to remain faithful no matter what sufferings we must go through so that we may make it into God's Kingdom!

The Bible is replete with stories of many trials, which God's people had to endure. Christ's example alone tells us that we must remain faithful to the end to receive our reward. This hope in us will see us through our trials. God's *strength* in us will help us to suffer long. God *promises* that no trial will overwhelm us, but that we can master it with His help. Take Him at His word, brethren. He *truly loves* us and will *support* us every step of the way.

As Peter, who walked on the water, took his eyes off Jesus Christ, *allowing* himself to sink. Can we learn from this example? Are your eyes *affixed* to Christ during your trials? If not, then you are certain to fall the same way as Peter did. Our eyes must *continually* be on Jesus Christ. We cannot overcome on our own. Know there is a *reason* and press forward with the *assurance* that Almighty God, the Great Creator of all, sees everything, knows everything and will *deliver* you!

Brethren, I wish to share some correspondence, which I received: A member living in Upper California expressed her feelings...."I have been thinking a lot about Mr. McNair since I received your e-mail Sunday. Though his body is captive to the horrible condition, his mind is fixed on God's Truth and way of life and we are very much aware and encouraged by his faithfulness. Mrs. McNair, your husband is still that sterling statue.

"Instead of hearing him, we wonder, are we, the brethren, praying with deep and complex faith? We have a merciful and healing God. I shall be praying more and certainly more earnestly for the both of you. Mrs. McNair, your husband isn't alone, he has the most awesome Being in the universe right there in complete control. And [we] have phenomenal power! Prayer is our most precious opportunity. Just think, we can go to the very throne of our Creator. If the Word could restore the devastation on this earth, created by Satan, He can restore your husband's health.

I hope you don't think me presumptuous. You've been an inspiration to me and made me mindful of things I know, but kind of forgot. Please know we love you both and pray for a speedy return to health."

How can one not be encouraged by these words of *understanding* and *compassion*? We need to take the time to *encourage* one another as this fellow member has done for my wife and me.

Another member from Colorado wrote: "I came across an encouraging quote, 'When things are bad, we take comfort in the thought that they could always be worse. And when they are, we find hope in the thought that things are so bad that they have to

get better!' That's a good one to keep in mind during these times. Things are not going to continue on and on. God has to intervene for you and us, and we need Mr. McNair and you, more than you can imagine. So, hang in there and know we are praying for God to deliver him from this affliction. Humanly, I don't understand why both of you have had to go through this, but it weighs on the mind how as an evangelist, Mr. McNair is the only stronghold of Truth we have."

I am humbly grateful for her thoughts and know that God has His perfect timing in providing the "escape" needed so that my wife and I may continue Christ's commission given to us.

I would like to take a moment to express my *appreciation* for the outpouring of love and concern many of you have shown my wife and me. Members in the Church of God-21st Century continue to show Godly love toward each other. Your contacts to me prove that God's love *is* in you.

Before closing brethren, I would like to bring you up-to-date and explain my current health situation. As you may have heard me mention in sermons, that I had *not* had to visit a doctor for over fifty years. I have *always* had reasonably good health during my adult life. My wife has had adequate training in nutrition, so we have worked together to maintain a healthy standard of living.


After Mr. Armstrong's death, *certain* circumstances brought considerable stress upon me and *unexpectedly*; one day, in my 71st year, I found myself on the way to the emergency ward of a nearby hospital. Shortly afterwards, a dentist *extracted* fifteen teeth from my mouth, all at one time without my knowledge! This, coupled with severe stress, was more than my *nervous system* could handle. Shortly thereafter, I *lost* the use of *both* my legs.

It has been almost two years since I have been bedridden, and *unable* to walk. But the *good news* is that just recently my legs have been *moving* a little, not voluntarily, but as certain areas of my legs are massaged. The therapist who comes to our home three times a week says this is a *good sign*. I am very *grateful* for this progress.

Many of you have contacted us saying that you are praying for my *complete* recovery every day and some are praying even *several* times a day. Christ certainly hears your prayers of faith, and will continue to answer them. Thank you brethren, for your *financial support*, your *love* and *concern* for my wife and me. I will continue making progress as long as God wills. His promises are true, in that He will *never* leave me nor forsake me. This promise also applies to all of you.

Remember brethren; we are preparing to become royalty (1 Pet. 2:9)!

Sincerely, in Jesus Christ's name.



Raymond F. McNair

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things, you shall never fall" (1 Peter 1: 10).

CHURCH OF GOD-21ST CENTURY

P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

Dear Brethren,

I am enclosing a very timely and interesting article, which a Church member recently sent to me. I know that you will read its contents and gain understanding from it.

“Not long ago, I was listening to one of Mr. Armstrong’s audio sermons. In this sermon he touched on how he felt that many while being doctrinally on-track, were far off from the Father, spiritually. He said they knew the doctrines of the Church, they followed the doctrines of the Church, and doctrinally they were spot-on. Yet, spiritually, they were far from God. If Jesus had returned this Feast of Trumpets, would He have found FAITH?

Man has a nature, human nature. Man tends to put things off till the last minute. How many in the Church would truly have been prepared for Christ to return? Many would not have been prepared simply because of a LUKE WARM attitude that led them to believe that Christ would not return because certain signs have not yet come to pass. What if their interpretation of those signs is not exactly spot-on? As it was in the days on Noah, so shall it be, men will go on doing everyday things right up until it is too late. Remember the parable of the virgins? They thought what they had with them was enough, but it wasn’t. If everyone knew exactly when to expect His return, according to all the signs, why would Christ have pleaded with us to watch and pray to be accounted worthy, for the Son of man comes at an hour when you expect not?

Look at the only sign Jesus gave to prove He was the Christ. Even the disciples missed this sign and did not believe the women when the reports of the stone being rolled away were given and when Christ met them on the road after three days, and they did not know Him. On the very night before His crucifixion, He urged them to watch and pray three times, each time He returned, they were sleeping. After the third time He told them, “Sleep on, for the prince of this world, his hour is at hand.”

Many in the Church of God are lulled into a false sense of security, thinking they know and know that they know. Being taught to observe the signs as doctrinally interpreted in NOT spiritual preparation. So the very next time you hear someone say, “Well, this has to happen first,” remember the foolish virgins and how they were locked out.

When Christ came the first time, those who had the Oracles of God, the Laws and the Traditions, did not know who He was. Indeed, the prophecy about the Laodicean attitude that is to prevail in the Church of God is true. Many today think they are rich and in need of nothing. Jesus said they will be spewed from His mouth. And this brethren, is the majority of the Church of God, not some small off-track split.

“And when He saw the city, as He approached, He wept saying, ‘Would that you too knew, even today, on what your peace depends! But no, it is hidden from you! A time is coming for you, when enemies will throw up ramparts round you and encircle you and besiege you on every side and raze you and you and your children within you to the ground leaving you not one stone upon another-**and all because you would not understand when God was visiting you**’”(Luke 19:41-44).

Warm regards,
Frank Olive

CHURCH OF GOD-21ST CENTURY

P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

January 19, 2008

Dear Brethren,

Since I last wrote you, again much has happened and continues to happen in the world. My wife and I live in southern California, and it seems that almost daily there is some crime, rape, murder, etc., committed or reported in the news. Truly, it is grievous to see continued suffering in this world.

Unfortunately, all too much division, strife and envy has occurred even among God's Church, in the ministry, and among God's own people.

We, who are the "called-out ones," must continue to yield to God's way and His laws, resisting the evil pulls of the flesh and this world. We should always keep in mind that we are all family, God's special chosen, His precious jewels, who are striving, with His help, to obey Him in resisting many physical pulls and temptations in order that we may qualify to rule with Jesus Christ.

Brethren, as my wife and I have told many of you from time to time, "we, in the Church of God-21st Century are a family." Please keep this in mind, as we continue to grow together in love for one another.

Christ says, in Matthew 12, verse 50, "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father, who is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." God knows our hearts and whether it is our earnest desire to please Him or just a false outward display for the self. Christ calls us His brothers and sisters as we do His will and as we desire to please Him.

When we compare the attributes of God's family with the world's family, we can see there is no real comparison. God's family is motivated by true, deep love and affection for one another and those in the world. This world's example of family is filled with strife, enmity, division, disrespect, and is totally lacking in Godly attributes of love, joy, peace, patience, longsuffering, and humility. We

need these Godly attributes in order to love God and His people, in order that we may qualify with Christ for rulership.

I would like to again mention how appreciative my wife and I are to all of you for your love, prayers, and financial support to God and His Church. Those who are anonymous supporters of the Church of God-21st Century are not overlooked by God nor by us.

Some of you have sent gifts of encouragement and some have generously sent financial support, which we have not requested, in helping with our medical obligations. You need to know how much this means to my wife and me. My illness has been rather costly, not in medication, which we have tried to avoid, but in the many items needed to continue the battle in healing my bedsores. They have been a challenge for over a year and a half. Your continued prayers for me are what have at times provided the miracles, which occurred during my illness. I am deeply, deeply touched by your love and concern for my wife and me.

Progress has been rather slow, but recently we are making steady improvement in their healing. Remember that a famous individual in the movie industry had every means of medical and financial help, yet he died mainly from his bedsores.

We cannot proceed further in my therapy to learn to walk again until the bedsores have made remarkable improvement. The tearing of these sores, as I was being moved or shifted, have halted our plans for further therapy. I would appreciate your prayers in that the healing process will move more quickly so that I may go forward in real dynamic fervency, doing the Work of the Living God! This is truly my wife's and my desire in the Church of God-21st Century.

Dear brethren, as often as I like to do, I enjoy sharing a few of the letters, which I receive from time to time.

" Dear Mr. and Mrs. McNair, Please know you are both in my prayers! As Boaz said to Ruth, 'The Lord recompense your work and a full reward be given you of the Lord of Israel, under whose wings you have come to trust.' I am so grateful for your prayers and encouragement in my recent trials. May God strengthen you both and pour out His mercy, compassion and healing on you. I wish you life and health, peace and prosperity, and joy and love. Please stay in touch."

This next letter was sent to us from a servant of God living in Australia: "Dear Mr. and Mrs. McNair.... I pray that the Lord continues to guide and strengthen you every

day so that you can guide us all through the perilous times ahead. Oh thank you so much for being God's true and faithful servants, to be that strong in His love and have devoted yourselves to the study of God's Word so that we can all live more wisely, become stronger, transform our characters to become like Christ, to face our trials and life in general, and to be fulfilled in God's love.

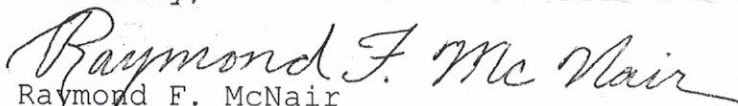
"You are constantly in my thoughts and prayers as is your country that seems to be falling into an abyss. I think of Jeremiah pleading with his people to turn back to God, their hardness of heart and then Jeremiah weeping as he sees Jerusalem burn and his people dying. May God bless the U.S. and all our nations and our people turn to Him, as their only salvation."

Brethren, this member prays for our country, even though she lives in another part of the world, "down under." I wish to remind you to please keep our president and our country in your daily prayers. Prophecy warns that our country, America, and the English speaking nations of Western Europe are doomed to face hardship, catastrophic destruction and unbelievable sufferings. We should have real empathy for them and what we know lies ahead.

I wish to assure you that you are in my prayers. The trials of this world have exhausted many of God's people, but God will continue to strengthen us as we yield to Him. Brethren, we have the precious knowledge of what lies ahead, so we are instructed by God and His Word to take these present days more seriously and know that His warnings are real.

May God be with all of you, His faithful followers, and may He pour His blessings on you as you prove to Him that you will do all within your power to meet the tests, trust Him and serve Him to the best of your ability!

Sincerely,


Raymond F. McNair

"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (Jo. 8:12).

