

CHURCH OF GOD-21ST CENTURY

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November 15, 2008

Dear Family,

Mrs. McNair and I extend our greetings to each one of you. Since Mr. Raymond McNair's untimely death, our desire is to continue a Work in the Church of God-21st Century as God leads us. So far He is guiding us in this direction. Our hope is that you will be encouraged.

We are receiving support from many of you indicating that as God inspires you, with His help we will do our part in completing this important Work until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. If Christ should close the doors and reveals that His Work in the Church of God-21st Century is completed, then God's will, will be done. But so far it does not seem this way.

In this letter we wish to include excerpts from Mr. John Jewel's Newsletters. Mr. Jewel is a minister in the United Kingdom. He is lending his assistance *only* in our Church Newsletters. While Mr. McNair was still with us, Mr. Jewel wrote a letter of introduction which Mr. McNair intended to include in a "Dear Brethren" letter. Sadly, circumstances prevented this. We will include parts of Mr. Jewel's introduction letter so that you may become familiar with his writings. May we emphasize, that Mr. Jewel will assist us *only* in this category.

Concerning the Church of God-21st Century website, we will not be changing anything, but intend to keep it current as long as we receive your support. We have an abundance of Mr. McNair's writings which we hope to publish in the COG-21 website. Please remember to visit our Church site which now has included Raymond F. McNair's guest "Memoriam."

On a more serious note, it has been brought to my attention by Mrs. McNair that years ago God's Church took care of its widows and orphans. But now since the scattering of God's Churches, seemingly they are being

neglected. The scripture reminds us in James 1: 27. "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit (take care of) orphans and widows in their trouble...."

Mrs. McNair fully understands what it means to be in this difficult situation as she was a "spiritual widow" in God's Church for over sixteen years prior to her marriage to Mr. McNair. She has expressed her strong desire to serve and encourage those who have had to remain at home each Sabbath, and during God's Holy days.

Some of you meet with family and friends each Sabbath and during God's Holy Days. But can you truly understand the loneliness and emptiness that many of God's people are experiencing in not being able to meet with others of the same mind? Yet, these brethren seem to be overlooked as though their trial is accepted as their own personal matter.

One main reason for planning a "Gathering" during God's fall festival season next year is to *finally* help those who have endured this loneliness for so many years. This gathering will be similar to the same family gatherings some of you are conducting on your own. It is now time to remember others, to exercise the love of God in us and reach out to as many who have this need.

We anticipate this 2009 "Gathering" to be a huge success. Christ is leading and we intend to follow!

Sincerely, your brothers in Christ,

Frank Olive

Eve McNair

Newsletter

Church of God-21st Century

Subject: German EU plan to topple US and \$

From Dollars to Euros:

German Foreign Policy, BERIN/WASHINGTON-Reaffirming their desire for a position of Global leadership, Berlin and Brussels have put forward their first demands to the incoming U.S. administration.

After last week's informal EU summit, European leaders stated that the EU would like to be a trail-blazer in overcoming the world's financial crisis. Concrete proposals have been elaborated for next weekend's World Financial Summit, which could provoke a power struggle with the United States, because they are diametrically opposed to U.S. priorities and are seeking to weaken the U.S. position in the Global financial system.

The days of the dollar's uncontested predominance are over, and it is about time that the Euros growing importance is reflected in the rules of the world's financial exchanges, French President Sarkozy declared in the name of the EU. German government advisors see a certain risk: if the EU surges ahead, it would likely end in failure.

The German government is attempting to camouflage its German-European offensive for gaining influence as a transatlantic alliance "renewal" proposal, supplemented with proclamations of sympathy for President-elect Barack Obama.

Monday, Nov. 10, 2008 12:30am UTC

LONDON (Reuters) The international finance crisis has given world leaders a unique opportunity to create a truly global society, Britain's Prime Minister, Gordon Brown will say in a keystone foreign policy speech on Monday.

In his annual speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet, Brown, who spearheaded calls for the reform of international financial institutions, will say Britain, the United States and Europe are key to forging a new world order.

"The alliance between Britain and the U.S.—and more broadly between Europe and the U.S.—can and must provide leadership, not in order to make the rules ourselves, but to lead the global effort to build a stronger and more just international order," an excerpt from the speech says.

Brown will set five great challenges the world faces. These are: Terrorism and extremism and the need to reassert faith in democracy; the global economy; climate change, conflict and mechanisms for rebuilding states after conflict, and meeting goals on tackling poverty and disease.

Brown will also identify changes for tackling the economy, starting with recapitalizing banks so they can resume lending to families and businesses, and better international co-ordination of fiscal and monetary policy.

"My message is that we must be internationalist, not protectionist; interventionist not neutral; progressive, not reactive; and forward, looking, not frozen by events. We can seize the moment and in doing so build a truly global society."

German Foreign Policy:

Bonn/Brussels. A strategy paper of the German Bertelsmann Foundation lists measures for radically militarizing the European Union. Recommendations include military and paramilitary measures which would enable the EU to perform missions on a greater scale, over a larger radius, with greater fighting strength and extending over a longer period of time. This strategy aims for the internal and external preparation for wars which are to be conducted, preventatively; (robust preventive missions, possibly anywhere in the world).

Substantial additions of military personnel and increases of armaments spending by all EU members are necessary for the intended world wide military operations. ...War preparations and conduct of wars are to be led by a triumvirate of German, French, and British military who would completely control the troops and arsenals of the other member states.

Other Strategic Partners: Amongst the other major powers that are either affected or to a certain degree involved in a strategic ESDP, Russia is vital. At the very least it is clear that Russia must be convinced of the value of a strategic EDSP and encouraged to deepen its relationship with the EU. ...A strategic ESDP will also require a direct EU diplomatic presence around the world under control of the EU Foreign Minister.

Chemical Weapons: According to uncontradicted reports, the BND president at that time, Klaus Kinkel, who later became Foreign Minister, as far back as the summer of 1979, initiated in Germany, the training of Iraqi agents. The BND also furnished the government in Baghdad with the personal data on members of the Iraqi opposition. Kinkel later additionally offered arms supplies as well as training of Iraqi policemen. More than half of all foreign enterprises, which had contributed to Iraqi's arsenal during the 1980's, were Germans. Iraqi policemen were trained in 1982 in Germany. Their instruction included the use of various kinds of chemical weapons.

Brussels and Moscow Rediscover Friendship: Suddenly the barriers that had been piling up in recent months between the East and West seemed to be a lot lower. French President Sarkozy, whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, and his colleague from Moscow, Dmitry Medvedev, cleared the political hurdles at the EU-Russia summit in Nice on Friday with surprising ease, setting a new tone in difficult relations between unequal neighbors.

Russia has become the European Union's third trading partner, with a growth rate of 20 percent. The Russian's supply energy—one quarter of all natural gas and oil consumed in the EU. Moscow also loves the Euro. Billions of them are sitting in the safes of Russia's state bank as currency reserves. Economically, the giant in the east is deeply connected to the 27 member EU. And that creates obligations, for both sides.

Increasing opposition to EU: The opposition to Norwegian EU membership is at a record level, according to a new survey, with 53.4 percent of those asked opposing membership. Also among those voting for Labour and the right wing Progress Party, there is a majority opposing EU membership.

EU Contemplates "Common Market" with Russia: French President and EU holder Nicolas Sarkozy yesterday (21 Oct) unveiled a new cooperation strategy with Russia that would build stronger links between Europe and its largest Eastern neighbor.

GUETERSLOH/RUSSELSHIEM/WASHINGTON (Own Report)—The Bertelsmann Foundation presented a list of foreign policy demands to the news U.S. administration. According to the Bertelsmann Foundation, the "Briefing Book," which was

presented last week in Washington, is a "policy blueprint that proposes strategies" for the U.S. president-elect and his team, "from a distinctly European perspective." The Briefing Book highlights the central issues of current world policy—from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to the financial crisis—demanding that the U.S. give more importance to Europe.

Washington must "take the right approach and tone" in the future, is how the Bertelsmann Foundation describes the German-European demand for increased influence. A similar orientation is outlined in a paper that the EU foreign ministers addressed to the new U.S. administration, focusing on Europe's demand for an increased share of power. To implement its demands, the EU is cooperating with Moscow. The EU's demand for a more significant role is leading toward an intensification of armed conflicts.

The EU foreign ministers announced their increased readiness to participate in wars. The struggle, waged particularly by Berlin, to, in the future, play a role as a major power, is being overshadowed by a meltdown of the real economy.

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Israel 'occupies' no Arab territories

Nov. 18, 2008

Louis Rene Beres , THE JERUSALEM POST

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1226404769705&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

In urgent matters of national survival and geopolitics, words matter. The still generally unchallenged language referring provocatively to an Israeli "Occupation" always overlooks the pertinent and incontestable history of the West Bank (Judea/Samaria) and Gaza.

Perhaps the most evident omission concerns the unwitting manner in which these "Territories" fell into Israel's hands in the first place. It is simply and widely disregarded that "occupation" followed the multi-state Arab aggression of 1967 - one never disguised by Egypt, Syria or Jordan.

A sovereign state of Palestine did not exist before 1967 or 1948. Nor was a state of Palestine ever promised by UN Security Council Resolution 242. Contrary to popular understanding, a state of Palestine has never existed. Never.

Even as a nonstate legal entity, "Palestine" ceased to exist in 1948, when Great Britain relinquished its League of Nations mandate. During the 1948-49 Israeli War of Independence (a war of survival fought because the entire Arab world had rejected the authoritative United Nations resolution creating a Jewish state), the West Bank and Gaza came under the illegal control of Jordan and Egypt respectively. These Arab conquests did not put an end to an already-existing state or to an ongoing trust territory. What these aggressions did accomplish was the effective prevention, sui generis, of a state of Palestine. The original hopes for Palestine were dashed, therefore, not by the new Jewish state or by its supporters, but by the Arab states, especially Jordan and Egypt.

LET US return to an earlier history. From the Biblical Period (ca. 1350 BCE to 586 BCE) to the British Mandate (1918 - 1948), the land named by the Romans after the ancient Philistines was controlled only by non-Palestinian elements. Significantly, however, a continuous chain of Jewish possession of the land was legally recognized after World War I, at the San Remo Peace Conference of April 1920. There, a binding treaty was signed in which Great Britain was given mandatory authority over "Palestine" (the area had been ruled by the Ottoman Turks since 1516) to prepare it to become the "national home for the Jewish People." Palestine, according to the Treaty, comprised territories encompassing what are now the states of Jordan and Israel, including the West Bank and Gaza. Present-day Israel comprises only 22 percent of Palestine as defined and ratified at the San Remo Peace Conference.

In 1922, Great Britain unilaterally and without any lawful authority split off 78 percent of the lands promised to the Jews - all of Palestine east of the Jordan River - and gave it to Abdullah, the non-Palestinian son of the Sharif of Mecca. Eastern Palestine now took the name Transjordan, which it retained until April 1949, when it was renamed as Jordan. From the moment of its creation, Transjordan was closed to all Jewish migration and settlement, a clear betrayal of the British promise in the Balfour Declaration of 1917, and a patent contravention of its Mandatory obligations under international law.

On July 20, 1951, a Palestinian Arab assassinated King Abdullah for the latter's hostility to Palestinian aspirations and concerns. Regarding these aspirations, Jordan's "moderate" King Hussein - 19 years later, during September 1970 - brutally murdered thousands of defenseless Palestinians under his jurisdiction.

IN 1947, several years prior to Abdullah's killing, the newly-formed United Nations, rather than designate the entire land west of the Jordan River as the long-promised Jewish national homeland, enacted a second partition. Curiously, considering that this second fission again gave complete advantage to Arab interests, Jewish leaders accepted the painful judgment. The Arab states did not. On May 15, 1948, exactly 24 hours after the State of Israel came into existence, Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League, declared to a tiny new country founded upon the ashes of the Holocaust: "This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre."

This unambiguous declaration has been at the very heart of all subsequent Arab orientations toward Israel, including those of "moderate" Fatah. Even by the strict legal standards of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Arab actions and attitudes toward the microscopic Jewish state in their midst has remained patently genocidal. For some reason, this persistence has repeatedly been made to appear benign.

IN 1967, almost 20 years after Israel's entry into the community of nations, the Jewish state, as a result of its unexpected military victory over Arab aggressor states, gained unintended control over the West Bank and Gaza. Although the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war is codified in the UN Charter, there existed no authoritative sovereign to whom the Territories could be "returned." Israel could hardly have been expected to transfer them back to Jordan and Egypt, which had exercised unauthorized and terribly cruel control since the Arab-initiated war of "extermination" in 1948-49. Moreover, the idea of Palestinian "self-determination" had only just begun to emerge after the Six Day War, and - significantly - had not even been included in UN Security Council Resolution 242, which was adopted on November 22, 1967.

For their part, the Arab states convened a summit in Khartoum in August 1967, concluding: "No peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it...." The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed three years earlier, in 1964, before there were any "Israeli Occupied Territories." Exactly what was it, therefore, that the PLO sought to "liberate" between 1964 and 1967?

This question should now be raised in connection with the US-sponsored "Road Map To Peace in the Middle East," a twisted cartography leading to "Palestine."

THIS HAS been a very brief account of essential historic reasons why the so-called "Palestinian Territories" are not occupied by Israel. Several other equally valid reasons stem from Israel's inherent legal right to security and self-defense. International law is not a suicide pact. Because a Palestinian state would severely threaten the very existence of Israel - a fact that remains altogether unhidden in Arab media and governments - the Jewish State is under no binding obligation to end a falsely alleged "Occupation." No state can ever be required to accept complicity in its own dismemberment and annihilation.

Both Israel and the United States will soon have new leadership. Neither Jerusalem nor Washington

11/20/2008

An Introduction, by John Jewel

After a number of years it has been my pleasure to be in contact with Raymond McNair. It is encouraging to see how in spite of being bed-ridden at this time he nevertheless continues to do what he can to further the Work of God.

The circumstances by which I and my wife came into our first contact with him and the Church of God, then legally termed the Radio Church of God, later, Worldwide Church of God, took place onboard an anti-submarine frigate of the Royal Navy, HMS ULYSSES, where I was responsible for running the ship's office. Abilities which had been developed when training in a London accountant's office.

...I came in touch with the Plain Truth magazine and Mr. Herbert W, Armstrong. Reading the magazine, I felt I had "come home." ...We knew that our lives were about to change. I left the Royal Navy and in due time received a letter from Raymond McNair, who was in charge of the British area of the Work of the Church. My wife and I drove the 300 miles to the Church's new property outside London and there Mr. McNair baptized both of us into the Church.

In time we moved to the area north of London close to the new campus of Ambassador College, where Mr. McNair was named as the new Deputy Chancellor. I was then invited to work for the Church and to attend college as a full-time student. We got to know Mr. McNair, to appreciate his knowledge of the scriptures as we attended the local Church which he pastored, and his hospitality through his invitations to dinner. I also had the opportunity to get to know him even better through my appointment as personal assistant to him.

In the course of time I was ordained into God's ministry and pastored several Church areas.... Following the death in 1986 of Mr. Armstrong, the Church of God fell under the control of people who understood little of the true nature of the Church of God and a decision had to be made by thousands of people who had never thought they would have faced such an issue. ...We knew, as Raymond McNair did, that in spite of breaking into many different groups, the true Church was still there, but was now manifested within people and not structures.

We could not continue with a structure which was now embracing Pagan doctrines, so we resigned from the Worldwide Church of God. We lost contact with Mr. McNair, but were pleased to hear that he had remained firm and had refused to go along with the contrary elements now in charge of the buildings at Pasadena. He remained firm to God's Word. We continued, as he did, in the Work of God. ...We are both determined to continue to preach the Word of God as God makes it possible. Mr. McNair, with the able help of his wife, Eve, does a great job pastoring a Church and scattered brethren, and preaching via a letter each month. Here in Britain, and just south of London, we have the opportunity of preaching via the Church's own internet radio station plus other terrestrial stations.

It has been a joy to get back in contact with the McNair's and build upon our past relationship. I know that Raymond McNair will continue to pastor and preach for as long as he is able, in spite of his present disability, for as long as God gives him breath and opportunity. ...He and Eve, my wife, Tina and I are determined to be as effective as we can be as God makes it possible in preaching the Word, so we can point out to the world, an increasingly degenerating, violent and suffering world, the Truth and the hope that lies within the Son of God, Jesus Christ!

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LETTER FROM LONDON

No. 223

ALWAYS REMEMBERING, ALWAYS FORGETTING!

As I write this letter, and then prepare it for recording, in order that it might be transmitted throughout the world over our internet radio station, radio4living and over certain selected terrestrial radio stations, I look back to last Saturday evening when there was a memorable event at which few nations can rival the British at organising and presenting. This was the annual Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance held at the Royal Albert Hall, perhaps the most prestigious concert hall in London. This is a yearly commemoration of those of Britain who died in war. This was followed the next day, Sunday, by the annual service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall when wreaths are laid, led by the Queen and members of the Royal Family. Followed then by other notables including the prime ministers of the Commonwealth nations. Another ceremony is held at the Cenotaph on the 11th November to commemorate the signing of an armistice between the warring nations of the first world war. It was signed at 11.00 on the 11th day of the 11th month that being, of course, November. Throughout Britain and many other nations, including the United States, these remembrance ceremonies are held.

The word, armistice, is an interesting word. Everyone knows the word and we all assume we know the meaning of it. But did you actually check that meaning in the dictionary. You might be surprised! It is not an agreement to end all hostilities as you might think. Instead, it is defined as "a temporary cessation or suspension of hostilities by mutual consent." And indeed there was a temporary cessation. A cessation which lasted only 21 years when Germany, ruled by the National Socialist Party, or Nazi party, attacked Poland. As a consequence Britain with the Commonwealth declared war on Germany then allied with Italy. The war finally ended in 1945 not in an armistice but in the defeat and surrender of Germany and Italy. Since that point there has been no further war in Europe apart from the one in the Balkans. However there have been constant wars around the world since the ending of the 2nd world war with multiple millions of people dying horrible deaths. It is said that there hasn't been one year without conflict somewhere in this world.

People mull over this propensity of mankind to go to war. They wonder about it. Philosophers and various pundits ponder it and make learned pronouncements regarding it. They appear on television and bask in the publicity. Publicity which no doubt will do the sale of their books no harm at all. And might even mean a further appearance on television which will result in a further enhancement of their bank accounts. But none of them, not one, ever comes up with the real reason as to why war! Why the constant suffering caused by it. Cities, towns destroyed, factories, offices, workshops, shops and stores wrecked with the loss of millions of jobs. Families ripped to pieces. Husbands, fathers, brothers, sons and now with women in the front lines as well, the nurturing sex finally achieved what the feminists have long striven for, the right to die horrible, excruciating death along with the men. Is that what so-called equality means! Its long past time that the feminists woke up to the fact, that before God, men and women are equal, but different. Equality has been there all the time! The word of God tells us that His desire for us is to be a Father to us with us His sons and daughters. What greater, what higher calling can there be.

What we must come to understand is the reason why mankind is on earth. Why was he created in the first place? There is a reason. The bible, alone among all religious books throughout the world, gives us the answer. There is an incredible project running and it is right on time. To begin with God created spirit beings to work with the subsequent creation, mankind! These first spirit beings or angels had to be tested, Because mankind was to have a freedom of choice and to learn from its mistakes it was necessary for these spirit beings to also have a certain freedom of action. But, for both, a freedom of action within the overall laws of God. The testing of the spirit beings was successful in that two thirds

proved themselves faithful to God and His word. One third, led by Lucifer as his name originally was, failed and went to war against God. The bible says there was "war in heaven" - we speculate that the condition of the universe may be a result of that war! As far as we know that was the first war. The book of Revelation sums it up and what then happened. Lucifer, now named Satan, a name which means "obstructor" "opposer" or "adversary" was, with the third of spirit beings, who followed him against God, confined to this planet. The bible calls him the god of this world. It calls him the father of lies. The world is called "this present evil world." It is not God's world. It does not, however, prevent us coming to understand and to know the truth by reading the bible for what it clearly tells us.

The bible gives us the reason for war. It asks the question: "Where do wars among you come from?" "They come from the lust, or inordinate desires, that struggle within us," It goes on to say "You lust and have not, so you kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain, so you fight and war. You want things for the wrong reason. You want things so you can feed your wants and lusts." It continues "The spirit that is in us lusts and envies." As a result, and as the bible says, we have another father. It's Satan, the devil. It gives an answer! Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, Satan, and he will flee from you." "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." Do you realise what Satan, what spirit beings who infest this planet, are intending? They have got the world going contrary to God's ways and laws, they have people at each other's throats. They have got the entire planet on to a war basis. Hooked in to conflict of all kinds. Conflicts, arguments, strife, these are just as much war as the actual shooting type. And in order to achieve their aim they have managed to convince most of the world that they, with Satan, do not exist! And that God does not exist. That everything is as a result of a blind evolution which must be the biggest lie to ever be foisted on mankind along with the non-existence of demons.

The bible then says to us that if we do believe in God, we do well: the devils also believe, and tremble. They, you see, know their eventual fate only too well. They are determined to destroy you, your family, mankind, together with the planet and thereby end the overall plan that God has for this world and its people. Wouldn't you think after all this time - nearly 6,000 years of man on earth - we would have learned the way to peace. We have had enough peace conferences over the years, but none has brought peace to this world. The bible once again has the answer - it tells us that we just don't know the way to peace. That we are always learning but unable to come to a knowledge of the truth. Wouldn't you think the religious leaders of the world would come to a knowledge of the truth? But they don't do they! How do we know that? Because they will not preach what the bible says clearly, plainly and without possibility of being misunderstood. Some like to say you can make the bible say anything. If you are being honest with it you can't!

In the two world wars and in the years since, we have had the constant view before us of professing Christian ministers blessing warships at their launching and at the start of a new commission. In a war they will be doing this on both sides! So what do they expect God to do about it. Which brings us back to where we began. To Armistice Day. To the day which reminds us of a temporary cessation of hostilities, which is the dictionary definition of the word. I find the British Legion Service of Remembrance each year a very emotional experience. I am reminded of the horror, of the obscenity of war, of the destruction that is caused to people, to families. Of the agony they went through when the message that this one, or that, was not going to come back to them. I lived in North London for most of the second world war. I was witness to the bombing, I would lie in bed under a table shelter in our home and listen to the distinctive note of the German Junkers bombers approaching and then the explosions of bombs, hoping they would not hit anywhere near us! Later, came the V1 flying bombs and then the V2 rockets, both of which destroyed a number of places in my town.

My wife, as a young girl, lived in Plymouth in south west England overlooking the immediate town centre. She, with her mother, experienced the entire town centre destroyed in one night. Her father was serving onboard a ship of the Royal Navy. Over 70 million people died as a result of the 2nd world war, the war to end all wars! I was for a number of years in the Royal Navy and witnessed the professing Christian ministers with their varying beliefs, none of which come from the bible, blessing in the name of God the ships of war and destruction. And knowing that this was also happening in other nations who might not necessarily be our friends. War is not a glorious thing. It is an obscenity. It simply does Satan's work. I would like to see a British Legion Service of Remembrance take a different format. Led by a minister who actually does preach the clear word of God. Who understands that there is one Lord, one faith not a multiplicity of them, and one baptism. There is one, and only one, doctrine. God's word is truth - that's in John 17:17 - there aren't a number of different truths. It would be great if the Service of Remembrance involved a personal declaration to preach the truth, to take a stand against war, for the government and the citizens to make a dedication to serving mankind.

At the time the Iraq war was shamefully launched by America and Britain we came out strongly against

it and said that this is not the biblical way of treating those who regard themselves as our enemies. There was another way other than dropping tons of bombs on them. But the way of peace we know not. And our religious men are not teaching it either. Our two nations together could lead the world in obeying God, but they won't will they. Instead we carry on eulogising war, singing stirring songs, whipping up the emotions as we glorify war. There is nothing glorious about it. Satan has our two nations and indeed the whole world in his grasp and has it racing headlong to destruction. One event and only one event will stop all war and bring genuine peace to this planet and that is the return of Jesus Christ. Do you believe in it? You should! It's the world's only hope!

John Jewell

WEEKLY REVIEW OF NEWS AND COMMENT

14th November 2008

WATER

The Observer Magazine -- 2nd November -- The problem of water! A person uses about 50 litres of water a day; industry accounts for double that. But agriculture needs much more -- in fact, 90 per cent of all water used by humans. Australia has endured so many dry years that a leading climatologist has said it's time to stop saying 'gripped by drought' and accept that the lack of rain is permanent. In parts of the United States supplies are so vulnerable that last autumn the Red Cross delivered water parcels to the town of Orme in Tennessee. "I thought. "That can't be the Red Cross. We're Americans!" resident Susan Anderson told a reporter. In California, some farmers abandoned their crops this year as Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared the first state-wide drought for 17 years. The Stockholm International Water Institute talks about 'an acute and devastating humanitarian crisis'; the founder of the World Economic Forum, Klaus Schwab, warns of a 'perfect storm'; Ban Ki-Moon, the UN Secretary General, has raised the spectre of 'water wars', And as the population keeps growing and getting richer, and global warming changes the climate, experts are warning that unless something is done, billions more will suffer lack of water -- precipitating hunger, disease, migration and ultimately conflict.

Comment: The bible talks about the weather conditions becoming such that it will rain upon one city and not upon another, and that the one where there was no rain, withered. Severe weather conditions are very much part of what to expect in these, the last days of man's civilisation.

OIL

The International Herald Tribune -- 28th October -- Oil's stunning retreat: How long can it last? As oil gets caught in the wild gyrations of the financial meltdown, three major questions loom over the oil markets for next year. What will happen to oil consumption in the United States and in China? How will producers respond to lower prices? Can the oil cartel OPEC stop the slide in prices? But its (International Energy Agency) analysts see oil demand expanding by 400,000 barrels a day this year, to 86.5 million barrels a day. The credit crisis has dried up commerce and halted trade, and that has effectively pushed down demand for oil. The trouble is that no one can predict when this is going to end.

The Guardian -- 30th October -- Now for the oil crunch. Peak production is just five years away, and we must plan now to avert a truly ruinous crisis. If 8 companies across a broad spectrum of UK industry had warned, five years ago, that ruinous credit crunch would hit the global economy this year, might the government have taken the warning seriously? Might UK leadership in damage limitation have been proactive, rather than reactive? Today, 8 British companies are warning of a ruinous oil crunch 5 years from now. We warn that the global peak of oil production will arrive unexpectedly early, resulting in not just a global energy crisis, but potentially the with-holding of exports by oil producers and energy famine in oil-importing countries. the Petroleum Review -- a flagship oil-industry journal -- shows how the flow rates from reported discoveries will drop below depletion rates no later than 2013, and possibly a good deal earlier.

Comment: There have been previous reports showing that oil production has already peaked. But The Petroleum Review report was more about "reported discoveries" and not actual production. The price sky rocketed because of the demand, then came the credit crunch, that reduced the demand for oil. But OPEC was now losing income, so the price was reduced to bring the demand up again. Essentially OPEC is trying to maintain its income while hoping there may be new discoveries.

WARS AND RUMOURS OF WAR

International Herald Tribune -- 31st October -- Dozens killed by bombs in north India. A series of apparently synchronised explosions tore through four towns in the state of Assam in northeastern India on Thursday, killing at least 67 people and wounding more than 210. The bombs targeted crowded markets and government buildings, including courts and police stations, witnesses said. The attacks, among the bloodiest in recent months, left streets littered with bodies and the wreckage of cars and motorcycles, they said. Assam has been riven for many years by a separatist insurgency led by the United Liberation Front of Assam, which demands independence for the region of about 26 million people..... Before Thursday, about 150 people had died in seven recent attacks around the country.

Daily Mail -- 27th October -- War could last decades, admits Hutton. It could be decades before the Taliban is defeated and British troops are able to return from Afghanistan, the Defence Secretary admitted yesterday.

Comment: The British government still seems totally incapable of learning any lessons from history. The nation as a whole, therefore, continues to repeat the catastrophic mistakes of the past.

AMERICAN BUSINESS

The Mail on Sunday -- 9th November -- Obama bids to save 5,000 British car jobs. A meeting (between Mr Bush and Mr Obama) (is) now to focus on saving the stricken U.S. car giant (General Motors) GM says it is on the brink of collapse and will run out of money in three months if it receives no aid. The firm, which owns Vauxhall and employs 4,989 workers at plants in Luton and Ellesmere Port, has seen sales plummet in the economic downturn. It needs at least £7 billion to pay its bills each month. Mr Obama is expected to argue if Mr Bush does not help GM, he will do it when he takes over in January.

International Herald Tribune -- 11th November -- Pumping up aid to AIG. The U.S. government on Monday announced an overhaul of its rescue of the insurance titan American International Group, saying it would purchase \$40 billion of the company's stock, after signs that the initial bailout was putting too much strain on AIG. When the deal is complete, taxpayers will have invested and lent a total of \$150 billion to AIG.

Comment: Who ever would have thought that giant American companies like GM and AIG would face possible closure to add to the earlier near collapse of Fannie Mae and Freddy Mac. But that is an example of what is happening around the world at this time. A lot more to happen. But where's all the money coming from to bail out these, and other, companies. In the end it comes from the taxpayer and eventually has to be repaid which is going to mean in the U.S. as in Britain, higher taxes.

BRITAIN AND THE FOOLISHNESS OF GOVERNMENT

International Herald Tribune -- 11th November -- Laggard U.S. rediscovers streetcars. As America moves to save energy, world's tram builders are poised to profit. America may have invented the streetcar, but Europe perfected it. As a result, as gas prices soared over the past couple of years and dozens of North American communities sought to reintroduce electric streetcars as an alternative to diesel buses, some of the biggest beneficiaries were European tram builders. Companies such as Siemens of Germany, AnsaldoBreda of Italy, CAF of Spain and Skoda of the Czech Republic. In May, Siemens, the market leader, landed a \$277 million contract to supply streetcars to the Utah Transport Authority.

Our comment: British trams have a history about the same as American trams. And just like the U.S. Britain no longer builds trams and, like America, now has to buy them from other European Union nations. As one of the two nations goes, so does the other. The sons of Joseph, sleepwalking arm in arm towards collapse.

SEEING THE FUTURE

International Herald Tribune -- 11th November -- \$29 billion loss at Fannie Mae. Fannie Mae, the U.S. mortgage finance company, on Monday reported a \$29 billion loss for the 3rd quarter and said it was losing money so fast that it might have to tap the federal government for cash to avoid shutting down. The company, which along with Freddie Mac owns or guarantees about half of all mortgages in the United States, reported its fifth consecutive quarterly loss. The government forced the two companies into conservatorship in September. Fannie Mae warned that the worst housing crisis since the Depression could wipe out its net worth by the end of the year, forcing it to obtain funding from the U.S. Treasury to avoid being put into receivership by the U.S. government and closing its operations.

Comment: And it just does not stop with Fannie Mae. For all its wealth the U.S. has already started on the same slippery slope that Britain has been on for quite a while. Both nations are being drained by the continuing misadventures of Iraq and Afghanistan, both are going to become hostage to others. In all but name.

SOME CLOSING NEWS HEADLINES

-- Daily Mail -- 6th November -- Now the going gets tough -- The problems about to beset Barack Obama are awesome. We should pray for him -- for we all have a huge stake in his success.

-- The Mail on Sunday -- 9th November -- The night we waved goodbye to America ... our last best hope on Earth.

-- The Independent -- 10th November -- Neo-Nazis are back, German Jews warn.

-- The Independent -- 10th November -- Global economic crisis imperils sustainability. .

From the International Herald Tribune Letters to the editor 12th November 08

Missile shield in Europe

The United States has no business meddling in Russia's sphere of influence by building a missile defense system in Eastern Europe. Russia has warned that it will respond should the U.S. follow through with its plans.

Should a true rogue-nation threat arise in Europe, let the Europeans and the Russians work out the problem with the United States keeping its nose out of the affair.

America is on the threshold of a needless confrontation with Russia, an arms race the likes of which has not been seen since the hot days of the Cold War. Whether you like it or not, President Bush has been doing to Russia – by advocating the placement of this missile system in Eastern Europe – what Krushchev did to the United States in 1962 by placing a missile system in Cuba.

Hopefully, Barack Obama will change Bush's plans for Eastern Europe.
(Sgd) EB, Terre Haute, Indiana

Will U.S. politics change?

Barack Obama has won the U.S. presidency, but does anybody seriously believe he will change anything?

We live in a conservative world and there hasn't been a president in contemporary history that hasn't gone off to war with some so-called foreign enemy.

It may have been a triumph for black America, but like all the other men of the White House, Obama will be told what to do by the Washington war machine when time comes. Hope may be in the air following his great win, but what will it really mean?

(Sgd) MF, Shanbally, Ireland

Church of God-21st Century
P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

November 2, 2008

Dear friends and family,

During a telephone conversation with Mrs. McNair, the conversation was brought to my attention that many of you, in order that you continue to adhere to God's Truth, must observe the Sabbath at home.

Surely, this sacrifice pleases God, as you desire to honor Him and keep His commands.

But, sadly, this obedience at times can produce loneliness and possible discouragement. Each of us desires to be with other brethren, sharing our same beliefs, requesting prayer, and socializing together. Some families opt to attend Sabbath services as well as other Holy Days with brethren of various splinter groups. Reports are that although the social aspect of meeting this way provides fellowship, at times it is getting difficult for these brethren to sift Truth from human error.

This letter is intended to inform you of some good news and plans that are in the making. As Mr. Armstrong would say, "Brethren, I have good news!!"

It is with love and concern for each of you, along with excitement, that plans are being made in bringing God's people in the Church of God-21st Century together during God's fall festival.

Sadly, during Mr. Raymond McNair's last months, as much as he so desired to have a gathering of God's people during the Feast Holy days, his health would not permit him to make any definite plans. But now God seems to be working in this direction to provide a "Gathering" for members in COG-21, for our next fall Holy Day festival season.

Plans are very new in the making, and in using wisdom, we feel it necessary to begin in enough time so that our attempts will produce a successful gathering.

Many of you have expressed how much you wish to meet with brethren in the Church of God-21st Century. God is now making this possible.

Our desire is for each of us to gather in peace, to encourage one another, support each other, helping one another in bringing our spiritual family together.

The messages will be given by God's apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, and God's faithful evangelist, Mr. Raymond F. McNair.

These men have been tried and tested, loyal and faithful leaders in God's Work.

The main inspiration for planning this event is for each of us to have a place to gather together during God's Feast, and to be with God's people of like minds.

This letter is to inform you of our plans in the making and to give you enough time to make such plans in the event you wish to join with us. More information will be sent to each of you as we make the needed progress.

Friends, may God pour His special blessings as well as answers to our prayers during these difficult times. What is now happening in our country and in this world is just the beginning of many sorrows. This is just the beginning! We need one another so that as these catastrophes occur, we have the love and support from each other to remain strong, faithful and together to the end!

In Christian love and togetherness,

Sincerely,

Frank W. Olive,

Eve Mc.Nair

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

Church of God-21st Century
P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

October 14, 2008

Dear Brethren,

My wife and I send our warmest greetings to each and every one of you. We hope all of you had the most wonderful, spiritually exhilarating Feast ever, returning home *refreshed* and *rejuvenated*!

It is our wish that one day we could all rejoice *together* in one place. If God wills, it will happen!

Please keep in mind that during the months prior to Passover it is *vital* that we keep *closer* to God more now than ever before. Prophecy is unveiling *rapidly* brethren, beginning with the *decline* in our countries financial economy. This is a *small* taste of the future horrors which some of us will *observe* and even *experience*.

Brethren, I would like to bring to your attention a scripture, which my wife and I *seriously* noted during our trial together. Many of you are well aware of the *sacrifices* we must make from its contents.

In Mark 10:29, 30, God's instructions say, "...Verily, I say unto you, There is no man that has left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's.

"But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecution, and in the age to come eternal life."

Brethren, can you realize the *seriousness* of this scripture, which God is requiring of us? Our commitment, which we made when coming into God's Church? God says we are to be willing to sacrifice. Sacrifice truly means to sacrifice, to give up for Jesus Christ. Many of you have experienced painful trials and sufferings, having had to give up, *sacrificing* for God's Truth.

My wife and I are recently experiencing our most *difficult* trial. We are "suffering long," having been through much testing, yet understanding just what God means when He says we must make *many* sacrifices.

Our three sons, Ambassador College graduates, were called into God's Work. Later Satan swept them away from the Truth. Painful as it has been, we have been willing to accept this, as some of you have also had to do as well.

After eleven years of *finally* completing the renovation of our small home in Pasadena, California, we were made to move to a foreign land, New Zealand. This was a most *difficult* trial for my wife. Although God took care of us for those four and one half years, after returning to the states, we were again *forced* to sell our beautiful home in Mt. Woodson, CA, due to having made a loan to the Work, which has *never* been repaid.

My recent illness has tested us both *severely*, yet God is seeing us through this ordeal. We have made sacrifices as many of you also have. God has *never* left us and continues to see that we are cared for during our *endurance* of *long-suffering* along the way.

Many of you are having *severe* trials of testing now, have lost family members, a business or a mate through illness, or perhaps a child through death or accident. Each of us making the sacrifices required of us by God. Yet we must be willing to endure, remaining faithful to the end!

I would like to point out the *seriousness* of these two scriptures. Try looking into your personal lives to see why God is testing or correcting you. Which Godly characteristic is God wanting to develop in you? Which endurance or faith is God wishing for you to learn? Brethren, we must not get discouraged, but must remain faithful no matter what! God is developing *true* Godly character in each of us. Take God at His promises, that He will *restore* these in *this* generation and the generation to come. Prove yourself by remaining faithful no matter what! It will all be worth it in the end.

In a sermon, by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in 1984, he said, "If you don't realize you have to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ as well as His grace. If you don't realize you have to overcome. If you don't realize, you have to endure to the end! If you don't realize you have to qualify. We are rewarded according to our works, not saved according to our works. We are not being called just to be saved!"

True, our salvation depends on our endurance, our longsuffering, our trust that God will never leave us no matter the hardship of any trial we must face. Building God's righteous character takes us to unlimited achievements, which will be needed in God's Kingdom in helping to restore true, peaceful government, which we all

long for. In my next "Dear Brethren" letter I hope to continue each phase on building Godly character.

I am enclosing a brief personal profile from a long-time friend and minister in God's Work, Mr. John Jewel. From time to time I will be including excerpts with his permission, from his monthly Newsletters. I believe his contributions will be helpful as well as informative. Mr. Jewel's loyalty to God, our Father, Jesus Christ and Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, have remained true to this day. God is blessing Mr. Jewel's work in Europe with an hour's radio program each week and other programs during Sabbath and Sunday in Northern Ireland, and in Southeast Spain, reaching about two million English speaking people as well. He uses an internet radio station covering twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week with listeners in about one hundred nations.

As I usually enjoy doing in many of my letters, I would like to share comments from our members and supporters.

Mr. John Jewel wrote a brief letter to my wife and me, that I wish to share with you: "...God's servants are to cry aloud, warn the people as to what is going to happen as a result of their sins, and with this bring a message of hope. And at the same time, pastor those whom God has previously called and are members of His Church, plus pastor those whom He might call as the result of doing a work, Romans 10: 13-14.

"The days of building churches, gathering members, I feel have gone. We appreciate the letters you produce and send out. They are both helpful and inspiring. That you both, with the problems keep going, is itself an inspiration."

Also, a brief note which my wife and I found to be most enjoyable and amusing: "Thank you for your letters and articles. We really look forward to reading them. Out of the stack of mail that comes, my wife and I fight over your envelope."

A card from longtime friends in England: "...You have touched the lives of thousands over the decades and God knows your situation fully. He is able to look after you and your wife and family. Just to let you know you are in our thoughts and prayers in that God may see fit to intervene to bring about good improvement in your present distress. Keep trusting Him."

From COG-21 supporters: "We enjoy your cards and letters and Mr. McNair's inspiring letters that continue to

keep us on track and continue to help us grow, forging ahead in these difficult times. We pray for you both."

And next to last: "Thank you for your card and letters. We would like to be on your regular mailing list and receive the letters/articles you send out. It is a notable and pleasant difference to hear someone with the right foundation. We pray for healing and strength for you."

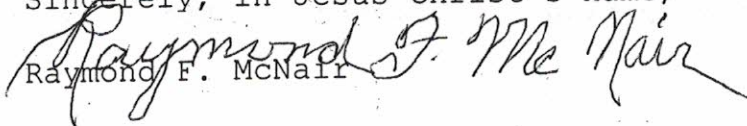
And finally, this email was received a while back, but I feel it should be shared: "We are most fortunate to have in these last days a leading minister who guides and leads the remaining ministry and brethren in the *steadfastness* as warned and prophesied. 2 Thessalonians 2:15, and Rev. 3:11. I thank you. And you and your family are in my prayers for recovery and the soon return of our Beloved Brother, Jesus Christ. Kind regards."

I thank you brethren for keeping in touch with cards and letters, which helps me to know that God is leading me and *inspiring* me to continue helping you in His Work. My wife and I cannot think of any calling more fulfilling and rewarding.

Brethren, it is my hearts desire that you be in health and do your utmost to practice good nutrition. Your body is where Christ's Holy Spirit resides. Remember, we are living temples, given the responsibility by Jesus Christ to nourish and protect it. Many in God's Church are suffering trials and even death due to hereditary weaknesses and *poor* nutritional habits. If we will strengthen these *weaknesses* through proper good wholesome nutrition, plenty of rest, avoiding stress, which is so *prevalent* in our society today, then we at least are doing our part to *maintain* reasonable health. Remember, God helps those who help themselves. So we must do our part in *correcting* any weakness we may learn about that lurks in our bodily systems.

May God be with you all as you hold on to His Truth and *remain loyal* to the teachings of God's servant, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. He is whom God has used to *teach* us, to help *train* us under Christ in His precious Truth. Although he is no longer with us, do we continue to give God thanks for the *sacrifices* he endured in bringing this precious knowledge to us? God be with you all!

Sincerely, in Jesus Christ's name,


Raymond F. McNair

October 24, 2008

Dear family,

Enclosed you will find the last "Dear Brethren" letter written by my husband and me.

Although he and I wished to continue together in doing God's Work, God had other plans. His will has been done. "Not our will, but yours Father."

For many months my husband's back pain had *subsided*. He seemed to be *making progress* toward regaining his health, even *gaining some weight* he had lost. A month ago, the back pain returned causing him *much* discomfort. The bedsores had been healing, then, all of a sudden, they took a turn and became a *challenge* again.

His *sadness* was expressed to me. "I am *sorry* that I don't feel like talking to *encourage* them (callers). But God has given you a *talent* and uses you as my *right arm*."

These past five years have been *very difficult* for us. With *miracles* along the way God *continually* showed us He was near, watching, helping, and *providing* the strength needed to endure this test.

My "help mate" is no longer with me, *emptiness* remains. After errands today and returning home, I could only think to myself, "Better to suffer coming home to an empty house than to come home to a *suffering* husband."

Many of you have experienced a *similar* loss, so situations such as this are common. At times it is difficult, yet, as God *promises* the needed strength is there for me to *press forward* with my life, and this I intend to do.

I recently received a call from our COG-21 webmaster, Frank Olive. During our conversation he reminded me of a promise he had made to my husband that in the event of his death, he would *continue* to keep our COG-21 website *alive*.

My interest *peaked* when I was asked if I would be willing to assist him in providing any of my husband's "works" from past years, such as sermons, publications, items of interest etc.

We spoke again this evening with plans to carry out whatever God reveals in *continuing* the COG-21 website and other things as well. We are planning a Newsletter each month, which will be sent to those who may wish to receive it. If finances permit, we are considering offering "The

God You Can Know" brochure for those requesting it. As God guides, we will continue doing a Work!

Only with the *help* and *inspiration* of Jesus Christ, will we *accomplish* what He has in mind. We are His *tools* in seeking His *blessings* and *direction*.

My husband had wanted to write asking that, in the event of his death, since I would have no income, could some of you help me through your tithes and offerings? Due to his discomfort and pain, he never got the opportunity.

It is my intention to keep my husband's, as well as Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's name alive. These two faithful and honorable servants of God worked diligently, sacrificing so that we could receive God's precious Truth.

The "America and Britain in Prophecy" brochure is near completion. I am now in the process of finding a *reasonable* cost to do the job. Quality is my main interest, as Mr. Armstrong always stressed this to God's people.

Whatever lies ahead, we as family will keep together, encouraging one another, supporting each other in our trials, during our sorrows, sharing in our blessings, our joys, and the hope that lies within us.

My husband is no longer with us, nor is Mr. Armstrong. But Jesus Christ lives forever and will continue to be our Inspiration, our Strength, our Comfort, our Provider and Helper.

Your encouragement through your letters, emails, phone calls, gifts and cards were as "living waters" to us.

Lastly, I wish to share a recent note received: "I remember once speaking with Mr. McNair by phone and he mentioned Churchill's quote, 'Solitary trees, if they grow at all, grow strong.' Well, he did indeed grow strong and held on throughout this turmoil of Church scattering and terrible sickness. He didn't let go! Mr. McNair has a crown laid up. He qualified, he made it! Now it is up to us. We will miss him terribly, but look forward to our future together. It won't be long. With lots of love and tears."

God's will, not mine, will be done in this work! I know that I have your prayers and support.

In Christian love,

Eve McNair

"He was the finest man of true Christian character I have even known. The best friend a man could ever have." (MFB, Bermuda)

Church of God-21st Century
P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

October 14, 2008

Dear Family and friends,

By now many of you have heard the sad news regarding the death of my dear husband, Raymond McNair. Through his five year ordeal he never complained nor asked, "Why me, Lord?"

He trusted God knowing he would be delivered either through death or divine healing. "Not my will, but yours O Lord," were words he often repeated.

My husband's convictions were as Paul's, "Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that last day; and not to me only, but unto all men also that love His appearing.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith!" (2Tim.4:8 & 7).

I wish to thank all who have so kindly and passionately reached out to comfort me in my distress. The future for me will be difficult at first, and at times lonely. But the hope in me will keep me going, remembering God's promises that my husband and I will be together again, standing before our Father and Jesus Christ to hear those familiar words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servants,"

Sincerely,
Eve McNair



Church of God-21st Century
P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

September 21, 2008

Dear Brethren,

I want to get a quick letter off to you before the Fall Festivals. Much has taken place in our world today that is *not* good news.

With the housing situation *collapsing*, the stock market steadily *declining*, investment companies needing financial assistance to survive and the *worst* financial crisis since the Great Depression! We are *rapidly* heading toward the *climax* of this evil age.

Many homes in our neighborhood have been *abandoned* by their owners due to the *weak* economy which has hit our nation. Job losses, *high* fuel prices, executive corporations bailing out, small and large businesses *failing*, *staggering* interest loans etc., are plummeting our nation downward. America's *collapse* continues to become more serious! These events indicate our world's economy is rapidly heading toward *prophesied disaster!*

A well known TV news reporter recently mentioned on his program, "The government wants you to spend your money. I am asking you not to. Many of you have now received your stimulus checks. Please take this warning and SAVE your money. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU WILL NEED TO HELP BUY FOOD FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR!" I strongly and wholeheartedly agree!

Soon many of you will be traveling to God's Festival to join with brethren who will also share in this *joyous* occasion. It will be good to leave these problems and woes behind, as God's Word tells us to *rejoice*. But how? How are we to *rejoice* when so much *misery* and *unbalance* is taking place in our world each day? When on a daily basis we are given a steady diet of *negative* news reporting.

Brethren, we must look ahead toward the *good news* which has been made available to God's people. Do you realize that our Brother, Jesus Christ sits at the *edge* of His throne waiting for the *precise moment* to *intervene* in bringing about a new *peaceful* world government? Are you excited at what God has opened your ears to hear and your

eyes to see? If so, then while attending God's Festival, be really filled with *joy, thanksgiving* and genuine *positiveness!* We can put all cares and *negativity* behind us for a brief moment to *praise* our Creator, to be *grateful* for this *precious knowledge* He has led us to. This should not be a *difficult* task for God's people!

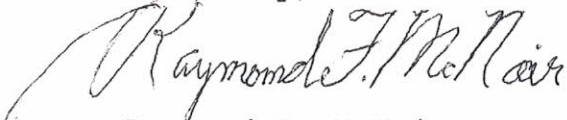
Again I say, "Rejoice!" Knowing that *peace* is soon to come! Celebrating at God's Festival will soon become *reality* for all mankind!

My wife and I will be remaining at home again this year. Many of you have remembered us during this time with phone calls, visits and gifts. Your *thoughtfulness* and generosity is *heartwarming* and has made our *loneliness* bearable. Please remember the widows, widowers and fatherless in your prayers. Many of you will also be staying at home. Please know that you are *not* alone and are *remembered* by many of God's people. The cross which you must now bear will reap rewards in this generation and the generation to come.

Dear brethren, it is my sad duty to inform you of the death of a long-time member of God's Church, Mrs. Gema Salvadori. Mrs. Salvadori fought her battle with bone cancer to the end. Putting her trust in God and knowing that He would deliver her in His time and way. God has delivered her and she is now in peace, without pain, awaiting the resurrection. Mrs. Salvadori is survived by her husband of over thirty years, Mr. Tony Salvadori, and her two daughters, Celeste Salvadori and Mrs. Carina Pocian. Our prayers are that God will continue to comfort her family during this difficult time.

May you all experience *total joy, relaxation* and *spiritual rejuvenation* during this Feast-time. May those of you traveling to various sites arrive *safely* and return to your homes *safely* as well. God be with you all!

Sincerely, in Jesus Christ's name,



Raymond F. McNair

"And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear, and from the hard bondage in which you were made to serve" (Isaiah 14:3).

THE WONDERFUL MILLENNIUM

Why must the earth groan in anger and pain?
With all the suffering—nothing to gain?
Where is the peace that past years was there?
All this resulting, man's lacking in care.

Out in the meadows, where serenity be...
Visual awareness of God's creativity.
Nature is resting, not made to think,
Sheep grazing, birds nesting, survive by instinct!

Yes, a peaceful surrounding, a limited scene;
For if one for a moment take reality in.
Not far from these meadows, man's result of sin.
Wars, crime, idolatry, hate,
Confusion, division, a meaningless fate!

Why must reality enter one's mind?
Can't peace remain, truth left behind?

Only a handful have not lost the sight,
They hope for a future, a glimmer of light.
Entrapped by the suffering,
Entrapped by the sorrow,
Looking beyond to a NEW WORLD TOMORROW!

Let me paint you a picture of what life will be,
In the World Tomorrow planned for you and for me.

While birds chirping musically, bees whisking by,
Cows in peaceful meadows, chewing cud, swatting flies.
Clouds fluffy like cotton, the sun's warmth surrounding,
Brilliant flowers, all colors, painted billions abounding.

Children laughing, freely playing, not only with kin,
All one big family, regardless of skin.
The weaned baby not fearful of laying his hand,
By the cockatrice den on this new freedom land.

Mom is singing, cleaning, baking healthful foods,
good and warm.
Dad is whistling, farming, loading crops in the barn.
Harvest bountiful, brought by rain and sunshine for growth,
The earth restored shows abundance brought forth.

No blindness, arthritis or insanity,
politics, or plagues haunting humanity.
No sirens of terror, no rapes in the night,
All prostitutes, gamblers will fade out of sight.

Dirty jokes, cheating, misers be gone!
Drug abusers, miss user's, all losers—not one!
Fading of memory, senility, loss of hair,
Pimples, bronchitis, measles, not there!

No traffic violations, income tax, no debts to bear,
No ghosts in the attic, no weeds to pluck up,
No polluted water filling our cup!
No homos or gays, or adulterers to scorn.
No additives, junk foods, or cripples born.
No locks on doors, mosquito bites itching,
No smog, no fungus, or Satanic bewitching!

No tears!
No death!
No sorrow!
No pain!
No tormenting memories, no place for "insane!"
All fearful, unbelieving, all murderers, liars,
Shall all have their part in the Lake of Fire.

All these and more will not be found,
God's mind, God's guidance will ever abound.
Man with man.
Hand in hand.
Brother to brother.
Singing praises to God, accepting one another!

For the King of Kings, Lord of Lords,
Out from His mouth bursts a two-edged sword.
His countenance shining like strength as the sun,
Our God, Our Lord, Our family, ALL ONE!

To Jerusalem, year after year, all serving the Lord.
Keeping His Feasts, being taught by His Word.
Joyfully singing, praising our Creator,
Rebuilding the shambles from Pole to Equator.

A new heart God will give, a spirit from sin,
His statutes, His judgments abiding within.

Come serve God, dear brethren,
His dream's certain to come true.
It doesn't depend on me, or on you!

Plans were in the making centuries gone by,
A period of time for mankind to try
To do it his way—leaving God to the side,
Directing his own paths, engulfed with his pride.

Hang on to His promise, a new life awaits,
Right here on this Earth, not near "pearly gates."
The end of this world means a new beginning,
Freedom from Satan, freedom from sinning!

It's not too far off, for the scripture shows,
But the time, or the day, only God knows.
A new world, a challenge, we'll banish the sorrow.
Thank God, He has called us to a New World Tomorrow!

Church of God-21st Century
P.O. Box 893909
Temecula, CA 92589

September 10, 2008

Dear Brethren,

In my last letter I included *important* points in developing Godly character. God's righteousness is manifested in the fruits of His Holy Spirit. The very righteous character we as Christians should *emulate*.

Christ tells us to work out our own salvation with *fear and trembling* (Phil. 2:12). We cannot risk the *dangers of spiritual backsliding, or spiritual coasting*. Mr. Armstrong preached of Christian living as being like *rowing a canoe uphill*. If we coast, we lose ground, so we must *press forward, changing, developing* and "rowing" in this *uphill challenge*. We have knowledge of God's master plan while those in the world do not. Our time to *qualify is now!*

The times in which we are now living are becoming more *dangerous*. Numerous scriptures warn us to *watch, to avoid laziness* in our zeal toward God and His Work. Are we still holding to our "first love" avoiding becoming weary and inundated with physical or worldly cares (Rev. 2:4)?

The Apostle Paul *warned* the brethren over 2,000 years ago of the many problems which the Church would face. Knowing they could lose their salvation if they did not take these scriptures seriously. I, as a faithful minister of God will continue my God-given responsibilities as long as He allows.

The Apostle Paul warned, "This, know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of Godliness, but denying the power of it; from such turn away" (2 Tim. 3:1-5). Can we clearly see

this occurring around us, or are we blindly involved in our own personal cares?

From time to time we need to review these Old Testament scriptures. I suggest you read Deuteronomy 6:4-25. In Leviticus 26, verses 1-13, take note of God's blessings. Yet in verses 14-39 God warns us of the curses we are now facing.

Sadly, prior to God's Kingdom being established, our people will *suffer humiliating defeat* before they learn the lessons of their *disobedience* toward God. Such warning is mentioned in Micah 5:11-15. "And I will cut off the cities of your land, and throw down all your strongholds. And I will cut off witchcrafts out of your hand, and you shall have no more soothsayers; Your carved images also will I cut off, and your standing images out of the midst of you; and you shall no more worship the work of your hands, And I will pluck up your idols out of the midst of you; so I will destroy your cities, And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the nations, such as they have not heard."

There are many Old Testament scriptures which apply to God's people Israel today. We had better heed these *sobering* warnings now! These are not "suggestions" brethren; these are definite, precise warnings! Our present lives are at stake as well as our future!

When we witness the *degeneracy's* taking place in America today, such as crime, murders, pollution, sickness, war, divorce, adultery, mental disorder, homosexuality, dishonesty, etc., how sobering as we realize how *serious* our country is in *danger*!

As the prophet says, we have truly been *blessed* as no other nation, yet we *abuse* and take for granted these God-given blessings, showing *little or no real appreciation or respect* to God and His way. We *flout* His laws and commit every *abomination* mentioned by His prophets.

It is sickening to see such *crime and abominations* in our country as mentioned in our daily newspapers! Will our nation heed before it's too late?

Brethren, as God's people, we should *continually* show *appreciation* for the myriad blessings He bestows on us. We must never take these blessings for granted, despite our trials, despite our long-sufferings, we cannot allow ourselves to slip into *negative attitudes or mental disillusionment*. If God is for us, who can be against us?

My wife and I are *thankful and encouraged* by your many letters. A member writes: "It is so good to hear from you. The scripture says, 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit.' Although you may be *weak physically*, writing God's

Truth is powerful. Thank you, Mr. McNair, for your letters and articles. Thank you, Mrs. McNair, for being a good helper for Mr. McNair."

Another member wrote: "To Mr. and Mrs. McNair. It has been good to be in contact and talk to people who express true Godly character.... It has been a great privilege to be in contact with you both and to receive the encouragement that is given.... I am proud to know you both. Thank you for your caringness."

From a member in Bermuda; "...I do hope and pray that [Mr. McNair] continues to improve. His ability to continue to write letters to the Church, offering encouragement in these very difficult times is really quite something."

Lastly; "...We are so happy about the good news! The progress on the bedsores! And movement of a leg!! How encouraging! ...You have a beautiful web-site with valuable information. Our small amount might be of use in your work."

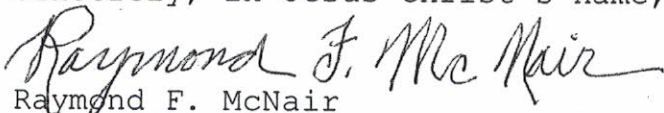
I am now able to take brief drives with my wife and son, Ric. Movement is returning to my feet and legs. The bedsores are dramatically improving with a new type bandage dressing we are using.

I am enclosing Part 2 of "How to Develop Spiritual Character." God's inspired Word is for our *spiritual development* so that we may grow in His way and not ours.

Brethren, my wife and I wish each of you a joyous and exhilarating Feast! It is my prayer that as God heals me we may be able to meet together in the future. All depends on God and His will. Each of us has his own personal trials which must be endured. We are to trust God, count our blessings, and rejoice for this Truth.

My wife and I thank each of you for your *prayers and financial support*, which you so kindly show to us and the Church of God-21st Century. May God *bless* you for your *love* toward Him and this end-time Work, which He has called each of us to.

Sincerely, in Jesus Christ's name,


Raymond F. McNair

"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving" (Col. 4:2).

How to Develop Spiritual Character

By Raymond F. McNair

LOVE...the first of God's fruits.

The Apostle Paul defines God's Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22 and 23. "But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE..." (Gal.5:22).

The Scriptures also mention in 1 John 4:16, that God is LOVE. "And we have known and believed the love that God has toward us. GOD IS LOVE, and he that dwells in love dwells in God and God in him."

Christ mentions in 1 John 3:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

If we are to become more like God, we must put on love, be filled with His love, and become as He is.

In an article in the December, 1972 Plain Truth magazine, the writer explains, "It is simply impossible for a human to live in a state of utter aloneness and lack of love. The mind craves union with someone or something.

"...Men have turned to religion in hope of discovering the love that really satisfies. If human love is not the ultimate love, where then can we find this love that will satisfy?"

In John 17:26 Christ says, "And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Man can find true spiritual oneness with God once he breaks down the wall of his sinful human nature, repents and in prayer develops a unique relationship with his Creator. Our sins have separated us from God. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hidden His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:1-2).

This awesome relationship of love and trust that can be developed between God and man cannot be compared, nor can it reach its ultimate euphoria with any human. It is

only with God that we are able to reach this "spiritual union" which transcends any phase of human love.

"In LOVE you must act with unselfishness, with initiative and genuine concern for everyone. The process of creating Godly character in us is God's plan of creating sons. It is His doing, but we also have our part. Besides our willpower and determination, it takes our resourcefulness, perseverance and drive.

"God is love and He acts habitually and consistently in outgoing love. That is what we are learning to do through His Holy Spirit. We are developing the character of habitually and consistently acting in outgoing love and concern for others—all others! The basic laws of God are given for the purpose of developing Godly love and goodwill. They are laws of love (1John 4:8)." (The Good News, 1967).

The most beneficial way to learn how to develop Godly character is through prayer, reading and studying God's Word. Many scriptures describe God's love and how to obtain, develop and grow in it.

John 13:34, 35, teaches us a new commandment. "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

Col. 3:14, "And above all these put on love, which is the bond of perfectness."

God is LOVE (1 Jo. 4:16). We, His children, His family, when praying for more of His love, leads us to PERFECTION, just as He is!

In Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's book titled, "The Missing Dimension in Sex" he defines three expressions of love. The first is *agape*, the second *philia*, and the third *eros*.

"First is *agape*, which is moral or spiritual love. This is the love which God expresses toward humanity. It is the divine, spiritual love, supplied by God's Holy Spirit. The natural unconverted man *does not have this love!*

"Second is *philia*, or *Philadelphia*.... This is the love of friendship—brotherly love—love of parent or child.

"Third is *eros*, which refers to sexual love between husband and wife. But it means love, not lust."

Mr. Armstrong continues in his book to expound what Godly love is.

"It is human to love your own self. That requires no effort—no character. But what is not human nature is to

love your neighbor EQUALLY! That requires recognition by an intelligent mind of the TRUE VALUES—and it requires the exercise of will and self-discipline and CHARACTER.

"A human can only really and truly love God with the very love which we first must receive *from Him!* This is the Spiritual, divine love God gives us by the Holy Spirit!

"When we love God, it is merely His own love, on a return circuit, flowing on back to Him again! God's Spirit is active—flowing!" (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, 1971).

"Just what then, is LOVE? If I had to define love in four words, I would say, "Love is an *unselfish outgoing concern*" for the one loved. Love is primarily on the *giving, serving, sharing* side of the fence—not the *getting, taking, factional, striving* side. It is not selfish" (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong).

Christ expressed His love for the Church by giving Himself, UNSELFISHLY! This expression of love is subdivided into Commandments—love toward God, and love toward neighbor. The law requires you to love God with all your heart, soul and mind.

Definitions of love found in Webster's Dictionary define love as, "The fatherly concern of God for humankind. Brotherly concern for others. The object of attachment, devotion, or admiration. A person's adoration of God."

God's Church is to become the Bride of Christ. God's Church is developing spiritual character through God's Holy Spirit. As mentioned in Galatians, the first of these fruits of God's Spirit is LOVE.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong taught that *genuine* Godly love covers *all* sins, and is in essence *outgoing concern* for others.

God's love is developed in our character through prayer. We must *ask* God and *receive* it through His Holy Spirit. It will not be given to us automatically. As future kings and priests this outgoing love and concern for humanity will flourish and continue to eternity.

It is God Who is our *perfect* example of true Spiritual character. God's desire is that our lives be *fruitful*, enjoying each living moment! If we will live our lives by God's inspiration, fully directed *toward His love* and His "*positive-ness*," we can then receive God's *unique* spiritual character. This new *Godly love*, this *God-like* character, is certain to bring *joy, harmony, peace of mind* and many *blessings!* This is Christ's teaching to His Church!

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