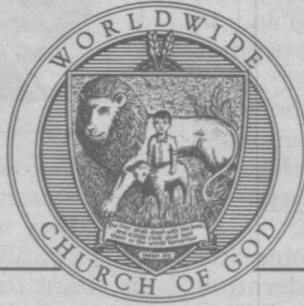


2 Author gives firsthand glimpse at changing Russia

4 The veil has been lifted

8 Lesson from a frantic descent

The Worldwide News



VOL. XXI, NO. 16
August 17, 1993

Brethren reach out to serve their communities

Brethren around the world are letting their lights shine and reaching out to members of communities in need. These are a sampling of the many reports we have received.

Aeta tribes receive donations

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, Philippines—Church members distributed relief goods May 23 to more than 300 Aeta tribe families dislocat-



AIDING VICTIMS—Members provided relief goods to these and other Mt. Pinatubo volcano victims in May.

ed by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. Relief goods consisted of 250 bags of used clothing and 350 bags of assorted food items.

About 30 members led by pastor Maxzix Fabricante and Pio Guzon, a local church elder, prepared the packages. They drove in three jeeps and a truck to carry the packages through silted lahar and rugged ashfall cluttering mountainous roads. *Jaime Navarro.*

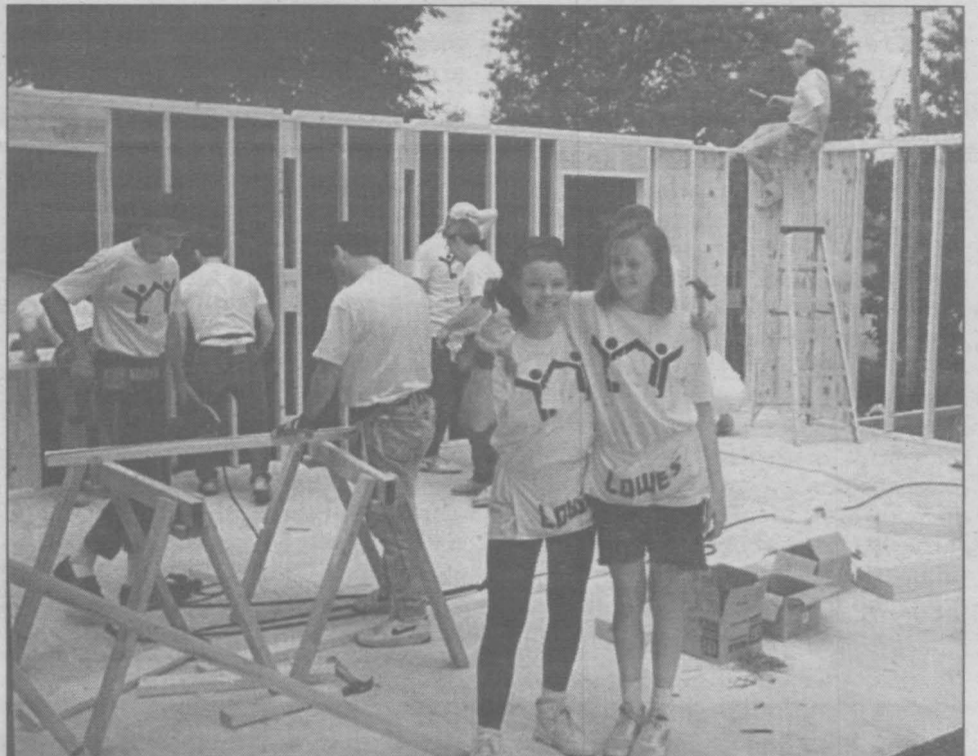
Members help build home

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee—More than 40 members and friends helped construct a house for Habitat for Humanity May 16 and 23. The volunteer crew almost completely framed the two-story, five-bedroom, two-bath house May 16 and installed vinyl siding May 23.

Habitat for Humanity builds affordable housing in partnership with low-income working families. A Habitat house is sponsored by an organization that commits to fund expenses connected with building the house and also commits to providing labor needed to build the house. *Connie Crew.*

Member honors personalities

BREDASDORP, South Africa—Simon Europa, a member from



WORK PARTY—Chattanooga, Tennessee, members help build a Habitat for Humanity house in May. The volunteer crew framed a two-story, five-bedroom house for low-income families. [Photo by Connie Crew]

Bredasdorp, the southernmost town in South Africa, honors those who serve their communities.

Mr. Europa, known as Oom Simon (Uncle Simon) writes a column for a weekly paper singling out people who render voluntary services toward the community. Oom Simon then selects a personality of the month.

In his work he visits many institutions, as well as sports and cultural organizations. Four years ago he introduced a personality of the year award. He was assisted by his daughter, Nicolene, and a few friends, and was backed by area business people.

Oom Simon founded the Bredasdorp Cultural Club to promote uplifting culture in the community, to introduce new activities, especially for youths, and to help people become more service oriented. *Fred-die Europa.*

Wyoming members adopt a lake

WHEATLAND, Wyoming—Forty-nine men, women and children here removed three dump-truck loads of brush and trash from the shores of Festo Lake.

The Platte County *Record Times* wrote, "With rakes, lawnmowers, trimmers, chain saws and willing workers, on May 16, the members of the Worldwide Church of God spruced and cleaned up part of the area around Festo Lake to help make it more accessible to area people."

The lake has been a popular picnic and fishing area for many years but had been left to weeds and vandals.

"We hope this turns the park around and again brings families to the area", said Roger Ludwig, Wheatland pastor. "It was a good project for us, as everyone could help. Chil-

dren could work right along with their parents. Some who couldn't work still came and enjoyed a lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs."

Platte County commissioners have expressed appreciation, as have neighbors. The congregation plans to clean the shoreline of trash periodically. *Jean Fertig.*

New York brethren polish Big Apple

NEW YORK, New York—About 40 brethren from the Queens, New York, and New York City Spanish churches cleaned streets in Jackson Heights, Queens, May 23.

Led by pastor Craig Bacheller, the group cleaned a 20-block stretch of a retail business area on 37th Avenue, collecting roughly 50 bags of litter from sidewalks and gutters.

The idea for the service project came from a *Worldwide News* article about congregations that adopted highways. New York City brethren, however, thought they could serve the largest number of people in their community by cleaning city streets. The two congregations have planned a similar cleanup project in a different part of Queens and hope to do other such projects. *Jonathan Browne.*

Member awarded medal

MONTREAL, Quebec—Omerine Mallette, a senior citizen in the Montreal South (French) church, received a medal in March recognizing her community service.

For the past eight years she has served meals to two elderly people afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. The medal, signed by the governor-general of Canada, commemorated the 125th anniversary of Confederation. *Canadian Office.*



Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

The biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit

Last time, I wrote about the reasons the Church teaches that there is one God, who is revealed in the New Testament as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I explained that the Bible teaches that there are not three Gods or two Gods, but only one. I also explained that the Bible reveals that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are *distinct*, that is, they are not the same—but neither are they *separate* Beings.

In this letter, I want to focus on what the Bible reveals about the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit is often misunderstood in one of two ways: 1) as a third, separate Being in the one Godhead, or 2) as an impersonal force or power that God uses to do his work.

Let's look closely at the first error. A popular misconception of the nature of God is to think of three God *Beings* in one Godhead, with the Holy Spirit as a third, separate Being. To us, such a concept, that the Holy Spirit is a third, separate Being, is, and has always been, entirely foreign to our thinking. The Bible teaches that there is *one* God, and any concept that makes the Holy Spirit a separate Being is not biblical.

See Personal, page 3

Russia: now kneeling under a different burden

One grasps how dramatically Russia is changing by visiting Red Square in Moscow. This I did in the summer, along with my wife, Barbara, Oleh and Diane Kubik (Mr. Kubik pastors the Binghamton and Elmira, New York, churches) and 38 members of a Youth Opportunities United (YOU) tour of Russia.

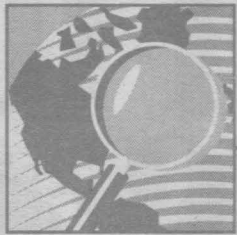
This noted quadrangle in the Russian capital, scene of so many mass military parades rumbling before the now-defunct Communist Party leadership, looks serene today.

A benign-looking white, blue and red flag of the Russian Federation flies from atop government buildings beyond the Kremlin wall, in sharp contrast to the fiery red of the old hammer-and-sickle banner.

On the side of the square opposite the Kremlin, the venerable GUM department store—actually a gallery-style complex—has reverted to its capitalistic foundations of 100 years ago. Western retailers such as Estee Lauder, Parfum Christian Dior and Benetton now lease space in GUM.

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin would turn over in his grave across the square, the saying goes, if he knew what was happening. Lenin still can be viewed lying in state at the base of the Kremlin wall. But gone are the long lines of visitors. Lenin remains an enormous historical figure, but the Russians don't seem to know what to do with him, ideologically or corporally. Rumors abound he might be reburied elsewhere.

For the moment, adjusting to their



Worldwatch

GENE H. HOGBERG

new economic freedoms preoccupies most Russians. With rampant inflation, they are struggling to survive economically. They all, it seemed to us, want to get their hands on the country's de facto second currency, the U.S. dollar.

Everywhere we went, we were set upon by hawkers ("vultures," our guides called them) selling poorly made Russian souvenirs or ex-Soviet army hats, jackets and medals. One Western news source labels the chaotic situation anarcho-capitalism. Included in the anarchy is a soaring crime rate.

One must separate, however, current economic realities from long-term political consequences. There is generally no desire among Russians, Henry Kissinger said in July in Los Angeles, to return to a suffocating Marxist economy.

The political order is another matter. The former U.S. secretary of state remarked that outsiders cannot fully appreciate the deep sense of loss Russians feel at seeing their former country, the Soviet Union, dismembered.

Historically, the patient and intensely patriotic Russian people have been willing to tolerate considerable personal privation and governmental

tyranny at home as long as the nation was strong and respected in the world.

In the 16th century, for example, an English merchant in Moscow said no prince was more feared than Ivan the Terrible, "yet none better beloved." Much the same could be said about Russian ambivalence toward Joseph Stalin during his brutal reign.

Near the end of our 10-day tour we visited the ancient trading city of Novgorod, about a three-hour bus ride south of St. Petersburg. In the kremlin (fortress) of Novgorod is an intriguing monument commemorating 1,000 years of Russian history.

A guide said the massive bronze complex, completed in 1862, is a testimony to Russian autocracy.

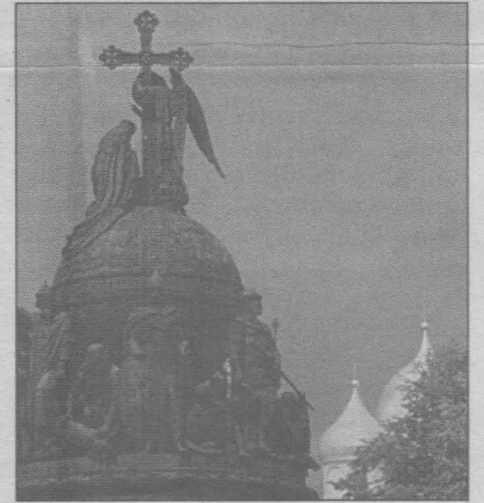
The monument is topped by a cross, with an angel anointing a kneeling Mother Russia. Below are depicted more than 200 of the most famous people in Russian history, from czars and czarinas to notables in government, religion and the arts and letters. (The only significant person left off is Ivan the Terrible, who sacked the city in 1570 and massacred thousands of its citizens).

Looking at this monument, Mr. Kubik and I wondered how long

chaotic conditions in Russia will continue before the public overwhelmingly demands a return to domestic order, honor for the country abroad, and a recovery of parts of the empire that have slipped from Moscow's grasp.

On a personal note, the Kubiks, my wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the 10 days we spent with our fine YOU youngsters. Wherever we traveled, they set a splendid example.

On the plane home from Helsinki, Finland, to New York, a woman with whom I briefly chatted earlier in the flight told me how impressed she was with their behavior. She said she had also noticed them on the flight the day before from St. Petersburg, but didn't know who they were. It just shows that people do notice if our Christian lights are shining or not.



TESTIMONY—Monument in Novgorod celebrates 1,000 years of Russian history. [Photo by Barbara Hogberg]

The Worldwide News

The Worldwide News is published biweekly, except during the Church's annual fall and spring festivals, by the Worldwide Church of God. A.R.B.N. 010019986. Copyright © 1993 Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved.

FOUNDER:
Herbert W. Armstrong (1892-1986)

PUBLISHER & EDITOR IN CHIEF:
Joseph W. Tkach
ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLISHER:
J. Michael Feazell

MEDIA OPERATIONS DIRECTOR:
Bernard W. Schnippert
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR:
Ronald Kelly
PUBLISHING SERVICES DIRECTOR:
Barry Gridley

Editor: Thomas C. Hanson; **senior editor:** Sheila Graham; **managing editor:** Jeff Zhorne; **associate editor:** Becky Sweet; **news editor:** Paul Monteith; **assistant editor:** Peter Moore; **editorial assistant:** Maya Wehbe; **Ambassador College correspondent:** Reginald Killingley.

Columns: Gene Hogberg, "Worldwatch," John Ross Schroeder, "European Diary," Dexter H. Faulkner, "Just One More Thing."

Regional correspondents: Cheryl Catallo, Vancouver, B.C.; Eleazar Flores, Manila, Philippines; Aub Warren, Australia and Asia; Frankie Weinberger, Bonn, Germany; Rex Morgan, Auckland, New Zealand; Gerrie Belo, Nieuwegein, Netherlands; David Walker, Spanish Department; Charles Fleming, Caribbean; Marsha Sabin, French and Italian; Bryan Mathie and Peter Hawkins, Southern Africa; Irene Wilson, United Kingdom.

Art director: Ronald Grove; **illustrator:** Ken Tunell.

Photography: Barry Stahl; G.A. Belluche Jr.; Charles Feldbush; Hal Finch; Margie Dunn; **photo librarian:** Susan Sanchez.

Print production manager: Skip Dunn; **printing coordinators:** Stephen Gent and Catherine Snyder.

Notice: The Worldwide News cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited articles and photographs. **Subscriptions:** Subscriptions are sent automatically to the members of the Worldwide Church of God. Address all communications to The Worldwide News, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91129. See The Plain Truth for additional mailing offices. Entered as second-class mail at the Manila, Philippines, Central Post Office, Feb. 10, 1984.

Address changes: U.S. changes of address are handled automatically with Plain Truth changes of address. Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to The Worldwide News, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123.

Unless noted otherwise, scriptures are quoted from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Letters to the Editor

Letters for this section should be addressed to "Letters to the Editor." The editor reserves the right to use letters so addressed in whole or in part, and to include your name and edit the letter for clarity or space. We welcome your comments.

The greatest work

Thanks to you and the people in the Church for helping me in so many ways like going to the Feast. It sure has helped me, for, like so many others, living on a fixed income, I would not get to go if not for the help from the Church.

And it's so great to be able to take part in the Holy Days God intended for all of his people to keep. Every year gets better and I am looking forward to all of them this year.

I wish there were some ways I could help the Church the way it has helped me, but I can't except for the small amount I send each month. But my prayers are for the Work and that it remain the greatest Work on earth.

Canva, Virginia

Gospel: driving force in the magazine

I like the new look of The Plain Truth and other publications the Church has been publishing. I like and enjoy studying the gospel of Jesus Christ, which has always been the driving force in the magazine, and to know that the Church and its ministers and staff and members have become even more focused on that vital message and what it means for us in today's society.

I am happy that The Plain Truth looks at subjects like making the most of opportunities, helping people cope with tragedy, achieving success on the job, finding assurance in an uncertain future and other matters that affect the lives of ordinary people.

It's good also to see you deal with the transcendent issues of life like faith, grace, conversion, loving God, loving your neighbor, the purpose of life, and living in the anticipation of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

I am very excited about the excitement and enthusiasm and anticipation about the future return of Jesus and that I'm pointed

to humanity's true hope, salvation through Jesus Christ, as the vital key to weathering today's profound moral and social issues and frightening international trends.

Clarksville, Arkansas

Youth magazine can't fail

I am so pleased with the Youth magazine. It was a great day when the Church started it. Thank God for everyone who has a part in it. I just wish every teenager would send for it. I don't see how it could fail to help any young person who reads it.

I am so proud of the way the Church has begun the all-out effort to try and help the children in the Church. There certainly needed to be something done. The children

need to be recognized for everything good that they accomplish. I have prayed for this for many years although our own children are 53, 52, 51 and 49.

Okemah, Oklahoma

Understanding in loss and love

Last year when you kindly printed my letter about the death of our son, Gordon, I had not expected the many letters from around the world that arrived. At the Feast last year, and from many visitors since, we have had so much help in various ways, and do appreciate it all very much.

We have never had one letter that was not positive, some from other parents who understand the loss, so thank you for printing it. The results have been wonderful, the love from others tremendous, typical of Church brethren, and through that we have learned very much ourselves.

Ron and Jean McLaren
Inkersall, England

"Into All the World..."

Your involvement in the Work produces fruit. In this column subscribers to the Work's publications and viewers of the World Tomorrow telecast express their views and opinions.

Great service in Christian cause

I saw your commercial today on television during your excellent program, The World Tomorrow, which I watch regularly. May I just mention that you are doing an excellent job in clarifying the message of Christ in very difficult times.

I am presently a professor of religious studies in an all-girl high school here in Montreal. I cannot tell you how much our young people need real instruction today to prepare them for trials and tribulations that await them later on.

As it stands now, the mere mention of Jesus Christ puts these kids in an aggressive state of mind. It's quite sad, but more necessary than ever, perhaps to impress upon them the joy that comes with the acceptance of

Jesus as our own personal Savior and friend.

I would like to distribute copies of some of your articles to my students. What I would also like is 40 copies of your pamphlet on the Ten Commandments and their pertinence for our times. The reason is because I teach to nine groups of 40 students each. I could use these booklets in each of my classes with much efficacy. This would be a great service to the Christian cause in the education of our young.

J.H.
Montreal, Quebec

Revival time

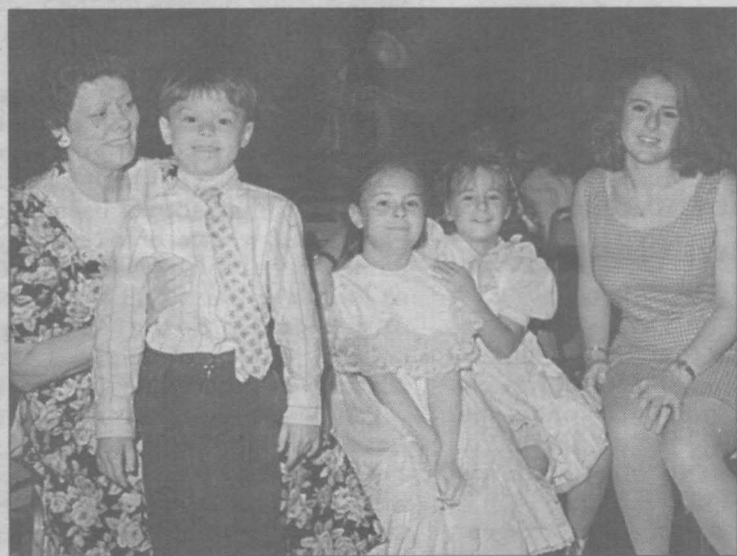
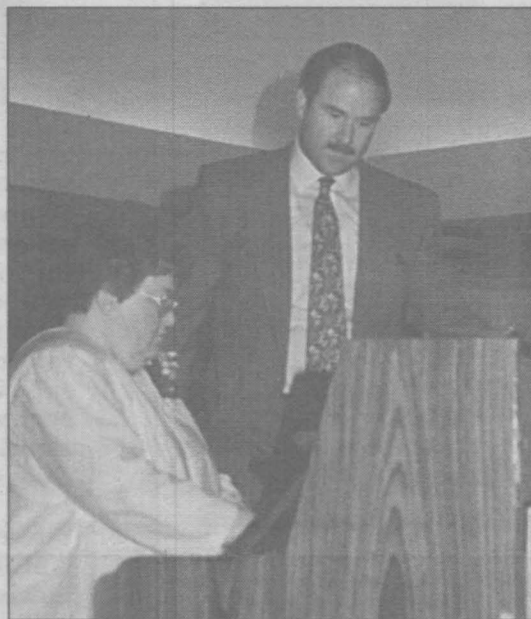
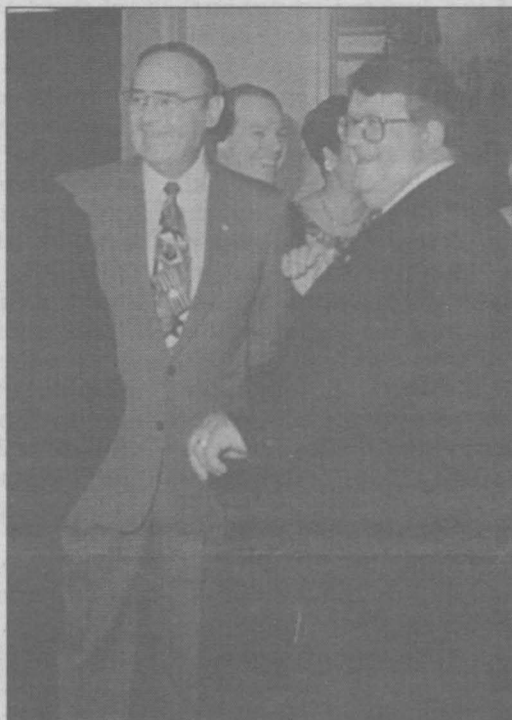
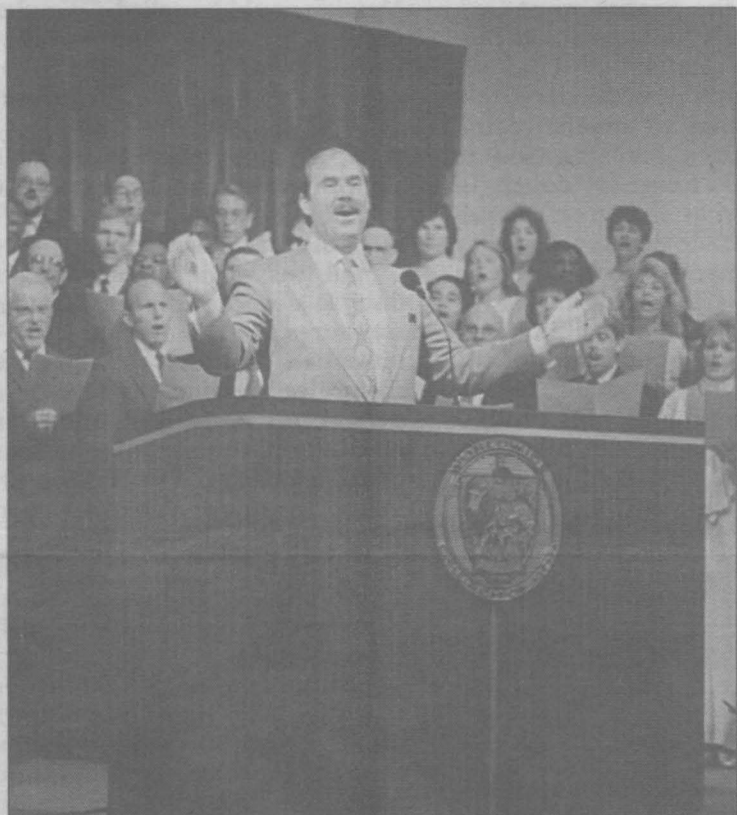
I would like to deeply thank you for the magazines and booklets I have received for years free of charge. God called me in a wonderful way to his Church, where I am now privileged to be a co-worker. The clear, pure, living waters revive me and quench my inner thirst time and time again.

H.J.
Austria



Pastor General visits...

CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND



Trip Overview

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 1,825 brethren July 17 from the Cumberland, Frederick and Baltimore East and West, Maryland; Harrisburg, Huntingdon, Indiana, Lancaster and Washington, Pennsylvania; Front Royal, Virginia; and Clarksburg, West Virginia; churches.

Hosts for the visit were Peter and Charlotte Whitting, Cumberland, Frederick and Front Royal; Britton and Donna Taylor, Roanoke, Virginia; Tom and Mary Smith, Washington; John and Susan Foster, Harrisburg and Lancaster; Mike and Pam Horchak, Clarksburg; George and Jackie Affeldt, Huntingdon and Indiana; and Randy and Roberta Hall, Cumberland, Frederick and Front Royal. [Photos by Brian Drawbaugh and Hugh Buchanan]



Personal: The biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit

Continued from page 1

Most people have only a hazy idea of what the Bible teaches about the oneness of God. Many do not really think about it. Some imagine three separate Beings. Some picture one Being with three heads. Others think of one Being who changes from Father to Son to Holy Spirit whenever he wills. It is easy to make such mistakes.

Many people use the word "Trinity" as a definition of the biblical teaching about God, but, if asked, would not be able to explain what the Bible actually teaches about *how* God is one. In other words, what many people envision when they speak of the Trinity is not really biblical. Much of the confusion lies in the use of the word "Persons."

The word "Persons," which is normally included in any English-language definition of the Trinity, causes people to think of three Beings. "One God who is three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," is a common way the Trinity is explained.

But the ordinary meaning of the

word "Person" is *misleading* when it is applied to God. It gives the impression that God has limits, and that his threeness lies in his being three separate individuals—which is not the case.

Meanings of 'Person'

The English word "person" is derived from the Latin word *persona*. The word *persona* was used to describe the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the Latin language, but it did not convey the same meaning as the English word "person" conveys today. It was a word that was used for a role that an actor portrayed in a play. It was the word for "mask," because actors wore different masks for each character they portrayed.

But even this concept, though it does not allow the error of three Beings, is still weak and misleading when referring to God. It is misleading because the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are not mere roles being played by God, and because an actor can play only one role at a time, quite unlike God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all the time.

Even though a Latin theologian may have understood what he meant when he used a word like *persona*, the average person would hardly have been able to. Likewise, the English word "person" is easily misunderstood by the average person when referring to God, unless it is accompanied by an explanation that "Persons" in the Godhead should not be thought of in the same way as "persons" like you and me.

When most English-speaking people think of one God who is three "Persons," they cannot help but think of three separate divine Beings. In other words, the terms "persons" and "beings" are usually thought of, in English, as meaning the same thing. The Bible reveals that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are the way the *one true God* of the Bible is, the way God exists always.

Throughout the centuries, many ideas have been developed that might seem, at first glance, to make these biblical facts easier to understand. But we must be careful not to accept any idea that denies what the Bible says. Some ideas might make things seem simple, in the sense of making God easier to comprehend and easier

to picture in our minds. But we should all agree that what is important is whether an idea is consistent with the Bible, not whether it is simple or easy.

The Bible tells us there is one and only one God, and then presents us with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, all eternal, and all doing things only God can do.

If any human being set out to explain God from a purely logical standpoint, without the Bible, he would never come to the conclusion that the one God is, in some very real sense, also "three." The Bible leads us, by revelation, to a conclusion that we would never be able to reach on our own.

"One in three"—or "three in one"—is a concept that appears illogical to human reason. We naturally look for ways to make it simpler. The idea of one God Being *apart from* any thought of the existence of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is simple to understand. In fact, the Muslims have such a concept.

The idea of one "God family" with more than one divine member of the family—that is also simple to understand. See Personal, page 5

FROM SHARERS FROM

The veil has been lifted

Mark D. Kaplan

The Psalms declare that "the commandment of the Eternal is pure, enlightening the eyes" (Psalm 19:8, New King James throughout). As a rabbinical student, my study of God's law was, indeed, enlightening, but there was a level of understanding that my fellow students and I were unable to reach. That greater depth of understanding comes through a knowledge of the Christian scriptures, the New Testament. Let us, now, consider the religious environment that formed the background of the New Testament writings.

Twice daily in Orthodox synagogues Deuteronomy 6:4 is repeated aloud. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!" Orthodox Jews repeat the scripture again before retiring for the night.

Monotheism is at the core of Judaism, of Islam, and is also at the core of authentic Christianity. All three religions look to Abraham as a founder. Christians are his spiritual descendants (Galatians 3:29). He was "the father of all those who believe" (Romans 4:11).

Abraham had renounced paganism. His people had served other gods, but Abraham and his descendants were called to serve the one true God. To them God revealed his oneness in such scriptures as Exodus 20:1-3, Deuteronomy 5:5-7, and as we have already seen, Deuteronomy 6:4. At the close of the autumn festival season, Orthodox Jews recite Deuteronomy 4:35, "To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord Himself is God; there is none other besides Him."

New Testament revelation

In my youth the content of Deuteronomy 6:4-9 had a great impact on my concepts and my practices. I left rabbinical school in March 1968 and began attending services of the Worldwide Church of God sometime after the Days of Unleavened Bread.

I have had to learn what some first century Christians had to learn. Let me share with you what I already knew and what Orthodox Jews have always known and understood. There is one infinite, omnipotent God. He inspired the Holy Scriptures. They, of course, attest to his oneness, his uniqueness.

The God of the Holy Scriptures inspired the prophet Isaiah to remind Israel: "I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no savior" (Isaiah 43:11).

Could any devout believer in the Holy Scriptures be convinced that there was another distinct being behind the scenes unknown to Israel—especially after reading Isaiah 45:5-7?

Yahweh revealed himself to Israel as "I" and was addressed with the singular Hebrew pronoun as "You," and spoken about as "he." No Jew in the first century would have applied these verses as figuratively speaking of a family of beings.

Observant Jews, exhorted by such scriptures as I have quoted, did seek to know the one true God of their fathers. Over the centuries they have discussed the significance of his various appearances, names and titles, and the biblical accounts of his activities.

Mark D. Kaplan is assistant professor of theology and Hebrew at Ambassador College.

Some scriptures refer to God as 'el, some as 'eloah, some as 'elohim, and some as Yahweh. In 2 Samuel 22:32, the words 'el and 'elohim are used synonymously. The New King James translation, of course, translates both of them with the English word *God*. Psalm 100:3 tells us, "Know that Yahweh, He is the 'elohim."

Jewish expositors understood that God had created an angelic realm. Some scriptures describe God as addressing his heavenly court. In such cases, God as 'elohim or Yahweh speaks about collective activity involving himself and his angelic hosts (Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7).

Jesus Christ in his teaching supported the strict monotheism of the Old Testament. When asked, "Which is the first commandment of all?" (Mark 12:28), he began his answer as any devout Jew would: "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one'" (verse 29).

The ministry of Jesus Christ per-

The ministry of Jesus Christ illustrated God's love and concern for humankind. God ultimately transcends time and space; he "inhabits eternity" (Isaiah 57:15). Yet he is intimately involved with his people (Psalm 113:6-7).

fectly illustrated God's love and concern for humankind. God ultimately transcends time and space; he "inhabits eternity" (Isaiah 57:15). Yet he is intimately involved with his people (Psalm 113:6-7).

Christ's first century ministry generated great controversy in Jewry then and ultimately was rejected by Judaism. What was the nature of that rejected ministry? What was the religious establishment unable to understand or to accept?

The answer is simply this, in Jesus Christ, God had become a man! God was not diminished in the process. He is infinite. Jesus never sinned.

In Acts 3:13 Peter tells the Jews that "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus."

In Acts 5:30 Peter later declares to another Jewish audience that "the God of our fathers raised up Jesus."

After his conversion, the apostle Paul reviewed for a synagogue audience the story of the crucifixion of Christ and reminded his listeners that "God raised Him from the dead" (Acts 13:30).

The divine Messiah

In predicting the resurrection, Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). He could state this prophecy because he was both God and man. This is also why he could say, "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven" (John 3:13).

It is also why he could say during Hanukkah festivities in Jerusalem, "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30). He went on to explain concerning himself that "the Father is in Me, and I in Him" (John 10:38).

What then does the New Testament add to our understanding of

God's plan? It explains more fully the truth that the Messiah is divine, both God and man. That is why this Davidic king could be called Yahweh Tsidkenu—the Lord Our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6). That is why the Messiah could be called, "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Today, having been resurrected, Jesus Christ remains both God and man, glorified man! We read in 1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."

Paul was writing these words to a disciple steeped in the Old Testament scriptures (2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15). The letters to Timothy, however, were themselves destined to become canonized, for more vital information needed to be revealed to Israel, particularly the central role of Jesus Christ in God's awesome plan of salvation.

By rejecting all the books of the New Testament, Judaism has not had the opportunity to believe and teach the vital truths summarized in 1 Timothy 3:16.

To this very day, Orthodox Jews diligently study the details of the sacrificial system and daily recite many of them. Morning services include a recitation of the account of Abraham's near sacrifice of Isaac. All services include prayers for the restoration of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and its sacrificial rituals.

The book of Hebrews informs Christians that "it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins" (10:4). Unfortunately, Judaism has not yet been able to understand what a first century Jew named John understood: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Paul wrote to the Corinthians that "even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away" (2 Corinthians 3:15-16).

A deeper understanding

The Jews have been worshiping the true God, the one and only God, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent. But they have been unable to understand that God became man, the Jew Jesus Christ, who lives today, lovingly serving as our high priest.

This truth was revealed to the zealous crowd observing the Feast of Weeks, when 3,000 were baptized in one day (Acts 2).

One of our favorite scriptures in rabbinical school was Psalm 119:18. We often sang it in the original Hebrew. The New King James renders the verse as follows: "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." The Hebrew word translated "open" actually refers to removing a covering and can be related to the veil discussed by Paul.

In my own life, God has answered the prayer that we sang so frequently. He has mercifully removed the veil that I might see wondrous things from his law. God has added me to the community of spiritual Jewry (Romans 2:29), to the Israel of God (Galatians 6:16). I want to share my enthusiastic gratitude with my sisters and brothers in God's Church.

Please allow me to conclude in a manner similar to that of Rabbi Gamaliel's distinguished disciple, Saul of Tarsus. As a Christian apostle he exclaimed to the church in Corinth, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Personal: The biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit

Continued from page 3

stand. *But the God of the Bible is not what we would have expected if we had simply sat down, with no revelation, to figure it out for ourselves.*

The true God exists in a way that is beyond our finite understanding. He reveals many things about himself, and we believe them all, even though we cannot explain them all. For example, we cannot explain how God can be without beginning. Such a concept is beyond our finite understanding. We cannot explain it, yet we know it is true that God is without beginning.

Likewise, the Bible reveals that God is one and only one, yet is also,

at the same time, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe it *even though* it is not simple or easy to explain. We believe it *because the Bible reveals it.*

When we understand that God is one, and that the Holy Spirit is God, just as the Father is God, and the Son is God, we have no problem understanding a passage like Acts 13:2: "While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"

Luke records the Holy Spirit saying, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Luke has no problem with the concept that the Holy Spirit said something, in the same sense

that God says things, and he has no problem with the concept that *the Holy Spirit* called these apostles for their work.

When we take the biblical revelation of the nature of God for what it is, it is beautiful indeed. When the Holy Spirit speaks, or sends, or inspires, or leads, or sanctifies, or empowers, or gives gifts, it is *God* speaking, sending, inspiring, leading, sanctifying, empowering, and giving gifts.

But since God is one, and not three separate beings, the Holy Spirit is not a separate God doing separate things on its own. God has one will, the will of the Father, which is also the will of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

It is not a matter of two or three separate God Beings *deciding* to be in perfect agreement with each other. It is a matter of one God and one will. The Son is the very expression of the will of the Father. Similarly, the Holy Spirit constitutes the will of the Father at work in the world.

Paul says that "the Lord is the Spirit," and he speaks of "the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). He says "the Spirit gives life" (verse 6), something only God can do.

We know the Father, only because the Spirit enables us to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus dwells in us and the Father dwells in us, but that is only because the Spirit dwells

in us (John 14:16, 23; Romans 8:9-11).

If the Spirit is not God, then we could not say the Father and the Son are in us, because they are God. But the fact is, since God is one, if the Spirit is in us, then the Father and the Son are in us.

Paul equates the Spirit, the Lord, and God in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. He says it is "the same God who inspires" in verse 6, and he says "these are inspired by one and the same Spirit" in verse 11 [Revised Standard Version], and goes on to declare that the Spirit does all this as the Spirit *wills*. How can the Spirit will? The Spirit wills because the Spirit is God, and God is one, and the will of the Father is the will of the Son and of the Spirit.

The Spirit creates (Psalm 104:30). Only God can create. Our traditional concept of the Spirit as the power by which God creates is not wrong, but it falls short in providing the full picture. Hebrews 9:14 says the Holy Spirit is eternal. That means the Holy Spirit is *uncreated*. Only God is uncreated.

Jesus told the apostles, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:16-17).

See Personal, page 7

Festival Updates

Family day golf outing in Daytona Beach

A family golf outing will take place in Daytona Beach, Florida, at Indigo Lakes, a championship course, and site for the Ladies Professional Golf Association qualifying tournament.

Cost is \$34 per person, which includes cart and green fees. Tee times are from 12:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

A buffet meal is planned after the event at a cost of \$13 per adult, and \$7 per child younger than 12. Room is available for about 100 golfers.

Checks should be made payable to Church of God Activity Fund and sent to Joe Scott, 11211 S. Military Trail, No. 5621, Boynton Beach, Florida, 33436. If you would like more details please call Mr. Scott at 1-407-732-7923.

Pensacola host to golf scramble

This year the Pensacola site will conduct its annual golf scramble tournament Tuesday, Oct. 5, at the Marcus Pointe Golf Club. Cost is \$45, which includes green fee, cart and a box lunch.

To reserve a spot, please send your check before Sept. 15. Play will be limited to the first 80 people to send in a reservation. Please send a check payable to Church Activity Fund and mail to Bob Albarado, 106 Teakwood Dr., Youngsville, Louisiana, 70592. Please include your best score in the past six months. For further information, call 1-318-837-2112.

Dinner-dance cruise at Saratoga Springs

A dinner-dance cruise will take place at the Saratoga Springs, New York, site Tuesday, Oct. 5, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Lake George aboard the *Lac du Saint Sacrament*. Participants will view fall foliage while enjoying a French mountain buffet dinner that includes top round roast beef and baked chicken supreme. Live entertainment will also be provided for listening and dancing.

Cost is \$33 per person and is limited to those 16 years old or older. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Send your name, address and check to:

Saratoga Festival Cruise
c/o Jerry Zavitz
22 Hill St.

Greenwich, New York, 12834

Please make checks payable to

Local Church Activity Fund Albany, N.Y. Your canceled check will be your confirmation, and you can pick up your tickets at the Feast site. Please respond no later than Sept. 7.

English site full

The Paignton, England, site is full and closed to overseas transfers.

AC alumni dinner

Ambassador College alumni and their families attending the Feast in Fort Worth, Texas, are invited to attend a buffet dinner Friday evening, Oct. 1, starting at 6 p.m. at the downtown Ramada Hotel. Cost is \$16.50 per person.

Thomas Delamater, director of Development & College Relations, will address the group. Please send your check payable to the Worldwide Church of God to:

Richard Dunlap
1934 Greenbriar
Duncan, Oklahoma, 73533
Phone 1-405-255-6719

Deadline is Sept. 20.

Tucson dinner at resort

A dinner for all deacons, deaconesses and their spouses will take place Wednesday, Oct. 6, at the Westin La Paloma Resort in Tucson, Arizona. The cost will be \$32 per person.

Please fill out the information requested below and return by Sept. 15 to the address below.

Tucson dinner

Name _____

Spouse's name _____

Church area _____

Number of dinners
_____ x \$ 32 = \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to the **Tucson Activity Fund**.

Please send the completed coupon and check to:

Terri Buchanan
Festival Dining
4651 N. Keet Seel Trail
Tucson, Arizona, 85749

New deadline for WCG Travel

WCG Travel enjoyed working with many of you on your travel plans for the 1993 Feast. The deadline to place new orders with WCG Travel for Festival travel is **Sept. 10** to allow enough time for ticket delivery before the Feast. WCG Travel will be available to sell tickets to members after the Festival break beginning **Oct. 18**.

Domestic travel

Domestic tickets are mailed promptly once an order is received. If you do not receive your tickets within two weeks from the date you order them, please call WCG Travel at 1-800-858-6999.

Be sure to call the airline about a week before departure to see if schedules have changed and reconfirm your return flights before heading home after the Feast.

A change in the domestic rebate policy went into effect April 1 (WN, March 23). Once travel is completed both the passenger receipt portion of your airline ticket and the pink slip included with your ticket must be mailed to WCG Travel. Rebates are paid on the 15th of the month for receipts received the preceding calendar month.

International travel

Reconfirm each international flight no less than 72 hours before each departure including departure from your home country. The latter is a new airline requirement this year. Failure to reconfirm can result in cancellation of all onward travel.

Check with the airline the day of travel to confirm that your flight is departing as scheduled.

Take extra precaution while traveling to protect your travel documents. Keep your passport with you at all times. Make a copy of all your travel documents, including tickets, and

carry the copies in a separate location from the originals. This will help in case they are lost or stolen.

Festival Planner

For more information on preparing for the Feast of Tabernacles, U.S. and Canadian members should review the Festival Planner distributed in January.

Tips to handling media inquiries

At the Feast of Tabernacles every year Church members and families are questioned by members of the media. Evangelist David Hulme, director of Communications & Public Affairs, offers these tips for answering media questions.

- Remember that your words and actions represent the Church.
- Speak clearly, simply and naturally.
- Don't over-explain. Come to the point quickly.
- Don't argue with the reporter about the Church. If he or she has incorrect information, offer correct information to the best of your ability.
- Do not speculate when someone asks about the future of the Church or the activities of a Church official. Only state what you know to be true.
- Be aware that everything you say is quotable.
- If you don't know the answer, say so.
- Suggest that the reporter contact the Festival coordinator or the Public Affairs Office in Pasadena.



OBERT & BARBARA RICHARDS

Robert and Barbara Richards of San Bernardino, California, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary June 8. They have two sons, Ken and Jeff; one daughter, Cheryl; and one daughter-in-law, Lisa.



DAN & JEAN STRATHERN

Dan and Jean Strathern of Edmonton, Alberta, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary June 27. They have one son, Iain; one daughter-in-law, Gloria; and one grandson, Harrison Daniel.



JOHN & PEGGY DEWELL

John and Peggy Dewell of Scio, Ohio, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary June 6. They have one son, John Jr.; and one daughter, Terri.



JAMES & CORDELIA HANSON

James and Cordelia Hanson of Eugene, Oregon, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary June 15. They have two sons, Jeffrey and Jonathan; and two daughters, Robin and Jennifer. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson serve as local church elder and deaconess in the Eugene church.



HAROLD & JUANITA FINCH

Harold and Juanita Finch of Vancouver, Washington, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary Feb. 14. Vancouver brethren honored them with refreshments and a gift. The Finches have one son, Hal; one daughter, Juanita "Sugar" Asbury; one daughter-in-law, Terri; one son-in-law, Randy Asbury; and three grandchildren, Stuart and Jill Asbury and Hal III.



RON & EDNA MAY WARE

Ron and Edna May Ware of Alma, Arkansas, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary July 25. They have two sons, Donnie and Steve; one daughter-in-law, April; and one grandson, Dillon.

Weddings Made of Gold



CLIFFORD & MARINA JOHNSON

Clifford and Marina Johnson of Gwynne, Alberta, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 19. Wetaskiwin, Alberta, brethren honored them with cake and coffee. The Johnsons have three children and seven grandchildren.



CECIL & EMMA GRANDOZ

Cecil and Emma Grandoz of Stockton, California, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary July 6. They have five children, 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



LAURANCE & MARY RANDS

Laurance and Mary Rands of Sum-

merland, British Columbia, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 17. They have three sons, George, Earl and Mervin; one daughter, Dorothy Greenhalgh; five granddaughters; three grandsons (one is deceased); and six great-grandsons.

Obituaries



ERNEST KENDELL

KENDELL, Ernest "Ernie," 59, of Kingston, Ontario, died May 26 after a five-month battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Linda; one daughter; two stepdaughters; and five grandchildren.

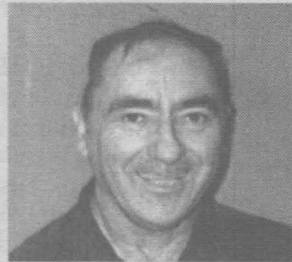
ANDERSON, Claude "Skip," 54, of Coulterville, California, died June 3 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. He is survived by his wife, Cecilia; two children, Lani Foit and Kurt Anderson; and three grandchildren.



CHARLES CAPO

CAPO, Charles E., 71, of Suffolk,

New York, died April 24 of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Norma; six sons, Paul G., Charles, James, Paul A., David and Jason; one daughter, Cheryl Solomon; and 12 grandchildren. Mr. Capo was a local church elder in the Suffolk, New York, church.



ERNEST KENDELL

KENDELL, Ernest "Ernie," 59, of Kingston, Ontario, died May 26 after a five-month battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Linda; one daughter; two stepdaughters; and five grandchildren.

ANDERSON, Claude "Skip," 54, of Coulterville, California, died June 3 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. He is survived by his wife, Cecilia; two children, Lani Foit and Kurt Anderson; and three grandchildren.

CARTER, Jimmie Lee, 87, of Avon Park, Florida, died May 31. She is survived by four daughters, four sons, 21 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

CARTER, Dick O., 88, of Pekin, Illinois, died July 12. He is survived by his wife, Lucille; two sons; two daughters; one brother; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; and six step-great-grandchildren.

REDGATE, Ruby Jewel, 85, of Rensselaer, Indiana, died June 19 of lung cancer following a six-month illness. She is survived by three children, Eileen Reid, Don Cumutt and Kathy Mroczek; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

HARTLEY, Kenneth E. "Gene," 66, of Pleasant Grove, Alabama, died July 9. He is survived by his wife,

Jeanette; and three sisters, Shirley Beck, Avela Morgan and Betty Nixon.

GEHMAN, Daniel, 62, of Amarillo, Texas, died May 10. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Alma; five children, Julian, Filie Reimer, Eric, Cindy and Joel; four grandchildren; two brothers; and two sisters.



ROBERT HOLLAND

HOLLAND, Robert L., 67, of Riverdale, Georgia, died April 12. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mary Frances.

NNAJI, James, 47, of Enugu, Nigeria, died April 9 of heart failure. He is survived by his wife and seven children.

WHITSETT, Roy, 72, of Margaret, Alabama, died June 15. He is survived by three sisters, Mozell Brown, Alma and Lela Bea.

WILLIAMS, Inez K., 73, of Waldron, Arkansas, died July 16. She is survived by three sons, three daughters, 15 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

FROGGE, William "Bill," 88, of Cape Coral, Florida, died July 17. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Lucille; two daughters, Joy Goodman and Nancy Lee Meranda; six grandchildren, Julie-Anne, Robert and Scott Alter. Her husband, Lester, and two sons preceded her in death.

DODSON, Lorna, 67, of Shepparton, Australia, died June 14 in a car accident. She is survived by three daughters, Heather Alter, Jenny Caelli and Glenda; and three grandchildren, Julie-Anne, Robert and Scott Alter. Her husband, Lester, and two sons preceded her in death.

Personal: The biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit

Continued from page 5

He specifically identified the Counselor as the Holy Spirit: "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (verse 26).

The Spirit as Counselor

The Counselor convicts the world of sin, something that can rightly be ascribed only to God. He guides into all truth, something only God is capable of doing. As Paul affirmed, "This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words" (1 Corinthians 2:13).

We used to note that the Spirit is described in the Bible as being "poured out"—without noting also that the Bible uses figurative language throughout, in order to describe God's activity in terms we can understand. God is called a "consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29).

He can also appear as a literal fire, as when he appeared to Moses as a fire in a bush (Exodus 3:2). God is called Light (1 John 1:5). The Son of God is described as Light (John 1:9) and as Bread (John 6:33). We should also note that the Bible describes a soul as being "poured out" (1 Samuel 1:15).

To worship God is to worship the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who are the one and only one God. That does not mean we are to single out the Holy Spirit and worship the Holy Spirit as though the Holy Spirit is a separate Being. We do not direct worship to the Holy Spirit specifically, but to God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

It is God in us (the Holy Spirit) that causes us to worship God. The Comforter (like the Son) will not speak of himself (John 16:13), but what the Father gives him he will speak. He does not direct us to himself, but to the Father through the Son. Likewise, we don't pray specifically to the Spirit—it is the Spirit in us that moves us to pray, and, in fact, intercedes for us (Romans 8:26).

Unless God himself is in us, we would not be turned toward God at all. Unless God himself is in us we would not know God, and we would not know his Son. That is why all the credit for our salvation goes to God and not to us.

The fruit we bear is the fruit of the Spirit—that is, God's own fruit, not ours. But God gives us the privilege, if we will accept it, of participating with him in his work.

The Father is the Creator and Source of all things. The Son is the Redeemer and Savior, and the one by whom God created all things. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter and Advocate. The Holy Spirit is God in us, who leads us to the Father through the Son.

Through the Son, we are cleansed and saved so that we can have fellowship with him and the Father. The Spirit stirs our hearts and minds and inclines us toward belief in Jesus Christ, who is the Way and the Door. The Spirit gives us gifts, the gifts of God, not the least of which are faith, hope, and love.

All this is the work of the one God, who reveals himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is not a different God from the God of the Old Testament, but in the New Testament something more is revealed about him: He sent his Son as a human being to die for our sins and

be raised to glory, and he sent us his Spirit—the Comforter—to dwell in us, to lead us into all truth, to give us gifts, and to conform us to the image of Christ.

When we pray, reaching God is the goal of the prayer, yet it is also God who leads us toward that goal, and it is also God who is the Way along which we are led toward the goal. In other words, it is to God (the Father) we pray; it is God in us (the Holy Spirit) motivating us to pray; and God is also the Way (the Son) along which we are being led toward that goal.

The Father initiates the plan of salvation. The Son embodies and executes the atoning, redemptive plan for the salvation of humanity. The Holy Spirit applies the benefits, or gifts, of redemption to empower the actual salvation of the faithful believers. All this is the work of the one God, the God of the Bible.

Again, I want to emphasize that we have always experienced and understood God as he is revealed in the Bible. We have always known that God is the Creator of all things, we have always known and believed that God sent his Son to die for our sins and be resurrected to glory so that we might live in him and he in us.

We have always known that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, sanctifies us, and is conforming us to the image of Christ, and that our salvation will be fully revealed when Jesus returns to rule the nations.

In our practice and experience, nothing changes. We pray as we always have, and we worship as we always have. But our explanation of how the Bible teaches that God is one has changed.

What we didn't previously understand was how to put our belief

down on paper in such a way that it didn't lead to biblical and theological problems. Now God has led us to a better understanding.

I pray that none will say that our former, simpler, explanation was better and that we should preserve what we were more comfortable with. God doesn't call us to comfort; he calls us to truth.

In this letter, I have explained why we teach that the Holy Spirit is God, rather than merely God's power, and why we do not think or teach that the Holy Spirit is a "third, separate Being" in the Godhead.

I have also pointed out why the English word "Persons," when used of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, is misleading. Next time, I plan to review the limitations of the word "Persons" and go into the English word we plan to use in our revised *Statement of Beliefs*.

Into all truth

In many ways, this kind of material is new ground for some, but it is important. One may feel it is unsettling—because it is different from what Mr. Armstrong taught. I understand that. However, as I have often explained, the important thing is that we carry on Mr. Armstrong's tradition, which is really God's tradition, by letting the Bible be our guide.

Mr. Armstrong repeatedly stressed that a Christian is committed to accept God's truth and change when proven wrong. That attitude must always be with us. When the Bible shows us we need to grow, let's get out of the way, and let God grant us growth!

We should be praying for that, and we should be responsive to it when God sends it. It takes courage to follow God's lead, but the Holy Spirit gives us that courage!

Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

Dallas brethren attend Spanish Bible studies

DALLAS, Texas—Twenty-four Dallas-Fort Worth area members attended the first Bible study July 24 in a series designed for Spanish speakers.

"Our Spanish-speaking brethren are very excited

about this long-overdue opportunity to hear God's Word expounded in their own language," said **Don Hooser**, Dallas South pastor and organizer of the monthly event.

Reginald Killingley, a minister employed by Ambassador College, and **Mario Hernandez**, a deacon in the Spanish Department in Big Sandy, will alternately conduct the Bible studies.

Teens play international volleyball tournament

YVERDON, Switzerland—Sixteen teams from France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, England and Switzerland met here July 16 to 19 for the region's sixth annual inter-church volleyball tournament.

Teams competed in A (advanced) and B (beginners) leagues. The team from Zwolle, Netherlands, won in the A division and the Watford, England, team won the B division.

Teams traveling long distances stayed in authentic Swiss civilian bomb shelters.

In addition to the volleyball tournament on Sunday, participants attended Sabbath services in Geneva and an evening potluck dinner.


"The highlight for me this year was having the English and Italian teams present for the first time, as they contributed so much to the tournament," said **Oliver Bach** from Darmstadt, Germany. "It is quite exciting to see more and more international church activities like this taking place every year."

French singles hosts at European weekend

PARIS, France—Singles here invite other singles to a European weekend in Auvergne, France, Nov. 10 to 14.

Activities include ice-skating, mountain hiking and biking in a volcano park, a semiformal dance Saturday night, horseback riding, paragliding and sight-seeing.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Lodging rates at the chalet, including three meals a day, are 160 French



THE WORLD TOMORROW
TELEVISION PROGRAM

New Stations		
Station/Location	Air Time	Channel
WIS Columbia, S.C.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	25

Renewals		
Station/Location	Air Time	Channel
KETK Tyler, Tex.	Saturday 11 a.m.	56
KRIV Houston, Tex.	Sunday 7 a.m.	26
WCBD Charleston, S.C.	Sunday 8 a.m.	2
WGNO New Orleans, La.	Saturday 7:30 a.m.	26
WLBT Jackson, Miss.	Sunday 9 a.m.	3
WRAL Raleigh, N.C.	Sunday 7:30 a.m.	5
WWTW Traverse City, Mich.	Sunday 7 a.m.	9
XETV San Diego, Calif.	Sunday 7:30 a.m.	6

francs (US\$27) a day. Cost for optional activities is 55 French francs (US\$55).

For registration forms and further information, please write **Michael Wells** at 81 rue de Reims, 94700 Maisons Alfort, France, or call him at 33-1-43-53-37-68.

Safe in Venezuela after tropical storm hits

CARACAS, Venezuela—

Members here suffered no injuries or property damage when Tropical Storm Bret lashed the city Aug. 8, said pastor **Salvador Barragan**.

About 1,250 people lost their homes in Caracas, while some 1,500 people lost homes in other cities.

Even though it rained for 12 hours in Barquisimeto, 400 miles west of Caracas, no water entered the house of a member there.



FROM OUR

Brethren Worldwide

Lesson from a frantic descent

By John Heller

SOMEWHERE IN THE ROCKIES—I have always been safety conscious, especially where nature is concerned, and as we were more than 50 miles from civilization, today [Oct. 4, 1992] was no exception.

En route to a friend's mountain cabin in northwestern Colorado, shortly before the 1992 Feast, we came to the top of a steep hill with about a five-degree slope. I told Doc, "Stop, shift the Jeep into four-wheel low and proceed very carefully."

Even I was not fully prepared for what happened! We had no sooner started downward, when Doc shouted! "We have no brakes!" and loudly banged the brake pedal on the floorboard while trying to pump them up.

I concluded that we must have lost a brake line while traveling through the thick brush and promised myself to come up with a method for enclosing brake lines in the future.

I calmly informed Doc to turn the key off. This would stop the engine and allow us

to slow down and stop with engine compression. (This procedure does not fully apply to later model jeeps with automatic transmissions and emergency brakes.)

The jeep growled and groaned as the wheels skidded, but was slowing down. Then he either hit the panic button, shifted out of low gear and tried to catch second gear (which was impossible to do with the engine off), or the transmission jumped out of gear on its own.

In any case, we accelerated as though we were starting down from the top of a huge roller coaster. It was all I could do to stay seated.

We plowed across a large downed tree that had been filled in with sediment from years of erosion. It was similar to going off a small ski jump. We flew in the air about 30 feet downhill.

'Bail out, John!'

I was about to tell him something when he hollered, "Bail out, John!"

I answered: "Hang on! Don't jump!" But when I glanced at Doc, I saw to my horror he had abandoned me (and the jeep) and was rolling head-over-heels down the slope.

I am 6 feet 4 inches tall and weigh about 300 pounds, and usually wear every vehicle I can enter like a glove. In my case, bailing out was easier said than done, as I was recovering from surgery and

had no choice but to ride it out.

I made a mental note to remind Doc that the driver of a jeep was no different from the captain of a ship—neither had the luxury of abandonment. The course was now mine to navigate. I remember asking God to help and protect me, and grabbed the steering wheel from the passenger side.

Trees were flashing by, but I managed to stay between them. I then realized I had to head almost straight downhill to prevent overturning.

As my speed increased to about 30 miles an hour, I frantically looked for smaller trees in my path, which I could run through to help slow me down.

By then my speed was approaching 50 miles an hour downhill. I was momentarily worried about Doc and what might have happened to him but forced myself back to reality. I frantically searched the rock-and-grass-pocked hillside for anything that could prevent impending disaster.

Things were flashing by, and I evaluated jumping but was going too fast to jump.

Going over the edge of the approaching ravine was certain death. Since I had many things to live for, I bit the bullet.

I again asked God for protection and immediately focused on the last three trees in my path, and although they resembled tombstones I

purposely steered the jeep into them.

Assessing the damage

As the dust settled, I began to check myself for damage. I realized I was pinned in the jeep and couldn't get out without help.

My right knee joint was penetrated by the snap-over-center clamp that secures the windshield. The front wheel had caught a portion of the first tree and spun the steering wheel back into my applied pressure, giving my left arm a double spiral-type break. After what seemed like an eternity, amid controlled moans and heavy breathing, I heard a faint voice in the distance asking, "Are you OK?"

Doc had lived through his leap to freedom. He had a few bruised ribs and had been knocked out, but the bottom line was God had answered my prayers and help was on the way.

Darkness was drawing near, so we both agreed I would stay pinned in the jeep, as it was not unbearably painful, and Doc would walk the four or five miles back to the cabin and get our other jeep. That way he would not have to walk around in the woods after dark, and we would have headlights to use if we needed them to get me out.

Doc returned as the last rays of light disappeared behind the Western mountains and pulled his jeep up next to me.

"How you doing, partner?" he asked. I smiled and said I was really glad to see him. Doc used his brute strength to free me and move me from my jeep to his. I related the "captain going down with his ship" story. He said, "I doubt if I could do it again—


jumping out, I mean."

We both laughed, even though it hurt us both to move from one jeep to another for the trip back to the cabin. I reluctantly gave Doc a passing grade on his driving ability.

Once back at the cabin, we transferred to my pickup for the 50-mile trip to the hospital in Craig, Colorado.

I ended up spending the entire Feast in the hospital and have a steel plate and various other hardware in my arm, but am recuperating satisfactorily.

Knowing what the alternative would have been without God's intervention makes it easy to always give our great Creator many thanks.

 100% recycled paper

Nonprofit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Pasadena, Calif.
Permit No. 703

4,246

The Worldwide News
Pasadena, Calif., 91123

*****3-DIGIT 373
630219-0008-9 W283 032-004
MR-MRS DONALD C TODD
RR 3 BOX 3214
MANCHESTER TN 37355-9117

John Heller attends the Denver, Colorado, North church. His nephew Donald "Doc" Hayes, not a member, lives in Phoenix, Arizona.