

E-Herald of the Coming Kingdom

**“The time has come, and the Kingdom of
God is near. Change the way you think and
act, and believe the Good News.”**

Mark 1:15 GW

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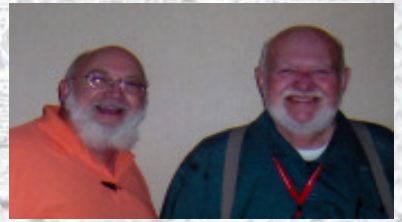
Auntie Verna Thayer

Report From the Philippians

**Dedicated To Spreading The Good News Of God's
Coming Kingdom To Be Established When Jesus Returns**

EDITOR'S NOTE

Co-Editors: Wally Winner - Kent Ross



We have had a spate of fascinating, troubling and exciting world developments around the Mediterranean Sea in the last months. Now Libya, earlier Tunisia and Egypt, but then also reports of unrest in several of the smaller emirates, but also Jordan and Lebanon.

As people of God, our interests are focused where His' are focused, in the Middle East, and especially on that bit of land we know as Israel. There is much more that will be developing in this area of the world. How quickly these developments will progress is impossible for us to predict.

We know though that it will culminate in the Return of Jesus to stand on the Mt. of Olives as He brings and establishes God's Kingdom on this earth.

That is what is so fascinating about the prophetic information in the Bible. There are so many strands to following in Revelation, and Daniel, but also Zechariah, Joel, Ezekiel and on into many of the books of the Bible. At times, we want to step back and shake our heads in confusion at the myriad of details we have to consider.

Some are sure they understand it clearly, but Jesus' words come back as cautionary. He said in Matthew 24:36 - ³⁶ "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father," yet we proceed sure that "we" have discovered what Jesus did not know. You remember that in recent years men have to predict when His Return would be . . .

Well, you can fill in the date, but Jesus told us we wouldn't know. Even in our early years of October 22, 1844, dates were assured when it was to be . . . but as those early Age-to-Comers were wrong, not in the fact of His Coming, but in the date. Only the Father knows. That does not mean we shouldn't be watching. We are told to watch, for in "an hour that we think not, Behold, the Son of Man cometh."

Daniel, for all that he saw of the future at the end was told to "shut up the book until the time of the end." I and many others are convinced we are nearing the time of the end, but there is much of Revelation that is still unclear, and maybe until the time when a trumpet blast pierces the heavens and there He is.

Today, we can continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, as we've been instructed. We can watch, even watch the signs of the times. But ultimately we will not, cannot KNOW that date. Oh, but it will come. The important matter for us is Peter's advice (2nd Peter 3) – ¹⁰ "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.^[b] That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ ***So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him."***

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2011 Theological Conference

Thursday-Sunday, May 12-15, 2011

Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, GA

Registration Deadline: Monday, April 18

This 20th annual conference at Simpsonwood Retreat Center promises to be an outstanding gathering of lovers of the Abrahamic faith and the Kingdom Gospel of Jesus, the Messiah. We are delighted to report that we will have a number of visitors and speakers from overseas — Australia, Germany, South Africa and England.

You will enjoy meeting familiar conference participants, and you will meet new family in the faith. How important it is not to "forsake gathering together." We are responsible to each other not to sit on "islands" and operate as soloists. We must not forget that Christianity is to be done corporately. We will all learn much from what we hear and experience at the Conference. Please do not underestimate the joy you bring to others by attending. We will also celebrate the 20th anniversary with a special communion service.

To register please call Atlanta Bible College at 800-347-4261 or 678-833-1839 or mail the form below by **April 18**. The non-refundable deposit is \$50 per individual or couple.

Conference Cost

Includes 3 nights, all meals, snacks, conf. fee, and tax

Single	NEW Couple Rate	Double (per person)	Triple (per person)	Quad (perperson)
\$340	\$505 per couple	\$260	\$245	\$ 230

The Mystery of Christ's Church: Christ in YOU

Daniel W. Siderius

(adapted from a sermon given on October 31, 2010 at the
Fair Oaks Community Church of God in Fairfax, Virginia)



I. Introduction

As part of our Sunday worship today, we sang two hymns, "A Mighty Fortress is our God" and "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," and I am curious if any of you recognized anything out of the ordinary regarding these hymns. Please take a look at the pages for them, hymnal pages 29 and 159, and perhaps think of the significance of October 31 in the history of the global church. Both hymns were written by prominent reformers of the church. "A Mighty Fortress is our God" was written by Martin Luther and "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" was written by Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley. A search of our hymnal will find many other hymns from the reformers, especially those by Charles Wesley (hymns 122, 142, 159, 496 among others) since he wrote something on the order of 2000 hymns. Today is known as Reformation Day, which commemorates the day in 1517 that Martin Luther allegedly posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. His actions instigated the church reform movement now known as the Protestant Reformation. Church congregations around the world, especially Lutheran and Reformed churches, will sing "A Mighty Fortress is our God" ("Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott" in Luther's own German language) in their own language to acknowledge Luther's role in the establishment of their churches outside the Roman Catholic hierarchy and in contrast to Catholic dogma. Given the historical animosity between Protestants and Catholics, I am quite confident that Reformation Sunday was historically used by Protestant ministers to preach against the theological errors of the Roman Catholic Church and the superiority of their particular flavor of Protestantism. Though we have already sung "A Might Fortress," let me assure you that this sermon is not going to be used to rail against Catholicism; many other churches will do so, probably with the wrong intentions.

To my knowledge, Reformation Day is not an important celebration in our Church of God or any other Adventist churches. In fact, many of the member churches of the General Conference include the following on their webpage:

“The Church of God is not a “Reformation Church.” It does not trace its origin to the Reformation nor to Reformation leaders. The Church of God has its taproots in the Word of God and not in the revolt of the church. ... The Church of God is not a “splinter church”; that is, it did not break off from any older, established denomination. While the family tree of many churches shows them as branches of other denominations and those denominations as branches from others, etc., the Church of God was never so affiliated.”

Though I cannot speak for the Christadelphians and other Restorationist groups, I would guess that they view themselves in a very similar manner. In spite of the fact that our church’s heritage is outside the Protestant “family tree,” I think that we do owe the reformers and Protestant thinkers a debt of gratitude. In fact, I would venture to say that our teaching of the oneness of God, soul sleep, and the Gospel of the Kingdom of God would have been delayed were it not for the Protestant Reformation. I doubt such that teaching would spontaneously rise out of a Catholic-dominated culture that did not encourage the plain reading of the Bible. Luther’s main message, that the church is composed of those that are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (*sola gratia, sola fide, solus Christus*), is integral to our preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. This unique and mysterious characteristic of Christian believers, that we are saved by God’s grace to be a special creation with a particular function, not due to ethnic lineage or church leader’s approval, is part of the main topic I want to speak on today.

II. Scripture Reading

The main text for today’s message is from Paul’s letter to the Colossians, verses 21-29 of chapter 1, with a focus on verses 25-27. Colossians is primarily a “correction epistle” in that it is written in a tone that instructs the Colossians and later readers how to correctly apply doctrine that was previously disclosed. In this case, it primarily addresses doctrine from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, which focuses on the revelation that God’s church is composed of both Jews and Gentiles, without further distinction. So this is the framework that we need to effectively read Colossians. The meat of chapter 1 begins in verse 15 with a description of Jesus Christ in the following verses:

v. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of creation

v. 18 He is also head of the body, the church, and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead ... He himself will come to have first place in everything

v. 19 It was the Father’s good pleasure ... through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through blood of His cross.

With this reminder of the nature of Jesus, we finally get to the main text. Beginning with verse 21:

²¹And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, ²²yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— ²³if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

²⁴Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. ²⁵Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of the word of God*, ²⁶*that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, ²⁷to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. ²⁹For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.
Colossians 1:21-29 (NASB)

Verse 27 contains the main point for today: That God made salvation and right standing before Him available to the Gentiles, not just the House of Israel. This salvation is figuratively called "Christ in you," a point we are going to return to later. We may have to confirm this after today's sermon, but I would guess that none of us are of Jewish lineage (almost certainly not in the strict *halakhic* sense), so the fact that inclusion in God's family and in His church is open to Gentiles is extremely important to all of us! Otherwise, we would be outside the availability of salvation.

III. Salvation for the Gentiles is a *Mystery*

A key part of the Colossians text is in verse 26. Paul is instructed to preach a mystery that was hidden in the past. The mystery is that salvation would be made available to the Gentiles. The use of the word "mystery" in this case is a bit unclear, since in our contemporary usage a mystery is something that is incomprehensible or unknowable; its explanation is found only with great effort. The root word in the Greek is *musterion*, whose meaning is not properly captured in our modern usage of the word "mystery." A clearer translation, which is suggested in the Strong's Greek Dictionary is that *musterion* means "a secret," or something that is not known to all, but can be known after appropriate revelation. Calling a theological concept "a secret" sounds a bit hokey, so I will use the word "mystery" with the implication that it is something that can be made known.

This concept of a "mystery" revealed to Paul is a recurring theme in his letters and is briefly mentioned by Jesus in the Gospels in the context of the Kingdom of God. Paul points out over and over again that this mystery was revealed to him and, thereby, to the world through the church of that mystery.

²⁵Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, ²⁶but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, *leading* to obedience of faith;

Romans 16:25-26 (NASB)

¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; ³that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. ⁴By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; ⁶*to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Ephesians 3:1-6 (NASB)

The salvation of the Gentiles and their full inclusion in God's family was a foreign concept to the Jews of the time, because their Old Testament scriptures made no clear reference to it. There are prophecies that speak of the messiah bringing light to the Gentiles, but no suggestion that Jews and Gentiles would have equal standing before God. This is why there was so much conflict in the early church regarding the ritual Law! The critical result, though, is that equal access to God resulted in the new creation, the Church of God, which is composed of believers that do not need to be categorized by ethnicity.

IV. The Reason for the Mystery

So the mystery is salvation for "... the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." The most important follow-up question is: "Why would this be a secret that could only be revealed in Paul's time? Or what was so critical about the salvation of Gentiles that it had to be kept secret?" Fortunately, Paul answers this question for us in I Corinthians 2:6-8:

⁶Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; ⁷but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸*the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

I Corinthians 2:6-8 (NASB)

This is an incredibly powerful statement: *if the rulers of this age had understood this mystery, they would not have crucified Jesus Christ.* When we tie Paul's usage of the word "mystery" in first Corinthians back to Ephesians or Colossians, we have to come to the conclusion that, had the "rulers of this age" known that the result of Jesus' death would be the full availability of salvation to Jews and Gentiles, then they would not have crucified him. They would have accepted the persistence of the ritual Mosaic Law, sacrifices at the Temple, even Jesus living on Earth continuing to teach the true nature and intent of God, preaching the Kingdom of God, and performing miracles; standing in the way of the adversary. The change that Jesus' death brought about would have been avoided at all costs! That change is the full salvation apart from the ritual Law that was extended to all men, creating the Church! To see the full effect of that change, we have to go all the way back to our main text:

²⁵Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of the word of God*, ²⁶*that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, ²⁷to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:25-27 (NASB)

V. The Result of Jesus' Death and Resurrection: Christ in YOU

The other half of the mystery is that all who are saved, both Jew and Gentile (though the distinction is no longer important), have Christ in them! This is absolutely crucial; those who crucified Christ believed that they would get rid of him. Ultimately, though, Jesus was resurrected and, later, ascended to heaven. This made God's Holy Spirit available to everyone – this is what is meant by "Christ in you, the hope of glory." The texts in scripture that makes this connection clear are a whole other sermon or lesson. But it means that

Holy Spirit is available to every person on earth. It means “Christ in YOU.” Instead of one Jesus preaching the word of God and causing trouble for the adversary, he has to deal with ten just in this room! From the viewpoint of the adversary, it just compounded the problem of having to deal with people chosen by God to reconcile mankind to Him. This is ultimately why salvation for the Gentiles had to remain a mystery.

The practical side of all of this relates back to the purpose of the Christian believers today. The last time I preached, I spoke of how the Kingdom of God message relates to the present-day purpose of the Church and Christian believers; my main point was that in this Church age, God delegated to us the ministry of reconciliation – that our greatest objective is to bring people into fellowship with God and membership in His Kingdom. The application side of today’s message is that God has equipped us with the greatest tool ever conceived, whether for living out our lives as believers or working to reconcile people to God. That Holy Spirit is the way that God speaks to us, it is the “extra sense” we have as believers, and it sustains us when we are attacked by the adversary. It allows us to resist temptation and demonstrate to others the freedom from sin and gives us the confidence to show those same people that they can be free of it as well! Beyond all that, though, the Holy Spirit is the down payment of life in the Age to Come, the Kingdom of God. And when we have full confidence of that promise, we can share it with another person, so that there is one more “Christ in YOU.” Salvation and the indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit is not a result of our preferential ethnicity, nor granted with the approval of some church functionary; God offers it to you free of charge, simply by faith!

In summary,

1. In the Age of the Church, salvation is available for all men. God has revealed in the New Testament that inclusion in his church is freely available, by His Grace through our faith.
2. The universal availability of salvation was so dangerous to the adversary that God kept it secret. The New Testament is quite clear: if the rulers of the age had known that Gentiles would be saved, they would not have crucified Jesus.
3. It had to be a mystery because it means CHRIST IN YOU. The ultimate result of the adversary’s biggest mistake is that God’s Holy Spirit is now available to all men and this Holy Spirit empowers us to resist that adversary and the temptation of sin. It means that every Christian believer is a representative Jesus; the adversary did not eliminate one Jesus – that action made it possible for millions of people to have the same assurance and power that he has.

How do you use this power, the Holy Spirit? What difference does it make in your life?

Recommended reading for further study:

I Corinthians 1 (the entire chapter)

II Corinthians 3:7-11

Ephesians 3

“Come, Let Us Destroy Israel!”

(Psalm 83:4)

Rex Cain

It's interesting that on your bulletin cover is something that has happened only in recent days that shows that Israel is still a thorn in the side of the Arab world. That the Jacob/Esau conflict still continues into the 21st century. Three highlights of the article are:

- Mahmoud Abbas is trying to force the U.N. to condemn Israel. (He's chairman of the PLO.)
- U.S. is proposing to condemn Israel in another way to appease Abbas.
- U.S. informed Arab governments that it would support U.N. Security Council reaffirming that the 15-nation body “does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlement activity.”

You'll see during my message that these words only reinforce the fact that the world is always and forever fighting against Israel's existence; even the U.S. supports discretionary anti Israeli rhetoric in order to maintain harmony with our oil producing countries.

I've wanted to speak about Egypt in prophecy since the recent unparalleled revolution began that brought down Hosni Mubarak. In spite of what some people think, I'm not truly a prophecy expert and especially when it comes to Egypt. I tried to pull something together about Egypt's place in prophecy, and quite honestly, I was overwhelmed with the vast amounts of information and Bible passages – and to me, most of it was very difficult to interpret. The word Egypt appears about 700 times in the Bible.

This revolution has been a hot topic on our pastor's list and many have made impressive observations. Many of the prophesies about Egypt is difficult to place in prophetic timeline. One thing is clear – Egypt will be blessed, finally, in the last days and will be one with Assyria and Israel. But that doesn't tell us what will happen in the meantime or the part Egypt plays in the last day struggles leading to the return of Christ ... although I feel



strongly we are rapidly approaching that time ... though, I admit, I have been saying that for 50 years.

I apologize for not being a prophecy student of the quality you might find in the book world concerning prophecy ... but those books are available to you if you want to dig deeper. The only comfort I find in that remark is that sometimes, they are wrong. Prophecy is not a mathematical science.

Last week, I heard a commentator on TV make the remark that Israel is rapidly being surrounded by enemies and stated that there's presently 10 nations that would destroy Israel if they could. That immediately reminded me of Ps. 83 which is both a prayer and a prophecy of 10 nations that in the last days surround Israel with the desire to destroy Israel. God's ability to predict these things – in this case – 3000 years in advance of the event is simply astounding and humbling.

If you've followed the news, you know Egypt signed a peace agreement with Israel 32 years ago and that accord helped to stabilize the Mideast and took much pressure off Israel. However, following this recent people's revolution things are changing. This article was in the media on Feb. 14th:

The leader of the secular Al-Ghad (Tomorrow) opposition party in Egypt, Ayman

Nour, says that the peace agreement with Israel "has ended" and must be re-negotiated.

"In practice, the Camp David agreement [of 1979, in which then-President Anwar Sadat made peace with Israel – ed.] has ended," Dr. Nour told an interviewer on Sunday, "because it is an old agreement, we must improve its conditions in a way that will correspond to Egypt's interests."

The remarks are worrisome to Israel, as they come from a leader of a non-Islamic party. The Tomorrow Party, in fact, was formed to represent a secular liberal democratic perspective, with a strong interest in human rights issues and political reform.

Nour, who sat in prison for over three years for his opposition to the now deposed Hosni Mubarak, ran for President of Egypt in 2005. Officially, he received 97% of the vote, but is estimated to have actually received 12-13%.

"Egypt's rights in the Camp David agreement are very modest," Nour said. "Egypt willact with total equity towards all sides that want a just peace in the region."

What I hear when such things as this are said is this: "We know Israel will never fit into our Muslim caliphate worldview and a just peace can only happen when Israel is removed."

If at any time in history, now is the hour to obey the scripture I have had in our bulletin for years following the prayer list – it's time to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem as the Psalmist and Isaiah urged us to do. (Ps. 122:6 & Isa. 62:6, 7)

So, I can't tell you Egypt's part in the last days, but I can say they will play a major role – as we no doubt are seeing at this very hour. With the world's mass media, it's somewhat amazing that for all intents and purposes, we have a front row seat on the Mideast turmoil: the news stations having been feeding us audio and video for weeks right into our living rooms from the other side of the world. A century ago, we might not have heard about these events for weeks. And, all serious observers are saying that instant Internet access was a major factor in the "success" (if that is what it should be called) of the Egyptian revolution.

Two weeks ago Iranians went to the streets inspired by Egypt but was much more forcefully dealt

with and Internet access was immediately squelched from the people to avoid the world's attention as it was in Egypt. Bahrain also had riots and at least 5 people were killed; the rioting was put down quickly and harshly.

Libya also developed rioting with at least 200 killed and burning Gaddafi in effigy after 42 years of rule is quite dramatic ... and probably dangerous. So the turmoil in the Mideast is capturing the world's attention and especially the attention of Christians.

If I remember nothing else from the 1991 days when Iraqi was firing Scud missiles into Israel, it is this: an interviewer was talking with a Jewish fellow at the edge of a deep missile crater. The Jewish man kept looking up (meaning, I believe, he was appealing to God) and saying, "We cannot be destroyed because we are God's children." He kept repeating that over and over – quite impressive. This is exactly the opposite of what we read in Ps. 83 where Israel's enemies say, "Let us destroy Israel." I believe the Jewish man is right – Israel won't be destroyed but it is yet to suffer serious calamities before Christ arrives.

Of course, we can't predict all the details but the general scenario that the Bible gives us is all we really need to know. All the day-by-week-by-month-by-year details are not required that we understand. But to know there will be a final Jewish/ Arab conflict at the end of this age should turn us to God, which is the basic purpose of prophecy. Knowing these things should cause us to quickly pull the "white robe of righteousness" over our sinful lives.

Psalm 83:1-4 (Come, let us wipe them out as a nation)

¹ O God, do not remain silent; do not turn a deaf ear, do not stand aloof, O God. (² See how your enemies growl, how your foes rear their heads. (³ With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish. (⁴ "Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel's name is remembered no more."

V. 3 speaks of these nations as laying "cunning or crafty (KJ) plans" and v. 4 saying, "come let us wipe them (Israel) out as a nation." Where have we heard that before?

This is the declared purpose of the Arab nations. It is even in their charters to “annihilate Israel.” In the World Book Encyclopedia where it discusses the purpose of the Arab League, they write: “Opposition to the Jews in Palestine and to Israel was the most important reason for the league.”

The Arab League was formed in Cairo on March 22, 1945 with six members: Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan (renamed Jordan after 1946), Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria. Yemen joined as a member on May 5, 1945. But the first time a delegation ever met with Israel was in 2007. Have we heard these nations mentioned lately on the news media? Yes, we sure have.

If you recall the videos from Amman Jordan during the Gulf War (1990-1991) when tens of thousands of Palestinians were bowing toward Mecca and dancing with joy because Saddam had hit Israel with missiles, you can be assured this prophecy – written 1000 years before Christ – is on target; God knew these last days “conspiring” would come to pass. And, as prophesied in this passage, have we not seen Israel hated by its neighbors through the recent 63 years since they’ve become a nation in 1948? Do we not realize that the dream of “wiping Israel out as a nation” is still the dream of radical Islamists? And when they form a strong coalition, we can be assured that these nations, and more, will swoop down on tiny Israel as Ezekiel prophesied.

Verses 9-15 which we won’t reach today speak of the Psalmist’s prayer for divine punishment (v. 15niv) where he pleads to God: so pursue them with your tempest and terrify them with your storm. We can interpret this that the battle ends by divine decree and we can only believe (based on numerous other passages) that this is accomplished by Christ’s glorious return. So, with things happening so rapidly in the Middle East, we should do as Christ suggested, (Lk 21:28) And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws near.

Jesus made this statement following his sermon on the mount where he describes the last days – that’s a sermon for another day - but I have preached on Matt. 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 several times in my time here. ☺

Again, the Psalmist speaks of the end result of this divine intervention (v. 17) May they ever be

ashamed and dismayed; may they (those who desire to destroy Israel) perish in disgrace.

Yes, harsh words but God speaks this way to resolve the troubles of the Mideast and to establish God’s righteousness on the earth. There is no other answer to this conflict outside of God’s intervention that has persisted for 1000s of years and as God predicted when Jacob and Esau were born. They were even fighting each other before they were born – while the twins were still in Rebekah’s womb! (Gen. 25:21-26) Jacob became the nation of Israel and Esau the nation of Edomites (equated with Arab peoples and continual enemies of Israel). Even Paul refers to this conflict in Rom. 9:10-13)

Psalm 83:5-8 (plot ...form alliance)

⁵ With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you— (⁶ the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites, (⁷ Byblos, Ammon and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre. (⁸ Even Assyria has joined them to reinforce Lot’s descendants.

Notice these 10 Arab neighbors “with one mind ... plot together ... to form an alliance” against Israel. “One mind?” It’s a common joke that Arab people cannot get along with themselves and only agree when they plot against Israel. Soon, they WILL HAVE one mind and will pull together a coalition against Israel. Ezekiel, scholars believe, lists Russia with Turkey to spearhead this attack. When they feel this confidence to do so, they then will attack as one believing they have the manpower (army power) to conquer. Ezekiel puts it: “You and all your troops and the many nations ... will go up [to Israel] advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land. Among these nations, Ezekiel says, will be Egypt, Libya and Iran. So, covering the land would indicate a vast multitude of allies (some mentioned in our Ps. 83 passage) invading Israel.

The names mentioned in these verses are sons of families who became nations. For example, the Hagarites were born of Hagar, Abraham’s “handmaiden.” Many scholars think Hagar later married and had more children who became the Hagarites. These names and the nations they became can be confusing and overlap in certain respects but basically they are the inner circle

nations that surround Israel that include Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Notice that in this passage they do not go to war – they are only plotting war. So this raises the question if this happens before or after the Gog and Magog war of Eze. 38. The honest answer is we're not sure. In fact, on our pastor's list, this question is currently being discussed with considerably different views. As I said, prophecy is not a mathematical science but a general view of the end times.

I read last Wednesday ... (Washington, D.C., February 23, 2011) — *A number of influential rabbis say unrest in the Arab world signals the coming of the War of Gog and Magog and the soon coming of the Messiah, reported a leading Israeli news service on Wednesday.* This was reported by Rosenberg in his publication just 4 days ago.

What we do learn from Ps. 83 is that in the final days, the descendants of Ishmael (the Arab world) will still hate Israel until the very end and just before Christ returns ... as God predicted. In Gen. 16:12 are these words: And he [Ishmael] will be as a wild [donkey] among men; his hand will be against every man and every man's hand against him, and he will live to the east and on the borders of all his kinsmen. (Gen. 16:12 b) As I said earlier, they fight their own relatives and have done so for millenniums. Ishmael's brothers and their descendants can't get along ... until they can agree to destroy Israel – their common enemy. The Arabs would always be wild and wooly men, per this prophecy like a "wild donkey".

Later at Ishmael's death were read in Gen. 25:17-18 Ishmael lived a hundred and thirty-seven years. He breathed his last and died, and he was gathered to his people. ¹⁸ His descendants settled in the area from Havilah [near Egypt] to Shur [near Assyria] ... And they lived in hostility toward all the tribes related to them. That is, as I've already pointed out, their own people can't get along until they have a common enemy, which is Sarah's son, Isaac – the Jews.

EZE. 35:2-5 (I am against you Mt. Seir)

² "Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir [regions mostly southeast of Israel – Edomites / Arabs]; prophesy against it ³ and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Mount Seir, and I will stretch out my hand against you and make you a desolate waste. ⁴ I will turn your towns

into ruins and you will be desolate. Then you will know that I am the LORD. ⁵ "because you harbored an ancient hostility [Even when Eze. spoke, the hostility against Israel was considered 'ancient'] and delivered the Israelites over to the sword at the time of their calamity ...

There is much more about God being against the 'inner circle' of nations that surround Israel in Eze. 35 and 36 where God says things like, "Thus says the Lord God: I speak in my hot jealousy against the rest of the nations ... against Edom (Jordan primarily) who gave my land to themselves..." (Eze. 36:5)

However, all this turmoil finally gives way to peace as you can read even at the end of Eze. 36 where Israel will dwell in total peace and complete security with their hearts right towards God.

Joel 3:1-4 (I will gather all nations)

¹ "In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, ² I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land. ³ They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine to drink. ⁴ "Now what have you against me, Tyre and Sidon [Lebanon] and all you regions of Philistia? [Gaza area along the Mediterranean coast]; Are you repaying me for something I have done? If you are paying me back, I will swiftly and speedily return on your own heads what you have done.

A clarification of v. 2; it says "all nations". That does not mean all nations in the world, especially in the context of this campaign of Arab against Jew. Even Joel here in chapter 3 at v. 11 says "all nations round about" (what I've called the inner circle). The prophet Zechariah wrote about the same event saying "the nations round about" (Zech. 14:14). It's important to note this is divine judgment on these nations who hate Israel. In Joel 3:12b, it reads, "I will sit to judge all the nations round about". The conclusion is stated in Joel 3:20: "Judah shall be inhabited forever and Jerusalem to all generations."

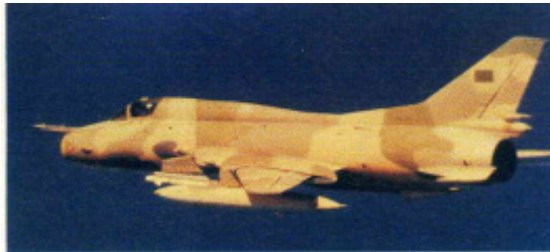
Israel has always had to be constantly "on guard" against her enemies "round about" – the inner circle of nations who are determined to rid themselves of this pest. There are so many passages that speak of this menace in Obadiah,

Zechariah, Amos and many more. But I don't want to keep you here for another hour or two!

Suffice it to say that Israel has very few devoted friends and instead mostly enemies. Strange when you think Israel – the Jews – are God's chosen people. Could it be that they are hated because they ARE God's chosen? Even before birth they have been fighting one another.

Listen to this paraphrase of Gen. 25:22-23 (The Msg.) –

²¹⁻²³ Isaac [Abraham's son of promise] prayed hard to God for his wife because she was barren. God answered his prayer and Rebekah became pregnant. But the children tumbled and kicked inside her so much that she said, "If this is the way it's going to be, why go on living?" She went to God to find out what was going on. God told her, Two nations are in your womb, two peoples butting heads while still in your body. One people will overpower the other, and the older (Esau/Arabs) will serve the younger (Jacob/Israel). This is speaking of the conclusion of the matter at the end of this age – Jacob (Israel) will overcome at the end and Esau (Arabs) will serve Israel.



Thus, conflict promised from the beginning between Jew and Arabs. Nearly 4000 years of conflict and still going on until Feb. 27, 2011.

In Zech. 14:9 it says, "And the Lord (Jesus) will become King over all the earth." When the bloody campaigns are over, there will be world peace. Jesus in control and "King of kings and Lord of Lords." (Rev. 19:16) This is why we are told to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may they prosper who love thee." (Ps. 122:6 / Isa. 62:6-7) When peace is in Jerusalem, Christ will have come and there will be peace worldwide.

Here is what Jesus said about these troublesome times:

Luke 21:25-28 (Lift up your heads)

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. [Meaning turmoil among the peoples of the world – do we not see that even today?] ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time

they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Jesus returns in very severe times in our world. The detailed time sequence of these events, I wish I could tell you, but that it will transpire, I can guarantee. If nothing else, the reason God doesn't give us time and dates are so we will be in constant readiness (if we're serious with God) for Christ's return to earth at any time.

Rather than Christians fainting for fear of the terror of those last days, what does Jesus tell us to do? To "look up because our redemption draws near." "Look up" also has the meaning of "take courage" because the world's turmoil is our signal that the end of man's rule is about over.

May we be among the few wise of this earth that know and understand the import of the many verses we've considered in these brief minutes. We know what most of the world does not know and this is why, instead of feeling terror in the final days, we can lift our heads and take courage. God has a Plan for the ages and we surely are seeing this with the world's chaos (especially in the Mideast) – at least the beginnings of these times. We may be closer than we know.

I like the closing words of the prayer/prophecy of our main passage, Ps. 83 where the Psalmist first explains that the nations "round about" Israel plot to destroy Israel. Why? To "wipe them out as a nation." (v. 4) After the Psalmist prays that Israel's enemies be removed by divine intervention, he says in closing: ¹⁸ Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD—that you alone are the Most High over all the earth.

Yes, there is a day coming when the nations will NOT say, "Come, let us destroy Israel!" Instead they will say, as Isaiah prophesied, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." ⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. (They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. (Isaiah 2:3-4)

When Perfection Comes

Mike Montgomery

There's much about this present life that we do not understand; there are no answers for many of life's 'hard questions'. To use the words of Paul, so much about this life is partial & incomplete. 1 Corinthians 13:12 states, "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." The reason Paul could say, "Then we shall see...then we shall know is because of the when in vs. 10: "When perfection comes, the imperfect disappears." We know 1 Corinthians 13 as the Love Chapter; Paul shows us the excellent way- the way of love, and beautifully describes the love that must characterize believers. Paul must also have in mind Jesus's 2nd Coming (The blessed hope of the believer). Notice how Paul's words connect with 1 John 3:2- "What we will be has not yet been made known, but we know that when he (Jesus) appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." In his introduction Paul commends the believers at Corinth, "You eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." The phrase when perfection comes speaks strongly to Jesus' return to the earth in power and with great glory, and to the eternal blessings that will result from forever being with the Lord. Let's examine some of these blessings.

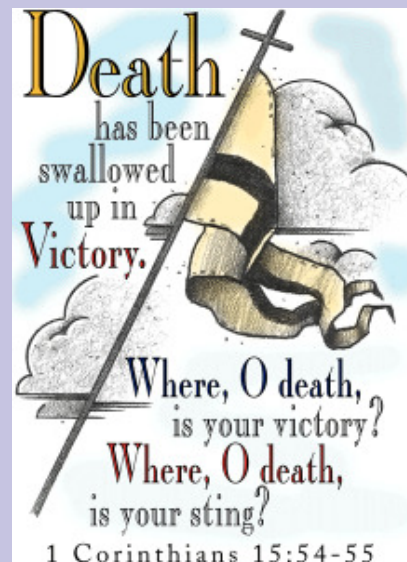
*Perfect Administration. Isaiah 9:6 is a familiar verse- "For unto us a child is born (God's greatest gift to us- His son, the promised Savior); unto us a son is given" (Christ's redemptive work on the cross for our sin). Isaiah continues, "And the government will be on his shoulders." (Looks to a future day when Christ will reign as King of the coming Kingdom of God upon this earth) The promise of verse seven is, "Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time one and forever." The only true, perfect peace that will ever be known is the peace that comes when perfection comes- when Jesus comes to inaugurate the Kingdom of God upon this earth—a kingdom that is different from any other earthly kingdoms. The kingdom of the world will someday become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ's and he will reign for the Age-of-the ages."



*Perfect Restoration. What is God going to restore? (Everything) "Behold, I make all things new." Peter (Day of Pentecost) spoke of the times of refreshment that will come from the presence of the Lord (Ultimately, when Jesus returns to rule in righteousness). Peter stated, "God will send for you, Jesus Christ, who has been appointed for you; He must remain in heaven until the times of Restoration of all things, as God has promised thru His prophets from of old." When the times will have reached their fulfillment, all things in the heavens & on the earth will be brought to a meaningful relationship (summed up) under the headship of God's Son. When perfection comes, sorrows, difficulties, losses- things that just don't add up in this life will be no more. Isaiah 65:17 reads, "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered." This was confirmed to John in the Revelation- "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." In keeping with God's promise we are looking forward to a new heaven & a new earth, the home of righteousness- the earth made new (Restored as God desired from the very beginning, the earth will be Eden-like, will become the future paradise of God).

*Perfect Security (As depicted in many wonderful OT passages- such as Isaiah 11:6-9 & Micah 4:2-4). When God's perfect Son comes it will be a time of unparalleled peace & safety; the Prince of Peace will rule in justice and righteousness. Micah's mention of "sitting under one's own vine and fig tree" is an expression of great security and prosperity. In Revelation 21:25, concerning the Holy City/the New Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven from God, we read, "On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there." Ancient walled cities had gates that were shut at night to keep out invaders/dangerous people. The coming Kingdom of God will be a place of perfect rest/security. It's hard to imagine that someday fear will be a thing of the past. Micah 4:4b- ".and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken." God who is faithful (100% reliable) God will accomplish all His plans and purposes. In Genesis (Before the flood came upon the earth & after Noah & his family entered the ark) we read "And the Lord shut him in." (Speaks to security, protection) For those who have entered in Christ- our ark of safety- we must remain in Christ all the days of our life, or until Jesus comes. When perfection comes there will be

*Perfect Transformation for God's people, whether living (Alive when Jesus returns) or dead (Asleep in Jesus). The phrase, when perfection comes of 1 Corinthians 13 takes us to the phrase, then, when he comes of 1 Corinthians 15:23. In the Resurrection Chapter Paul addresses the truth of Christ's resurrection and the future resurrection of believers in Christ. We could say, "When perfection comes "the body that is sown perishable, will be raised imperishable; the body sown in dishonor, will be raised in glory; the body sown in weakness, will be raised in power." (Verses 42-43) When Paul declared these resurrection truths, he anticipated that some would ask, "How are the dead raised?" His answer is found in verses 51-54. We also know from 1 Thessalonians 4:16, that when Jesus comes the dead in Christ will rise first. "After that, those who are still alive & are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be w/the Lord forever." We long for Jesus' appearing; we "eagerly await our Savior from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious (Resurrected) body." (Phil. 3:20-21) When perfection comes, there will be perfect administration, restoration, security, transformation and:



*Perfect Illumination. Physically, we shall behold Him- shall see Jesus face-to-face, but there will be spiritual perfection as well, in our understanding/knowledge. Paul says, "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror..." In the ancient world, mirrors were made out of polished metal and the image was always unclear/distorted. Someday there will be great clarity/understanding. The familiar words of a hymn state, "Farther along we'll know all about it, Farther along we'll understand why; Cheer up my brother, live in the sunshine, we'll understand it all by and by." God's people (In the New Jerusalem) are depicted in Revelation as, "walking by the light of the glory of God and of the Lamb." With perfect illumination, we shall walk in the way of truth forever!

*Perfect Worship/Adoration. Revelation 22:3-4 "No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads." (Speaking to ownership/belonging to Christ) If we acknowledge Jesus as our personal Lord & Savior and remain faithful to the end, we will bear His name forever in the Coming Age. We will be

His in a way that we can't imagine; we will forever worship Him. Paul's use of the phrase face-to-face speaks of perfect fellowship and intimacy. Finally, and since seven is the number of perfection...

*Perfect Love. The concluding words of the Love Chapter are, "Now these three remain: faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love." In 13:8 Paul has already established that love never fails; it abides forever. When perfection comes, our faith shall become sight; when perfection comes, our greatest hope shall be realized. But we shall forever be with the Lord, shall forever love & be loved in God's eternal Kingdom. Love is the greatest gift= we will love God, Jesus and one another throughout all eternity! Sound good? (Sounds just about perfect to me).



When perfection comes is when Jesus, God's Perfect Son, comes and all things will eventually be made right. What blessings, what future inheritance we have in Christ! Who is going to inherit all this? Revelation 21:27 tell us, only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. 22:14 says, only those who have washed their robes (Have been clothed in the righteousness of Jesus). 22:17 states, only those who have come and taken the free gift of the water of life. Today there is much that we do not understand; we live in a sin-cursed/imperfect world. But, we aren't to be filled with hopelessness/despair! Lift up your hearts; lift up your heads! Look up and see Jesus now, thru the eyes of faith. See him at God's right hand; see him as possessing all authority as God's Perfect Son; see Him coming on the clouds and with great glory. Remember that the then of 1 Corinthians 13:12 ("Then we shall see face to face...then we shall know fully) is tied to the when of verse 10 (When perfection comes).

Jesus is coming, and when perfection comes, all will be made right, as God designed and desired from the very beginning. May God richly bless you, and may the grace of the Lord Jesus be with His people. Amen.

"No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads."

Revelation 22:3-4



“AUNTIE VERNA THAYER CHILDREN’S EVANGELIST”



Presented at the
Church of God History Conference
September 23-25, 2010
North Hills Church of God, Springfield, OH
Kent Ross

I was so excited by the news that our little church in Litchfield was going to have summer Vacation Bible School. I didn't know exactly what that was as I was about seven or eight, but Mom was really excited, and so I got excited. I was sure if she was excited about it, I would be, or should be, too.

Auntie Thayer was coming to our little basement church there in Litchfield. I didn't know who she was and don't know precisely what month it was, nor whether it was one week or two weeks long, but to this day I remember it as one of the remarkable experiences of my life.

She came in her old gray or blue car that afternoon into our driveway, and parked her car on the north of our drive, right next to the adjoining lot where our church was located. She had a young woman with her, though again, I don't remember who that might have been, and though they differed each year, I always thought they were pretty, very pretty.

What I remember most was the wonderful Bible stories they told us every day . . . , Daniel and the lion's den, Moses and the Ten Commandments, David and Goliath. I suppose I had heard them all before in Sunday School, but she would tell them with wonderful flannel graph figures that made the stories live for us. I still remember her telling the story and smoothing down the figure on that big piece of flannel. I was mesmerized!

It was a wonderful, inspiring time for us all . . . maybe 20, or so. Each day it seemed to grow though as we excitedly told our friends about this extraordinary lady. Even on the last day of one of those Bible schools, when she asked me to pray the closing prayer, she was still wonderful.

Though I nearly fainted, choked and passed out when she all of sudden pointed at me and “asked” me to pray, I felt I couldn't refuse her and I stumbled and bumbled through my first public prayer, and though sure that I had done poorly, she thanked me and praised me for doing it . . . and I've never forgotten her

Her kindness and love were evident to everyone and probably some here had the same or similar experiences in the late forties and early fifties, so many years ago.

Just who was she? Where did she come from, and how did she get involved in Child Evangelism, though I doubt that was the term used then. Because of the impression she made on my life, I wanted to make sure her story was told and that she would not be forgotten.

I wrote and contacted many of the young women who traveled with her down through those years, though I wasn't able to get responses from all of them. Let me try and tell you some of what I learned about her and her ministry.

She was actually from Indiana, though I have little more than that from those early years. She was born Verna Shaffer Aug. 26, 1893 and died in March or April 1964 in Hazen, Arkansas. Though I usually think of her as living a serene and controlled life, it was not always so for her.

She and Earl Thayer were married and pastoring in the Church of God in Indiana, though in 1931 he pastored the church in Rockford, Illinois. Whether or not that was before she and Earl were first in Oregon is yet unclear. He worked in the Greenhouse and she was matron for the Golden Rule home for a time. She returned from her travels and led and taught the Illinois' Annual Conference's Bible school from 1920 to 1955.

They moved from the Midwest to Virginia, pastoring the Ft. Valley and Maurertown churches. One report says they had four children, with only a son surviving. A report says one of their children, a son, died while they were in Hazen, Arkansas, presumably in a pastorate. They came back to Indiana for his burial. The surviving child's name was Lyle, nicknamed 'Red', and his wife's name was Georgia. He married and had two sons, Richard, or Dickie, and Larry, who still lives near Winchester, Virginia.

While pastoring in Virginia, during the Great Depression, she though a teacher was not allowed to work. Trying to live just on his salary was very difficult. When another child died, she took the child back for burial in Indiana, and she remained there, partially for financial reason.

Her husband, in her absence became involved with another woman and it broke up their marriage. During that time she moved in with Mary Milne's parents, John and Ruby Railton, for a period of time.

She never remarried, though her husband did. Earl left the Church of God and became a Jehovah's Witness, as did their son, Lyle. Jan Stilson, while she and Eugene pastored those same churches in Virginia, had occasion to meet him. Mrs. Thayer always regretted moving away from him, and felt some guilt for the break-up of their marriage.

Perhaps it was her customary teaching, or leading the Illinois' Annual Conference Bible School that initiated and suggested her Children's ministry, for that began in earnest sometime in the early 40's. Or it could have received a boost because one of her jobs during this period of time was keeping house for a family in Chicago. The lady of the house insisted the pots and pans be scrubbed every two days, to which Mrs. Thayer indignantly replied, "I scrub them every day."

Information is incomplete and sketchy, but later on in the 40's. she went to Morristown, Tennessee to hold a Bible school. While there, the pastor Belus Holt to her over the mountains to Guthrie Grove and she was instrumental in "mending some fences" to get them to warm up to the Conference. Also, during her visit to the Carolinas, having learned of Alva & Awa Huffer's courtship, and that Alva didn't have a job, she pointed them to the churches in Virginia. They went ahead and married and moved there to pastor in Virginia.

One of the people who helped me by personally interviewing some of the ladies remarked, "Remember, she is 86, so all of this is subject to verification."

Her travels took her from Virginia to Washington state, and from Minnesota down to Louisiana. Girls who traveled with her included:

- a. 1st Ellen Ramsey (1946, June to August)
- b. 2nd Marie (Coverstone) Harper (Spring, 1948 to September)
Marie (Barnum) Magaw followed her
- c. 3rd Mary Milne (probably 1949)
- d. 4th Irene (Payne) Sorenson (all of 1950), Marie (Barnum) Magaw ,
Marie (Coverstone) Harper – two summers
- e. 5th Lois Worley (June, 1954 to January, 1955)

- e. Others – Marian Stilson?, Dorothy Elliott Larson, Louise (Johnson) Humphreys, Bob See (driver one summer, 1954- Pennellwood & Southlawn)

Those who responded to my questionnaire said their travels with her took them to the following churches:

- a. Ellen recalls going to Cleveland and Delta, Ohio, some in Virginia Eldorado and Oregon, Illinois.
- b. Marie Harper - Maurertown, Virginia, the Southlawn Church near Grand Rapids, Michigan, Holbrook, Nebraska, McGintytown, Arkansas, Wray, Colorado, Cleveland, Ohio, Casey, Illinois and Hammond, Louisiana.
- c. Mary Milne - Little Rock, Royal and some Chapel, all in Arkansas, Blood River and Happy Woods, Louisiana, Wray, Colorado and western Nebraska (probably Holbrook). All were two weeks in length.
- d. Irene Sorenson - Wenatchee, Washington and Wray, Colorado and many others.
- e. Lois Worley – Eden Valley and Litchfield, Minnesota, Hillisburg and North Salem, Indiana, L'Anse, Southlawn and Pennellwood, Michigan, McGintytown, Little Rock, and a black church in North Little Rock, Arkansas, Harlingen, Mullin and Gatesville, Texas, then Blood River and another in a public school in Louisiana. Attended Billie Kennedy and Irene Richardson's wedding

In my questionnaire (copy at back), I further asked if they had any anecdotes of amusing stories of their travels with her.

One told of a time in Arkansas, when they were prepared for bed, before Mrs. Thayer allowed them to get into bed, she threw the covers back and insisted they check for bedbugs.

On another occasion, Mrs. Thayer, needing to use the outhouse one night, which was set back quite far from the home went out. She stopped somewhere between to relieve herself out in the yard in the darkness. As she did, suddenly sheet lightning revealed Mrs. Thayer in a most undignified and embarrassing situation. Much laughter ensued with also some redness.

Though Jan Stilson had heard that she was quite difficult to travel with, none of the assistants said such, nor revealed anything of that nature, except perhaps one. Late in the evening, before bed, one of the assistants was doing "floor exercises" with Nancy, the teen daughter of their host. Mrs. Thayer was somewhat stiff in explaining to her that such was not "proper."

On one trip through Wray, Colorado a family in that city came to her and gave her their young son, Danny, because they didn't want him. She called James and Mildred Watkins, and sight unseen, they agreed they would adopt him. As their car was full, he had to ride on the lap of the assistant. He loved being held and loved the attention he received. However somewhere along the way, Mrs. Thayer mentioned she wondered how the assistant's boyfriend would respond when he saw her and Danny. Danny on hearing that the assistant had a boyfriend became incensed and tried getting out of the car. They finally came to a stop before he got the door opened, but when they stopped, he pushed himself out, climbed up on the roof of the car and

refused for quite a long time to come down, until Mrs. Thayer finally cajoled and convinced him that they still loved him and would take care of him.

They always carried with them, in the trunk, a large mimeograph machine in case they needed extra or new lessons. The lessons had been run off, counted out for each church ahead of the trip, but there were sometimes extras needed, so the mimeograph always went with them.

Once they finished their Bible school in Litchfield, and after the Friday evening program, with which each Bible school was concluded, they jumped into their previously packed car and drove straight through to Happy Woods in Louisiana, so they could be ready for their next Bible school which began Sunday morning. According to Google it is 1,231 miles and should take about 21 hours, of course, that is with expressways, of which they had NONE.

“She kept herself busy all the time and was never idle. She produced beautiful handiwork, and crocheted in all her spare time.”

Auntie Thayer asked the assistant that year, if she could take a stint at the wheel. After agreeing and changing seats, Auntie Thayer suddenly said, “Now you must promised me you won’t drive over 50 miles per hour.” With her concurrence, Auntie Thayer then took a short nap.

In her travels, she once had to drive through a terrible dust storm. As she was on the windward side of the storm, she was soon so covered with dust blowing into the car she was

brown and dust-covered so much that when they stopped for gasoline, the attendant blurted out, “What happened to you?”

One of her aides used to wash and set her hair, using a bluing rinse as a conditioner to keep her white hair brightly white. On one occasion too much of the rinse left Mrs. Thayer’s hair a distinct bluish shade. She was quite embarrassed, but bravely carried on.

One time after we left Oregon, IL and I was driving slowly since it was her car. I was driving slower than the speed limit sign allowed. She spoke up and said, “Bob, if you keep going at this speed we will not get to Grand Rapids until next summer.” She had a great sense of humor. I loved that dear lady. It was the highlight of my summer that year.

While doing all of this Mrs. Thayer also edited many of the Children’s quarterlies (Pre-School through Primary), and with the assistance of her aides, also did the art work for them and for the summer Bible school lessons which they also produced. She also did a second set of lessons because at General Conference and even some state conferences, she didn’t want children to have the same lesson taught to them a second time.

She kept herself busy all the time and was never idle. She produced beautiful handiwork, and crocheted in all her spare time, and one assistant was taught to crochet during their travels.

All the reports I received indicated she was a wonderful, loving person attaching the word “My” before using a person’s name, such as “My Kent.” It endeared her to all, including the Bible college students in Oregon, where she spent considerable time. They, though, didn’t call her “Auntie Thayer”, as children in the churches were wont to do, but always called her “Grandma Thayer.”

She finally retired to McGintytown, Arkansas where Mr. & Mrs. Pete McGinty had built for her, her own little house. She died in March or April of 1964 and is buried in Arkansas.

There is more to be said of her remarkable career in service before the Lord. She was recognized as a faithful minister of the Church of God and rightly deserves our honored remembrance.

Dear Boys and Girls,

For thirteen Sundays you have been hearing stories about Jesus. Each Sunday you have learned a Bible rime and a Bible verse about Him. You have learned about His birth and what He did when He was a boy. The more you studied about Him, the more you have loved Him.

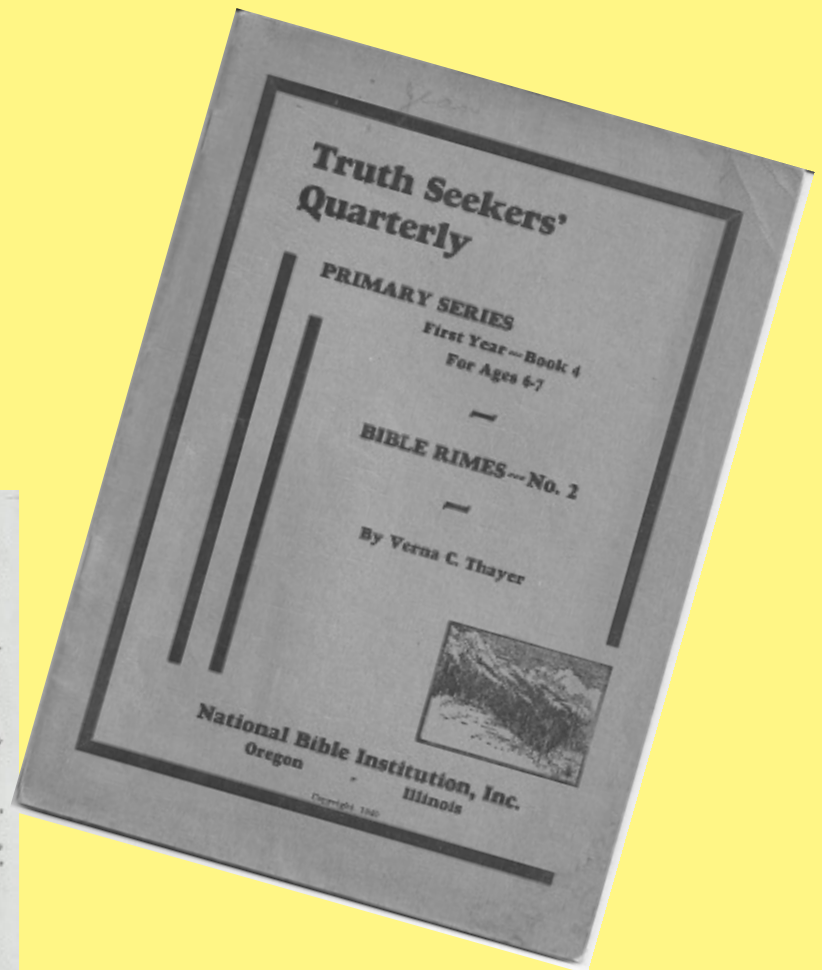
Now we are ready to continue our study about Jesus. We are still going to learn a Bible rime and a verse each Sunday. If you will just take a little peek through this book, you will see that there is not a lesson that you will not want to hear. That means, you will not want to miss one Sunday. Bring others to learn about Jesus, too. They may never know about Him unless you have them come with you.

The very first lesson is one we all love. "Jesus Loves Little Children". When we study about it, and try to imagine what it would be like to have Jesus bless us, how we wish He were here right now. But we must be patient. He has promised to come back again some day. We must wait until that time comes, preparing ourselves each day as if we knew that would be the day of His coming.

The very next thing we learn is about how He helped the sick. He was so kind to one and all. I would like to tell you something about each lesson, but your teacher will want to do that for you, so we leave the rest of the lessons for her.

When we are young we are constantly forming habits. These can be good habits, they may be bad habits. When a habit is made, it is so hard to break. Therefore, the best thing to do is to form the right one from the beginning. There are church habits that we should form. One is that we should attend regularly each Sunday. Another is to learn and to study our Bible, bringing it to church with you each Sunday. When we arrive at the church we should always remember that it is God's house and be very quiet. We should never play in God's house. It is for worship. We should learn to pray. Perhaps when you are small your prayers may be short, but God hears short prayers as well as long ones. How many church habits are you going to make during this quarter?

In His service,
Verna C. Thayer, editor.



Report from the Philippines

Larry Rankin



Greetings from Surrallah, South Cotabato, Mindanao, Philippines. Since last report we continued our visit in Gingoog by a study for my companions in the trip on Faith and fear as per 1 John 4:8-20 and in the evening four young men came and they asked, "what can we do to have longer life?" We read the story of King Solomon adding some of his instruction from the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. We emphasized serving God and then spent some time comparing the material things of this life to Eternal life.

We went to the nearby town of Medina to study with Joan, the daughter of the late sister Pineda, and Wiwang joined us for the bible study. He is a young man that several years ago would always attend our studies in Medina and has continued to study on his own. He has become involved in a Pentecostal organization. He asked, "What is yet to happen in the earth before Jesus returns?" He fondly remembers the studies of Brother Ron Rankin here and longs to see him again. We visited Sister Myrna Sabellero and found that since her strokes she suffered last august she has returned to her job in the bus terminal and is doing well. We held a bible study in her home where she insisted that her Grandchildren and a few others listen. (Have to love the attitude of Elder brethren). Analou translated and our topic was the Law of Moses and it's story. We were asked, "What is the Family name of Jehovah" also. I spent an afternoon teaching the three helpers who were traveling with me the stories and names of the Kings of the divided Kingdom of Israel and in the evening the four young men returned. We reviewed the basic tenants of the Gospel and salvation for them reminding them of the serious nature of God's plan.

On Saturday I let the three girls to work on drills during which I gave the story or reading from the Bible and challenged them to find it. I also went with Brother Cherry Grenada to visit the Brethren in three homes in Saa, Gingoog City. On Sunday Brother Cherry asked me to speak and the lesson was about the Body of Christ and how each member should operate and co-operate. After the service we said goodbye and took trip to Bukidnon province. The little congregation in Gingoog is still growing slowly and we always enjoy seeing the progress. Sister Paz was there and it was nice to have her company again. Shortly she will return to Bahrain to work another two year contract. If you wonder how the families of our brethren are affected when one of the family members goes abroad to work, please ask me by e-mail as it is sure a testimony to their faith. I would be glad to share my observations with you.

In Kalilangan Bukidnon sister Elizabeth Madorable arrived ahead of us and prepared for our visit. We had a topic about eating blood for Lourdes, the daughter of Brother Eugenio De Los Reyes. We spent time explaining why the covenant God made with Noah is still effective while the covenant with Israel is not. We had a Bible study in the home of Sister Joy Ortega (forgot the married name) and she also joined us at Eugenios home for a bible study where we explained to a young listener the basics of the plan of God and the Kingdom. Then we asked her to compare the teachings of the preacher she has been listening to the scriptures. We read Numbers 23:19 also to show her that God does not lie. The young lady was formerly quite interested to join our bible studies and we hope that she will realize that self study is better than joining the happy occasions and listening to lies about God's word. She is the daughter of Sister Arlene De Los Reyes. The small group of believers in Kalilangan lack for consistent teaching and even time together. The occasional seminars that they can attend have been the strength to help them maintain their faith. Thanks to those who have helped support that work. Our evening bible study was about faith and how to remain faithful.

We also slept one night in the home of Brother and Sister Arturo Ladignon in Kilikili and had two Bible studies. We focused on the sacrifices that Abraham made and the plan of God using the Chart as a visual aid.

On Wednesday January 26th we traveled 6 hours to reach Aleosan in Cotabato Province. Our first Bible study was held in Bobagan, Aleosan, in the home of Roly and Disa Cabangitan. Disa is the sister of Brother Cyrus Catanus. We have enjoyed studying in their home for at least 5 years and appreciate very much the interest and progress. Rolly asked why Baptism is important. We expanded the topic into Abraham's faith, what he believed, what is the kingdom, and the gospel message for salvation. Sister Lynlyn Teodoro, who has traveled with me since Antique where she was baptized last December took her first turn at translating. She did an amazing job for only having completed two years of high school. She will travel with me to Manila to work as a maid in the home of her elder sister, where she hopes that her sister can help her finish high school. She is very talented and was forced to leave her studies in 2008 by the notorious Typhoon Frank which destroyed the school where she was studying.

We had a bible study in the evening in the home of Nellie, a cousin of Sister Beth, where Nellie and a boarder named Helen asked for a topic on eating blood. We also taught them why believers do not go to heaven and other basic truths of the scriptures. It was the first time for Helen to hear such teachings and she responded quite well. Beth will do follow-up work with her

It had been 8 years since my last visit to Pacao and we received a text invitation, so I decided to squeeze in one night there. Two of my companions, Lynlyn and Dayday are nieces of our contact there. I was pleasantly surprised when we arrived in the home of Junie Fransisco, he and his wife insisted to explain what they have learned from the seminars they attended and how much they appreciate the Biblical teachings of the Church of God. In the evening we had ten visitors and the bible study was three hours long. After that I lay down to sleep beside Junie on the Bamboo in the small room and he told me his plan to Baptize soon. He has been trying to teach and share our beliefs in the Baptist church where he helps teach. We spent time with his children encouraging them and teaching them songs and bible stories as well.

The next morning we went to the house of Nonoy and Jasmin Fransisco, the son of Brother and Sister Casiano and Diday Fransisco in Antique. They were the ones who had invited us by text. We had an excellent bible study reminding them of the things they were taught as a young couple in the 1990s when we were hiking the mountain in Pacao to share to them. They now have ten children. The oldest two could remember me. After the bible study the oldest three guided us to the little chapel where I went in 1997 to find Potenciano Fransisco. There was a gathering of the community to celebrate forty days after the passing of a loved one. They had already planned to have me speak. Before the service about 15 adults sat down with me to ask questions and listen to the word of God in their Ilongo dialect. I was two hours teaching them and it was obvious that they have already developed respect for our explanations of the scriptures through the last 13 years. I felt sorrowful that I had neglected returning here for so long. But, surely God knows the needs. I gave a 30 minute lecture on the nature of man as a part of the service, and many people asked when I would return. I told them I would reserve two nights for them in next years schedule. I invited two of the daughters of Nonoy to join us for the weekend



in Dado and left with a heavy heart. Before riding in Camanci we passed by the home of Baby Aldamar, the cousin of Beth, and she and her husband also told me that since they attended the seminar last 2004 in Aleosan, they believe that the doctrines of the Church of God are biblical and want to join any activities and studies available to them. Mr. Aldamar is also one of the teachers at the small Baptist Church in new Panay. I pray that I can give one night for a follow-up visit to them next year also.

In Dado we met Brother and Sister Tony Clarito and Sister Anabel and others. In the evening Anabel asked about 1 Cor 10 and eating meat offered to Idols. Her question was regarding the birthday parties, festivals, Baby baptisms (Buniag), and other occasions that people may invite us to eat. Is it acceptable to God to join them? Sister Addang asked "what do we do about child dedication in the Church of God". Saturday morning Sister Lydia Fransisco arrived and we had a topic about faith and teaching your children. The day was filled with sharing with Brethren and Listeners including Sister Sonia Budio. In the evening we had new listeners so we taught about the nature of man. I asked Dayday to be the one to suggest what verses we would use. It was a good exercise for her.

In the Sunday service I taught a lesson on the faith and sacrifices Abraham made and for the sermon followed with the faith of Moses and Joshua. We read all of Hebrews 11 and the story of Stephen in Acts 7. The point was to compare how the faith of individuals brought them to salvation regardless of the failures of national Israel. The believers in Dado are an active group and are planning to finance and teach a locale seminar this coming April. They will invite all of Cotabato Province's Brethren and interested people to attend. Should be as many as 70.

We returned to Aleosan and went to the home of Brother and Sister Cyrus and Pheobe Catanus to sleep. They now reside in Lawili, a Barangay of Aleosan. We walked from there to Kawilihan to visit the parents of Cyrus and to find Brother Arnold Clarito. He has been working in Manila for several years where he married. He had returned to Aleosan to recover from Tuberculosis attack. He is undergoing medical treatment for 6 months before he can return to his work. I met his wife and young daughter. We immediately sat down to study the Chart and basic understanding of the Nature of Man. Arnold translated the topic into Tagalog for his wife. We plan to meet them next year in Manila to follow-up and also to introduce them to other brethren that live near them. His wife is learning and very interested to understand.

We stayed one night in the home of Brother and Sister Leutoro and Juvy in Midsayap. We met Brother Shane Davis there and shared our stories with him. Sister Jennifer (Calambra) forgot her married name, brought her husband to listen as well. We had a long topic for him about infant baptism. He had been insisting on Baptism for their child. This is the result of a believer marrying an unbeliever. (A situation that brings many problems to the believer) He will return to the states soon. Our Bible study was prepared to answer the question of a young lady who is a boarder in the home of Juvy. She asked "Why we believe that Jesus is only a man".

Our next trip was to Kabacan, North Cotabato to visit the Descendants of Zacharias Robles, the uncle of many of our members in Luzon. Our first visit to them was in 1991. Two of the small girls have never lost interest and now have husbands and children. They have determined that they will follow the faith. We visit them every year to encourage them through bible study and good behavior. We had three sessions of Bible study with them. I will include pictures of them later. They are second cousins of Brother Raul Javar.

We traveled to Surrallah and spent one night in Talisay with Gingging Catanus. She invited the captain of Talisay and he listened to our teaching for two hours. He was very surprised that the righteous don't go to heaven. We will observe if the seed will grow there. Last night we studied in the home of Brother Rustom Soberano. He and his Father, Brother Norbing Soberano was able to ask questions about the parables that are difficult to sort out. Such as "where the carcass is the eagles will gather





together”, and “the children of the Kingdom being cast out.” In the afternoon we visited an elderly couple that are related to Brother Norbing and held a Bible study to follow-up the one held there by Brother Shane last December. They had already gained some understanding of the nature of man. We built on that and led them to the topic of One true God. They were very thankful and took all the study materials we could give them.

Today we will proceed to the southern tip of the Philippines and the city of Gensan. I pray that all who read this report can appreciate my busy schedule and forgive my rushed job writing it. In Christian Love, Larry Rankin

Greetings from Tandag, Surigao, Mindanao, Philippines. Since last report we traveled with the help of Gingging Catanus, from Surrallah, to General Santos city to meet J. R. Soberano and two school friends. They followed us to the home of Gingging’s relatives in Alabel where we held a bible study for the three boys before they returned to their boarding house in the city. The great uncle of Gingging listened carefully and after the boys left he began to ask questions. After dinner we continued studying with him and a few other family members late into the night. He was formerly quite devoted in Seventh day Adventist Church to which he was converted through a series of dreams. It makes quite a story. Many years later he became disillusioned with the practices of dis-fellowship and shunning. He was all ears to hear our doctrine and very appreciative of our explanation of the life of Abraham and the sacrifices that he made. We also had a topic about Sabbath keeping and the Law of Moses.

We traveled to Davao city where we had planned to meet three different people but none of them were able to make it, so, we studied the topics that Gingging and Rayray Soberano asked. I also gave some assignments to all of them. Elizabeth Madorable, and Rachel Ortega joined our group making it 6 going to La Fortuna.

When we arrived in La Fortuna we were offered housing by the wife of Jun Cabrestante that was very comfortable. Housing in La Fortuna has not been nice before, although the hospitality was very good. Jun Cabrestante is currently living in exile because of political conflict with rebels that live in the area. He was formerly the captain of the village and this has caused him plenty of grief. He told me by phone call that we should not worry because he has already decided to join in the faith of Abraham. I look forward to that day as we have had many years of bible study together. His daughter and son-in-law are members of the church of God in La Fortuna and many of his family (14 children) are seriously studying. We spent several sessions with Belci Catanus whom we had met in Cagayan De Oro. She is continuing to work toward Baptism. Her son and two daughters also are good bible students and we shared with her son one afternoon. Brother Leopoldo Pagaya invited us to his house where several met for bible study and we focused on things important for his wife to understand as she is preparing for baptism. We slept in his house one night in the farm lot. We met several times in the Catanus home by the river with the Ahera Catanus family and the family of Bibot Catanus. Bibot is the brother of Gingging and has been studying our faith for several years. Bibot also guided us to another cousin’s home. A Cana Catanus who is a single mother of two adopted girls, 22 and 19 years of age. The younger having been wheelchair bound

since the age of 7. The bible study there was on basic understanding of the nature of man and salvation. Three hours and the three as well as a neighbor all participated and asked good questions. I gave a bible to them and it seems sure that there will be more studies with them. The Cabaya family also showed that they are wholly convinced that God is one and Jesus is a man in the study held in their home. I put a great deal of effort toward being the people's friend in La Fortuna this year. Just visiting every one and spending time inserting bible verses as opportunity afforded. The respect for our teaching has certainly grown among the families and we can acknowledge God's wisdom in the events that have led these people to the truth. We stayed 6 days in La Fortuna and God blessed us with unusually dry weather so we were able to stay very busy. Our first contact in La Fortuna was 1995 and God has continued to bless each visit.

Sister Elizabeth Madorable also spent each day visiting and encouraging the people. Sister Rachel Ortega received many compliments for all the years of visiting, Translating, and teaching she has contributed in La Fortuna since 1998. Sister Beth requested that we seek funds to hold a seminar for two days next year in the area so that the interested parties will become aware of the Church of God as the Body of Christ. Brother Leopoldo Pagaya agreed.

We stayed one night in Trento, Agusan Del Sur in the home of Boyet and Langing Catanus (daughter of Leopoldo) they asked to be taught in things concerning the Covenants, Law of Moses, and Sabbath. Langing told her father that they will follow him in faith soon. We traveled with Leopoldo and his daughter, Jaradine, to Mawab to make our third visit to the members of the "Christihanon" or "local" Church. Dodoy Teodoro hosted us and our study with he and neighbors on Saturday evening brought them to understand the importance of being biblical about doctrine, and why the faiths that they are currently joined in are not acceptable to God. We taught them why Baptism is still necessary though they have received a baptism before. On Sunday morning I was asked to be the speaker at their regular service. I chose to expose them to the understanding of the word "Christ" which led to the Kingdom of God and who is the king. Some understood that Jesus would be servant to his father and this caused the pastor to offer his verses to support that Jesus is God. The main one being Romans 9:5. He did not give me an opportunity to answer publicly and I am sure he will continue to do his best to deceive the people. However they were exposed and God will follow up as they are willing to accept the truth.



This brought to a close the time with Brother Leopoldo that we could teach together. His knowledge of the scriptures is vast considering that he is mostly self taught. We shared a few tears when saying goodbye. Sisters Elizabeth and Rachel as well as Rayray left us to return home and we included Ginging and her cousin Ahera into our group for the next week.

We traveled to Hamburger in Surigao del sur to spend a night and study with Edwin and Fresca Ablaya and family. They have continued to study on their own though many of their neighbors have joined in the Adventist faith. They asked questions about that faith and assured us that we were always invited. Before leaving in the morning several of the people who have joined the Adventists came and asked many topics in the Bible. They commented that our answers have always been much more understandable and biblical than the others. They expressed that if we were to have a teacher in their

place they would transfer. If we can have a seminar next year in Agusan I would surely invite Edwin and Fresca to attend, and they said they would love to.

Next we traveled three hours along the coastline of the Pacific Ocean to Cortes to the home of Brother Roger Magbanua. It has been two years since his baptism and he has a relatively good grasp of the faith. We held a bible study on the topic of the nature of man in his home for some neighbors. Yesterday he brought us to a small Island (about 25 acres) to the village of Tag-anungan where we were introduced to a group of people that Roger taught in his former faith. They were very pleased that he remembered them and they opened their homes and minds to receive us. I taught the children two times. The first



was the story of Abraham and I was able to manage it in the Cebuano dialect without translation. It was a big step for me. Later Roger translated as we taught the 25 children and 30 adults the stories of Daniel. Then we held an open forum for the adults until 11:30 in the evening. We covered the basics of the nature of Man, God's plan for salvation, what is the Gospel, What is the Kingdom, and the rewards that the righteous and wicked will receive. Questions started with "What is the new heaven and earth. This morning we left the Island with twice receiving a very big invitation to return. Brother Roger plans to start visiting them every Sunday evening to hold a bible study. This place as many that we visit would be an excellent place to give bibles. For those who wish to see these people

who would study receive bibles, please just send me an e-mail about how to help that.

We will proceed, Lord willing, to Dinagat Island tomorrow to visit Brother Peter Guzmana and his relatives. Thank you so much for the prayers and the e-mails of encouragement that I receive. In Christian Love. Larry Rankin

Response to the Report from the Philippines

Each report brings me joy for the spreading of the Gospel. I do pray for your protection as you travel, and for good success in this spiritual warfare.

We could support Bibles for you, but only you would know proper dialect, etc.

Kent Ross

About Bibles, you are right that the dialect used is varying. The cost of a Bible is about \$9.00 now. We are constantly purchasing Bibles and I can assure you that any contribution given to Arlen (Rankin) for that purpose will reach its destination. Yesterday we purchased 2 Tagalog to be used in Munoz, Nueva Ecija. 2 Ilocano that will be given to people who are newly interested during our visit to Ilocos, and one Waray-Samarenyo, which I will be using to study the language and will gladly share with you so that you can learn the language also. (I know you want to do that). Brother Roger Magbanua has requested a few Cebuano bibles to help with his new work in Surrigao. He is starting regular schedule of bible studies there today. Brother Ron will be holding a short seminar there in the month of May. He could deliver those. We also purchase English Bibles for those who help by translating, to encourage them in understanding English. Thank you so much for the consideration. In Christian Love, Larry



Ministers' Conference

CROSSROADS

February 7-11, 2011



This is what the LORD says:

“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Where is the good way?

UNITY

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the Lord commanded the blessing—Life forevermore (Psa. 133, NKJV).



Monday, Love One Another

7:00 pm

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34, 35, NIV).

LEADERSHIP

“With a *Vision* of being a united body of pastors, providing respected spiritual leadership within the Church of God General Conference . . .

PURPOSE

“empowering one another through

- (a) Upholding Christ as our model for service
- (b) Promoting mutual respect, support and encouragement, and
- (c) Fostering excellence in ministry skills and in doctrinal integrity.”



Tuesday, Encourage one another

10:00 am - CAO & ministers

How the Ministerial Association becomes spiritual leaders and the conference benefits.

1:00 pm - ABC Discussion

The MA maximizes ministry training by being present to model for students.

3:00 pm - COGGC-ABC Discussion

The MA maximizes the work of the conference with prayer, mutual support, and utilizing “Go Serve” teams.

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing” (1 Thes. 5:11, NIV).





Wednesday – Pray for One Another

10: am - Wally Winner

A review of extreme and faulty predictions of the Second Coming and how pastors can calmly lead congregations to use faith and confidence to be ready for Christ's coming.

1:00 pm - Youth, Jon Cheatwood

Mutual appreciation by pastors and FUEL staff of the value of the total youth program within the churches.

2:00 pm - Missions, David Krogh

Updates of the work in Pakistan, Mexico, Tanzania, Malawi, Peru, and the team helping to rebuild the mission in Haiti.

3:00 pm - Ministerial Assn. Mtg.

Pastors' Pastor expenses since July 5, 2010 \$908.03. The Association has \$6215 before expenses of this conference.

6:30 pm - Japanese Supper



Thursday – That they may be one

10:00 am - ABC

Discussed short- and long-term future of the College, heard a report of distance learning progress and the need to reach out to new people in our churches.

1:00 pm - Interaction with Board of Directors

3:00 pm - Ministerial Assn. Mtg.

Dan Smead elected to MALT (treasurer), Russ Magaw to Pastors' Pastor, Steve Taylor our nominee to the BOD

7:00 - Small group prayers and Communion

Ministers' Conference 2011 was held at Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA, Feb. 7-11. Sessions were built on unity among the ministers and the leadership and support of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference. Corporate worship and small group prayer/Bible study sessions were program features. The ABC staff organized noon meals and breaks. Evening meals were by choice of the 32 conferees. Breakfast was part of hotel accommodations at Comfort Suites in Locust Grove. Most attendees felt a renewed appreciation for each other and a better realization that God's Spirit was evident.

