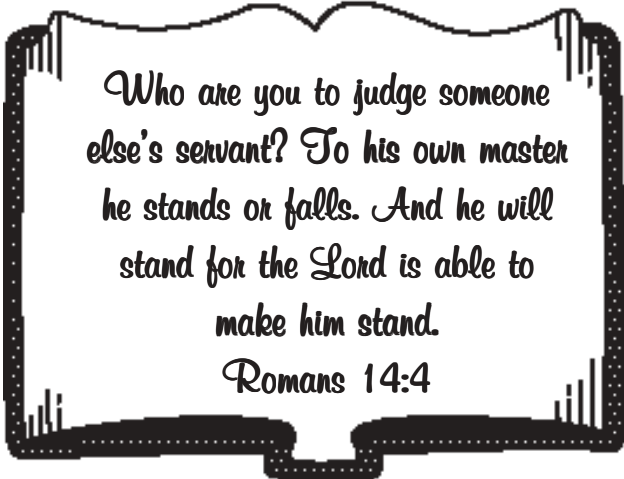


Vista 2001

A Publication of The General Council of the Christian Church of North America
Anno Domini 2001 – Volume 2, No. 1

We Believe . . .

the Bible to be the infallible Word of God. • in One God, distinct in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. • Jesus Christ is the Incarnate Son of God, the Only Savior of mankind, through whose death atonement was made for our sins. • in a personal devil, served by demon spirits, who will be cast eternally into the Lake of Fire. • in regeneration, (new birth), through faith in Jesus Christ. • in Water Baptism by simple immersion in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. • in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, subsequent to salvation, with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. • in the Lord's Supper to be shared in regularly as a reminder of our Lord's death. • in the Apostolic regulations regarding foods and practices that injure the body and offend the holiness of God. • in the healing of the sick in response to the prayer of faith. • in the pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ. • in the bodily resurrection of the dead.



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Editorial



ESUS lamented over Jerusalem. He was their last and only hope. A stubborn and stiff-necked people, the Jews were typical of all sinners in need of a Savior. They had killed the prophets and in less than forty years, even their temple would be completely destroyed. No animal sacrifice for atonement would be possible from that point on. Yet, when Jesus was "lifted up" He indeed drew all men unto Himself. Some accepted, but most rejected. He knew that would happen. He knew that in spite of the signs, wonders, and miracles, and even His resurrection from the dead, the Jews would reject Him as Messiah. He did not fit into their plans. They looked for an earthly king—a deliverer from the yoke of Rome. Jesus offered them the very Kingdom of God but they would not have it. After the period of time God allotted for the preaching of the gospel to the Jews, the Gentiles were then offered this priceless gift of salvation. Some accepted, but most rejected. Sound familiar?

If Jesus returned here today, He would not find things to be very different than when He grieved over Jerusalem. He would find a system of "religion" that was as self-serving as in the days when He walked throughout Israel as the Fullness of the Godhead in human form. He would now find *both* Judaism and Christianity existing as apostate religions, fallen away from the Spirit of God into "systems" of worship and formalism. This is why the Bible speaks of a *remnant*.

Today some Christians are not satisfied with the promise of Jesus to prepare a "mansion in heaven" for the believer according to John 14:1-3 but, like the Jews of Roman-occupied Palestine, demand a "Messiah-king" for the modern nation of Israel! Jesus must return there (so they believe) to gather His "people" (including the Jews that do not believe in Him) to establish a kingdom—an earthly kingdom. Sound familiar? So many schools of eschatological thought overemphasize the focus on the modern nation of Israel when considering last-days' events that the thrust of evangelism in other parts of the world is supplanted. (Even in our own back yards!)

Study very closely I Thessalonians 4 to see that the return of Jesus will not be a local event. Every believer both dead and alive everywhere on planet Earth will *see* Jesus when He returns and *be gathered up* to meet Him in the clouds.

As for Israel, "Today" is the day of salvation (Hebrews 4:7). The Book of Revelation is very clear as to what will happen when the time comes to, once again, judge that land. Furthermore, I believe that it is also clear what will happen to America—a land blessed of God whose people, but for a remnant, turned away to follow the desires of their own hearts. I believe America is the "Babylon" described in Revelation 18 which is destroyed by God in a single hour for her adulteries.

As we approach the time of the end we must not be distracted from the course we were called to run by Jesus—the author and finisher of our faith!

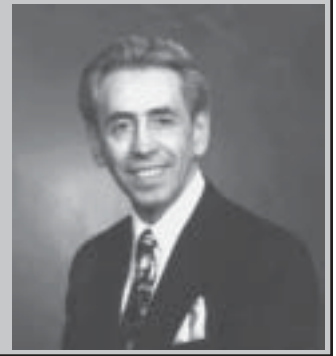
Rev. Eric R Towse
Editor



General Overseer's Message

"God is Jealous: of the Preacher"

by Rev. John DelTurco



IF God has called you and ordained you to the work of ministering His Word, He holds you in special place in His affections. God is especially concerned for the work and welfare of the preacher. The Bible says that the Lord our God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5). Four times in Deuteronomy it is stated that God is jealous of His people. Joshua declared that **"He is an holy God; He is a jealous God"** (Joshua 24:19). Among others who wrote of this trait of God's character was Nahum, who said, **"God is jealous, and the Lord revengeth"** (Nahum 1:2).

Notice, however, that the nature of God's jealousy is different from that which the word connotes in popular usage. The proper definition of jealousy is "anxious watchfulness; fear of being supplanted by a rival." The jealousy of God is not the green-eyed monster of perverse wickedness but the white-hot and righteous affection of the husband protecting the purity of his wife, or the fervent love of a sweetheart who fears entanglements that would hurt her beloved.

Jealous of His Own Honor

God is jealous of His own honor in respect to His ministers. He would have you appreciate Him and give Him the glory and honor that is due to His name. The prophet wrote, **"Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Now will I... be jealous for my holy name"** (Ezekiel 39:25). Isaiah was inspired to write, **"I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another."**

There was a problem involved in giving proper honor to the name of the Lord in the days of Malachi. The people asked, **"Wherein have we despised thy name?"** They were told in reply that their offerings had been polluted, their speech had been profane, their teaching of God's law had been with compromise, so that God's honor had been imperiled by their words and by their deeds. **The lord was unwilling to be supplanted by another.**

God's concern over you today is still with "anxious watchfulness; fear of being supplanted by a rival." he expects you to preach without compromise and to offer to him a full measure of personal consecration to his service. There are preachers who are filled with undue appreciation of their **own** ability, talent, and importance to the success of the gospel work. Such preachers surely will find the disapproval of the Lord upon them. There are evangelists who advertise their **own** importance in the plan of God in such a way that many people are led to believe the sick will be healed only in **their** meetings, or that miraculous powers are dependent upon **their** ministrations. Such preachers take to themselves the honor that belongs to God alone, and the Lord

says, **"I will set my jealousy against thee"** (Ezekiel 23:25).

Jealous of Your Purity

God is jealous of the purity of His ministers. You are espoused to Christ as a chaste virgin. (2-Corinthians 11:2) Therefore you must not become contaminated with any of this world's filth or you will forfeit His approval. You must be clean in His sight. (2-Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:1) **"Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord"** (Isaiah 52:11).

As a preacher you must also guard against the ensnarement of legitimate things that would draw your first love from God's service. **"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier"** (2-Timothy 2:4). Can you please Him if your time, your money, your influence are not entirely under His control?

Henry Martyn gained the highest honors as a scholar and had the brightest prospects as a pulpiteer. He sought and won the hand of a lovely young lady who promised to be his bride. Then God called him to go the mission field. His fiancée refused to go with him. Many urged him not to go. But, feeling this was God's will for him, he laid everything on the altar and went alone. Years passed in seemingly fruitless labor so that his friends called it "a case of mistaken zeal." They said his life was wasted. But was it? Hundreds of missionaries followed Henry Martyn to the mission field, inspired to heroic deeds for Christ by the example of his selfless devotion to God.

Jealous of Your Affections

God is especially jealous of your affections. His commandment is, **"Thou shalt have no other Gods before me."** When Judah built the high places and prepared groves for idol worship, **"they provoked Him to jealousy."** When we give God the first place in our affections we find that our love for Him hallows and blesses our love for others. When our affections become fastened instead to earthly things we are siding with the enemies of God, and it is written: **"The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man, He shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: He shall cry, yea, roar; He shall prevail against His enemies"** (Isaiah 42:13).

When the people of Israel followed after idols they "moved Him (the Lord) to jealousy" (Psalm 78:58). Can we expect Him

General Overseer's Message

• CONTINUED ON P. 24 •

Testimony

My Heart Miracle

by
Rev. Eugene Palma

MY annual stress test was scheduled for July 27, 2000, but because we had planned to go on vacation for a week to Fire Island, NY with our daughter, my doctor agreed to give me the test ahead of time on July 12. At this time he increased my medication with two other pills to help clear the arteries to the heart, and added some nitroglycerin as a precaution, setting a date for a special stress test on July 21, the day we returned. On this occasion, after giving me the special test, he advised me to cancel our trip to Italy, which was set for July 23, stating that it would be too risky. However, because we already had our airline tickets and decided to go, the doctor arranged for an appointment the day after we returned from Italy to Rochester, NY. We had decided to visit my wife's family at least one more time.

Our sojourn in Italy lasted six weeks. It was a hectic time. The temperature during August was incredibly hot. Activities in Rome were unusually confusing due to two millions young people from all over the world for the Youth Jubilee with the Pope. We went out every day to sight-see by streetcar, bus, car, taxi, and, mainly by foot. It was an exhausting experience and we ministered on every occasion. It was a real test for any one with a heart condition. Yet, I never grew tired nor felt any chest pain.

On our return we stopped for two days in Toronto and enjoyed time with my



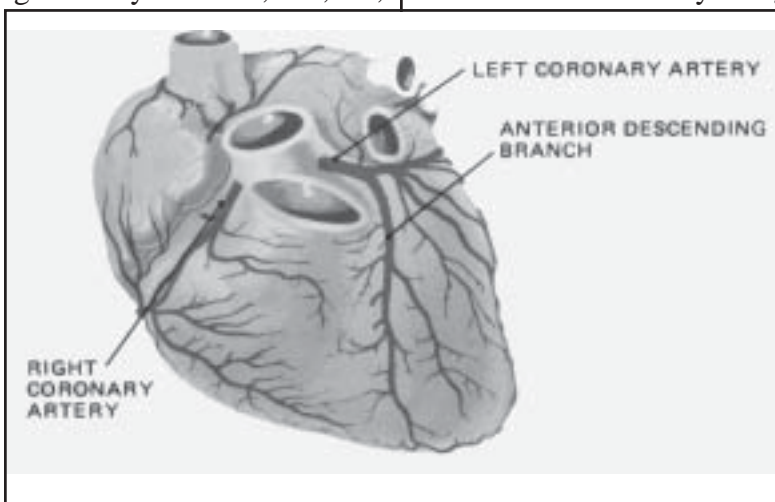
sister and brother-in-law. We drove back to Rochester on the 7th of September, took care of some family business and returned to minister at church on September 10th. The very next day I visited my doctor. After examining me and questioning me about the time we spent in Italy, he strongly urged me to undergo an angiogram and was surprised that I had felt no chest pain or discomfort. I told him I could not do it in September be-

cause of ministry commitments. After much delay, I telephoned the doctor on and made an appointment for the procedure to take place on November 7th. The procedure was further delayed until November 9th. While I was being brought to the cardiac catheterization room, my two daughters, Alma and Paulette, arrived from Syracuse.

The procedure took about an hour and a half. While in the recovery room the surgeon came to my bedside. He excitedly explained what he had found. Two of the coronary arteries that had received a bypass graft some fifteen years ago were open, but a third was completely blocked. However, to his amazement, he found that a brand new artery had grown out of the clogged

one, supplying oxygen to that area of the heart. This phenomenon, known as *collateral circulation* is a very rare occurrence. I was discharged from the hospital because another bypass operation was not necessary.

Praise the Lord!
What a miracle! I call it a Divine Bypass.





Featured Church

Trinity Tabernacle

Brooklyn, NY

Rev. Elie DeVito, Pastor

TRINITY Tabernacle sits on a beautiful site at 121 Gravesend Neck Road in Brooklyn, New York. The church was founded by Pastor Giuseppe Greco who was born in Catanzaro, Italy. When he was 28 years old he married Anna Rose Calzaretta who bore him eight children. God played no role in his life at that time. At the age of nine, his third child, Alex, became gravely ill. Speaking through the child one day, the Lord prophesied that after his death, salvation would come to the Greco household. Two days later, before passing on the eternity, Alex gathered the family at his bedside and assured his mother that he was to cross a beautiful, still body of water over which they, at that time, could not pass. He reassured his mother that he was going to a place which the Lord had prepared for him.

Giuseppe Greco was some-time later stricken with an acute pulmonary disorder which doctors claimed would result in his death. Soon after the initial affliction, he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ and received divine healing (which doctors admitted was a miracle). This experience led him to study the Word of God, to grow in the Lord, and to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In 1921, Giuseppe's sixth child, Ida, as stricken with double pneumonia at 22 months of age. The family physician had given up all hope for her recovery and informed the family that he would return in the morning to sign the death certificate. That evening, Giuseppe requested prayer at church for his dying daughter. After the service, a sister with the gift of healing came to the Greco home and asked Rose whether she would accept the Lord as her personal Savior if He raised up the child. "Certainly" she said.



ROSE and GIUSEPPE GRECO

After the sister prayed for the child, she was immediately healed and filled with the Holy Spirit.

In 1924 Giuseppe Greco received a clear call of God to enter the ministry. Together with his wife, he waited upon the Lord for direction and in 1925 the Lord

spoke to Rose Greco telling her that her husband was to seek a building in the Gravesend section of Brooklyn. God assured her that as Giuseppe would search, he would find a boy scout troop in session within the very edifice provided by the Lord.

One morning, Giuseppe and his eldest daughter set out to locate the place God intended for his church. They traveled by train and were inclined to get off at the Avenue U station. As they descended the stairs of the station, they heard the sound of



beating drums and the blaring of bugles coming toward them. She remembered the message concerning the boy scout troop and they followed until they came to a building. Giuseppe explained his mission to the scoutmaster who was also a Christian and agreed to pray about the matter. The next day the scoutmaster telephoned Giuseppe and confirmed the Lord's call to that place. He agreed to rent the building which was then named the Coney Island Pentecostal Church at 14 Gravesend Neck Road.

For many years Pastor Giuseppe Greco labored to support his wife and seven children, paying rent for the church but receiving no salary from the church. Giuseppe Greco was filled with a love for his flock that was above human understand. It was this dedication that merited him the respect and love of his entire family and congregation, and all those who came under his influence.

While apparently recovering from a bout with pneumonia, Pastor Giuseppe Greco turned to his family at his bedside, his arms raised, his eyes turned upward toward heaven and said, "I'll be all right now." With his eyes still open, at that very moment on January 4, 1949, the Lord called him to his eternal reward. A few minutes after his death, the ceiling light directly about Giuseppe's bed gave forth a burst of brilliant light and then flickered out



BOY SCOUT BUILDING

open, at that very moment on January 4, 1949, the Lord called him to his eternal reward. A few minutes after his death, the ceiling light directly about Giuseppe's bed gave forth a burst of brilliant light and then flickered out

Trinity Tabernacle

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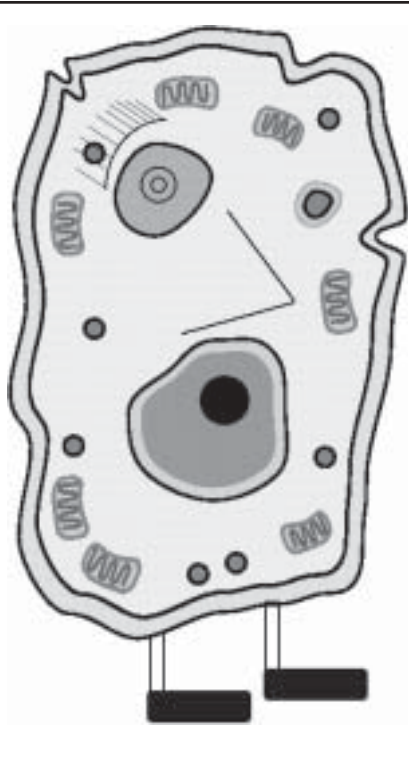


A Childrens' Story

Celia—the Simple Cell by “Uncle Vince” Immordino

HI. I’m *Celia* the so-called simple cell. I am the smallest living part of a living thing like you. Like any other living thing, I need food and oxygen. It’s also very important that I get rid of waste materials. Dr. Behr, in his excellent book *Darwin’s Black Box* made the suggestion to look at me, *Celia*, through an electron microscope. Through it, I look like a space ship. Around the sides I have millions of openings, which open and close to take in food, oxygen and throw out waste materials. If you go inside, you will find that it is complicated beyond what you can believe! It’s very strange the way some people can look at me and say that nobody designed me: I am just an accident—I just happened.

If you told the very same people to look at a coin, a stone Indian arrow head,



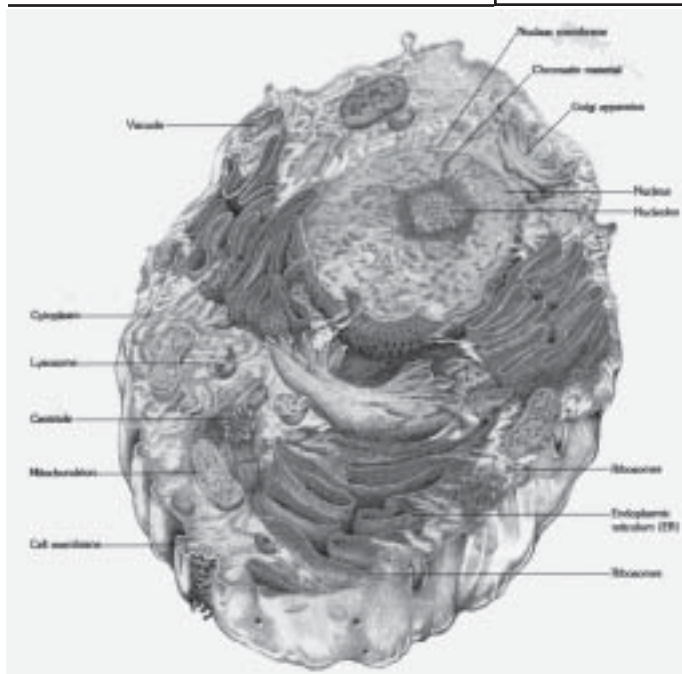
a watch, or an automobile, and you told them that nobody made them, they would look at you as if you were crazy! How can they look at me, *Celia*, the so-called simple cell, a zillion times more complex than any of those examples, and say that nobody made me?

A silly fairy tale called Evolution, as told by Charles Darwin, begins many many millions of years ago in a land that never was. Nonliving material suddenly came to life in the form of a so-called simple single cell like me. The fairy tale goes on. A one-celled creature changed into two, then four, then eight, then sixteen, on and on. Finally, after billions of years, it mutated into a human being like you. Think of it. The fairy tale says that a person like you with hundreds of trillions of single living cells like me, *Celia*, is a result of a series of mutations, or genetic accidents. Most fairy tales are funny

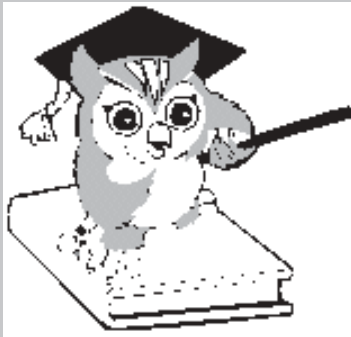
but this one is silly.

I know I’m not so smart, but I’m not that dumb! If what he said was true, wouldn’t there be fossils of 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, or 128 celled creatures around? The fact is that there are none! You see, those creatures are only found in fairy tales that begin ‘many, many years ago in a land that never was.’ Fairy tales can be nice, but they are only fairy tales. You don’t really believe them. I, *Celia*, the so-called simple single living cell, am not so simple or silly that I would believe that fairy tale. I know the only thing that makes sense is, “*In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth*” and all living things in six days.

“Uncle Vince” Immordino is a Christian financial counselor, author, and host of the radio program “*How to Make Your Money Grow Safely*”. Christian families may receive free consultations by calling 718-846-5600. We appreciate his continued literary contributions to VISTA. —Ed.



ANIMAL CELL AS SEEN
UNDER THE ELECTRON MICROSCOPE



CCNA
Education Department
Rev. Lucian Gandolfo
Executive Director



Donations to the CCNA Education Department

The CCNA Education Department wants to acknowledge and thank all those who financially contributed to this Department during the year 2000. May the Lord richly bless you!

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Rev. Sergio Ciotola	115.00
Rev. John DelTurco	100.00
Sis. Elda Gandolfo	90.00
Rev. Duyo Marks	86.00
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Sis. Anna Digravina	50.00
Bro. Anthony Saginario	50.00
Sis. Lucille Archer	40.00
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Sis. Mary Coletta	34.00
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The Essence, Offices and Ministry of Jesus Christ

by Rev. Lucian Gandolfo

THE ESSENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the glory of God manifested. The glory of God can be defined as the sum and substance of His intrinsic, eternal Perfections. His glory is intrinsic because it is inherent in Him. It is eternal because there never was nor ever will be a moment without the glory of God. His Perfections are:

- 1) That He is. He is Spirit, immortal, incorporeal and infinite. He is the self-existent One, the Perpetual Contemporary;
- 2) That He has revealed Himself through His Word and through the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ;
- 3) He has a divine, sovereign plan which He fulfills through His active and permissive will, and

Education Department

• CONTINUED ON P. 22 •



Science or Religion

by
Bro. William Travis



I

have been a student of the sciences all my life. I'm one of those people who feel that you are never too old to learn. I also believe that a continual learning process offsets Alzheimer's disease, although, I'm beginning to believe that I may

be the exception to that rule. Nevertheless, I have always been fascinated by science. Face it. Science is all around us. The stars in the sky, the ground we walk on. The air we breathe. Each time we see a bird fly overhead. You can't escape science. But, a question I could not escape during my college years, and a question that seems to repeat over and over again in the news media is, "Should we put all our faith in science, or religion?" As a scientist, and a Christian, I would like to offer my opinion.

Science and religion have similar goals, each looking for an explanation of how the world works, where life originated and how to strive for a better society. In fact, in early times, men of faith and practitioners of science were often one and the same.

But, now that we have the emergence of modern scientific method and the advance of technology that is capable of gazing into our innermost secrets, a tension has developed between the two disciplines. Ethical debates about how to use new technology, about the nature of accepted fact and the limitation of human inquiry are part of daily discussions in public and private forums, with the validity of the solutions provided by science or religion the focus of the debate

Science and religion, when you stop and think about it, are quite inseparable. That's the way God intended it to be. After all, He invented both, didn't He? One adds credibility to the other. In fact, I believe the Bible to be the best book on science. Scientific theories are proven wrong nearly every day. The scientific facts stated in the Bible have never been proven wrong, and never will. You will not find a more accurate book on astronomy, geography, history, botany, or archeology. The Bible is proven perfect on all accounts. You don't have to be a scientist to see what is so plainly evident.

Having an analytical mind, things have to make sense to me. My profession requires that I analyze scores of data in order to make an educated decision on anything. That is my nature. The Bible has proven itself to me time and time again. I have analyzed the data provided in the Bible, and my conclusion is that God is real! Jesus is alive! The Bible is the only solid rock on which I choose to stand. Now, I cannot make that same statement with all of the many books on physics, psychology,

biology, astronomy, archeology, geology, and most of the "ologies" that are out there. You see, far too much of the sciences are based on finite reasoning which culminates into theories which may never be proven. Can we say that about the Bible? Understand that there are no theories in the Bible. God's word is the final analysis. It is sealed in heaven, and sealed by the blood of Jesus. We cannot say that about any other book in the universe.

Those of you who are students of science, don't be afraid of the Bible. The only ones who state that science and religion are like oil and water are those who choose not to believe, regardless of what evidence is laid before them. Such a person has completely closed their minds to God, Christ and religion; and is best left to the Holy Spirit. But, it is the wise person who realizes that all the intricacies of the universe have to be the result of an all-powerful being. Such wonders cannot happen by chance, as the evolutionists believe. When you see the stars at night, a rainbow, a spider, a bird in flight, a sunset, a mountain range, a hurricane, a lightening bolt, and all of the other wonders we take for granted, how could you not believe in God?

**My analysis is in.
Give me the Bible any day!**

My analysis is in.
Give me the Bible any day.

Science has its place, but only as far as God allows man to know. Anything beyond that is conjecture and theory. Man has come a long way, and knowledge has increased exponentially. But when you weigh what man knows against what man still does not know, you can easily see that we are in our near infancy with respect to knowledge. Medicine is still largely trial and error. We can send a man to the moon, but that's about it. Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and floods are still uncontrollable phenomena. And, my own personal belief (as well as the belief of several noted scientists) is that global warming is nothing more than a scare tactic based on skewed data.

Although evolutionists say that we are gradually becoming better and more sophisticated creatures, we still slaughter our unborn at an alarming rate and continually come up with new and creative ways of causing pain to each other. It is clear to see that there's still a whole lot for us to learn. To say the opposite is pure arrogance. Actually, the more we learn, the more we discover we don't know. The deeper we probe, the closer we come to discovering that there is a Divine Creator.



CCNA World Missions Spotlight



Holy Ghost Outpouring Rosario, Argentina

Rev. David Verzilli, Director of World Missions

CCNA General Overseer Rev. John DeTurco recently visited Argentina. Here is his report:

After fifteen hours flying, I arrived in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I remained in Argentina from October 5 through 10, 2000. I was greeted in Buenos Aires by my interpreter, Rafael Pedace. We travelled by car (two and one half hours) to Rosario, where a Convention was held. After a couple hours of rest, we were in church. Friday evening was the first Convention service.

Brother Antonino Galvano is the Overseer of our affiliated churches in Argentina. Through him, the work in Argentina has progressed and is greatly blessed by God.

I was privileged to be the speaker for the entire Convention. I spoke five times. My interpreter was a great interpreter, and he

conveyed my messages very clearly. The Lord blessed our Convention in every service, with an outpouring of His glory. In one service alone, over one dozen believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit, speaking in other tongues for the first time.



BRO. DeTURCO SPEAKS THROUGH AN INTERPRETER

My theme was the same theme as in the United States, **Back to the bedrock of our foundation, and reclaiming our spiritual values that have been lost or neglected.** In every service I

reminded the convention that we needed to get back to Calvary and back to Pentecost.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO SOUGHT THE HOLY GHOST



The church was filled to capacity with over 1,000 persons in every service. The services always went past the midnight hour.

A group of 15 people came from pastor Bossio, Jr.'s church in Detroit, Michigan. They participated in every service. They were a tremendous blessing. Brother Frank Julian and sister Robin Bossio were leaders of the group. They represented their church and CCNA well. They also represented the Lord, always being a blessing when they shared in their ministry.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM



Brother Ian Murray, our CCNA affiliate in South Africa, brought a group of 15 young people who sang and ministered in every service. The people in the congregation were blessed by their ministry. They sang well and represented their country well. These two groups, from Bossio's church and from Murray's church, proved to be a tremendous blessing to the convention. I was well pleased with the ministry and comportsment of these two groups.

On Saturday afternoon, I had special ministry for all the pastors and leaders of our affiliated organization in Argentina. Being that they have the same problem in Argentina as we have in the United States, I taught about many manifestations that are flowing in our churches that do not line up with the Word of God, and how the ministry of the Holy Spirit never contradicts the Word of God. We taught about the fraudulence and fakery that is being manifested under the guise of the Holy Spirit, and we talked about the blessings of God that are being poured out upon God's people in these last days. It proved to be a blessed time, with God anointing the service and with the pastors and leaders glorifying God for the move of the Holy Spirit in their midst.

I appreciated the opportunity to go to the Annual Convention in Rosario, Argentina. I was blessed, the people were blessed, and I was able to get a glimpse of our affiliation in Argentina. Brother Galvano is one hundred percent CCNA, and God has really blessed his organization.

To God be all the glory for His guidance, and for His manifested presence and anointing in every service.

Rev. John DeTurco



District News

New England District



Our All-Church Conference took place on November 13-14, 2000. Speakers were Rev. John DeTurco, General Overseer, and Rev Gail Januskiewicz, a Dean of Faith School of Theology, Charleston, Maine. (See inside front cover of VISTA.)



DEAN GAIL JANUSKIEWICZ

On Friday evening the Presbytery along with the speakers and all present enjoyed a great time of worship and praise with IN HIS PRESENCE the worship team from our Newtonville Church.



IN HIS PRESENCE

After the worship, people gathered in the hotel lobby for a time of fellowship.

Brother Delturco ministered to the men. His message was "Getting Back To Basics." Rev. Januskiewicz' message to the women was, "Mending Broken Hearts."

All present were blessed by the ministry and the fellowship enjoyed with each other.

Rev. Vincent Prestigiaco
District Overseer

Eastern District

Congratulations to **Rev. & Mrs. Dennis Derhay**. Bro. Derhay has been in stalled as pastor of Bethel Assembly in Nutley, NJ. The Derhays earnestly solicit your prayers. Their e-mail address is: bethelccna@juno.com.



It's In the Bible!

A Study in the Word with Rev. Eric R Towse
Topic: *Heaven—Guaranteed! by the Gospel*

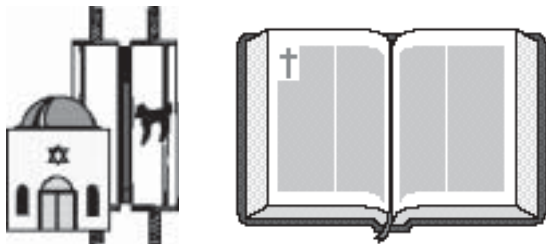
SUPPOSE I told you that I knew of a way that you could get to heaven—*guaranteed*. Would you be interested? (I heard you say, “Yes” so I will continue.) Getting to heaven means remaining in God’s presence for all eternity with Jesus, the angels, and the saints — those believers that have gone on before us. I was once asked by an unbeliever, “Just what would I do there? There’s no gambling. There’s no fun!” (God had not yet prepared this person’s heart. He did so at a later time.)

The first question one must ask, therefore, is, “**Do I really want to go there?**” To a great many whose hearts have not yet been touched by the Holy Spirit, the answer, unfortunately, is “No!” However, for those who have been drawn to Calvary’s cross and decided that heaven is where they want to be, directions may be needed. So we will now consult God’s road map (The Bible) to discover the sure way there.

SIDEBAR

This is a very difficult illustration for me to use since I wholeheartedly fulfill the stereotype of a male who doesn’t ask directions. I’m not sure why, exactly. I will consult a map when I admit defeat and think that I might be just *slightly* off course. (My wife calls it being *totally lost* for want of a better term, I guess.) I even have a global positioning satellite unit in my car. But for me to ask someone for directions? No Way!

Fortunately, God has provided a complete set of directions for us to follow. The first thing we notice is that the Bible is a BIG book consisting of two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.



The New Testament will lead you to salvation, but the Old Testament by itself will not. Its laws, commandments and history of the relationship between God and Israel revealed the need for a Savior and to enable its followers to recognize the coming Messiah.

The New Testament, however, tells us that it is Jesus Christ of Nazareth—Son of God, son of David who is *the way the truth*

and the life, and that *no one comes to the Father* but by Him. (See: John 14:6) It would seem by this statement that Jesus serves



as a sort of “gatekeeper” to the kingdom of heaven. In fact, Jesus referred to himself as the gate: *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. . .* (John 10:7) Knowing this, we must now search diligently to discover the criteria by which one may “enter.” In doing this we come face-to-face with the Gospel.

The apostle Paul said, *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. . .* (Romans 1:16) The word gospel means “good news” or, literally from the Greek, “good message” and it contains power—the power to save. In a quest for heaven one must learn of this gospel.

The apostle Paul tells us, so that there may be no misunderstanding, exactly what that message is:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel.

(II Timothy 2:8)

Our first step to being assured of heaven is acknowledging who Jesus is. This acknowledgment may not be superficial or intellectual. It must be heartfelt and expressed by word AND deed. It is written, *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* (Romans 10:9-10)

Next is Baptism. Taken from the old Jewish custom of ceremonial washing and done as an example to us by Jesus in the Jordan, the immersion of the believer in water follows the acceptance of Jesus as Lord by faith. Baptism is symbolic of being buried with Jesus *into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.* (Romans 6:4. See also Colossians 2:12)

Water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. . . (See: I Peter 3:21). Jesus himself said, *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.* (Mark 16:16) For these reasons and others, we Pentecostals baptize new believers according to Matthew 28:19.

It's In The Bible

• CONTINUED ON P. 19 •



CCNA
 Missions at Home
 Rev. John T. Ferguson
 Director



THE Home Missions Department would like to introduce the CCNA Family to a new church and pastor in the New England District. In January 2000, **Rev. Guy Deluca**, along with his wife Laurie, held the first Sunday service of **God’s Love Family Church** in Taunton, Massachusetts.

The Church began with a Bible study group that began meeting on Thursday nights and grew up into a small group of 15 people that joined hands and began the church on January 9th, 2000. Their first services were held in the DeLuca’s home until they obtained an elementary school auditorium. The church met there for ten months until God opened a wonderful door. They are now meeting in a renovated store front since the beginning of December.

Over the past year the church has been very active in outreach which consisted of:

- a four- day tent crusade,
- three teen rallies, a cook-out in the local housing project,
- a door to door breakfast bag outreach, and
- our small church blessed 35 families with turkeys and all the fixing for their thanksgiving dinner.

Pastor Guy has been born again 14 years, and served in all aspects of church ministry before re-

sponding to his call to the ministry. “God called me through His Word to preach from the housetops”, he said, “and over the years Jesus has shown me that in these days boldness and conviction must labor together for souls to be saved”. His particular burden is to fulfill Luke 14:23—compelling the lost, hurting and out-cast to meet Jesus.

Taunton is a very tough city and they ask the sister churches to hold them up in fervent prayer. There are many strongholds especially new age thought and much witchcraft. Brother Deluca also asks for prayers for their financial needs, and also for a youth leader, as he has a heart for the teens in the area.

We ask that all would encourage and support this new work, and that pastors would promote the *One Can Make A Difference* campaign, supporting the Home Missions Department by sending one dollar a week each, that more new works

like this one may be encouraged and supported.



God’s Love Family Church
416 Bay Street
Taunton, MA 02780
508-822-0837

“God called me through His Word to preach from the housetops and over the years Jesus has shown me that in these days boldness and conviction must labor together for souls to be saved”.

—REV. GUY DELUCA

20/20

The Vision for Today's Youth

"Who's Your Daddy?"

The different number of sayings that we hear in our life-time amazes me. What is even more amazing is the ever changing "one liners" that are used to either put someone in their place or to build someone up. Let me explain. I am on the basketball court playing—that's right basketball, and I am trying to guard this kid who is simply incredible. It seemed that every time he touched the ball he would score on me. Every time he scored he would say, "Who's your daddy?" What he was saying to me was basically "I just took it to you, you can't play to my level." He simply was putting me down with a very arrogant tone in his voice. Then there is the other example where you forget your lunch money only to have a friend give you some of theirs, and as you say thanks they respond by saying, "Who's your daddy?" which is simply saying "Who just took care of you?" I know this saying might be "out," but mark my words, just as bad, cool, groovy, and phat [pronounced fat] have come and gone and have come again, this saying will do the same.

As a young person wanting to live for Jesus this question is more than just a slang statement. It is actually the most important question for you to answer to have the type of relationship God intended to have with you. In Romans 8: 15 (and also Galatians 4:6) the Bible tells us we have received the Spirit of sonship, and by him we cry (proclaim, exclaim) "Abba", Father. The term "Abba" is Aramaic, meaning, "Father." It was the word Jesus used when referring to the heavenly Father. The combining of the Aramaic term "Abba" and the Greek term for father (pater) expresses the depth of intimacy, deep emotion, earnestness, warmth and confidence by which the Spirit causes us to cry out to God. What does this mean in English? God wants you to know that he is your Daddy-God. My 5 year old daughter calls me daddy. My 10 month old daughter is just now starting to say daddy. What is important for them is that they understand who I am. That is my responsibility. As I show them faithfully, con-

tinually, and lovingly who I am, they will know who their daddy is and it will make all the difference in their lives.

I am amazed, young and old alike, the perception Christians have toward God. We create a mind set that our God disciplines us with sickness and disease, that he holds back blessings, that he doesn't want us to get too prosperous or effective in order that we may maintain a sense of humility in our lives. These are all lies. Your Daddy God wants the best for you. That is why he gave Jesus. He wants you to dream. He wants you to succeed. He wants you to be effective for him right where he has placed

you. Young person, whether you have the greatest or, sad to say, the worst relationship with your earthly father, I want you to know that your mindset about your Heavenly Father will be formed by and only by your Heavenly Father's word. Read about what Jesus said. See how Jesus lived in a healthy relationship with his Heavenly Father and because of that, he knew that in the most tested time of his life (Mark 14:36) he was able to cry "Daddy-God," because he knew and trusted his Father. Don't let the devil taunt you on the court of life with "Who's your Daddy?", but live each day in God's incredible love. Galatians 4:28 tells us we

are children of promise and our Daddy God always keeps his word. Check it out!



Pastor Sam Demarco

20/20: Behind the Vision



I am an avid baseball fan, and I love the Pittsburgh Pirates. Year in and year out as our team struggles with fans hanging on to the slightest hopes of even being in playoff contention, I often wonder what it would be like to be a Yankees fan. Every year the Yankees are the best team in baseball. Their fans never worry about having a losing season. As each season begins, the Yankees, more so than any other team in baseball, have a legitimate shot at winning the World Series. Of the 101 world series played, they have won 26 of them. That is an unbelievable level of domination. But there were still 75 World Series championships won by other teams.

There are no absolutes in baseball, only some pretty good odds. That principle rings true in all sports and in every day life. But the only absolute that many never seize to acknowledge is Christ. Christians are always victorious: no questions asked. We must never forget this truth, and always apply it to every situation of our lives. We *have* the victory. It is quite comforting to know that even though I am a Pirates fan, I am still victorious (in Christ!)

David D'Angelo

Administrative Assistant

Around the Districts

Eastern District October 12th and 13th my wife Jill and I traveled to the Eastern District where we had the privilege to minister at a special District Youth Rally. Over 200 were in attendance with more than ten churches represented. The altar time lingered with worship with young and old together seeking the Lord. The evening before, we had the opportunity to meet with the District's pastors and youth pastors and share ideas and tools for youth ministry. Thanks to Brothers Pelligrino, Shipley, Farina and DeVito for their assistance. A special thank you to Bro. Vinnie DeLuzio who took care of most of the arrangements. He and his whole family blessed us with their love.

The Next Level Conference

November 17th and 18th Jill and I attended this year's Northwestern District's Next Level Conference. Over 300 were in attendance and experienced a powerful move of God. Pastor Quran Karriem did a tremendous job in his first Conference that he directed. Pastor Joey Perea brought a prophetic word, and David DeMarco once again taught the conference new songs that captured the heart of God. During my time to minister the Lord prompted me to lay hands on those who want to have a heart to go forward with God and bring others with them. By the end of the service, every teen in attendance was prayed for. Great job by the NWD youth committee!



Upcoming Events

February 23-24, 2001 —*All Out Ministries National Youth Pastor/leader/worker Conference*. Pittsburgh, Pa. Look for information in the mail during the Christmas season.

May 25th – 28th, 2001 —*Apex 2001: CCNA National Youth Conference*. Look for packets to be available in January.



Women's Ministries

Rev. Vilda C. Roy

National Director

Woman to Woman

What's Your Fragrance?

Thanksgiving and Christmas have come and gone. I noticed the most wonderful aromas of good things being prepared in the homes of family and friends in preparation for both these holidays. For the most part, they send delightful and wonderful fragrances to enjoy. Some however, leave a foul aroma. You can certainly recognize the difference, and the not so pleasant smells they leave on you in your clothes and hair. These we most definitely want to ignore and get away from.



I began to wonder just what kind of fragrance we, as Christians,

emit to others. I was reminded of II Corinthians 2:14-16.

"Now thanks be unto God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and THROUGH US DIFFUSES THE FRAGRANCE of his knowledge in every place."

"FOR WE ARE TO GOD THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other we are the aroma of life leading to life..." (SFLB)

We all know that the holidays afford us some of the best opportunities to allow our lives to shine as witnesses for Christ! It is also the loneliest time of the year for many people. It is said that Christmas is the time for people to commit suicide. This is such a tragedy! It causes me to think seriously about what kind of fragrance I am. There is always someone watching us: how we live, speak, what we do, and where we go. Even our body language sends signals. These Scripture verses caused me to begin to take inventory of my own life—to watch out for the kind fragrance I impart to others.

What a thought! We all diffuse or manifest an aroma of one sort or the other through the lives we live. To some the aroma of death to those who are perishing without the knowledge of Christ and to others the aroma of life leading to life in Christ!

It's my hope that the fragrance we leave is that of life as witnesses for Jesus Christ! The Gospel lived is the message (fra-

grance) we leave with all who know us, if we are living the life of Christ and allowing our lights to shine in this present darkness.

I want to challenge you, as the Word has challenged me, to make a renewed commitment to "let your light shine," so that It will be said of us that "there is a sweet, sweet fragrance in the life we live daily." My prayer is that we will be to God the fragrance or aroma of Christ to those who may be perishing that they might repent and receive the true and everlasting Gift of Life eternal, through JESUS CHRIST! PEACE and LOVE!

Vilda C. Roy

CCNA Women's Ministries

National Cookbook Project

SALADS & DESSERTS

Mail or e-mail your recipes by March 1, 2001 to:
Joyce Brown, Chairwoman
2011 Yosemite Drive
Richmond Heights, OH 44117
Tomjoyce@AOL.com

2000-2001 National Project to bless Widows of Pastors and Missionaries

Our Goal: \$3,000

Women's Ministries

2001 Convention Theme:

Pentecost for a New Millennium:

A NEW HOPE

Convention Dates: August 30th-September 3, 2001. Plan now to attend, watch for further news! We are lining up wonderful renown speakers!

New Intercessory Prayer Coordinator Named

Debbie Bolents, 8400 Effie Drive Niagara Falls, NY 14304 Phone: 716-297-4432. Debbie will also chair a SONshine Committee (this will be a ministry of encouragement and support via cards, flowers, fruit-baskets and calls.) We are asking each District to set up a SONshine Committee in their respective Districts, and as necessary, advise Debbie on the National level so we can offer prayer as needed.



Bits 'n Pieces

Where Is Christ, Now That Christmas Is Gone?

by Elizabeth Ann Leach

I stepped out my door, just like any day;
And Christmas was GONE, to my dismay!
All the windows were bare, no creche, lights or trees . . .
Just plain barren doors with no decorations to see.

The people, once friendly, gave neither nod nor a grin
They had already forgotten it was really about Him.
The toys tossed aside, some pieces now missing;
Her golden jewels, his shiny tools, no longer bring kissing.

The Christ Child now packed
In a box down the basement,
What remains are the bills,
Some memories 'n disappointments.

For me? He still LIVES — it's Christmas every day!
The best gift of all is HE CAME TO STAY!
And not for a season, a week or a day;
For He lives in my heart — not in a manger of hay.

So, when life has no meaning
And you're looking for love;
And your heart has an ache and you feel a tug
That's Jesus, our Savior and Lord from above.

Just open your heart and He'll come in
To sup and cleanse you from all of your sin.
He's knocking and waiting at your heart's door
To love you and guide you f o r e v e r m o r e.

Rejoice My Heart

by Marie Elena Wilson

Rejoice my heart, and seek His face
for there you'll find God's mercy and grace.
Turn not your eyes to see life's trials,
for that the cross He has reconciled.

We need not anguish or lament
for the King of Kings has been sent.
He takes away the hurt and pain
and replaces it with the glory of His reign.

His word gives us cause to believe
and at the cross is where we leave
Life's tests and trials, hopes and dreams
for that is what the Lord has redeemed.

Rejoice my heart, seek not your way
but seek ye His: trust and obey.
Our Father knows what's in our heart
stay close to Him do not depart

For under His wings, our hearts will soar
and we will hurt, never more.

Hope Does Not Disappoint

by Rev. Nicholas Cacciatore

The last few months have been very difficult for my wife and me. We are expecting our third child and are very excited about our soon coming arrival. However, pregnancies are physically difficult on Beth, and emotionally difficult for both of us. Morning sickness is commonly experienced during the first trimester of pregnancy and occurs in various degrees of intensity with symptoms ranging from little or none to severe. Unfortunately for Beth, morning sickness was severe and lasted for six months. We faced many stressful days.

All together we made five trips to the hospital and Beth received seven days of home health therapy because of dehydration. My greatest point of distress came when we had no choice but to go to the emergency room. Beth could not hold down a cracker, a sip of water, or an ice chip. Prescribed medication did not help. Prayer didn't even seem to make a difference. As a husband there was nothing I could do. This was frustrating.

We had no choice but to be patient and endure. Although we could not see it, God was working in our lives. There was a light

Bits 'n Pieces

• CONTINUED ONNEXT PAGE •

at the end of the tunnel. He was using this time of suffering as an avenue for our spiritual growth. In the book *Divine Designs* by Rosemarie Carfaga we read these words concerning suffering.

“Relying on the love and mercy of God, even when it seems most absent, shapes us personally and spiritually. Our ongoing spiritual formation may be most active when we feel most powerless, at times of loss and confusion, darkness and dismay.”

We had no choice but to rely on God, His hope, His love, and His compassion. God was shaping our lives whether we liked it or not.

Although my prayers did not seem effective and my vision appeared to be shortsighted, I found assurance knowing that others were praying. I found peace and strength in God as well as in the Godly support of our Christian family. I knew that my community of faith was interceding on Beth’s behalf. E-mails, greeting cards, phone calls, and conversations give us assurance that those closest to us had faith in the same Almighty God that we love dearly and need daily. I may have been powerless, but God was omnipotent. IN my limited perspective, the faith in God that I strive and work to build upon each day gave me hope. Although my heart felt empty and abandoned, my spirit found its strength in the “Rock that is Higher than I.”

Today, things are improving. Beth is feeling much better. God is working everything out for good. My perspective has changed, my eyes have been lifted, and my faith has been strengthened. Although this experience pales in severity to the hardships of other, I know that I have a new point of reference from which I will be more equipped to ready myself to God and minister God’s hope to others who are in a time of suffering. Even though Beth and I do not like to suffer, and likewise do not wish to suffer, we rejoice in our sufferings and know that God and His un-failing love have purpose of incomprehensible eternal proportion.

“Therefore since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we not stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character, and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

Romans 5: 1-5



PASTOR NICK CACCIATORE & FAMILY

“Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church”: a Man’s Perspective by Bro. Mike Conrad

In the book of Ephesians, the apostle Paul gave husbands and wives rules to live by. We shall look at these rules or instructions to try to get a better understanding of how couples can live fuller lives as they walk with Christ together. Before we look at these rules we need to understand what God’s purpose was for the relationship of a man and a woman. Genesis 1:28, states ***“God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”***

Then in verse 31 God looked at what he created and saw that it was “very good.” The key word in the last passage is the word “WAS.” The relationship between a man and woman was intended to be a union that would be fruitful and would increase. It was intended to be a partnership that would rule over all the creatures of the earth and subdue the world’s trials and temptations. It was intended to be and was in fact a great thing. This of course was before “The Fall of Man” and the problems that have come ever since. Because of the sin in the Garden of Eden, God allowed a new feeling and emotion to enter into the world.

The word “enmity” is mentioned which means hatred and is the opposite of the “agape” love that Christ displayed in His life on earth and with His actions for us on the Cross. God’s purpose for us was not to have us to struggle in any area of life. We were not to worry about money. We were not to struggle with fleshly desires. We were not to do things that hurt each other. We were supposed to honor each other and not compete with each other. Our sin changed everything. We began to hide from God and in doing so, separate ourselves from Him. (Genesis 3:8) We began to worry about what we looked like and shame entered the picture. (v.7) We began to be competitive, self-centered and blame our faults and shortcomings on each other, (v.12) Our sin took us out of God’s original plan for us, but through Christ’s grace we can still obtain the blessing that God intended.

Let’s look at the rules that Paul wrote to Christian couples. The first of those rules is given to the wives and is probably the most misunderstood and abused passage in the Bible.

“Wives, submit to your husband as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything,” Ephesians 5:22-24

Christian men have used these passages to rule over their wives for years and use them as a license to dominate their mate. This is not what Paul is saying. God’s intent was for us to be partners, each with separate gifts and natures that are needed in a relationship. Each member of this partnership would have equal say and input into decisions and would honor the thoughts and

Bits 'n Pieces

• CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE •

feelings of the other. The words of Paul here, along with the passage in 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 that deals with sexual relations have been misconstrued by men for their own fleshly desires and have caused heartache, pain and divorce.

The problem that most men have with these instructions to their wives is that they do not have a clear understanding of the Scriptures that follow. Ephesians 5-25 states, ***“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”*** This sounds easy enough, right? Then how come we have so many problems between men and women? It is because we men do not understand the “agape” love that Christ had apart from a revelation of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

God made us differently than he made women. Some of those differences are very apparent and are things that we are grateful for. Some of the differences however are things that we men struggle with. Men are creatures of action while women are more emotional and act through a screen of their feelings. Men are goal oriented, while women tend to not worry about the outcome of things as long as the journey getting there is worthwhile. It has been estimated that men on the average speak approximately 9,000 words per day, while women speak over 15,000. Is it any wonder that there is a problem when most men have worked all day, using up their allotment of words in the competitive goal oriented workplace and then come home to their wives, who have been wanting to talk to someone besides a five year old?

Our wives have been home, the children have been at school and when we arrive she needs to have that time of bonding with the person God placed in her life. She speaks to us, looking for acknowledgment and some respect, and what she gets back is the back side of the sports section and a nod of the head or maybe an occasional grunt. We unwind and relax and do what we need to do to prepare ourselves for the next task or goal we need to accomplish, then comes time for bed. Well guys, I hate to tell you, but what we have here is a failure to communicate and that breakdown is going to be apparent in this part of the relationship as well! This is how we make the mistakes that cause many men to turn to the Bible to try to justify our fleshly needs with words like “submit in everything” and “fulfill your duty” and “do not deprive each other.” We have not understood our instructions to be “loving as Christ loved.”

So how did Christ love the church? Jesus put the church, the believers, as the number one priority in His life. He loved the church so much that He went to the cross to die for us. It is easy for us to say that we would die for our wives, but action speaks a whole lot louder than words and Christ took action to prove His love. We are supposed to die to self, meaning that if we love our wives like we say that we do, we will kill-off the things that we would naturally do in order to make a conscience decision to take care of her needs and what is important to her. I don't mean the things that we do as providers, such as go to work, cut the grass, or fix the leaky faucet, we do these things naturally. What I am talking about is taking care of those needs that separate men from women.

By showing her honor and looking at her when she speaks.

By setting aside a night of the week to go out to dinner, just the two of you and allowing her to have your complete attention talking about her and not your work or your needs. By letting her know that her opinion counts and if we are being honest with ourselves, realizing that it more often is right. By holding her and giving her special loving touches, not expecting anything more of her. We give so much of ourselves to so many things, we need to begin to give our wives the most important thing we can give. Our time and our attention!

Now this sounds like I have all the answers and have mastered this, right? WRONG! I am probably the worst offender in this. I feel like Paul sometimes when he said that the things I want to do, I do not do and the things I do not what to do, I do. I take two steps forward and three steps back, then start the process all over again. It is no wonder that my dear wife sometimes feels like a tennis ball knocked back and forth. But I am committed to this. I know that God has promised to complete a good work in me and is more than able to accomplish it.

We have to realize that we cannot accomplish this on our own. Paul gave the Christian another set of instructions by telling us to “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” Just as we would physically have to take action to put on a set of armor, we have to make that commitment to mentally put the needs and desires of our wives ahead of our own. One of Satan’s schemes is to come between a man and a woman. When the devil brought sin into the garden, he came between the blessing God had given to a husband and a wife. This sin separated not only Adam and Eve from each other, but also separated them from God. The love of Jesus Christ can restore that blessing if we will pray for His help in changing our faults. 1 Peter 3:7 states, “Husbands, in the same way (in the example of Abraham and Sarah, but more like how Christ loved us) be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect (honoring them, making them feel intelligent and not less important than you) and as the weaker (physically, not mentally) partner and as (joint and equal) heirs with you of the gracious gift (something that was not earned) of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers (your relationship and communion with God.)”

Men, our wives are valuable to us and to God. God has gifted us with them and given us the awesome responsibility of taking care of them. God made us each different for reasons. We have to realize that we have different needs and then act upon that. It takes commitment, a willingness to talk and listen attentively, and a desire to remove anything that hinders that relationship. Lets us pray for each other , that we will continue to grow and become the husbands that God intended each of us to be!



Bro. Mike Conrad

Bro. Mike serves as a Deacon at
Niles Christian Assembly

A third aspect of our heavenly quest actually occurs prior to baptism at the moment we place our faith in Christ. We *receive* the Holy Spirit. This event should not be confused with the baptism of the Holy Spirit—the empowering of the believer for service to the Kingdom which is accompanied by gifts, rather, it is the Holy Spirit in the form of a seal of ownership that signifies that we now belong to God and are members of His eternal Kingdom and are saved. The King James Version states:

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. (II Corinthians 1:22) The Greek noun *earnest*: *arrhabona*—(ἀρραβωνία) conveys the idea of a *pledge* perhaps expressed more accurately in the New International Version:

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (II Corinthians 1:21-22 NIV)

It is this seal and pledge of the Holy Spirit through which God transforms the heart of the believer as the potter to the clay. It is also by the Spirit's presence that we may have the assurance of eternal life. The Christian life is a "Life in the Spirit." ***The Word sown on good soil*** (the humble, repentant heart) ***producing a crop one hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.*** (Matthew 13:8) No one can read the heart except God, yet good soil will produce good fruit. God guarantees this inheritance because of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary's cross.

The Christian life is also described by the Apostle Paul as a "race" or "the good fight." We are instructed to fight and run. Some say this also implies the possibility of losing one's salvation. Salvation is a gift of God and cannot be lost accidentally as one might lose a wallet or set of keys. God's commitment to Jesus is such that "***none might be lost.***" Nevertheless, Hebrews is replete with admonitions concerning "falling away." Let us consider carefully:

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

(Hebrews 6:4-6)

Salvation is serious business. The believer should "***approach the throne of grace boldly,***" but with fear and respect as in the days of the early church when it witnessed the consequences of Ananias and Saphira's sin. This is why the gospel must be presented fully. All too often, new believers are rushed to the altar for prayer and then onto the public commitment of baptism without a thorough understanding of what being a Christian really means. (Do all who profess Christ at a crusade return to church after the meetings are over?)

Falling away does not imply unintentional disobedience or sin. I John 1:8-9 covers that:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

No, falling away implies that the Word ***fell on stony places*** (Matthew 13:5) where there was too little soil. We, the church, must provide the good soil where the seed may be watered and God causes growth. Remember, teachers are held to a higher degree of accountability. (See James 3:1) This falling away requires an informed decision rejecting the gospel, the redemptive work done in the life of the believer, and the living presence of the Holy Spirit.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

(Ephesians 4:30)

Finally, the path to heaven involves trials. The Apostle Peter said,

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. (I Peter 1:3-6)

Nevertheless, when we suffer as Christians, we do not do so alone. God is with us. "Faith" ministries often erroneously equate trials, suffering, sickness and disease with "lack of faith." If this were true, perhaps Jesus would not have been accepted in some churches today because of his humbleness before His heavenly Father and His humility in His role as a servant to the disciples when he washed their feet.

The assurance of our salvation may also be demonstrated in Jesus' words as we consider this gem of the gospel message:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

And the good news doesn't stop there:

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (v.17)

Our journey to heaven is assured by Jesus' work on the cross, the raising of Jesus from the dead, and the indwelling Holy Spirit in the heart of the believer. Our decision to accept the lordship of Jesus over our lives, our obedience to His command to love one another, and our submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit guarantees this wonderful salvation. It is truly, **Good News!**

VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR



Rev. Eric R Towse

From its very humble beginnings in April 1925, the work at 14 Gravesend Neck Road was to find special favor with God. With faith, a vision, and a one-family frame building which housed boy scouts, Giuseppe and Rose Greco, along with their daughter Tina, instituted an evangelical endeavor in Brooklyn that was to spread all over the metropolitan area.

Throughout its early development, the original church structure assumed a physical character directly attributable to the skill and workmanship of its members. There were no rich ecclesiastical trappings in the early sanctuary, no pews, and no ornamentation—just wooden folding chairs, a scrupulously clean atmosphere and the wealth of the Holy Spirit's presence.



Many committed their lives to the Master, as Reverend Giuseppe Greco proclaimed the Good News and encouraged souls to seek salvation. His oft repeated exhortation, "Oggi e il giorno della Grazia," (now is the acceptable time of the Lord) is memorialized in a plaque located in the rear of the present sanctuary.

Miraculous healings were numerous. A visible testimonial to the healing ministry of the ministry of Giuseppe Greco were the crutches which hung in the sanctuary. They were left by previously lame believers as dynamic evidence of the Holy Spirit's gift of healing. In addition to the lame walking, recovery from tuberculosis, cancer, pneumonia, and other physical disorders were a common occurrence.



Pastor Giuseppe Greco received much aid from his assistant, Pastor Benjamin Marino, and his son, Reverend Frank Greco, who, despite being incapacitated by multiple



sclerosis, performed his duties well and officiated at all weddings.

In 1937, construction began around the original frame. Only the architect and one mason were paid. Pictured at the left is the



result of their labors—the old boy scout building transformed into a beautiful church, but not "home" yet.

After Giuseppe Greco was called to his eternal reward, his place was filled by Pastor Benjamin Marino. Upon the death of Pastor Marino in 1950, the assistant, Pastor Angelo Fusillo assumed the pulpit. Before Bro. Fusillo went to be with the Lord Giuseppe's son, Emanuel had become assistant pastor.

Emanuel and Giuseppe had visited the site of the Dutch Reformed Church at 121 Gravesend Neck Road in the 1930s. Pastor Giuseppe placed his hand on his son's shoulder and said, "Son, someday we will obtain this property."

In 1969, Emanuel Greco became pastor. Under his ministry, the Coney Island Pentecostal Church obtained the buildings and five acres of land belonging to the Dutch Reformed Church in 1978 for a mere \$325,000.



**SISTER CONNIE AND
REV. EMANUEL J. GRECO**

Again, as with the first church, the congregation came together to perform the transformation of the old structure into the beautiful edifice that today bears the name of Trinity Tabernacle of Gravesend.

After several decades of service to the Lord and unprecedented growth of the church, Rev. Emanuel Greco went to be at home with the Lord.

The present ministry of Trinity Tabernacle continues to grow under the leadership of Pastor Elie Devito and his wife Ida. The church hosts an incredible number of ministries and reaches-out to the local community. Its schedule of services and ministries is as follows:

Sundays:

- 9:30 AM - Sunday School - Adult Bible Classes
- 10:45 AM - Children's Church
- 10:45 AM - Worship Service
- 7:00 PM - Worship Service

Mondays:

- 3:00 PM - Afternoon Children's Hour
- 7:30 PM - Sheepshead Bay Nursing Home Ministry
- 8:00 PM - Men's Fellowship and Women's Ministries

Tuesdays:

- 10:00 AM - Circle of Concern
- 10:30 AM - Palm Tree Nursing Home Ministry
- 8:00 PM - Italian Outreach Service

8:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays:

10:00 AM - Morning Prayer Meeting

7:30 PM - Street Evangelism

8:00 PM - Bible Study

Thursdays:

10:00 AM - Ladies Dorcas

8:00 PM - Prayer Meeting

Fridays:

8:00 PM:

Adult Worship, Christian Cadets, Youth Department

Saturdays:

7:30 PM - Singles Ministry



SISTER IDA AND PASTOR ELIE DEVITO

A Balm in Gilead

by Rev. Elie Devito, Pastor of Trinity Tabernacle

Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered? Jeremiah 8:22

The prophet Jeremiah finds himself in a heart breaking situation. He is sorrowing for what he is seeing and hearing in his spirit. He is viewing his people in a far off land suffering as a result of the effects of sin. They were a stubborn people who would not heed to the warning call of God through the voice of the prophet.

Jeremiah's grief at this point is beyond his own understanding. He feels that all of his prophesying was in vain; he is discouraged and mourning because down deep in his heart he is a very patriotic person and has a heavy burden for Israel. In his spirit he can hear the people of Israel asking, "Has the Lord abandoned Jerusalem? Is the King no longer there?"

In the center of his soul and spirit he can hear the Heavenly Father in answer asking:

"Why have they provoked Me to anger with their carved images with foreign idols?" (v.19)

The people cry:

"The harvest is past. The summer is ended and we are not saved." (v.20)

The vision in the Prophet's mind is overwhelming. He is burdened and mourning because sin is the consumption of the body, soul, and spirit. His country is eroding away under the consumption.

SIN IS A CONSUMPTION

It will consume every bit of good in a person and everything that person is associated with. Unaware to oneself the person is slowly depleting in all strength of life.

Sin chews away at a person's good health and wholesome home. It uses up everything affected by it. Sin is a wasting disease.

Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 5:24

SIN HAS ITS SEAT IN THE CITADEL OF LIFE

Sin takes hold deep in the soul. It will weaken and enfeeble one's spirit and make one timid towards the things of God. Sin will put one in a state of confusion and dizziness until one becomes unconscious of anything Divine and will cause the carnal mind to take over resisting all efforts of the Holy Spirit trying to attract his attention.

The carnal mind is enmity against God. It is so unsound that it is not subject to God's law, nor indeed can it be because the whole head is sick; the whole heart is faint.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Romans 8:5-9

SIN IS A HEREDITARY DISEASE

It is in the human race, inveterate, a cleaving and fermenting curse, a rankling virus. With the dawning of intelligence in each one of us as we begin to develop from our infancy, sin is what first develops.

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Romans 5:12

Who can bring a clean out of an unclean? No one! Job 14:4

SIN IS A FATAL DISEASE

Sin is still working away at the human race today. In many it has already taken the life of the soul, and when it runs its course, it will infallibly end in the second death. It has no tendency to stop or to arrest itself. There has never been an instance where it

Trinity Tabernacle

• CONTINUED ON P. 24 •

4) He does all things in perfect conformity to all of His divine attributes so that He can be perfectly holy yet perfectly merciful, perfectly just yet perfectly longsuffering.

Hebrews 1:3 tells us that Jesus Christ is, ***“the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person.”*** Colossians 2:9 tells us that, ***“in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”*** He is not a mere reflection of God’s glory, but the very substance and essence of His glory.

Ezekiel describes how that just prior to the destruction of Solomon’s Temple and the exile of Jews into captivity the glory of God departed from the Temple. In 8:6 God states, ***“Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary?”*** The glory departs slowly, in small steps, seeming to leave almost reluctantly. In chapter 9 the glory lifts and moves to the threshold. In chapter 10 it moves to the court and then to the east gate. In chapter 11 it departs from the city to a mountain east of the Temple.

The Gospels describe that as Jesus was journeying towards (Luke 13:22) and drawing nigh unto Jerusalem (Matthew 21), for what we’ve called His “triumphal entry,” He paused at the Mount of Olives, just east of the city. Although His entry was welcomed by some who laid down their garments for Him and cried, “Hosanna to the son of David,” He was ultimately rejected. He was, ***“despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not”*** (Isaiah 53:3) Then Jesus made this statement; ***“Behold, your house is left unto you desolate”*** (Matthew 23:38).

Jesus was the glory of God returning to the Temple from the same direction it had departed. When rejected, He left the Temple “desolate.” In the same condition, devoid of God’s glory, as it was when He entered it. Jesus then departed back to the Mount of Olives, east of the city. (Matthew 24)

THE OFFICES OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus is His name, Christ is His office. The angel said, ***“thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”*** (Matthew 1:21) His name signifies His purpose. Christ means, “the Anointed One.” Though that term may not have much impact on us today, in the Old Testament times and in Jesus’ day it was full of significance! To Simeon it was revealed of the Holy Ghost that He should not see death until He had seen the “Lord’s Christ” (the Anointed One, Luke 2:26.) It was a very big deal indeed!

In the Old Testament economy there were three primary offices which required an anointing with oil. They were the prophet, the priest and the king. The prophet was God’s spokesperson to the people, as the priest was man’s spokesperson to God. The King was the civil ruler and protector. The anointing was for identification and empowerment. No one ever held all three offices. Melchizedek, the Priest-King of Salem (later renamed

Jerusalem), came the closest (Genesis 14:18). Moses functioned in all three, but was never anointed to hold those offices. Everyone knew that the “Anointed One” would be the Person anointed by God to hold all three.

Jesus was anointed as the Christ at His baptism by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:16-17). As Jesus came up out of the water, ***“the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*** Jesus was identified by none other than God himself. He was empowered, not with symbolic oil, but with the Substance of the Holy Spirit! The wonderful thing is that you and I as blood-washed Christians, are eligible to receive a portion of the very same substantial anointing of the Holy Spirit that Jesus had! This indeed is the Pentecostal distinctive that we must proclaim to a dark and dying world. And it doesn’t stop there. Peter calls us a “royal priesthood” who show forth His praises! (1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6) At His return we will share the glory of His offices

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

Regarding the office of King, Jesus answered Pilate, ***“To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world”*** (John 18:37). Jesus’ reign as King over His Kingdom will be ultimately fulfilled at His return. The Kingdom of God begins with the Millennium, when Jesus physically and literally reigns in a Kingdom of absolute righteousness from the throne of David in Jerusalem. It will continue after the Millennium for eternity with a new heaven and new earth. The Kingdom of God in the hearts of men is an expression that is used concerning the earnest of what is to come.

Jesus was given the Kingdom after His resurrection. He declared, ***“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth”*** (Matthew 28:18). But He does not claim His Kingdom until His Second Coming. Revelation 11:15 says, ***“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”*** Jesus is the ultimate King!

We said that the prophet was God’s spokesperson to man. He was someone who proclaimed God’s words to man. More than 99% of Jesus’ earthly ministry was in fulfillment of the prophetic office. As was recorded in John’s Gospel, over and over again Jesus declared, ***“My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me”*** (7:16); ***“I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things”*** (8:28); ***“The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works”*** (14:10); and, ***“For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me”*** (17:8). Jesus was the ultimate Prophet.

If Jesus’ earthly ministry lasted three years, then less than 1% of it (only 1 of 182 weeks) was in direct fulfillment of His priestly office. His last week, called the “Passion Week,” involved His suffering and dying on our behalf for our sins. The

Old Testament high priest had to undergo an intensive ceremonial process of purification so that once per year, on the Day of Atonement, He could represent the nation of Israel inside the Holy of Holies. If accepted, Israel's sins would be covered for one more year. But, as John the Baptist declared, "***Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world***" (John 1:29).

Jesus Christ didn't have to purify himself because He was sinless. His offering didn't have to be repeated annually, it was sufficient once and for all. His sacrifice wasn't just for the nation of Israel, but sufficient for the whole world. Sin wasn't merely covered for another year, but it was taken away for ever. He doesn't minister in a tabernacle made with men's hands, but in the heavenlies, in the very presence of the Father. Jesus is the ultimate High Priest.

We often focus on what Jesus Christ did for us in the past, and on what He will bring to pass in the future at His Second Coming. But we tend to neglect what Jesus Christ is doing for us now. The Bible clearly teaches us that He, "***made intercession for the transgressors***" (Isa. 53:12). Paul declared of Jesus that He is, "***risen...at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us***" (Romans 8:34). Referring to Jesus Christ as our ultimate High Priest, Hebrews (7:25) puts it this way, "***he ever liveth to make intercession for them***" (us). Right now, "***we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous***" (1 John 2:1). Being at the right hand of God gives Him a position of access, intimacy, confidence, authority, and influence. Jesus Christ is our ultimate High Priest, and right now He is continuing to fulfill His priestly office by interceding for us to the Father because the accuser of the brethren day and night ceases not to point out our flaws, failures and sins.

We must strengthen ourselves with the realization of Jesus Christ's ministry on our behalf. "***We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body***" (2 Corinthians 4:8). Jesus Christ, the ultimate Prophet, Priest and King, is at this very moment interceding for us. May we be encouraged in our prayer life and in our daily walk with Him.

Rev. Lucian Gandolfo

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Please contact Bro. Peter Lambo at 973-325-3635. E-mail: plam42@aol.com for more information.

The Little Red Caboose by Bro. Samuel D. Museums

It is the humble who trail behind,
making no noise or fanfare.
They are at the end of the line,
and nobody seems to really care.
They do not clamor for prestige,
they consider the situation fair.

At the end of the train is the caboose,
being dragged by the power ahead.
It is satisfied with its position,
there are rewards in being led.
The spot it holds has been ordained,
therefore let all people be glad.

This is a very important example
in our beloved Christian walk.
Whatever the Good Lord assigns us,
let us not scream or squawk.
The Divine Engineer knows we are there,
let's not dare to complain or balk.

But now the red caboose is no more,
they don't need the humble servant.
Drawing along required no brain,
being last or least is no talent.
So the old methods are cast aside,
and new systems are a bright event.

The Trail that leads to Heaven,
is maintained by human effort.
The Rails that steer the mighty engine,
may by their weight readily fall short.
It was brought on by human conditions,
and Heavenly schedules will abort.

The System thrives without the caboose,
and by important leaders is justified.
Slowly they ease out the old timers,
when the modern methods are applied.
Then the Station fills with Travelers,
because the Fare is cheaper and mild.

The old Iron Horse has been eliminated,
the red caboose is just history.
Many rail bets are growing wild,
and the Holy Crowds are a story.
Cost and greed brought this on.
Brother, this is no hidden Mystery!

stopped spontaneously, and of its own wen away or died. *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.* Genesis 2:16-17

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Romans 6:23

SIN IS A FLATTERING DISEASE

Very seldom will the sinner ever feel that he is laboring or fighting under a deadly distemper; and many times it proves an acute and agonizing disorder.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. James 1:12-15

THE ANALOGIES

Notice a few analogies between Judah's balsam tree and the better balm which heals the wounds of sin and the anguish of the soul.

- There was no great show about the tree itself. It had no particular grandeur or beauty, and so it was with our Savior. He had no extraordinary form nor any special good looks.
- The balm tree was a stranger to Judah in Palestine. The Lord Jesus Christ our Savior was a stranger to the world.
- In order to obtain a healing essence to make medicine, they would have to wound the balm tree.
- In order to give forth true life, eternal life, and in one conclusive act destroy the works of sin and death, the Savior was crucified and His side was pierced. He was obedient unto death. He poured out his blood and made His soul an offering for sin. (Isaiah 53:10-12; Philippians 2:7-11)

We do have a balm:

Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.
Habakuk 1:5

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. Isaiah 53:1-2

Rev. Elie DeVito

to be unmoved if we as God's people follow a similar course today? Anything a preacher looks upon as being more important than God's approval becomes an idol. God's servant must not be "greedy of filthy lucre," for "the love of money is the root of all evil." God's counsel to you is: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world."

Are You Jealous Too?

God wants you to be jealous over His people. Paul had a jealousy over erring saints in Corinth. Writing to them, he said, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." (2-Corinthians 11:2)

This is the kind of concern God wants you to have. If you live under the consciousness of God's jealousy for you, you will want the saints to whom you minister to be conscious of God's jealousy for them. You will be jealous of their understanding that God loves them in a personal sense and tenderly watches over them always.

God also wants you to be jealous over having his approval. He wants you to give your best to His work, and He wants you to be so jealous over His cause that you will urge all His people to give Him their best in loving service.

We are called to be living sacrifices, submitting ourselves to God's will each day. This requires rigid discipline. Ministers of the gospel must be examples to the flock in this regard. Let us beware of self-interest, self-assertion, self-indulgence. Let us reject every emotion and desire that would feed unholy desires of the self-life. As we learn to bring every thought into subjection to the mind of Christ, and we always remember that God is a "jealous God," our ministries will be more effective. When our best is given to him, his best is returned to us.

Rev. John DelTurco

**The Staff at Vista
wishes you and yours a
blessed 2001.
Praise the Lord!**