

Where is God's Work Today?

(Copyright 07-28-2024) by Paul Janvier Mbock
(Cameroon)

PAGE 2 **2024 Article**

Donor Letter July 29, 2024

(Copyright 07-29-2024)
by William P. Goff
(Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

PAGE 8 **2024 Article**

The Consecration

(Copyright 07-29-2024)
by Dwight Fleming
(Oroville, California)

PAGE 8 **2024 Article**

Prayer Update

(Copyright 08-03-2024) by Warren & Sharon Zehrung
(Little Rock, Arkansas)

PAGE 9 **2024 Article**

Can Plants Talk to Each Other?

(Copyright 2023) by Doug Velting (Grand Rapids, Michigan)

PAGE 10 **Article**

Peter's Trumpets Message – on Pentecost

(Copyright 2003) by Charles Whitaker
(Charlotte, North Carolina)

PAGE 11 **Article**

The Proverbs 31 Woman

(Copyright) by David Antion
(Pasadena, California)

PAGE 16 **Article**

In regard to: Where is God's Work Today?

Article by Paul Janvier Mbock
Comments by Laura Lee
(Bismarck, North Dakota)

PAGE 17 **Iron Sharpening Iron**

In regard to: Where is God's Work Today?

Article by Paul Janvier Mbock
Comments by Darwin Lee
(Bismarck, North Dakota)

PAGE 17 **Iron Sharpening Iron**

To Unsubscribe from this newsletter:

Use the unsubscribe link on the end of your weekly newsletter.

To Subscribe to this newsletter, Go to:

Use the Form on our Website.

To Submit Items for Print, Send to:

the-church-of-god-messenger@hotmail.com

church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com

Mail to Darwin & Laura Lee, 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, ND 58501

The "New" Church of God Messenger is an independent publication. All newsletters may be copied and given to others if they are copied and sent in their entirety.

Publisher: Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors, or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

Contributors: David Antion, Dwight Fleming William P. Goff, Darwin Lee, Laura Lee Paul Janvier Mbock, Doug Velting, Charles Whitaker, Sharon Zehrung, Warren Zehrung

Websites:

<https://darwin-laura.com/> **Links**

<https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org> **Current Newsletters**

1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

Where is God's Work Today? (Copyright 07-28-2024) by Paul Janvier Mbock (Cameroon)

I – Introduction

In his Last Letter to the 'Brothers and Co-workers' of January 10, 1986, six days before his death on January 16, 1986, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong said: "...It is possible that the task that God has given me is completed, even if that of the Church of God...which will faithfully accomplish its mission until the return of Christ, the real Head of this Church...is not yet...This Work is not that of Herbert W. Armstrong, any more than it will be the work of Mr. Tkach (his successor), or of any other man. It is the work of the Living God, of the Creator...!"

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

When we see today, 38 years later (2 cycles of 19 years), the prophesied proliferation of churches or groups born from the ancient Worldwide Church of God then led by Mr. Armstrong (**2 Tim 4:3**), we sincerely ask ourselves the following questions:

- Where is the Work of God today?
- Can we Biblically, Currently Identify this Work?

II - The Prophesied Dispersion

In his God-given mission, Mr. Armstrong fulfilled the passages of - **Matt 24:14; Rev 14:6-7; Rev 10:8-11** – to the Philadelphia Era of the Church of God (**Rev 3:7-8**). He was the first blacksmith or end-time servant of God (**Zech 1:21**). He was the Angel or the Messenger who has proclaimed to the whole world the coming of the Kingdom of God as a Testimony (**Rev 14:6-7**)!

After Mr. Armstrong's preaching and his passing (**Rev 3:7**), the End began (**Matt 24:14**-end of verse), with the Apostasy (**2 Thess 2:3**) which is the Abomination (the Doctrine of the Trinity) established in the holy place which is the Church of God (God is a Family-ELOHIM). This is what caused Desolation (Devastation) among God's people (**Matt. 24:15**)!

* *“For it is written: » ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’”* (**Matth 26:31**),

** *“Therefore the people wander like sheep, they are wretched because there is no shepherd.”* (**Zec 10:2**),

*** *“So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill (Laodicean groups). My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.”* (**Ezek 34:5-6**),

*** *“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign LORD, “when I will send a famine through the land— not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD. They will then wander from sea to sea, from the north to the east; they will go here and there seeking the word of the LORD, and they will not find it.”* (**Amos 8:11-12**),

*** *“People will tell you, ‘There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running off after them.”* (**Luke 17:23**).

NB: Since the death on January 16, 1986 of Mr. Armstrong, first servant or messenger of God of the end time (**Zec 1:20; Rev 14:6-7; Mt 24:14**), builder and pastor of the Church of God of the Philadelphia era (**Zec 4:6-10; Rev 3:7-10**), the people of God, without a physical pastor, have scattered, and wander here and there, because of desolation and apostasy that occurred in the House of God which is the Holy Place! (**Mt 24:15; 2 Thess 2:3**). Today we see the people of God, going from one group to another, seeking the prophetic truth which is not found there, for the work of God is hidden in the world, as was prophesied (**Mt 13:44**)!

III - The House of God (His WORK) was Abandoned with the Dispersion

* *“Behold, your house will be left to you deserted; for I tell you, you will see me no more, until you say, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. »* (**Mt 23:38-39; Lk 13:35**).

** *“Who among you is the survivor who saw this house in its original glory? And how do you see it now? As it is, doesn't it seem like nothing to you?”* (**Agg 2:3**).

NB: Since the death of HWA to this day, the house (Church) of God is abandoned, and without a physical pastor, until God sends his 2nd end-time servant who is Elijah, the son of the man (the 2nd), who comes in the name of the Lord, to restore all things, before the coming of Jesus (**Mal 4:5-6; Ez 2:1-5; Ez 7:1-10; Mt 17: 11; Act 3:19-21**)!

IV - Multiple Groups were founded after the dispersion of God's people and the abandonment of His House!

*** *“For the time will come when men will not endure sound doctrine; but, having the itch to hear pleasant things, they will appoint themselves a crowd of teachers according to their own desires. »* (**2 Tim 4:3**),

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

**“Is it the time for you to live in your paneled dwellings, when this house is destroyed (abandoned)? Thus now says the LORD of hosts: Consider carefully your ways! You sow much, and you reap little...Because of my house, which is destroyed (abandoned), while you each hurry for his house (his group). » (Ag 1:4-6,9),*

** “Write to the angel of the church of Laodicea...I know your works...because you are lukewarm...I will vomit you out of my mouth. Because you say: I am rich, I am enriched (in knowledge), and I need nothing. » (Rev 3:14-17).*

**“Their works do not enable them to return to their God, because the spirit of prostitution is in their midst (the Laodiceans go from one group to another), and because they do not know the LORD...They will go...to seek the LORD, but they will not find him: he is gone from among them. » (Hos 5:4,6).*

** “For the LORD has poured out on you a spirit of drowsiness; He has closed your eyes (the prophets), He has veiled your heads (the seers). » (Isa 29:10)!*

NB: God vomited out the Laodiceans and withdrew Himself from the midst of all their multiple groups that they have formed, which is why they lost the spirit of prophecy! All became drowsy and fell asleep (**Matt. 25:5**)!

The KEY to the Prophetic Light (**2 Pet 1:19**), was therefore removed or lost by the sleeping modern Pharisees and Doctors of the law of these various groups (**Luke 11:52; 2 Pet 2:1-2**), after the death of Herbert W. Armstrong, the spiritual Zerubbabel, who built the end-time Church of God (**Zech 4:9**)!

V - God therefore HIDDEN his WORK

**“The kingdom of heaven is still like treasure hidden in a field...the field is the world; the good seed are the sons of the kingdom. » (Mt 13:44,38).*

**“Enter through the narrow door. For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter in by it. But narrow is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it. » (Mt 7:13-14),*

NB: Since the house of God was abandoned, and its members dispersed to form their own groups and fell asleep as prophesied, God, no longer working with them, hid His Work from the eyes of the world; that’s why it’s a narrow door, which very few find today!

VI - HOW is the Church Directed Today?

**“He (God the Father) put everything under his feet, and he gave him (Jesus) to be Supreme Head of the Church. » (Eph 1:22),*

** “And behold, I (Jesus) am with you always, even to the end of the world. » (Matt 28:20),*

** “I (Jesus) will not leave you orphans (of a physical pastor), I will come to you. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him; we will come to him, and we will make our home with him...The Comforter, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I have said to you. » (Jn 14:18, 23,26),*

** “When the Helper comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you into all truth...and he will show you things to come. » (Jn 16:13),*

**“As for you, the anointing (the Holy Spirit) you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him. » (1 John 2:27),*

** “The remnant of Jacob (the scattered sons of the kingdom) will be among the many peoples (the various Laodicean groups) Like dew from the Lord, Like drops of water on the grass: They are not counted over man (a physical ruler), They do not depend on the children of men. » (Mich 5:6)*

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

*"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and of love and of wisdom. » (2 Tim 1:7).

NB: God (Jesus) today directs His work, the little flock hidden in the world (Lk 12:32; Mt 13:44), directly from heaven by His Holy Spirit, who reminds its scattered members (Mt 26: 31), everything that was taught to them!

They do not need a physical pastor and do not rely on sleeping Laodicean prophets. They await the coming of the son of man (the second) - (Luke 17:30-37), who is Elijah who comes in the name of the Lord to restore all things (Matth 17:11; Act 3:21), in the abandoned house of God since the death of the spiritual Moses, Herbert W. Armstrong (Mal 4:4), and before the Advent of Jesus in His Glory (Mal 4:5-6)!

VII - A CRY in the NIGHT

* "As the bridegroom delayed, they all dozed off and fell asleep. » (Matt 25:5),

NB: The people of God in Mr. Armstrong's time believed that the Kingdom of God would come during his lifetime. When Mr. Armstrong died, and nothing came to pass, the faith of many grew cold and they fell asleep!

*"But while the people slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat..." (Matt. 13:25),

NB: After the death of Mr. Armstrong, Satan installed himself at the head of the Church of God through a Leadership which adopted pagan doctrines, including the most Anti-God (Elohim) is the Trinity, which is, on the spiritual level, the Abomination of desolation established in the holy place!

*" In the middle of the night, there was a cry: Here is the bridegroom, go and meet him.' (Matt 25:6),

* "The angel who spoke with me (Joshua) returned, and he woke me up like a man awakened from his sleep." (Zech 4:1)!

NB: From the spiritual sleep into which all the Laodiceans has fell (Matt. 25:5), God awakened the prophetic Joshua, after the spiritual Zerubbabel who was Armstrong (Ag 1:14; 2:4; Zec 3; 4:1-2), for the next phase of his work (Isa 48:6-7). That is to say, rebuilding His abandoned house on the foundations of Zerubbabel (Zec 6:11-15; Ag 2:23).

This spiritual Joshua, the Second Servant or Blacksmith after Zerubbabel, is the 2nd Angel both to **Revelation 14:8** and **Revelation 18:1-2**, because his mission has two (2) phases while keeping the same message :*"Babylon is fallen, the great city is fallen"*:

a) -In The first phase of his mission (Mark 9:12), he did not raise his voice (Rev 14:8) as the 1st and 3rd angels (Rev. 14:7,9) because he should suffer much a long illness, and be rejected by this generation as prophesied (Ezek 3:24-27 ; Luke 17:25)!

Then he should momentarily disappear from the scene by death from this disease (2 Thes 2:7; Job 14:13), but at the time appointed by God (Ps 102:13; Hab 2:2-3), he will miraculously return to physical life (Ps 86:17; Luke 11:30; Ps 30:1-4; 40: 1-4; Isa 38:16-19; Ps 118:17-18) for the second phase of his mission !

b) -The Second phase of this mission will be to announce, this time with a mighty voice (Joel 2:1; Rev 18:2), the same message of his first phase (Rev 14:8) which is the fall of Babylon, and ask to God's people, now scattered and asleep, to get out of this diabolical system that will collapse (Luke 17:26-30; Rev 18:4), for, the Day of the Lord is near (Joel 2:1)!

The Unexpected and Miraculous Arrival of the 'true' son of man (Elijah) who brings the Physical Nation of God onto the world stage (Is 66:7-8; Matt 24:44; Luke 21:34-35; 1 Thes 5:2), **will be known to all mankind, it will not be hidden**, since it will be a well-known man, who would have died a few years before, and who will come back to physical life (will resurrect or will sprout) where he was buried (Ps 30:1-4; 40:1-4; Zec 6:12); after his return to physical life, he will be surrounded by a few people, equally known, from all continents, who will find themselves instantly and miraculously at his side without the help of any known means of transport, even the most quick and sophisticated (Zec 3:8; Dan 2:34,45; Jer 3:14; Deut 30:4; Mk 13:27; Luke 17:30,34-37).

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

This breathtaking event will be relayed, from the East to the West, by all current media around the world (internet, television, radio, telephone, etc.) which are Waves like lightning, and which did not exist in the first century (**Isa 45:5-6; Matt 24:27; Luke 17:24**). The whole world will be amazed to see "**A Revenant surrounded by the people who were just moments ago, sleeping in their bed, or cooking in their kitchen, or working in their field, thousands of miles away.** » , according to time zones! » (**Luke 17:34-36**)!

It is this event that Traditional Christianity has always called '**the Rapture**' which in reality is the Birth of the Physical Nation of God in one day! (**Isa 66:7-8**): the gathering of the physical elect will be done by the Angels (eagles or vultures) who will bring them to where 'the body' will be, that is to say the son of man who is Elijah, returned to physical life (**Luke 17:30,34-37; De 30:4; Mk 13:27**)!

VIII - What is God's Work Today?

Looking forward to the Birth of the Physical Kingdom of God in one day, ZION, through Elijah, the 2nd son of man (**Isa 66:7-8**), the little flock (**Luke 12:32**) who was awakened in the first phase of his mission which went almost unnoticed, as prophesied, **has a Testimony Work to do!**

" ...I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who comes from the Father, he will testify of me; **and you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. » (**Jn 15:26-27**),*

" As for Moses, he was faithful in all the house of God, as a servant, **to bear witness of what was to be proclaimed. » (**Heb 3:5**),*

" Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and **we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept **our testimony.**" (**Jn 3:11**),*

** "So do not be ashamed **of the testimony to be given** to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner. But suffer with me for the Gospel, through the power of God. » (**2 Tim 1:8**),*

** "...Do not go to the Gentiles, nor enter into the cities (websites) of the Samaritans (those who are not called); go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (the Laodiceans). Go, preach, and say: The kingdom of heaven is at hand...you will not have finished traveling through the cities of Israel (Laodiceans Websites) that the Son of Man (Elijah) has come." (**Mt 10:5-7,23**).*

NB: God uses today, via the Internet, His little hidden flock, those who have His anointing, and who have been awakened from the current correction (**Zec 4:1**), **to testimony** to Laodiceans (lost sheep of the abandoned house of God), of the coming of his Kingdom, through Elijah, the son of man, who comes to restore all things, before the return of Christ (**Act 3:19-21**). God does not use "those who think they are enriched in knowledge"

(**Rev 3:17**). He only uses those who are humble and who allow themselves to be led by His Word and His Holy Spirit. Because **only** "...**Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.** »(**Rom 8:14**).

IX - The 4 BLACKSMITHS

In **Zechariah 4**, we find named the Four Smiths of **Zechariah 1:20-21**. Indeed, the Scriptures indicate that in these end times, God will raise up **Four (4) Blacksmiths or Servants, with the mission of bringing down Babylon** (made up of the 4 Horns or Kingdoms: **Babylon, Medes and Persians, Greco- Macedonian, Rome**) - (**Zec 1:18-21; Dan 7:2-7,15-18**); the work of these 4 Blacksmiths, each in their time, is detailed in **Revelation 14:6-10, through 3 Angels.**

NB: In his article "**The Messiah in Prophecy**" published in the Plain Truth of May 1984, Mr. Eli Chiprout (a Jew from the WCG) said: "*In Hebrew, the word angel simply means **messenger** It does not always mean an angelic being. Sometimes it refers to a man.*" , as is the case in **Revelation 14: 6-9!**

The True Work of God is found today where are the **four (4) Blacksmiths who are the Sentinels** (**Jn 12:26; Isa 50:10; 52:8; Jer 6:17; 33:7**)!

X - Can those who are Awakened and Hidden in the world Mingle with Laodicean Groups?

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

* *“This is what your brothers (the Laodiceans) say, who hate you and reject you because of my name: Let the Lord show his glory and let us see your joy! -But they will be confused.” (Isa 66:5),*

* *“Son of man, what is the meaning of these mocking words which you hold in the land of Israel (The Church of God): The days are long, and all the visions fail? » (Ez 12:22),*

* *“...In the last days there will come scoffers (in the Church of God) with their scoffing, walking according to their own lusts, and saying: Where is the promise of his coming? Because, since the fathers died (HWA, Dawson, Meredith, etc...), everything remains as it was from the beginning of creation. » (2 Pet 3:3-4),*

* *“Happy is the man...who does not sit in the company of scoffers. » (Ps 1:1),*

* *“I did not sit in the congregation of scoffers, to rejoice there; But because of your power (Your Holy Spirit), I sat alone...It is for them to return to you, but it is not for you to return to them (the Laodiceans). » (Jer 15:17,19),*

* *“He will remain solitary and silent, Because the Lord imposes it on him. » (Lam 3:28).*

NB: Those who are awake and hidden in the world, who are led by the prophetic light of the Spirit of God (2 Pet 1:19-21), should not join the assemblies of the Laodiceans who mock the revelation of biblical prophecies, and who today wander from one group to another in search of the unfinding truth (Am 8:12; Luke 17:23); blinded, they do what they want as in the time of the Judges (Judg 21:25; 2 Tim 3:4)!

X - Have there been any New Prophecies Revealed since Mr. Armstrong's death?

Here is what the Bible says:

* *“Behold, the first things have been accomplished, And new things I bring to you; before they arrive, I predict them to you. » (Isa 42:9),*

* *“Long ago I made the first predictions, they came out of my mouth, and I published them: Suddenly I acted, and they came true (in Armstrong's time) ...Now (in our days) , I announce to you new things, hidden, unknown to you. **They occur now, and do not belong to the past (from Armstrong's time);** Until their coming you had no knowledge of them, so that you would not say, Behold, I knew it. You have learned nothing of it, you have known nothing of it, And formerly your ear was not struck by it: For I knew that you would be unfaithful, and that from your birth you were called rebellious. »(Isa 48:3,6-8),*

NB: God made new revelations to **Daniel Wayne Dawson**, Pastor of COG/Avoicecriesout, before his death on 09/05/2005 (1 cycle of 19 years, after the death of HWA on 01/16/1986). These prophecies revealed in the Bible were not known in the time of Mr. Armstrong, they are being fulfilled before our eyes today!

God's work did not stop with the death of Mr. Armstrong (he himself recognized in his last letter to the Church on 01/10/1986, six days before his death). Because of the apostasy that occurred after his death, God simply hid His Work in the world. This is the narrow and constricted Gate, which is difficult to find today!

God the Father and Jesus are working until now (Jn 5:17). They do not keep silent (They make revelations), and do not rest, until the birth of their Nation in one day, ZION (Isa 62:1, Isa 66:7-8)!

* *“When there is no more divine revelation, the people let themselves go...” (Prov 29:18)-BS*

* *“He makes everything good in its time...although man cannot comprehend the work that God does from beginning to end. »(Ecc 3:11)*

* *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. » (Rev 2:7)!*

In the Name of Jesus Christ!

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

Testimony from: Paul Janvier Mbock (COG-avoiceriesout).

See Paul Janvier Mbock's other articles at:

[Mbock, Paul Janvier – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Donor Letter July 29, 2024

(Copyright 07-29-2024) by William P. Goff (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

Hope all of you are well, as we patiently await our Lord's return in this increasingly troubled age in which we are living. Let us praise our Heavenly Father, as your good works continue to glorify Him.

I wanted to send this short letter to inform you that the second school term has now ended. All the orphans who are attending boarding school, are now returning home for a one Month break. They are all doing quite well in school, and they send you their heartfelt thanks for supporting them.

The help that you donors have been giving these orphans (and widows) is quite commendable. I can hear the words that will be coming out of our Lord's mouth when each of you stands before Him. He will be saying: *"well done, good and faithful servant."*

I also need to mention here that once again our funds are "totally" depleted. As I often mention, the needs of our impoverished brethren (especially the orphans and widows) is great. But the laborers (donors) continue to be few.

Please help us if you can. The widows are too old to dig, and the orphans are too young to care for themselves.

Thank You.
Bill Goff

Website: <http://www.khofh.org>

E-mail: goffb50@aol.com

Phone: 843-447-0140

See William P. Goff's other articles at:

[Goff, William P. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Reprinted with permission from: **A Voice in the Wilderness**

<https://khofh.org/>

The Consecration

(Copyright 07-29-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

In my last artical, I asked this question: "Was Donald Trump wounded in the **ear** to allow him to begin to **hear** the voice of God?"

There seemed to be something **symbolic** about Trump's ear wound. After all, we know that God protected Trump's life

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

on that fateful day, July 13th, at Butler, Pennsylvania. God could have kept Donald Trump from any harm, even a flesh wound.

Yet that minor wound, which shed blood, had a profound and spiritual effect on Trump. No matter how important or significant you may think that you are, death is the great equalizer. When you are stone cold dead, you are no different than rotting road-kill on the highway.

Donald Trump says that he wants to serve the people. This is a noble desire which may do much good. However, to best serve the people, a person needs to be willing to do the will of God. To do the will of God, we need to be able to **hear** the voice of God. God's voice is recorded in His Word, the Bible.

Jonathan Cahn just released a video which answers my question and shows what happened with Trump on that day was a type of **consecration** ceremony for priests involving the **right ear**.

Does God care about America? Why did God prevent Trump from serving a second term back in 2020? What was Donald Trump lacking at that time? Some have used the example of Nebuchadnezzar with regard to Donald Trump. See the fourth chapter of Daniel.

Jonathan Cahn's video provides good insight into Trump's near-death experience including the significance of the location. Be sure to view this revealing video for yourself if you haven't already done so.

Here is the link:

Mystery of Trump Assassination Attempt: https://youtu.be/5vKDJ072oVs?si=7D_kA0D0NM01j_X

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:

[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Prayer Update

(Copyright 08-03-2024) by Warren & Sharon Zehrung (Little Rock, Arkansas)

Dear Brethren,

We want to share Sharon's latest whole body CT scan results with you. We last wrote to you in February as Sharon was beginning to recover from her stay in the Critical Care Unit with severe complications. We have good news this time! Her extensive scans now show stable metastasis, with "no evidence of metastatic disease." That means that her therapies are holding the infiltrating cancer in check with no symptoms of spreading to healthy surrounding tissues. It has been nearly three years since we discovered Sharon's very painful incurable breast cancer that had spread throughout her backbone and ribs. Sharon is experiencing no pain or nausea but requires extra rest. Thank you for your continuing sincere prayers as the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous avails much.

With all our love,

Warren and Sharon

See Warren Zehrung's other articles at:

[Zehrung, Warren – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Reprinted with permission from: Sabbath Church of God

<http://childrenofgod.net/>

Can Plants Talk to Each Other?

(Copyright 2023) by Doug Velting (Grand Rapids, Michigan)



At any level of society, communication is essential to a well-run system.

- My wife and I talk about money (or the lack of it), the kids and grandkids, what each of us needs to do that week, and church events.
- All levels of government communicate, setting up numerous meetings, phone calls, and emails.

Nothing would get done without someone talking to someone else. Even animals talk to one another. Wolves howl to keep in touch with other members of the pack; male lions roar to tell other prides to stay in their own territory.

But what about plants?

Can plants talk to each other? God's creation is so amazing that we are just beginning to learn about plant communication. Researchers are discovering that, yes, plants can communicate with one another by means of chemical exchange and more. Plants are stationary; once the seed germinates, the plant stays put.

The problem is that the place the plant grows may not be the best place for it. Diseases are always a problem, and a plant can't run away from those who would like to eat it. God has given plants the ability to cope with these situations by creating them with the ability to warn other plants of danger.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are a common type of chemical signal that is given off by plants. VOCs are small molecules given off as gasses that diffuse in the air surrounding the plant.

Plants that are being eaten, for example, will give off a VOC called methyl jasmonate (MeJA). Once the attacked section releases this gas to other parts of the same plant and the plants surrounding it, it and the neighboring plants activate defense mechanisms. In the case of an insect attack, the plant community will immediately start producing anti-insect toxins to protect itself. Where there is a fungal disease, the plant will produce an anti-fungal compound.

Will these chemical exchanges provide protection in all cases? Well...no. When a bison grazes in Yellowstone National Park, the grass can't do much about it.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

Researchers have found cases in which VOCs can travel underground through the root systems, rather than by air, traveling in much the same way as water and nutrients. This allows the plants to mount a defense against invading fungi and bacteria in the soil by stimulating root cells.

God created different VOCs to warn plant neighbors about dangers, while others help the plant attract useful and beneficial organisms, such as bacteria that convert nitrogen gas from the atmosphere into nutrients.

For example, an infestation of aphids on one plant will cause a chemical exchange to the plants surrounding it, communicating the danger. The attacked plant will produce a chemical compound that will repel aphids and attract aphid-eating wasps. The neighboring plants will "read" that information and do the same.

This is another part of God's creation that scientists are just starting to learn about. Some scientists will give God the glory, while sadly, others will not.

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation, seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. Genesis 1:11

See Doug Velting's other articles at:

[Velting, Doug – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Reprinted with permission from: The Creation Club

<https://thecreationclub.com/>

Peter's Trumpets Message – on Pentecost
(Copyright 2003) by Charles Whitaker (Charlotte, North Carolina)



The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

Joel begins his second chapter by speaking of the Day of the Lord, and he ends it by speaking of the Millennium. God's people look forward to both occasions through the Day of Trumpets and the Feast of Tabernacles, respectively.

Blow the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the LORD is coming, for it is at hand: A day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, like the morning clouds spread over the mountains ...

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (Joel 2:1-2, 28-32)

Joel is certainly speaking of the events immediately before the Millennium, the "blood and fire" of the day of God's wrath, followed by the widespread availability of His Holy Spirit as the Millennium starts. Why, then, does Peter relate Joel's words to Pentecost? As he says, "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel" (Acts 2:16). Inebriation had nothing to do with it, the apostle asserts, as he begins his extended quotation of Joel 2:28-32, cited above.

Peter's comments are a "first" in several respects. They appear near the start of his very first sermon, of which there would be many more. They come in the very first sermon in the newly founded church of God, and there would be many, many more of these as well. In fact, they represent the very first time Old Testament scripture is quoted in a sermon by any apostle—ever.

For all that, however, this "first" is puzzling! What did Peter see in Joel's apocalyptic prophecy that made him think of Pentecost? Admittedly, Pentecost's "divided tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3) may have brought Joel's description of fire and smoke to his mind. And, yes, about fifty days earlier, the sun had darkened on the Passover afternoon of Christ's death. However, had the moon turned into blood then or on the day Peter preached? Where was the "blood and fire and pillars of smoke" of which Joel speaks? Perhaps most importantly, did God pour His Spirit "on all flesh" on Pentecost, AD 31? Why did God inspire Peter to quote Joel in this context?

The Pentecost Miracle

To understand why Peter connected the events on that Pentecost with Joel's prophecy, we must notice two things about the miracle of Pentecost: its *nature* and its *participants*.

The Miracle's Nature: *The miracle temporarily "healed" the ailment God imposed at Babel.* There, God divided the languages of mankind, inflicting on humanity an impediment to communication (see Genesis 11:1-9). Suddenly, relationships became much more difficult to establish and maintain. Noah's progeny scattered.

Communication is a two-way street involving a *source* and a *receiver*. These are what we call the speaker and the hearer, respectively. By changing the speaker and hearer, the miracle brought the source and receiver together, where normally they would remain distant. The disciples spoke languages in which they were untutored. Their audience members heard the disciples "speak in his own language" (Acts 2:6). Communication occurred.

As miracles go, this is a strange one. It did not involve healing the blind, deaf, or lame *en masse* or the wholesale casting out of demons. Compared to the plagues God sent on Egypt or Jesus' raising of Lazarus from the dead, the Pentecost miracle was not dramatic. Nevertheless, we will see that it was significant.

The Miracle's Participants: *The miracle involved Jewish speakers of a substandard dialect and Gentile hearers from around the world.* The disciples were Galileans. By virtue of the distance separating them from Jerusalem, Galileans spoke a different dialect of Aramaic than that spoken in Jerusalem. Like many dialects, linguists call theirs a "shibboleth," a term they get from Judges 12:6. A shibboleth is a speech pattern that identifies the speaker's background. In the disciples' case, it marked them to be what the Jerusalem leadership considered uneducated and low class.

As an analogy, one could compare the Galilean dialect to "cockney" English—also a shibboleth. The dons of Oxbridge

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

look down on those "unfortunate" enough to speak cockney. That is how the effete Jewish elite in Jerusalem reacted to the Galilean dialect. Everyone who heard the disciples knew they were from Galilee. Their audience was dumbfounded that these untutored fellows could fluently speak other languages:

Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God. ([Acts 2:7-11](#))

Notice that they mention "Jews *and* proselytes." The cosmopolitan audience was not composed merely of Jews who had traveled from abroad for the holy day but also of *Gentiles* converted to Judaism—that is, proselytes. Unlike typical Jews today, pre-Diaspora Jews (before AD 70) were dedicated missionaries. Christ Himself refers to their evangelistic zeal: "You travel land and sea to win one proselyte" ([Matthew 23:15](#)). Over the years, the Jews—like evangelicals today—had carried their religion everywhere. Paul preached the gospel in synagogue after synagogue throughout the Roman Empire. There were also synagogues in the Parthian Empire, and when he served God in Babylon, Peter certainly frequented them. Judaism had reached the Far East by Christ's time and perhaps even the distant West.

The Pentecost miracle was one of *language*. It showed Peter what Pentecost was all about: *God had enabled communication between Himself and mankind*. He had made it possible to build a relationship between God and man and also between man and man. Even if human civilization had reached the end of its rope—suffering the judgment of God, as Joel apocalyptically describes it—"whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" ([Acts 2:21](#)).

Most importantly, Peter understood that this new level of communication *included* the Gentiles. This is why Joel's words struck home to him on the Day of Pentecost. He knew the word "whoever" included the Gentiles scattered about in the audience. He preached good news to them: They now had access to God's salvation.

Notice Peter's concluding comments to his sermon that day. In answer to the people's query, "What are we to do?" the apostle replies:

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call. ([Acts 2:38-39](#))

Gentiles, those "who are afar off," could be "among the remnant whom the LORD calls" ([Joel 2:32](#)).

Servants to the Gentiles

[Joel 2:28-31](#) offers *hope* to the Gentiles. Joel was not alone in writing of that hope. The prophet Isaiah speaks of the coming of a "Servant" who will raise up the remnant of Israel and serve "as a light to the Gentiles . . . to the ends of the earth."

And now the LORD says, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel is gathered to Him (for I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and My God shall be My strength), indeed He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth." ([Isaiah 49:5-6](#))

The reference to Christ as God's Servant here is reminiscent of [Acts 2:18](#) (and [Joel 2:29](#)), where God says He will pour out His Spirit "on My menservants and on My maidservants." Those in God's New Testament church act as God's servants under Christ, the Head of the church, to preach the gospel "in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" ([Matthew 24:14](#)). Only about thirty verses later, in [Matthew 24:45-51](#), Jesus again makes use of the servant metaphor, this time in the Parable of the Faithful and Evil Servants. The working servant is rewarded at Christ's return, but the evil one, convinced that "My master is delaying His coming," finds himself "cut . . . in two."

Christ's Ministry of Light

Centuries after Isaiah wrote those words of hope, another of God's servants speaks of Christ as a light to the Gentiles.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

Simeon, recognizing the infant Jesus as God's Anointed, exclaims:

Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32)

Christ would eventually serve as a light to the Gentiles. While Simeon does not quote Isaiah directly, he was certainly familiar with Isaiah 49 as well as Isaiah 8 and 9.

In these two early chapters of Isaiah, the prophet also shows Christ as a light to the Gentiles. Lurking in them is the rhetoric of Joel—the darkness, the shadow of death, yet afterward, just as in Joel, hope shines through.

To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. . . . Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom and anguish; and they will be driven into darkness. Nevertheless, the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. (Isaiah 8:20, 22; 9:1-2)

Isaiah wrote *after* the fall of Israel to Assyria. The Assyrians' attack on the land of Zebulun and Naphtali, in the northern part of Israel, came in two waves. The first "distress" resulted in the deportation of some Israelites. The second oppression was much heavier, resulting in the deportation of virtually everyone. Then, the Assyrians imported *Gentile* peoples to the area of Zebulun and Naphtali, the area of Galilee. Their descendants—the Samaritans—heavily populated Galilee in Christ's day.

Christ was reared in Galilee, where small enclaves of Jews lived among many Gentiles. Matthew, writing of the start of Christ's ministry, writes:

Now when Jesus heard that John [the Baptist] had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; the people who sat in darkness saw a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:12-17)

It was in the *Gentile* area of Galilee—not in Jewish Jerusalem to the south—where Christ *began* His ministry of light. In Romans 11:11, Paul asserts that "salvation has come to the Gentiles." Peter, in citing Joel in his first sermon, understands the Gentiles to be *spiritually* "in the region and shadow of death," in deep darkness, with clouds obscuring their vision of God's salvation. He relates Joel to Pentecost because, on that day, God spread apart those clouds to allow the light of His salvation to reach the Gentiles, dispelling their gloom. What happened in Acts 2 gave the Gentiles the *hope* to build a relationship with the God of salvation. The hope of the Gentiles becomes the theme of the book of Acts, as seen, for example,

- » in the preaching by Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8);
- » in the work by Peter with Cornelius and his family (Acts 10); and
- » in Paul's ministry to the Gentiles in every city he visited. God called Paul "to bear My name before Gentiles" (Acts 9:15). Chapters 11 through 28 of Acts relates how Paul did that.

Christ: the Hope of the Gentiles

As the passages in Isaiah (and elsewhere) indicate, God did not "remember" the Gentiles by way of an afterthought. He planned to offer them salvation early on. How early? Genesis 12 records the call of Abraham (then called Abram) and the first of God's many promises to him. God tells the patriarch,

Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you,

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
August 10, 2024 --- Issue No. 184

and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. ([Genesis 12:1-3](#))

God remembers the Gentiles when He calls Abraham, promising that every nation, "all the families of the earth," will be blessed in the blessings of Abraham. Paul, "the apostle to the Gentiles" ([Romans 11:13](#)), carries the thought to its conclusion when he asserts that the line demarcating Jew and Gentile disappears in Christ: "[T]here is neither Jew nor Greek; . . . for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" ([Galatians 3:28-29](#)).

It is no accident that the events of Pentecost, AD 31, introduce the book of Acts. God uses the linguistic miracle to indicate the broad-based *hope* the Gentiles now have in Christ. God had enabled a hitherto closed communication channel between God and man—as well as between man and man. The gulfs separating God and mankind—and man and man—were now bridgeable. "On earth peace, goodwill toward men" ([Luke 2:14](#)), of which the heavenly host had sung, was now attainable. God displayed His ability to reverse the effects of Babel.

Communication between God and mankind. Paul, writing to the Ephesian church, makes it clear that the hope promised in the Old Testament to the Gentiles came *with* Christ. The result is that they can become members of God's household—His Family.

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ. . . . Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. ([Ephesians 2:11-13, 19](#))

Communication between man and man. Pentecost also teaches us about the power God gives us to bridge the gap between human beings. Individuals led by God's Spirit become related to each other because they "are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Paul summarizes the relationship near the end of Romans. Notice, incidentally, that Paul refers here to Christ as a servant:

Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles and sing to Your name." And again, he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" And again: "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; and He shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope." ([Romans 15:7-12](#))

Christ *will* eventually "reign over the Gentiles." At that time, He will finish the work He started at Pentecost, complete the work that Pentecost merely presages. The prophet Zephaniah prophesies that God will eventually reverse Babel's linguistically divisive effect: "I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord" ([Zephaniah 3:9](#)).

Note the plural: peoples. To "all the families of the earth," God will open the communication channel by which they, as Joel and Peter agree, may "call on the name of the LORD." Then, they will be, as at that time of Pentecost, AD 31, "with one accord" (see [Acts 1:14](#); [2:46](#); [4:24](#); [5:12](#)).

Paul concludes in [Romans 15:13](#): "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." The miracle of that Pentecost day gives "whoever calls on the name of the LORD"—Gentile and Israelite alike—"joy and peace" because of the hope all share through God's Spirit.

See Charles Whitaker's other articles at:
[Whitaker, Charles – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Reprinted with permission from: Church of the Great God
<https://www.cgg.org/>

The Proverbs 31 Woman (Copyright) by David Antion (Pasadena, California)

"Who can find a noble wife" (v. 10)? The word "virtuous" in the King James is better translated "noble" as it is also in Proverbs 12:4 where it talks about a wife of "noble character." That wife, in Proverbs 12:4 is a crown to her husband, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones – undermines his very foundation (Proverbs. 12:4).

The worth of the Proverbs 31 woman cannot be estimated because it surpasses precious jewels (Proverbs 31:10).

Here is the description of the ideal wife, mother and woman. Note that there are no bodily measurements; no comments about her figure or how she looks in a bathing suit. The focus is totally on her character and on her actions.

We see a picture of a woman who is industrious (works willingly with her hands, rises up early, her lamp doesn't go out by night). See verses 13 and 15.

She is trustworthy. The heart of her husband trusts in her and she does him good not harm all her days (vs. 11-12). She is merciful (v. 20 she opens her hand to the poor and reaches out to the needy). She is strong. She girds her loins with strength, and she makes her arms strong (v. 17).

And she is alert and forward looking. She looks well to the ways of her household, and she prepares for winter (vs. 21). She is also confident in that she knows her merchandise is profitable (v.18). She is kind (the teaching of kindness is on her tongue (you find the verse).

She is also talented (she makes coverings for herself and belts and linen garments). She is wise (she opens her mouth with wisdom).

She is definitely entrepreneurial (she is like merchant ships, sees a field and buys it, plants a vineyard).

There is one other quality that this woman has that is not immediately apparent – that is balance. This woman has achieved the appropriate balance between caring for her family and her self-interests and the interests of others. Her family is well taken care of (v. 27) while at the same time she is earning wealth (v. 18).

Some are never at home and the Bible enjoins married mothers to be "keepers at home." But there is a balance. This woman takes care of home and her job so to speak.

Another factor that can be seen is her respectability. She has taught her children and helped them, and they have respect for her. They "rise up and call her blessed." With all her duties she has never neglected them.

Her husband praises her. She has enhanced his standing in the community (find the verse). She was wise enough to choose a husband who was secure in himself and who is not in competition with her.

Verse 30 rightly says that charm can be deceitful, and beauty passes away (vain), but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. This last statement verifies the first few verses: "The fear of the Eternal is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7)!

To highlight how outstanding this woman is, this portrait of the ideal woman was written in acrostic poetry. Each verse starts with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet as from "a to z".

But for such a woman to exist there must also be the Proverbs 31 man as a compliment to her. Each helps the other into the ideal partnership – a beautiful marriage.

See David Antion's other articles at:

Antion, David – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Reprinted with permission from: Guardian Ministries

<http://daveantion.com/>

Iron Sharpening Iron

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: Where is God's Work Today?

Article by Paul Janvier Mbock
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

We do not teach church eras, it is not in scripture.

There are a few scattered statements in this article which may be true if taken by themselves, but in context are more or less the writer's opinion.

I don't believe you understand prophecy well enough to be teaching it.

In regard to: Where is God's Work Today?

Article by Paul Janvier Mbock
Comments by Darwin Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Lots of scriptures, not sure they tie in with his version of prophecy.

Holy Days 2024

Passover – April 23, 2024 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024

Pentecost – June 12, 2024

Trumpets - October 3, 2024

Atonement – October 12, 2024

Tabernacles –October 17, 2024, to October 23, 2024

Last Great Day – October 24, 2024

Notes