

## **A Bride Prepared (Chapter 7)**

(Copyright) by Warren Zehring  
(Little Rock, Arkansas)

PAGE 2 **Article**

### **Has God Spared Donald Trump for a Reason?**

(Copyright 09-26-2024) by Eddie Hyatt  
(Grapevine, Texas)

PAGE 4 **Article**

### **Will there be better times, or what? Signs of hope**

(Copyright 10-02-2024)  
by Curtis Dahlgren  
(Stephenson, Michigan)

PAGE 6 **Article**

### **Missiles in Prophecy**

(Copyright 10-01-2024)  
by Dwight Fleming  
(Oroville, California)

PAGE 7 **Article**

### **What is God's Amazing Favor?**

(Copyright) by Bill Hillebrenner  
(Matthews, North Carolina)

PAGE 8 **Article**

### **New Items Uploaded to the Friends of the Sabbath Website**

(Copyright 09-28-2024) by Craig M. White  
(Australia)

PAGE 9 **Article**

### **I Will Not Be Silent**

(Copyright 2017) by Brenda Branson  
(Hanson, Kentucky)

PAGE 10 **Article**

### **Healing Humanity**

(Copyright 09-28-2024)  
Sent by Laura Lee  
(Bismarck, ND)

PAGE 11 **Article**

### **Kenya Update – October 1, 2024**

(Copyright 10-01-2024)  
by William P. Goff  
(Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

PAGE 11 **Article**

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**October 12, 2024 --- Issue No. 193**

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**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:** Brenda Branson, Curtis Dahlgren, Dwight Fleming, William P. Goff, Bill Hillebrenner, Eddie Hyatt, Laura Lee, Craig M. White, Warren Zehrung

**Websites:**

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**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.

## A Bride Prepared (Chapter 7)

(Copyright) by Warren Zehrung (Little Rock, Arkansas)

**[Chapter 7: A Good Marriage](#)**

***A Bride Prepared***

**A Good Marriage**

A good marriage is a beautiful thing – a Godly thing with deep and transcendent meaning for the entire Church of God. That is why it is so important to continuously build on our marriages all of our lives. A good marriage is a close, unified relationship between a man and a woman. It was God who instituted the marriage covenant between a man and a woman. God brought about the marriage covenant for a vitally important reason. From Genesis to Revelation, God uses the intimacy and love between a man and his wife to reflect the deeply *spiritual relationship* between Jesus Christ and His Bride.

“Just you and me Lord,” is not the kind of relationship that we are to have with our God. God designed man to be interactive with others in a spiritual way – *it is not good that man should be alone*. (Genesis 2:18) The apostle Peter explains that our eternal life depends, not only on our relationship with God, but also on how we relate to our spouse, and with our Church brethren.

In His infinite wisdom, God gave the married couple the creative ability to bring children into the world as an exact type of His eternal plan of bringing many sons and daughters to glory – imbued with eternal life. God is reproducing Himself, and there is no more appropriate picture of His grand design than the family relationship. As Jesus presided at the very

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**October 12, 2024 --- Issue No. 193**

first wedding, He said, *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be **one flesh**.”* (Genesis 2:24) God intends and expects that marriage be the epitome of perfect unity.

God intends that a married couple enter into the Kingdom of God together. That is what Peter means by, *“being heirs **together** of the grace of life.”* Discord or conflict within a marriage impairs, not only the relationship between husband and wife, but also obstructs and frustrates a right spiritual relationship with God. Peter expounds on this concept: *“Likewise, you husbands, dwell with [your wife] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs **together** of the grace of life; that your **prayers be not hindered**.”* (1 Peter 3:7) What does it mean, *“that your prayers be not hindered”* – how are prayers hindered?

Peter continues, *“Finally, be you all **of one mind**, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.”* (1 Peter 3:8) A serious marital problem arises when a husband and wife can no longer share their deepest feelings and heartfelt concerns with one another in an honest way. They are no longer **of one mind**, and their prayers to God are not in harmony. An untenable situation comes about when the individual partners assert their reconciliation with God, but not with each other. The *oneness* of the marital union is strained to the breaking point, and God cannot, and will not, bless that kind of discord because the primary unity of the marriage is missing.

Instead of being heirs **together** of the Kingdom of God, the situation has become reversed. Peter’s point is that when the intended unity and oneness of a marriage relationship breaks down, the parties become separated from one another and then lack the oneness to *be heirs together of the grace of life*. A person’s prayers are, therefore, hindered, frustrated, and cut-off from God – there is a spiritual disconnection from God – because the individual parties are, in effect, asking God to bless only a *part* of a marriage that should be unified.

It is the same situation with the Body of Christ – the Church. Our prayers to God cannot be right when our rapport with other brethren is not right. Can we pray and ask God to disregard a part of the Body of Christ? No, we cannot. It is confusion. *If a man say, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar: for he that does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?* (1 John 4:20)

### **One Church**

In the same way that a husband and wife are meant to *be heirs together of the grace of life*, all members of the Body of Christ are meant to be *heirs together of the grace of life*. *“The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and **joint heirs with Christ**; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.”* (Romans 8:16-17) *“Being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of **eternal life**.”* (Titus 3:7)

The husband is the head of the wife – who is the weaker vessel. That is an exact picture of Jesus Christ and His Bride – the Church of God. Jesus is the head of the Church – we know that. But do we realize that we – the Church brethren – are the **weaker vessel**? And yet, Jesus made it possible for us to be joint heirs with Him in the Kingdom of God when He laid down His life for us.

The scriptures are clear about our relationships with each other. God hates divorce because it tears at the very fabric and basis of family and community. In precisely the same way, God abhors division among those in His Church. Reconciliation is our duty. More than that, our responsibility to reconcile with each other even supersedes our religious worship. Notice the words of Jesus Christ, *“If you bring your gift to the altar, and there you remember that your brother has anything against you; Leave there your gift before the altar and go your way; **first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.**”* (Matthew 5:23-24)

In the same way that quarrels between marriage partners are spiritually harmful because they impede their prayers; offenses between Church brethren also frustrate and encumber a right relationship with God. Most members underestimate the seriousness of severed relationships between brethren. Until such a time that the camaraderie among brethren is restored – **prayers are hindered**. Let us keep the big picture here. The Bride that Christ is going to marry will be made up of all the reconciled brethren in the Church – those who are ardently working to restore and maintain right relations among all the brethren. The Bride that Christ marries will have learned to make peace and reconciliation a way of life. Keep in mind that both husbands and wives will make up the Bride of Christ.

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**October 12, 2024 --- Issue No. 193**

The worst pain is that of betrayal. Jesus Christ has experienced betrayal. His marriage to the Bride will be exemplified by the faithfulness and loyalty of those who have learned to make peace. In the millennium, Christ's marriage to the Church will not be a troubled marriage because His Bride will have **made herself ready** by practicing the skills of reconciliation. That is why it is so necessary at this time for husbands and wives to learn how to live together in love, respect, and harmony. God's Spirit dictates that Church brethren possess this same unity of the Spirit – making them one. They, too, must be unified because Jesus and His Bride will have a good marriage.

See Warren Zehrung's other articles at:

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

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## Has God Spared Donald Trump for a Reason?

(Copyright 09-26-2024) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



Is Donald Trump being shielded and protected by God? Many believe he is, and so does he. In a [recent speech](#), he said, "And God has spared my life." He then paused and looking heavenward said, "It must have been God; thank You, not once but twice."

It is not far-fetched to think that God has spared Trump from the assassins' bullets. If God does have a strategic role for Trump to play in America at this time, then we should expect both a demonically inspired hatred toward him and God's providential protection.

The Bible is filled with accounts of God delivering his people from those who would do them harm. History is also filled with accounts of people praising God for providentially sparing their lives. One of those was none other than George Washington, America's first president.

### **Washington Providentially Protected**

As a young man of 23, Washington was recruited by the British General Braddock to be a guide for the British in their trek through the wilderness to take Fort Duquesne from the French and Indians. Braddock recruited him because of his knowledge of the ways of the wilderness and the American Indians.

Washington had acquired this knowledge in his work as a surveyor of wilderness territory. However, he found his advice

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**October 12, 2024 --- Issue No. 193**

for traveling through the wilderness and dealing with the Indians ignored by Braddock who considered him a young, upstart colonist.

But when an ambush occurred and Braddock himself was wounded, Washington took charge and organized an orderly retreat while at the same time putting his own life at risk, rescuing the many wounded and placing them in wagons.

During this time, two horses were shot out from under him and his clothes were shredded with bullets. He emerged unscathed and gave glory to God, saying, "I was saved by the miraculous care of Providence that saved me beyond human expectation."

**God’s Protection Confirmed**

Fifteen years later, in 1770, Washington had a cordial visit with an old Indian chief who was on the opposite side in that battle. In the meeting, the old chief told Washington and those present how they were supernaturally thwarted from killing him. Gesturing toward Washington, he said to those present,

Our rifles were leveled—rifles which, but for him, knew not how to miss. Twas all in vain; a power far mightier than we shielded him from harm . . . The Great Spirit protects that man and guides his destinies. He will become chief of nations, and a people yet to be born will hail him the founder of a mighty nation (Hyatt, *America’s Revival Heritage (Second Edition)*, 73).

Indeed, there were so many providential incidents of protection surrounding Washington that his reputation in this regard was spread abroad. For example, the Lutheran pastor, Henry Muhlenberg, whose church was situated next to Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War, said of Washington,

It appears that the Lord God has singularly, yea marvelously, preserved him in the midst of countless perils . . . and hath hitherto held him in His hand as His chosen vessel (Hyatt, *1726: The Year that Defined America*, 115).

**God is Not Finished with America, with Donald Trump, or with You**

Only God can save America, but He uses people, and I am convinced that He has a strategic role for Trump to play in this regard. The Church must play the primary role for only an Awakened Church can restore morality, reason, and common sense to our corrupted culture. "If My people . . ." is still Heaven’s condition for national healing.

Trump is important in a secondary political role for he is probably the only politician at this time with the courage to stand up to the woke mob and Marxist radicals who are bent on fundamentally transforming America. I will, therefore, continue to pray for Divine protection for Trump and I will vote for him in November.

Not only Trump, but God has spared all our lives in ways we do not know, because He still has need of us. Let us, therefore, stand strong in our faith and continue to pray for another Great Awakening to roll across this land like a giant tsunami wave. He has spared us all for a reason--His reason! America's future is at stake and I am convinced that we have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.

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**See Eddie Hyatt’s other articles at:**

**[Hyatt, Eddie – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org)**

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**Have a Great Sabbath!**

## Will there be better times, or what? Signs of hope (Copyright 10-02-2024) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

A LOOK BACK AT MY FIRST COLUMN OF 2024 (based on my last column of 2022):

The theme of Psalm 22 is an awakening (*genuine* wokeness). The theme of Psalm 23 is the fruits of such a turn-around. "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not lack. He leadeth me beside the still waters and the greener pastures." America has had two Great Awakenings, in the 1700s and 1800s; could the third time be the charm? Could it spread from here around the world? We can't force it to happen, but with the Lord, missions impossible are just a snap of the finger. His holy Word predicts the turning of the hearts of the children to their forefathers, the turning of the hearts of the people to the hearts of the children (not excluding the *beating* hearts of the unborn). There will be a great short work, a "strange work," a Work people wouldn't believe even if it were told them, that was promised for a time of uncertainty. **Why not NOW?**

**That's my theory, short and sweet: 2022 could be a time of attitude adjustments, and 2023 could be the "best of times" ("The Lord preparest a Feast for us in the presence of our enemies").**

A little over five weeks after that column was published, there was a revival in Kentucky, the region that saw the Second Great Awakening: It began on February eighth as a normal church service. University leaders and students say after the gospel choir sang at the end of the service; some students just stayed in the chapel. Word about the marathon service quickly spread when worshipers shared videos on TikTok and Instagram. Spurred by the posts, tens of thousands of people from around the country came to attend what many of the participants are calling a revival. [#asburyuniversity](#) [#revival](#) [#scrippsnews](#)

### **Kentucky university's church service turns into days-long prayer revival**

There has also been an under-the-radar revival going on all year on social media. For example, my Facebook page has 5,000 friends and 415 followers. Even people who don't listen to talk radio are waking up to the economic realities of their daily lives. The real question is, is it too late, barring an absolute miracle?

**By the way, Facebook just now shut down my account for "violating community standards." My post was about one made by a friend. I'll have to paraphrase it. He says it's "time to check the plumb line" in America, because the situation is urgent, not normal.**

**Crime. Protesters blocking roads. One party trying to take their opponent off the ballot. Trying to put him in prison, Castro-style. Higher education is a joke. More student loans forgiven. The border is a sieve. A humanitarian crisis, thanks to the same party and Uncle Joe. Someone said that whoever is controlling him is the worst President in American history. And history isn't being taught anymore in public schools. It has been replaced by Diversity, Inclusion, Equity (DIE). In other words, victimology, which leads to more hatred, not better "outcomes."**

**P.S** The friend whose post I mentioned says it IS too late! Not to cry wolf, but the Bible warns that when the Lord's patience is exhausted, He won't even listen to your prayers anymore, or at least the prayers of the general population. We may be right on the bubble. The scale is precariously balanced. The American experiment could go in the septic tank of history like so many other great nations have gone, unless a few more people wake up.

**PPS:** It is when "good" people do nothing that evil triumphs.

See Curtis Dahlgren's other articles at:

[Dahlgren, Curtis – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](#)

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<http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/dahlgren/220131>

## Missiles in Prophecy

(Copyright 10-01-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

Israel came under another missile attack from Iran today. Thank God that most of them were shot down. As I watched the video of the attack, something occurred to me.

Weren't these missile attacks mentioned in the Bible?

During the Great Tribulation, things will get so bad that all life would be destroyed if not for God's intervention to cut short the destructive force of nuclear weapons (Matthew 24:21-22).

And how will those nuclear weapons be launched against an enemy? As we all know, through the use of missiles. And when a missile descends to earth with its deadly explosive, whether nuclear or conventional, what does it look like?

It looks like a **falling star!!!**

"And when I saw the Lamb open the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon turned blood red. And the STARS of heaven **fell** unto the earth, as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a mighty wind" (Revelation 6:12-13).

Could this be describing a future nuclear missile battle between two enemies that will bring about the destruction of all life if God doesn't intervene?

Very possibly. The great earthquake could be caused by nuclear explosions resulting in much dust thrown up into the atmosphere to darken the sun in some regions and the moon to turn blood red in other regions of the earth. The stars falling to the earth could very well be flying missiles with their bright rocket flames making them visible in the sky as they descend to earth.

But then God intervenes to stop this madness for the sake of His Elect. Notice:

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains ..." (Revelation 6:14-15).

What on earth will freak everyone out to the point that they want to hide in caves? Could it be a second sun which would only be a natural celestial phenomenon that everyone sees every day? It must be something that they have never before seen but were warned about by the Two Witnesses. Continue:

"... and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the **face** of Him who sits on the **throne**, and from the **wrath** of the Lamb. For the great day of His wrath has come and who is able to stand?'" (Revelation 6:16-17).

When this future event happens, all the doubters and naysayers will melt. No more will the question of the existence of God be an issue. God Himself will win that argument!

And what does God's heavenly throne sit over? God's throne (mercy seat) on the earth in the tabernacle and later in the temple sat over the **ark of the covenant** which contained the ten commandments and other mementos. See Exodus 25:9-22. So, will the heavenly ark that God's throne sits over also be seen? See Revelation 11:19.

It looks like things are heating up in the Middle East. This short video will show the missiles launched today against Israel. Notice how they look similar to a falling star when a meteor enters our atmosphere.

Missile Attack: <https://youtu.be/10IWqf7CYEY?si=XMU9piooq5aXKcom>

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

## What is God's Amazing Favor? (Copyright) by Bill Hillebrenner (Matthews, North Carolina)

What is God's favor? Why are people confused over the meaning of His grace? Why does God extend his favor to mankind and especially Christians?

Many religious people talk about grace or sing songs about it. They usually know that it and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17) and that by it we are saved (Ephesians 2:5, 8). Sadly, few people can explain what grace is! A straightforward definition of God's grace is best understood by using the word "favor" in its place.

### Why the confusion?

Perhaps the greatest reason why the word grace is often misunderstood is that it is rarely if ever used by people, unlike favor, in their everyday lives. The lack of its use in "the real world" leads folks to be ignorant regarding what it actually means. This was not the intention of the New Testament writers! They wrote in Koine Greek, which is the Greek used by the average person in the first century. They did this so that the widest possible audience at the time could comprehend what they wrote.

### Understanding the word

We derive the KJV New Testament word "grace" from the Greek *charis* (Strong's #G5485). *Charis*, however, can also be translated as "favor" as it is in Luke 1:30, 2:52, Acts 2:47, 7:10, 46 and 25:3. Using this word, in many Biblical verses, allows an accurate and more understandable meaning of God's word to come through.

People are favored for a variety of reasons such as who they are and what they do. For example, the Bible states that Jesus, "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). He was favored because he was the Son of God and because he did many miracles. Mary, likewise, was blessed to bare him, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God" (Luke 1:30).

### Why give it to man?

God did not favor, with justification, the angels who sinned and therefore did not offer them sonship (Hebrews 1:5, 2:6 - 10). He gave preference to man because we are made in his image!

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God . . . (1John 3:1, KJV throughout).

Those who do not believe that man is made in God's image cannot understand why we are favored with justification for our past sins.

The second reason we receive favor (grace) is because we have the Father's Holy Spirit in us and leading us to keep the commandments in their spirit and intent (1Peter 1:22). In fact, if we, as Christians, obey our Creator and endure persecution we can receive more of it over time!

. . . but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable (Greek *charis*, favor) with God (1Peter 2:20).

By keeping the commandments, we stay in God's favor and grow in knowledge. He watches over us as any good Father



**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**October 12, 2024 --- Issue No. 193**

watches over his children (Matthew 5:48, 1Peter 3:12, 5:10 - 12, 1John 3:10). He even chastens us if we get too far out of line (Hebrews 12:6 - 8). True Christians are under amazing favor from God!

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**See Bill Hillebrenner's other articles at:**

**Hillebrenner, Bill – The "New" Church of God Messenger ([church-of-god-bismarck.org](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org))**  
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## New Items Uploaded to the Friends of the Sabbath Website

(Copyright 09-28-2024) by Craig M. White (Australia)

The member who took 100s of photographs of these documents (many released months ago and more to be released and uploaded from the 1920s & 1930s in due course) is thanked for all he has done for this valuable project. I know that all of you are grateful too – it could not have been done if it were not for his self-sacrifice and efforts – he took several trips spending many hours taking these photographs and hours travelling to and from the institution. Our prayers for this crucial information to be made available have been answered!

It is amazing how he and I came into contact – God works in mysterious and circuitous ways at times and to Him goes the thanks and glory in all we do.

But I ask you to join me in praying for the following to be found and made available to us:

- Late 1800s/early 1900s Church of God (seventh day) booklets and tracts
- Ministerial conference materials (handouts, notes, agendas) 1950s-1990s
- Ernest Martin's paper on Pentecost (1961)
- Videos of evangelist's sermons, AC lectures, Bible studies (especially Herman Hoeh)
- 'Ministerial Letter' from the 1960s (precursor to The Bulletin and PGR)
- A long list of what is needed can be found [here](#)

The list below of what has been uploaded to the site this week is not exhaustive:

- [Mrs Loma Armstrong. Handmaid and Servant of God](#)
- [WCG Statistics 1982\(members, countries, highest ranking ministers, Org chart with names, USA congregations\)](#)
- [1972 Ministerial Conference Notes; and 1973 Ministerial Conference Notes](#)
- [Stavrinides to HWA \(McNair questioned his baptism – shows that McNair had some insights\), 27July1971](#)
- [HWA letters to Basil Wolverton \(1940/50s\)](#)
- [Original Church Organization Restored](#)
- [Tithing article draft \(early 1930s\)](#)
- [Bible Study Quarterly. The KingdomChurch of God; and Expositor-Conversion1972-D&R- HWA, 24April1972\(page 1 missing\)](#)
- [1973-Ernest Martin Memo re D&R 8Feb1973](#)
- [What if Christ's Apostle is removed? \(1980\)](#)
- [Radio Church of God Constitution \(1946\)](#). Prior to that I only had a retyped copy on the site

Many documents you may not have seen are [here](#). And you can find these items here and also scattered in other places such as [Ministerial Resources](#) or [History of WCG documents](#).

In the HWA letters from the 1930s (yet to be released), the following themes stand out:

- Heavy-handedness/abuse by some ministers
- Holy Days should be accepted by the Church of God (Seventh Day) based at Salem, West Virginia

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**October 12, 2024 --- Issue No. 193**

- Unity of doctrine around the 40 points that Andrew Dugger formulated
- Proclaiming a huge outreach – the Third Angel’s Warning to the world. As I have written before, this evolved into the Ezekiel Warning Message to the House of Israel in the end-times by 1941

Of course, many other issues or news may be found therein.

Warm regards to all recipients,

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See Craig White’s other articles at:

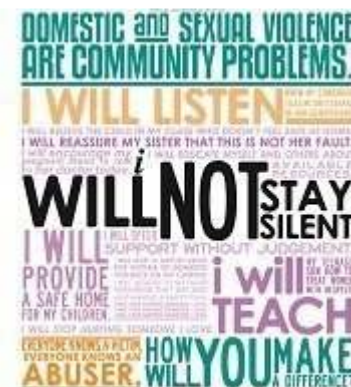
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## **I Will Not Be Silent** (Copyright 2017) by Brenda Branson (Hanson, Kentucky)



“Wives don’t be silent when your husbands become verbally or physically violent toward you. Part of the abuser’s power comes from secrecy!

Abusive behavior continues because it works! Fear of further harm and/or death intimidates victims into remaining silent and enduring it.

Many victims make excuses for their abusers because it is embarrassing to admit there is a problem. Still others remain silent because of economic hardships.

It takes real courage to speak up because the consequences are real and certain. However, remaining silent should never be an option.” –BB

Excerpt from article “Will You Be The One?” published by Trevco Designs, 1998

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See Brenda Bransons other articles at:

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

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## Healing Humanity

(Copyright 09-28-2024) Sent by Laura Lee (Bismarck, ND)

While most doctors have big hearts and genuinely want to help, many have been misled. It's a shame and an embarrassment that so many people are being failed by our healthcare system. Instead of treating the root cause, people are given pills that only mask the symptoms. What does it say about our broken system when individuals are ONLY finding healing not from their doctors, but from YouTubers?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SZb5K19idU>

See Laura Lee's other articles at:  
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## Kenya Update – October 1, 2024

(Copyright 10-01-2024) by William P. Goff (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

Greetings Brethren,

The October 1, 2024, update is now posted at: [KHOFH – Kenya Hands of Hope](http://KHOFH)



KHOFH – Kenya Hands of Hope

Thank you.  
Bill Goff

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)

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<https://khofh.org/>

## 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