

## Long Range Weapons

(Copyright 11-17-20204)  
by James Steinle  
(Swanville, Minnesota)

PAGE 3

## How Socialism Almost Destroyed the Pilgrims

(Copyright 11-22-2024) by Eddie Hyatt  
(Grapevine, Texas)

PAGE 4

## The Vision that Drew the Pilgrims to America

(Copyright 11-22-2024) by Eddie Hyatt  
(Grapevine, Texas)

PAGE 6

## War and peace

(Copyright 11-23-2024)  
by Curtis Dahlgren  
(Stephenson, Michigan)

PAGE 8

## Judged by What Books?

(Copyright 11-23-2024) by Gary C. Miller  
(Pocahontas, Arkansas)

PAGE 9

## Who is a Messenger of God?

(Copyright 11-24-2024) by Rod Reynolds  
(Wentzville, Missouri)

PAGE 10

## The Remarkable Kiwi Bird

(Copyright 11-25-2024) by Doug Velting  
(Grand Rapids, Michigan)

PAGE 11

## November 26, 2024

### Kenya Update

(Copyright 11-26-2024)  
by William P. Goff  
(Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)

PAGE 12

## A Bride Prepared (Chapter 18)

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

PAGE 13

## Respectfully Yours,

(Copyright 2024) by James R. Steinle  
(Swanville, Minnesota)

PAGE 14

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**December 28, 2024 --- Issue No. 204**

**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](mailto:the-church-of-god-messenger@hotmail.com)

[church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com](mailto: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:** Curtis Dahlgren, William P. Goff, Eddie Hyatt, Gary C. Miller, Rod Reynolds, James Steinle, Doug Velting, Warren Zehrung

**Websites:**

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

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

## Commentary:

Hi Everyone,

We have a ton of stuff going on here this past week. On Monday we had 29 Turkeys visit us. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time this year and each time there are more of them than the last time. They come here to eat under our bird feeders, and they seem to love the squirrel feeder. This time it was the neighbors who saw them and counted them. They have a habit of not tying their dog up and the dog went after the turkeys before anyone could stop him.

So, when the dog chased the turkeys, they all took off flying. Did you ever see a turkey fly? Well, it was interesting. Some turkeys flew into the elm trees, these trees are huge with high branches. Some flew up on top of our house and into our fenced yard. Darwin said he didn't know turkeys could fly that high and I guess I have never seen it before either.

After the dog was captured, the turkeys, they all gathered in a line on the sidewalk and headed south. It is really neat to see two rows of turkeys walking in lockstep down the sidewalk and especially after just having been chased by a dog. (No one was injured.)

Yesterday we had a Falcon visit us for a while. As far as I could figure it was probably a Prairie Falcon judging by the color. Those birds can almost turn their head all the way around as they are looking and watching.

Then last week we did a little remodeling. Nothing major. We moved all of our pet cages including the bunnies into our laundry room so I can use what used to be our cat room for a garage sale room. So, we have most of the moving done in the laundry room and then Darwin did a little cleaning and painting in the cat room and I did the floor. On Sunday I hope to move most of the garage sale stuff into the old cat room.

In August of this year Bismarck passed a law where homeowners can not only run a business out of their home

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**December 28, 2024 --- Issue No. 204**

but also in their home. For example, most people can get a business phone in their house and take calls to go to people's homes to do the work. Darwin has a home office for his window cleaning business, but you don't invite the public to your business office in your home. But with the new Bismarck law, you can have people come into your home as customers if it is one at a time by appointment. In my case by having an in home business called "Garage Sale by Appointment" I can also have 4 public garage sales per year where everyone who wants to can come. The weird part is that you can even put a 3 foot by 3 foot sign up as long as you attach it to your house.

It will be so nice to have a room just to display all the stuff we are trying to sell.

Remember that if you have a prayer request or a time dated article to please mark it urgent in the subject line otherwise they just go unread into a folder waiting for their turn to be printed.

Please pray for our brethren in Kenya, Israel and all around the world. Even though some of us have peace right now, others do not. Pray for Donald Trump and His Family, that they may be safe during these trying times.

Again, we are grateful to all the people who contribute to this newsletter.

Hope you all have a happy Sabbath,  
(Written by Laura)

**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.

## **Long Range Weapons**

(Copyright 11-17-20204) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

**US, UK, FRANCE GIVE OK TO HIT RUSSIA WITH LONG RANGE WEAPONS - WHEN MISSILES FIRE RUSSIA SAYS RESPONSE WILL BE DEVASTATING! Many planes left the US last night. UK leader for Brazil today**

<https://haltturnerradioshow.com/index.php/news-selections/world-news/flash-bulletin-urgent-biden-authorizes-ukraine-to-use-long-range-missiles-to-attack-deep-interior-russia>

-----  
See James Steinle's other articles at:

[Steinle, James - Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://Steinle, James - Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org))  
-----

# **Have a Great Sabbath!**

## How Socialism Almost Destroyed the Pilgrims (Copyright 11-22-2024) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



Before the Soviet Union, China, Cuba, and Venezuela, socialism was tried right here on American soil and utterly failed. The Pilgrims, who established the first permanent English settlement in New England in the fall of 1620, at first attempted a socialist style of living. They disbanded it, however, when it became obvious that their community could not survive with such a system.

### **Socialism Forced on Them**

The Pilgrim's journey to America was funded by a group of venture capitalists who provided the ship and supplies for their journey to the New World. In return, the Pilgrims agreed to live communally until the debt, including interest, was paid. Everyone would receive the same recompense for their work, and everything above their basic necessities would go into a common fund to be used to pay their creditors.

In other words, there was no economic inequality. Income produced by farming, fishing, and fur trading was spread around and evenly divided among members of the community. They were all equal with only one economic class. They had what modern politicians call "equity," which is a guaranteed equal outcome.

William Bradford, who served as governor of Plymouth for many years, told of the challenges of this socialist system and how it almost destroyed their community (Hyatt, *Pilgrims and Patriots*, 36-38).

Four hard lessons the Pilgrims learned about socialism were: (1) Socialism destroys initiative; (2) Socialism fosters irresponsibility; (3) Socialism extinguishes hope and generates strife; and (4) Socialism is incompatible with human nature.

### **Lesson #1**

#### **Socialism Destroys Initiative**

Under this socialist system, everyone received the same recompense for their work. No matter how hard, or how little, they worked, all received the same income. With no reward tied to their labor, initiative was destroyed, and everyone put forth their least effort.

Why work and dream when you are trapped in a socialist system that mandates equality of outcome for everyone? This socialist system destroyed initiative and almost destroyed the Pilgrim community.

---

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**December 28, 2024 --- Issue No. 204**

**Lesson #2**

**Socialism Fosters Irresponsibility**

Young men, Bradford said, resented getting paid the same as older men when they did so much more of the work. As a result, they tended to slouch and slack since they knew they would receive the same no matter how hard they worked.

Knowing they would receive the same no matter how hard or how little they worked, the women often refused to go to the fields to work, complaining of sickness and headaches. To have compelled them to go, Bradford said, would have been considered tyranny and oppression.

With no individual reward tied to their innovation and labor, everyone gave their least effort. Irresponsibility became obvious throughout the community and many became gripped with a sense of hopelessness.

**Lesson #3**

**Socialism Extinguishes Hope and Generates Strife**

This socialist system led to a widespread sense of hopelessness. With everyone locked into a closed economic system, there was nothing individuals or families could do to improve their personal lot. Feeling caught in a trap, bickering and strife began to emerge.

The older men, Bradford said, felt they deserved more honor and recompense because of their age and resented getting paid the same as the youngsters in their midst. The young men, on the other hand, resented getting paid the same as the older men when they often did more of the work.

This sense of hopelessness and the ensuing strife drained energy and discouraged innovative thinking and led to very serious complications for the community.

**Lesson #4**

**Socialism is Incompatible with Human Nature**

Bradford believed that socialism did not work because it runs counter to human nature as created by God. In Scripture, God rewards individuals for their labor and good works. Capitalism works because it is compatible with the reality of human nature and the world in which we live.

I will never forget visiting eastern Europe shortly after the fall of the Soviet Empire. I was struck by the grey, drab environment. Even the buildings seemed so plain, flat and lackluster.

It was obvious that the Marxist system had robbed the people of life, energy and creativity. I am here reminded of the words of Winston Churchill, “Those who do not learn from history, are doomed to repeat it.”

**To Survive, They Had to Change**

When it became obvious that lack and perhaps starvation would be their lot, Bradford and the leaders of the colony decided to make a change. After much prayer and discussion, they decided to dispense with that part of the agreement with their creditors that required them to live communally until their debt was paid. In its place, they implemented a free entrepreneurial system that included private ownership of property (Hyatt, *Pilgrims and Patriots (Second Edition)*, 34-36).

**They Experience the Blessing of Free Enterprise**

According to Bradford, they divided the land around them, allotting to each family a certain portion that would be theirs to work and use for their own needs. Bradford said there was an immediate change. The young men began to work much harder because they now knew they would eat the fruit of their own labors.

There were no more complaints from the older men for the same reason. And now the women were seen going into the fields to work, taking the children with them, because they knew they and their family would personally benefit.

Instead of lacking food, each family now grew more food than they needed, and they began to trade with one another for furnishings, clothes and other goods. They also had enough excess to trade with the Indians for furs and other items. In short, the colony began to prosper when they got rid of their socialist form of government and implemented a free,

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**December 28, 2024 --- Issue No. 204**

entrepreneurial system.

Of their experience with socialism, Bradford wrote;

This community [socialism] was found to breed much confusion and discontent and retard much employment that would have been to their benefit and comfort . . . and showed the vanity of that conceit of Plato's, and applauded by some of later times, that the taking away of property and bringing in community into a commonwealth would make them happy and flourishing; as if they were wiser than God (Hyatt, *1726: The Year that Defined America*, 25).

### **Christianity & Capitalism**

During the recent presidential election, we heard Kamala Harris and those on the Left using the word "equity." Equity is not equality. Equity would use government mandates to guarantee equal outcome, not equal opportunity. Equity and its twin sister, DEI, are innocent sounding phrases designed to slip Marxist ideology into the thinking of an unsuspecting public.

As Christians, our responsibility is to call people to Christ and help them live out their Christianity in the real world. Living out our Christianity means a life of responsibility, not looking for government hand-outs but working and prospering in a way that we can give a hand-up to those in need.

We desire the best for the greatest number of people, which is why we must reject the contemporary vision of those on the Left for a government-mandated socialist system in America. The Pilgrims would wholeheartedly agree.

---

See Eddie Hyatt's other articles at:

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

Reprinted with permission from: **God's Word to Women**

<http://www.godswordtowomen.org/>

---

## **The Vision that Drew the Pilgrims to America** (Copyright 11-22-2024) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



I was presenting a “Revive America” event at Abounding Grace Christian Church in Schenectady, NY when the Lord highlighted, in a somewhat dramatic fashion, the Pilgrims’ purpose in coming to America.

---

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**December 28, 2024 --- Issue No. 204**

As I was preparing for an evening session, I sensed the Holy Spirit instructing me to have the audience repeat after me the two reasons the Pilgrims gave, in the Mayflower Compact, for coming to America.

Later that evening, at the appropriate moment, I had the words of the Mayflower Compact flashed on the large screen and asked the audience to read aloud with me their two reasons for coming to the New World. We read together: **(1) For the glory of God and (2) the advancement of the Christian faith.** We then read it a second time.

At the end of the service, a young man, who looked to be about twenty years of age, approached me with his face glowing and a note of excitement in his voice. He said,

I am attending a local community college and taking a course in American history. Just this week the professor told us that the Pilgrims did not come here for religious reasons. He said they came for monetary reasons.

He paused and then exclaimed, “But there it is in their own words!” He then stated how he was now inspired to study and teach America’s true origins. I then understood why God had instructed me to have everyone speak aloud the two reasons the Pilgrims gave for coming to America.

Indeed, even before the Mayflower Compact, while still in Holland, their missionary vision was clearly stated. William Bradford, who served as governor of Plymouth Colony for over thirty years, explained why they made plans to come to America. He said that they had “a great hope and inward zeal for the propagating and advancing of the gospel of Jesus Christ in those remote parts of the world” (Hyatt, *The Pilgrims*, 25).

The Pilgrims practiced what modern missiologists would call “friendship evangelism.” They made friends, not only with Squanto, but with countless other individuals and tribes. They established a treaty with the Wampanoag tribe in which they promised to defend each other if either was attacked by an outside aggressor. Dr. Samuel Eliot Morison says the Pilgrims treated the natives with, “A combination of justice, wisdom and mercy” (Hyatt, *The Pilgrims*, 38).

A number of natives came and lived among the Pilgrims. These included Squanto, Samoset, and Hobomok who served the Pilgrims as guides and interpreters. Living in Plymouth, they would have attended the church services of the Pilgrims.

Their friendship evangelism bore fruit. Bradford told of Squanto falling sick and dying. The Pilgrims cared for Squanto in his sickness, and Bradford said that before he passed, Squanto asked him to pray for him that he would go to the God in heaven he had learned about from the Pilgrims. Bradford described Squanto’s death as “a great loss.”

The Pilgrims’ commitment to missions contributed to the fact that the first Bible published in the New World was not an English language Bible. The first Bible published in America was in the Massachusetts language. It was published in 1660 for the purpose of reaching natives with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Pilgrims’ commitment to missions has had far-reaching ramifications and contributed to America becoming the greatest missionary-sending nation in history. This missionary vision, that began with the Pilgrims, became so pronounced that it caught the attention of the U.S. Supreme Court. In the 1892 ruling of “Church of the Holy Trinity vs. the United States,” the nation’s highest court stated,

The churches and church organizations which abound in every city, town, and hamlet . . . and the gigantic missionary associations, with general support, and aiming to establish Christian missions in every quarter of the globe add a mass of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation (Hyatt, *1726: The Year that Defined America*, 170).

Yes, the Pilgrims were fleeing persecution in England, but that was only part of the story. They had a proactive missionary vision that was pulling them forward. They clearly stated that they had come to America, “For the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian faith.”

In retrospect, it is obvious that they were successful in their mission. It is also obvious that the modern, self-obsessed American Church needs to acquire a missionary vision of its own. After all, the Great Commission, in which Jesus commanded us to *go and make disciples of all nations* (Matthew 28:18-20) has never expired.

See Eddie Hyatt's other articles at:

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

Reprinted with permission from: God's Word to Women

<http://www.godswordtowomen.org/>

## War and peace

(Copyright 11-23-2024) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"They shall learn war no more." – God

"IT TOOK THREE DAYS to get Waukegan, Illinois native Mike out. 'I'm going home. The war's over for me,' he said. 'They might let me go home for Christmas.'

"He was one of the almost 900 wounded give or take a few. And some just get patched up and go back to their work on Hill 875. 'A lot of us were lucky,' said Phillip, 20, of Butler, PA. The wounded kept coming. Some medics took breathers, exhausted, their heads on bloody, mud-stained arms.

"A lot of men coming in talked about the bomb; the one that an American plane dropped by accident on U.S. lines. Maybe as many as 38 men died and more were wounded. 'That killed a lot of guys,' said Mike. 'It's a mess.'" – Rockford Morning Star, 11-23-67 exactly 57 years ago

Yes, that whole war, Vietnam, was a "mess." And it lasted 10 years and 50,000 "guys" too long, thanks mostly to LBJ and "the best and the brightest."

I liked Ike and Nixon, but Richard Milhaus screwed up on one thing: not mining the Haiphong harbor until it was too late. In those days, the U.S. was afraid of "upsetting" China, even while killing their proxies in Vietnam. During WWII, were we afraid of "upsetting" Hitler?

**In 1963, Kennedy was thinking about ending the war. In 1965, Goldwater could have ended it in six months, but LBJ won the White House by saying Goldwater might start a war over there. Two World Wars didn't teach the world leaders anything! By the WAY:**

Russia was lost during the Woodrow Wilson years. Eastern Europe was lost during the FDR years. China was lost during the Truman era. Also, North Korea was lost. Then the Vietnam disaster. Russia invaded Afghanistan during the Carter years. Russia took over Crimea during the Obama years. Russia invaded Ukraine during the Biden years, and of course we lost Afghanistan and billions of dollars' worth of military armaments. **Anyone notice a pattern here yet?**

We could have lost Granada, but Reagan sent in the Marines. He made it as tough as he could for the far Left in Nicaragua, but he was bucked every step of the way by the Democrats in the Congress that they had controlled for over 30 years.

**If Donald Trump could time travel back to January 1965, on Day 1 he would have mined the Haiphong harbor. Enough said?**

**PS** There are no dumb questions. My mother had a knack for asking a dumb question at just the right time. I had a thought in the middle of the night a few days ago: **Will there be a World War III memorial?**



See Curtis Dahlgren's other articles at:

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

Reprinted with permission from: Renew America

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

## Judged by What Books?

(Copyright 11-23-2024) by Gary C. Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)

"And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it,...(Rev. 20:11)



**RICH OR POOR, FAMOUS OR UNKNOWN, ALL ARE RESURRECTED:**

"And I saw the dead, small and great,  
*Stand* [resurrected] before Yahweh; (Rev. 20:12)

**BOOKS OPENED: GENESIS, EXODUS, LEVITICUS,  
NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY**

"...and *The Books* were opened...And the dead were judged out of those things written in *The Books*, according to their works." (Rev. 20:12)

**WHAT BOOKS?**

"...as many as have sinned in the Law  
Shall be Judged by the Law [first five books]." (Rom.2:12)

**LET NO MAN DECEIVE YOU:**

"...And it is easier for Heaven and Earth to pass, than one tittle of the Law to fail." (Lk. 16:17)  
*Those five are The Books* opened at the Final Judgment.

**DOERS OF THE LAW JUSTIFIED:**

"For not the hearers of the Law are just before Yahweh, But the doers of the Law shall be justified."  
(Rom. 2:13)

**JUDGMENT NOW ON YAHWEH'S PEOPLE**

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of Yahweh: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of Yahweh?" (1 Pet. 4:17)

See Gary C. Miller's other articles at:

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

Reprinted with permission from: International Congregation of Yahweh  
<http://www.icyahweh.org/>

---

## **Who is a Messenger of God?** (Copyright 11-24-2024) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

In the Bible we read of patriarchs, prophets, prophetesses, priests, even kings like David, apostles, evangelists, and others, people who were righteous, who obeyed God, who's deeds and exploits are recorded in Scripture, and who were in many cases used to write down and preserve messages given them directly by God or through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit. These were used of God to deliver his word to us and were hence messengers of God.

At the same time, we read in Bible times of idolatrous priests, of false prophets who spoke in the name of God, of false ministers and false apostles, who were deceivers and only pretended to be God's messengers.

Others have followed over the centuries, claiming offices such as priests, apostles, evangelists, ministers, pastors, claiming to speak in the name of God or Christ, and hence acting as his messengers. How can we tell the difference between genuine messengers of God and those who are false?

In "Who is a Messenger of God?" Rod Reynolds addresses the question on the basis of what the Scriptures reveal in answer to it. This is vital knowledge that every Christian, and everyone who would be a Christian, needs to have and understand, and be reminded of often.

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).  
[cogmessenger.org](https://www.cogmessenger.org/)

**Sermon Link: [Who is a Messenger of God? | COGMessenger](#)**

---

**See Rod Reynolds other articles at:**  
**[Reynolds, Rod – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org/)**

Reprinted with permission from: Messenger Church of God  
<https://www.cogmessenger.org/>

---

# **Thank You!**

## The Remarkable Kiwi Bird

(Copyright 11-25-2024) by Doug Velting (Grand Rapids, Michigan)



Kiwi bird chick and parent in the underbrush: ID 241874046 © Robero Dani | Dreamstime.com

Not the small, brown, fuzzy tropical fruit found in the produce section of your neighborhood grocery store. That fruit is called the Kiwifruit, native to eastern Asia. We're talking about a flightless bird that is about the size of a chicken that is found only in New Zealand.

Most birds can fly and have a special ridge on their sternum called a keel, where the flight muscles are attached. But because the kiwi does not fly, this national bird of New Zealand does not need a keel. Their wings are of little use to this bird, as they are only about one inch long and are completely hidden under the feathers.

God has created the kiwi with no tail, but it does have strong legs. The leg muscles alone contribute to almost a third of the total weight of the kiwi bird. Their feathers are remarkably different from other birds, looking more like fur. God has created most birds with hollow bones which gives them a lighter weight, which is ideal for flight. But the kiwi bird has heavy solid bones with marrow in them.

The kiwi bird has a low body temperature for a bird of only 100° F. This bird lives in the forested areas of their island country and loves steep rugged terrain.

The kiwi bird uses its strong leg muscles and claws to dig a burrow for its nest. Most birds are active during the day and sleep at night, but the kiwi bird is mostly nocturnal, resting in its burrow during the day and coming out at night to feed. They travel around their territory eating worms and other insects.

God has created this bird of New Zealand with a special "tool" to help it find and eat worms and other insects that lie

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**December 28, 2024 --- Issue No. 204**

underground. It is the only bird in the world that has nostrils at the tip of its bill. Using its highly developed sense of smell and sensory pads at the tip of its bill, the kiwi bird will poke its bill in the soil sniffing out worms, grubs, and seeds. If a bit of soil gets sniffed up its nostrils, this bird will simply sneeze it out. This bird will often tear apart rotting logs with its powerful legs and claws to find beetles and their larvae to eat.

The kiwi bird has large ear openings, so if it hears danger it can quickly run through the thick underbrush to safety. Then it will turn around with its bill in the air sniffing for danger. The kiwi bird protects the territory it has staked out by patrolling its area every night, leaving smelly droppings to mark its boundaries. This is usually enough to keep other kiwi birds away, but if another kiwi bird does invade its territory, they give out loud shrieks and whistles to scare the intruder away. Their shriek sounds like "kee-wee, kee-wee," which is how this bird got its name. The Kiwi bird can also grunt, snort, and hiss when angry.

Breeding season happens from late winter to early summer. Males will dig a burrow that the female will nest in, but they sometimes use a hollow log instead. The male doesn't have a beautiful song or colorful feathers to attract a mate, so he will follow the female around hoping she will accept him. If she isn't interested, she will run away or try to scare him off.

The kiwi bird mother lays one egg at a time, but it is a huge one, reaching up to 20 percent of her body weight. This would be like a human mother weighing 120 pounds giving birth to a 24-pound baby. If their egg were in normal proportion to the mother, the kiwi adult female should weigh about 30 pounds instead of their actual weight of around 5 pounds. Since this bird is flightless, it can survive producing an egg of this size and weight.

Kiwi bird eggs also contain twice as much yolk as most birds and have natural antibacterial and antifungal elements to them. This feature is important because the damp, underground burrows attract bacteria and fungi. After the female lays the egg, the male incubates for 75 to 85 days. This is a long time of incubation for a bird, made necessary by the unusual size of the egg.

The chick does not have an egg tooth, instead it must kick its way out of the shell. As soon as it dries off, the hatchling looks like a miniature adult. The young kiwi lives off the large reserve of yolk in its abdomen for the first few days until it can leave the burrow with its father and search for its own food. The young will stay with the male for about 20 days but may stay within the parents' territory for a few months more before it finds its own place to live.

God's creativity is limitless, and his unique design of the kiwi bird gives us an added glimpse of his endlessly thoughtful care for all of creation.

I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. Psalm 77:12

---

**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/>

---

**November 26, 2024 Kenya Update**  
**(Copyright 11-26-2024) by William P. Goff (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina)**

Greetings Brethren,  
The November 26, 2024 Kenya Update is now posted at: <http://www.khofh.org>

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)

Reprinted with permission from: A Voice in the Wilderness

<https://khofh.org/>

## A Bride Prepared (Chapter 18)

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

### [Chapter 18: So Shall We Ever be With the Lord](#)

#### *A Bride Prepared*

#### **So Shall We Ever be With the Lord**

We members of the Church who hope to be a part of the Bride must consider our status in the eyes of God. Are we ready – are we prepared? Do we honestly *examine ourselves whether we be in the faith* (2 Corinthians 13:5)? The parable of the ten virgins indicates that only half of those members who believe they are prepared and able to utilize God's Spirit – will make it.

Listen to the warnings of Jesus Christ for the period of time very shortly before His coming. "*While the Bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.*" (Matthew 25:5) We would do well to hearken and give heed to the fact that Christ's description of those of us in this end-time, is that we are not living up to His expectations of the Bride.

Have we developed the golden character that is required to rule in the world tomorrow? Do we possess the rich understanding of the way of God that is so vividly portrayed in the Scriptures? Can we visualize a world without evil – a world being created in God's righteousness? How far short of Christ's expectations are we? "*I counsel you to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment [righteousness], that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness does not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.*" (Revelation 3:18)

We must be actively utilizing spiritual character for the good of the brethren while maintaining a contrite attitude of service. **Be so doing!** Take a stand for righteousness' sake! Defend to the death the true principles of God! Speak of right doctrine! Live it! Put it into practice among all the brethren! Correct those who miss the mark because they, too, are working out their own salvation – and they are our brothers.

Time is short! The Israelitish nations of today are following closely in the wayward steps of our forefathers who forsook God and His truth. The time of Jacob's trouble is upon us! Some will be spared, others will be martyred, and a few will be carried away into captivity. Let us ask ourselves how we measure up to our high calling. Is being the Bride of Christ worth more than anything else? Can it be said of us, "*They loved not their lives unto the death,*"? (Revelation 12:11)

Strive to come together with every true Christian on the doctrine we hold in common – in the unity of the Spirit. Let us not be separated by the agendas of men. Fight against the abuses imposed on innocent brethren. Be very guarded of men who are despisers of those who do good and who proudly exploit the weak members (2 Timothy 3:3). Be wise to the compromises of the great deceiver. Likewise, be watchful of those who close their eyes to the principles of Christ to achieve their goals. God has never directed anyone to violate His way or His law to achieve a purpose.

An awe-inspiring destiny awaits us – *eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him* (1 Corinthians 2:9). Speak out without fear when men or organizations seek the preeminence. Encourage one another to serve others. Look to God! Look for the coming of the

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**December 28, 2024 --- Issue No. 204**

Bridegroom, Jesus Christ! Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come and His Bride has **made herself ready!** ... so shall we ever be with the Lord!

-----  
**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/>  
-----

**Respectfully Yours,**  
**(Copyright 2024) by James R. Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)**

The above words, especially often found at the end of letters of decades past, often seemed to express the real heartfelt intent of the writer.

Respect in this world nowadays it seems may be in short supply. That is obvious in the crime rate, the shaming on social media seen so often of those we might not agree with resulting in anger, disappointment or shutting down of respectful discourse; even sometimes resulting in suicide; especially with younger not quite yet mature individuals.

Lack of respect is reflected in large companies charging outrageous prices; example, many Pharmaceutical Companies. How about Government agencies which ask for more money, increasing taxes; often for services which are not really needed or serve no real useful purpose. A lack of respect towards taxpayers by elected officials is shown when they accept bribes to line their pockets.

We also see a lack of respect of people towards themselves. Some try to see how unattractive they can make themselves in how they dress, or don't, use wild makeup, brightly color their hair, tattoos all over, or pins through their flesh. To me, it shows they think they are not worthy of respect the way they were created. It says to me, these individuals are starving for respect or love.

Others find themselves in drug or alcohol addiction which results in hard physical and emotional trauma not only for themselves but for their families and those that love them. And let's not forget also those that have to deal with them such as law enforcement, medical or social service individuals. They are negatively impacted emotionally also.

**What might be the cause of this disappearing valuable attribute of respect towards oneself or others? Is there any hope for this situation? (Hint: Yes!)**

It boils down to our heart! *Each of our hearts need to receive proper education and understanding* about our overall relationship to each other, (including our relationship to our Creator! The first four Commandments).

**How can that happen?** It starts off with the parents understanding how important it is in instilling respect into their children towards them. This was so important to the Heavenly Creator, the One known as the Father, that it was placed as the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment in the total of ten. *“Honour your father and your mother: that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God giveth you.”* (Exodus 20:12) Did you notice the reward associated with doing so? A long life in the land. (The last five Commandments are directed towards how we interact with others of the human race).

And more instruction for the parents, *“And you shall love the LORD your God with all thine heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. 6 And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And you shall teach them diligently unto your children, and shall talk of them when you sittest in thine house, and when you walkest by the way, and when you liest down, and when you risest up.”* (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**December 28, 2024 --- Issue No. 204**

Our 'modern' society has gotten away from following these very important commands, and the results are showing in our children especially. It is important to our family, schools, town, or local community. In fact, proper respect in how we respond to others belongs to all humanity. How can we be lights if we do not follow the Way of Light? Even in our relationship and dealings with other nations!

Notice how important the Son of God, Yeshua or Jesus considered the instructions in Deuteronomy 6:5-7. He repeated them in his discourse in Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV) *“And you shall love the LORD your God with all thine heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. 6 And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And you shall teach them diligently unto your children, and shall talk of them when you sittest in thine house, and when you walkest by the way, and when you liest down, and when you risest up.”*

So we can see how important it is to teach our children respect not only towards God, parents, and others also, but they need to include themselves also. It is too easy to get into bad or destructive habits like smoking, drinking or drugs which, when it becomes an addiction, can destroy a child's respect even for themselves. Parents need to not only properly discipline their children, but show they are loved, appreciated, and respected also.

This is where parents especially have to show respect in their own lives. If one or more swear, smoke, drink to excess or do drugs, then they teach their children it is OK to do the same. If parents show disrespect or put down their mate, then that attitude will show up in their children. Do we really want that to happen?

Situations will always arise where one party may not handle things right; but children hopefully will see their parents' fixing problems with mercy, love, patience, forgiveness and humility.

Parents have a big responsibility in teaching their children, and it can be difficult in setting an example. All my life I have remembered and can picture it in my mind yet, an incident when I was a young one around 10 or so years old. My mother was in the kitchen of their rest home (later they turned it into a nursing home). My father came in and they were conversing about something (I don't know what it was about). I could see my mother was angry about something when all of a sudden, she slapped my father's face. He did not say anything but just walked out and left the house and did not come back till evening. My mother continued washing the dishes. That was the only time that happened to my knowledge. However, I knew without a doubt they loved and respected each other, and they did live a long and happy life together. But you can see how such an experience can impact a child, even now when I am 80 years old. My father passed away about 55 years ago and my mother 25 years ago.

During their lifetime my parents exhibited a life of respect and love (its synonymous) and service for one another, their siblings, and extended families, their three children and the old people they took care of in their home for many years. They tried to show respect for God, the land, and others. Their example has resonated and been a light in my own life. Thank you, Dad and Mom.

Respectfully yours,  
Your (now old) son Jim

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

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

**Holy Days 2025**

**Passover – April 13, 2025 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)**

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 13-19, 2025  
Pentecost – June 2, 2025  
Trumpets – September 23, 2025  
Atonement – October 2, 2025  
Tabernacles –October 7, 2025, to October 13, 2025  
Last Great Day – October 14, 2025

## Notes