



Issue No. 10: 27th February 2009

Time IS Short!

by Robert Ardis

Passover is only weeks away. Each year at this time true Christians come before our great God in sincere prayer and fasting asking for His Spirit to help us prepare for this most solemn of occasions—the New Testament Passover. As we cry aloud unto Him, God’s Spirit opens our spiritual eyes to our faults and shortcoming—our sins—we discern the spiritual weaknesses God would have us overcome (Rev.3:21). In His perfect wisdom, God places the Passover and the Holy Days as “mileposts” along the way so that each year we enact His Plan of Salvation.

His wonderful Plan begins with Passover—the memorial of the death of the Son of God! All sins are forgiven through the spilled blood of the true Passover—Jesus Christ (I Jn. 1:7). Christ poured out His life for our sins (Lev. 17:11)! Thus at Passover in a humble and repentant state of mind, we partake of the bread and wine that our Lord designated as the emblems to represent His ripped and torn body and His spilled blood. We humbly and prayerfully ask that the powerful scriptures read during the ceremony can have their full impact on us.

Understand, God the Father and Jesus our Savior will *live their lives within us*, they will *abide within us*. John 14:23 states: “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him”.

Next, skip to chapter 17, verses 20-24:

Neither pray I for these alone, but for *them* also which shall believe on me through their word; That *they* all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou

hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

The Passover pictures total unity, dedication, loyalty, and love. The Passover depicts the greatest example of each of these characteristics. The Father gave His only begotten Son in loyalty, dedication, and love for their Plan for all mankind that they had designed before the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8; Eph. 1:7). God IS love! Jesus, the Son of God gave His perfect life in total accord to perform the will of His Father and to finish His work.

The Passover pictures us pure and clean, loving and serving our brethren with the love of God and Christ within us—with eternal life indwelling within us. This ceremony pictures us at one accord, in faith accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, being forgiven of every sin as we partake of the emblems that symbolize His body and blood giving us free access to the throne of God. We are totally forgiven of our sins although we are still in the flesh and bare many scars from our sins.

The next evening begins the seven days of Unleavened Bread that symbolizes our all-out efforts of keeping sin out of our lives—as a way of life—with God and Christ dwelling within us. Thus the struggle to keep leavening products out of our food and our property during the Days of Unleavened Bread is an annual reminder of what our Christian life must be—keeping sin out of our lives—we must grow up into Christ is all things (Eph. 4:16).

(continued on Page 3)

Also In This Issue

Page 2: ***Greetings Brethren!***

Page 4: ***Marriage - a Physical Union and a Divine Institution - Part 4 The Role of Grandparents***

Page 5: ***Rough Road***

Greetings brethren!

With God's help, last week we gave birth to the new publication that helps fulfil a major aspect of our commission, a magazine that will hopefully be a wake-up call for God's people who are asleep spiritually as it sounds the midnight cry of Matthew 25:6: *The Midnight Cry – a magazine of urgent understanding*. How exciting it was to see the result of so much time and effort that was invested by so many! As we pray and implore God to wake up His people, let's fulfil our commission to submit to God in our life by diligently preparing ourselves through God's Spirit for the purpose of teaching, educating, and assisting any of the begotten sons and daughters of God that are currently snared in Laodicea or the synagogue of Satan, before time runs completely out.

Pastor General Robert Ardis' lead article in this latest issue of *The Philadelphia Witness – Part 1 of Time IS Short!* – should spur us to ensure that we are ready for anything as we continue to prepare for the upcoming Passover, wherever we will be observing it! This is indeed proving to be a very exciting year as we continue to witness events that could well lead to the sudden fulfilment of major Bible prophecy at this time during the Day of the Lord.

Yesterday, I returned home from my latest travels during which I visited brethren in Belgium, Italy and Kenya. Notwithstanding the severe problems and hardships faced by our beloved Kenyan brethren, ten members and two children were still able to travel the long distance from the southern town of Migori to be able to attend all-day services in Nairobi last Sabbath the 21st. In Migori we have nineteen adults, sixteen of whom are baptised, as well as eleven children who meet regularly every Sabbath.



Brethren from the southern Kenyan town of Migori, who made it to Nairobi

For the past few months, our contact person in Migori, Mike Omuga, has been printing and distributing *The Philadelphia Witness* and the *World Watch Newsletter* to individuals who have also been reading and studying our booklets in the areas around his town. This has resulted in a couple of former WCG member families, who live in the nearby states of Tanzania and Uganda respectively, requesting that a minister visits them as they yearn to know more. For some time, neither of the families has been affiliated to any Church. Let me encourage you to please pray for these families that God may continue to open their minds to further understanding of the new truth as they are led to increased spiritual growth.

Mike Omuga has also reported that the Farm Project in Migori that we have helped finance is moving on well and that it is flourishing. He has thanked us for our prayers for rain and reports that they started having rains in Migori even though other parts of Kenya have remained dry. Over the next few days, members who are participating in this endeavour shall start weeding.

Prayers have also been requested from our deacon who lives in Kilifi, located on Kenya's northern coastline. Matano Mbelle has had to leave home due to family problems and he presently lives on his own. Please pray that God intervenes so that this situation is normalized.



Beautiful scenery at S. Vincent, Val d'Aosta - the planned FOT site in Italy

I am very pleased to report that my visit to the planned new Feast of Tabernacles site in Italy, located at Saint-Vincent, Val d'Aosta, was very successful. I was given great favour by the very warm family who run the hotel and it seems that they are ready to go out of their way and will be very happy to accommodate all our requirements.

With much love, in Christ's service

Daniel Frendo

(continued from Page 1)

And as we *grow up into Christ in all things* we live and overcome as the days of Unleavened Bread portray all year—we do those things that are pleasing in His sight even as He did that which was pleasing in God’s sight. We watch and pray, fast and study, we sigh and cry for our brethren, thus we are accounted faithful and worthy to escape all of the horrors of the Great Tribulation that is fast approaching.

Another vital point to consider as the faithful of God is we must keep in the forefront of our mind our special calling as the Pillars of the inner Temple. Overcoming as Christ overcame describes our life-style. This is the way we must live as lights and examples of love and concern to our brethren. “*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all (men) know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another* (John 13:34-35).

We are living in very exciting Bible times! These are amazing days that Jesus Christ said would be “*as it was in the days of Noah*”. There can be no doubt that these evil times of lying, cheating, and greed has brought the entire world to the brink of financial collapse. The unimaginable violence of impending all-out religious war hangs heavy in the Middle-East. Drug cartels hold sway in many nations causing the corruption of moral values of national, state, and local political and religious leaders. Our leaders have attempted to cast God out of society except in name only—and the name of Jesus is often mocked and ridiculed. The loving, caring home has been destroyed with both husband and wife struggling to make ends meet while their children are palmed off on liberal school systems from pre-kindergarten to high-school as baby-sitters. In the name of freedom and democracy entire nations have yielded to the sickened mind of the homosexual and lesbian movement and the multitude of complex problems being produced are unprecedented, but will effect every man, woman, and child on the face of the earth!

And only a few weeks before Passover!

Reflect on the following scriptures from the Holy Bible:

- *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come* (II Tim. 3:1).
- *We walk by faith and not by sight* (II Cor. 5:7).
- *Despise not prophesying* (I Thess. 5:22).
- *You shall live by every word that proceeds from the Word of God* (Matt. 4:4).

- *Whoso reads...Let him understand* (Matt.24:15).
- *For now we see through a glass, darkly...(I Cor. 13:12).*
- *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord* (I Cor. 15:58).
- *But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand* (Ezek.33:6).

Revelation 12:9 informs us that Satan knows his time—these perilous times—is short! But are we as faithful members of the Church of Jesus Christ, only weeks before Passover, who are striving to put sin out of our lives, being accounted worthy to escape the Tribulation, standing firm as the unwavering Pillars must do; are we aware of this fact—that time is short?

How short is time? Just a few weeks ago there was great interest in our *timeline* printed in our booklet *Whoso Reads... Let Him Understand*. The booklet put the numbered days of Daniel and Revelation and the Holy Days of God is a pattern that to my knowledge had never been done before. It emphasized just how short time could be. We could see that we had entered a period of 1335 days from the Feast of Trumpets, September 30, 2008 to the Feast of Firstfruits—Pentecost, May 27, 2012. And the world situation indicated the possibility we were right on target.

The 1335 days would end at the visible return of Jesus Christ for His Firstfruits on the Feast of Firstfruits. Daniel 12:12-13 declares: “*Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.*” And let’s mention here that the “blessing” would not be at the beginning of the 1335 days—but at the end of the days—at the resurrection. A true Christian must endure until the end—unto the Resurrection (Mark 13:13).

Verse 11 gives another interesting number of days that could never be fitted in—until it was time for it to be revealed! “*And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days*”. The 1290 day period and the often

Issue No. 10: 27th February 2009

mentioned 1260 days (42 months) do not conclude at the Resurrection, but continues to the Feast of Trumpets, September 17, 2012 when Christ, His Wife, and the Angelic armies return after 113 days in heaven, to destroy the works of Satan and the Beast and the rebellious of the earth. Why 113 days? In the year 2012 there are 113 days between Pentecost and Trumpets!

There was much excitement as we progressed day by day in our *timeline*—things were moving ahead as we expected. Even the door to the Outer Court was being cracked opened to us. Revelation 3:9 looked as it could happen any time. Christ is definitely in charge!

As December 10, 2008 approached we were looking for the arrival on the prophetic scene of the Two Witnesses! Our website was a-buzz! But December 10 came and went! December 14 also came and went and our rescue work to the Lost Sheep did not materialize. The pattern of the 1335 days from Trumpets to Pentecost according to the inspired Hebrew Calendar occurs at rare intervals of time. 2005-2009 was one of the intervals—and we watched it closely too. However, the world situation did not indicate the urgency then as in this period of 2008-2012. The next pattern of years where the 1335 days connect as they do now would be in 2025-2029—sixteen years from now. Could this wicked world hold together for another 16 years?

Was the *timeline* wrong? The expected appearance of the Two Witnesses was wrong without a doubt. What happened? Would Christ reveal so much to us and leave us dangling? He does not play games (II Pet. 3:9)! What did we miss seeing? We had calculated the 1260 days of their prophesying to end on the day of their being put to death 3-1/2 days before the resurrection. That seemed like the right way to calculate—but we missed something! Here at CGF headquarters we knew if something was missing, we had faith to know it would be revealed later and it would fit better, would make perfect sense, would open even more Truth, and fulfill other scriptures too (John 16:13).

(to be continued)

Marriage - a Physical Union and a Divine Institution - Part 4 The Role of Grandparents

by Frank Borg

Grandparents are so important to the healthy development and upbringing of children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, seniors or grandparents are often seen by this world as not having much value. The older the grandparents, the more they are seen as having gone past their 'sell by date'. In this final article on the series on family, we shall see that this cannot be further from the truth. As time goes on, there seems to be more disrespect towards grandparents by their grandchildren and others, yet God has given grandparents a serious responsibility within the family, and even society! Grandparents play a most pivotal and vital part of healthy family life!

We must always remember that grandparents are the forerunners of parents in a family. They taught, trained, nourished and unselfishly devoted their time and energy into family before their own children became parents. What they taught their families, and what they continue to teach, is passed on to future generations: "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers so the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers..." (Mal. 4:6). Grandparents are the 'foundation' of a family unit, and need to be seen as such by every family member!

The Bible demonstrates that nations are families grown large (Gen 12:2), descending from patriarchs. The bible tells us that families are built upon a system of *patriarchs*. [For example, Heb. 7:8 refers to Abraham as a patriarch. Jacob's twelve sons were also patriarchs or founders of a tribe or family and so on. These twelve sons were the fathers of the tribes of Israel as spoken of in the Bible.] The word 'patriarch' appears in the Bible and is a translation from the Greek word 'patriarches'. Strong's Concordance tells us that this word could be translated as "progenitor", meaning "a biologically related [*male*] ancestor, predecessor, the originator". Dictionaries define the word "patriarch" as: "the male head of a family, a venerable old man", while the word "grandfather" is defined as "the founder or originator of a family". If we put all this together, we can see that the "patriarch" of a family is "the leading *older* man", or "*grandfather*" in the family! Evidently, grandparents play an important role in the family!

Before becoming a grandfather, the father had the responsibility of teaching and loving his children as we saw in earlier segments of this series. As grandfather, the burden is naturally alleviated but, the responsibility of teaching and loving grandchildren does not change. A grandfather will always have a responsibility towards his grandchildren as much as he does towards his own children. In 2 Chronicles 21:12-20 we see that Jehoram did not live by the good lessons and standards taught by his grandfather, Asa. Because of this he was rebuked by Elijah, and was eventually cursed with plagues and diseases. This should be a reminder to grandparents on the responsibility they have towards their grandchildren and, importantly, should indicate how carefully grandchildren need to heed the positive lessons of their grandparents! Grandfathers have a tremendous responsibility towards their grandchildren and vice versa.

Obviously, the responsibility of teaching and loving grandchildren also extends to the grandmother. 2 Tim. 1 gives us a good example of a grandmother (verse 5) teaching valuable lessons to her grandson. Titus 2:3, 5 emphasize: "The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things...to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.". The "aged women", or the grandmothers, have a responsibility to teach by example and wise counsel that they have gained through time and experience.

Grandparents should set a standard through example in conducting oneself in a Godly manner. Many members in Laodicea are faltering in this area. Grandparents in the Laodicean Church are instructed to shun their grandchildren if they are no longer a part of the PCG, while grandchildren shun their grandparents if they no longer attend their Church. This is tantamount to the breaking of the fifth commandment and only promotes dysfunctional family. God gets angry with unbiblical and nonsensical behavior (Psalm 7:11).

By their example, grandparents help lay the foundation for the building of God's Family. Young people need an example in how to build families and should get this from members of their family that have knowledge, experience and wisdom. This is a serious responsibility placed on the shoulders of parents *and grandparents*. Titus 2 is an important chapter for grandparents to review.

Due to the wisdom that has been gained through age and experience, because of the skills acquired over a lifetime, and as a result of the love that grandparents are to extend towards grandchildren, it would be logical to say that grandparents are the backbone of the family. As such, God demands that they are respected: "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord". Grandchildren should take note! Another Biblical example indicating how serious God is about family and how we fulfill our roles within it, is recorded in Dan 5:17-29 where King Belshazzar was rebuked by Daniel the prophet for not following his grandfathers' positive example. As a result, that same night, Belshazzar was slain (Dan 5:30)! How important it is for grandparents to set the right example and for grandchildren to submit to it and apply it!

There are certainly many biblical examples that show us how much emphasis God places on the institution of marriage and family! God does not want us to take family lightly, or for granted, because of what it pictures: the Kingdom of God! Throughout this series we have endeavored to take a look at the importance of the roles of every family member! Now it is up to us to individually apply our roles and resist Satan, society and self. We must work hard at building and strengthening our families, ensuring that we resist all of Satan's attacks to destroy this divine institution!

Please send your Article contributions via e-mail as a Word doc. attachment to:

dfrendo@setapartbytruth.org

You may also send them by mail to:

*Daniel Frendo, Church of God's Faithful,
PO Box 28, St. Julians STJ 1000, Malta, Europe.*

Rough Road

by J R Cabangbang

The life of a Christian commences when God finally puts His Spirit upon the repentant believer at baptism. At this point in time a contract is signed and sealed between us and God actually bringing the baptised individual into the Body of Christ. Christian life is a "life-long" struggle that requires counting the cost. Like 14:28-30 states: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth down not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is

not able to finish it, all that behold it began to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish." It is obvious that this abrupt change of course in the life of the new convert should be of utmost importance. It is denying one's self to be able to portray the capacity to change by the power of God's Holy Spirit that dwells in him. It is a continual resistance against impulses, wiles and deception of Satan that seems unending. In addition, Luke 14:26-27 says: "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." A Christian must carry his cross if he is to be proven worthy as a true disciple of Christ; for He Himself died a terrible death that we may inherit life through His resurrection. He sets an example for us that we should follow His steps; we must carry on no matter how much it costs!

He has called and chosen us to be His Firstfruits to accomplish a special mission. He "set apart by truth" His special Treasure to be the stalwart pillars in the rebuilding of the Spiritual Temple. With this in mind, we re to be highly exulted, but we must take the narrow and rough road that leads there! Christian life has always been full of trials and hardships, persecutions and tests. It can be compared to a rough road with so many obstacles that deter us in pursuing this priceless invitation from the Almighty God.

God is the loving God but He also allows us to suffer trials and tests to strengthen our faith and endurance. We should acknowledge Him by these things to for it will benefit us in the end. It makes us stronger and firm that in the event of a storm we will not be easily uprooted. We should not be afraid of trials and hardships because He promised not to test us beyond our capability to bear. He prunes us that we may bear fruit through suffering. The Father's call is so great and purposeful that it requires a life-long struggle to the Christian. It is a journey and a constant tug-of-war battle against one's self, this evil world and Satan.

God's master plan is to bring literally billions of God beings into His Divine Ruling Family. This is the Supreme Purpose of man's very creation in the first place; He is in the process of reproducing Himself through us. This is where the incredible human potential lies! We will inherit His very nature; we will then be creators with Him. This awesome and magnificent will of the Eternal is for us to assist Him in the re-creation of the fathomless and ever-expanding universe; preserving it to its original state and putting back life in it.

Even though God has a wonderful plan for mankind, life's downturns are still inevitable even to God's people throughout the ages as recorded in the pages of the Bible. It takes its toll dramatically as we struggle to fit into God's plan in our lives. It is a sobering reality that we are often subject to the pitfalls of life's crisis triggered by many trials. We stumble now and then throughout this trip and insufficient faith in us will cloud our vision prematurely. John 11:9-10 states: "Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in a day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him." God instructs us to walk in the day that we may not stumble. Only having the truth can this be done by the power of His Holy Spirit. John 17:17 says: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

Another type of downturn is taking place that will ultimately bring this evil system to its cataclysmic end. This world as we know is now on the brink of total despair as recession deepens and is looming into a full-blown depression. It must be an ominous sign as we watch world events in light with bible prophecy. We are overwhelmed with sickening news of the spiral downturn of the world's economy that has wrecked havoc to so many lives. Nations in the affluent world are on the steady decline with their bestowed power and wealth being withheld at an unprecedented rate. We are indeed living in perilous and tumultuous times that shake our foundations. Human reasoning offers prevalent concepts in beating the current economic crisis. It is a blatant attempt to despise the instructional manual God had given to man to solve his problems. Humanity as a whole have despised God's given laws that if obeyed and practices brings prosperity and blessings in abundance.

In these final stages, Christians are constantly pounded with heightened physical and spiritual stress in Satan's attempt to overthrow us. He is after us trying his very best to steal our crown and to thwart God's plan. His "modus operandi" of cunning deception is in full effect aiming to inject his lies in our minds. Although Satan is able to influence us (God's Church) through deception, we can withstand and overcome him if, and only if Christ is in us; "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" Matt 16:18. As individual members of God's one and only Faithful Church, we have a collective responsibility to help each other spiritually through Christian fellowship that we may grow in the

Issue No. 10: 27th February 2009

knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” 2
Pet 3:18.