

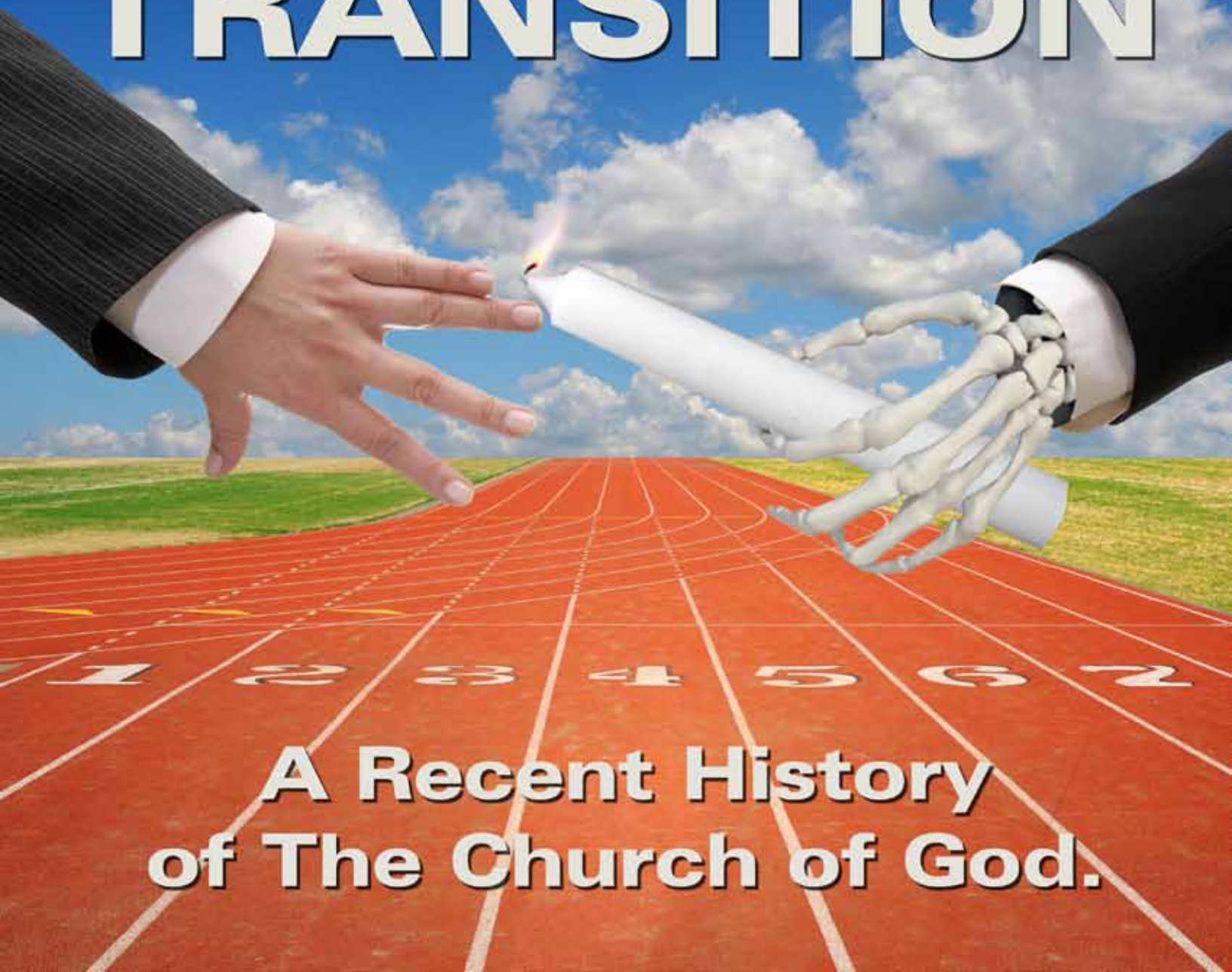


The Midnight Cry

July/Aug 2012, Volume 4, Number 3

A Magazine of Urgent Understanding

A FAITHFUL TRANSITION



**A Recent History
of The Church of God.**



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Publisher and Editor in Chief:

Robert Ardis

Managing Editor:

Jon Ardis

Assistant Managing Editor

& Graphic Design:

Laura Coldewey

Editorial Assistants:

Jan Rotunno, Karen Clinker

Contributors:

Robert Ardis

Jon Ardis

J R Cabangbang

Ron Chambers

Kurt Dohn

John Durrad

Wallace Lawton

Gerry Neenan

John Wood

Andy Yparraguirre

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From the Editor...



Time truly does fly by! And the older I get the faster it seems to whiz by. I will be 81 years old this coming July and in my years I have witnessed some very important historical events in the stream of time.

I was born in 1931 during the Great Depression. Jobs were very scarce so to provide a living for his young family, the only option my Dad had was to hunt and trap animals to provide the basic necessities for the family. He had to walk several miles to the Wateree swamp area to do his hunting and trapping, therefore he was gone for a few days or even a week before he would return home to sell what he had collected.

There were many, many poor families, but as a happy child I didn't realize we were poor. My mother had worked at S. H. Kress' 5 and 10 cents store for a couple of years as a clerk, but in 1935 my sister was born and then, thankfully, dad was offered work with the state highway department as an automotive mechanic. He received the enormous salary of eight dollars a week! That was big money in those days! Things were looking up for our family!

Major league baseball was the great American pass time, but professional boxing was a thrill for most everyone, too. Of course, the sports news was reported on radio and newspapers. Joe Lewis beat Max Schmelling to become the heavyweight champion of the world during the last years of the 30's.

I was 10 ½ years old when I heard the news about Japan bombing Pearl Harbor and the beginning of America's entry into WWII. And I remember the excitement the entire nation felt when the war in Europe ended. Germany unconditionally surrendered in June of 1945. Then in August there was great joy when the atomic bombs were dropped onto the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that brought an end to WWII!

The world had entered the NUCLEAR AGE although those two bombs were only equivalent to the trigger on the Hydrogen Bombs that would be developed in the next 20 years. Now, man had the ability to completely annihilate all life on earth.

It was years later that the depth of the horror of WWII would be known. Over 50 million people had lost their lives in the senseless slaughter. Finally, we saw the photographs of the concentration camps in Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Krakow, and other areas where mass murder had taken place. We gasped at the huge piles of corpses—and the haunting eyes of the “living dead”. Man's inhumanity toward his fellowman was in full display.

Yet, one of the most important messages the world could hear was going unheeded. The end-time Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong was proclaiming to the world that Germany would rise again and a nuclear WWII would destroy all life on Planet Earth—if God did not intervene!

Time has raced by! There have been a continual series of wars and rumors of war. More multiple MILLIONS have died in those conflicts. And Mr. Armstrong has also died. He died January 16, 1986 after 55 years of preaching to the entire world. He was heard on radio and television with the warning message that the nations of earth had turned their back on their Creator and WWII was coming—this time those weapons of mass destruction would be used.

Mr. Armstrong proclaimed to the world the Good News of the Kingdom of God that would emerge from the wreckage of Planet earth.

He thundered forth the message that God would send Jesus Christ as the King of Kings to prevent the total destruction of ALL LIFE and then to rule the earth for 1000 years in peace and prosperity.

Now, God has sent His Son back to the earth as 6000 years of man's misrule came to an end on the Feast of Trumpets of 1997. The Day of the Lord came as a thief in the night and our Lord came suddenly to His Temple –NOT to take control of the nations as yet, but He has released the Four Horsemen of the First Four Seals of the Book of Revelation. Jesus Christ has come to see that all situations, all circumstances, described in Bible prophecy leading up to the Great Tribulation will be fulfilled. All systems are progressing at full-speed—WWIII is on the horizon!

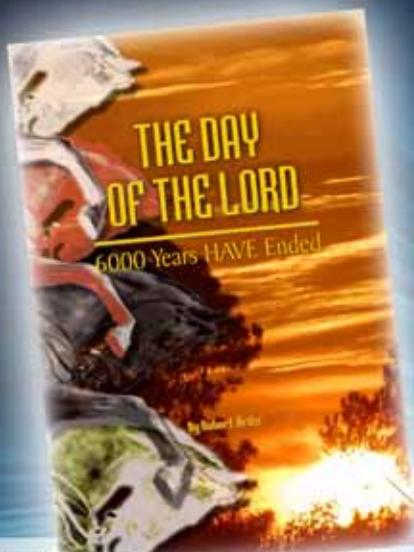
However, Christ has a WORK to do before the Tribulation! He is preparing His Pillars for the midnight cry to issue forth in great

POWER to awaken the sleeping virgins—the churches of god that are snared in the synagogues of Satan.

This issue of the Midnight Cry is dedicated to the recent history of the Church of God—the Church that Jesus Christ built. The articles entitled A Faithful Transition and Did Jesus Christ Establish Your Church Ministry present the Plain Truth of what has occurred in the True Church since the events leading up to the death of Mr. Armstrong until today in the year 2012.

Time has flown swiftly by and these articles will give you vitally important historical facts of which you most likely are completely unaware. We are living in much more urgent times than you have realized!

Your brother in Christ,

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day..." (Rev. 1:10)

Who's day?

The day belonging to Who?

John was obviously taken in Spirit to behold
an incredible vision.

But when does the vision take place?

IN THE DAY OF THE LORD!

Find our contact
information on page 16
of this issue.

Yes! All the miraculous visions including: the ride of the four horsemen, the heavenly signs, the greatest time of trouble ever to befall mankind, the resurrection, the thousand year rule of Christ and the Saints, the last great day, the coming of God the Father to set up Earth as the headquarters of the universe, and beyond all occur within The Day of the Lord!

Write for or download our booklet *THE DAY OF THE LORD, 6000 years HAVE ended* to find out more, but don't delay. We are already fifteen years into The Day of the Lord and the end of the first 19 year time cycle! It's time to hear His voice!



by John Durrad

Most ex-members of the Worldwide Church of God would surely agree that the WCG was the true Church of God--by definition, the Church with Jesus Christ as its Head.

Herbert W. Armstrong was a man called by God to be the human head of the Philadelphia era of the Church. God worked powerfully with Mr. Armstrong for over 50 years. God sent Mr. Armstrong, in the spirit and the power of the Elijah, to warn the Church and the world. The world was heading for disaster, and surely God would do nothing until He reveals prophecy to His servants (Amos 3:7). Notice this message from Mr. Armstrong:

“Everybody senses that something is wrong with the world...that some mighty event is about to occur. What is it? Bible prophecy tells! Here is a solemn warning...and it is the plain truth.

These words were written many years ago in the February 1934 issue, the very first issue, of *The Plain Truth* magazine. Then in February 1984, a Golden Anniversary issue

of *The Plain Truth* came out. The cover exclaimed, “50 Years--Where We Have Been. Where We Are Going.” Following is a quote from that issue:

“Five decades ago, in the first edition of *The Plain Truth*, I could not have written this ‘Personal.’ I did not then have UNDERSTANDING of the only real value of a human life. But *The Plain Truth* was born a magazine of UNDERSTANDING. Thankfully, as this publication has grown in circulation and influence, we have grown in knowledge and understanding also.

In this 50th anniversary number, it is my hope that what I write here, in my 92nd year, will help increase the understanding of many of our millions of readers in this very troubled time.

I am sure this personal message will anger some, hopefully interest many, and bring new understanding to at least a few. (Personal from H.W.A. February 1984 *Plain Truth*)

Mr. Armstrong explained the Bible in easy-to-understand terms on ra-

dio and in writing. The message was a strong warning to mankind, and although not a pleasant or popular message, for those God was calling it was exciting beyond measure! So much so that Mr. Armstrong was soon sending the message around the world, and in 1968 the name of the Church was changed from The Radio Church of God to The Worldwide Church of God.

Mr. Armstrong died in 1986. His successor was Mr. Joseph W. Tkach, who died in 1995. Then his son, Joseph Tkach Jr. took over. But soon after the death of Mr. Armstrong, changes had started to occur in the WCG--subtle changes at first, but then major changes away from the Bible. The ministry at first assured us there were no major changes, saying, “Changes, what changes?” But the changes came--changing the Sabbath and tithing, and bringing in the Trinity doctrine, to name a few. They now no longer have the name WCG; instead, it is Grace Communion International.

So where was Jesus Christ? He was no longer with Mr. Tkach. After the death of Mr. Armstrong, this problem presented itself to the faithful members of the WCG. Many were

content to wait for Jesus Christ to sort things out. They may still be waiting! Some took a more dramatic approach--they simply left the WCG. But the question was, "Where do you go?" Some left religion completely. Some even went to mainstream Catholic or Protestant churches. Some sought out various WCG split-off groups. For the FAITHFUL brethren, one of the split-off groups was the only real option. But again, WHICH ONE?

About 10 years after the death of Mr. Armstrong, there were about 100 WCG organizational splits. This could be confusing--where was Jesus Christ? He is the Head of ONE Church. There must be a natural transition of the true Church of Jesus Christ from the WCG to a present day administration. Notice this cast iron promise from Jesus Christ: "...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5).

If we are honestly seeking the truth and searching the scriptures, Christ said He would never leave us. However, we could leave Him! Herbert W. Armstrong preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the entire world for a witness to all nations. He prepared the way for Christ's second coming. He made ready a people prepared for the Lord. And he finished the house. The spiritual Temple was complete. Mr. Armstrong accomplished all of this as the servant of Jesus Christ through the Spirit of God. And then he died. And, even though he died, the Philadelphia candlestick continued to burn brightly.

We mentioned earlier, around 10 years after the death of Mr. Armstrong there were about 100 WCG organizational splits. A list of those splits, which I believe is comprehensive, was compiled as of

December 1996. The list actually gives 96 groups that split from the WCG and started their own church. For anyone fed up with the changes in the WCG in 1996, there were a possible 96 churches where Jesus Christ might be. If we check out this list we find that only 45 came about AFTER the death of Mr. Armstrong. That means that 51 were in existence during the administration of H.W.A.

That administration was on track--so we can discount these 51 groups. Out of the 45 left, only 24 had in their name, "Church of God." Twelve times in the New Testament the name of the ONE TRUE CHURCH is given as the CHURCH OF GOD. Churches are often named after men, after a system they have devised, or after a doctrine they emphasize. But wherever the ONE TRUE CHURCH is, it will always, without exception, be named the CHURCH OF GOD.

So, as we languished in the crumbling WCG, we now had 24 possibilities to look at. How long would Christ wait before He left the WCG? God is very merciful and would give Mr. Tkach time and opportunity to get back on track. But let's narrow the time of the transition from the WCG to the next Church that Christ would Head to 4 years (1986-1990). The time period of 4 years will be explained later.

Now, out of our 24 possibilities, which ones started up between 1986 and 1990? From our list we would have whittled our possibilities down to just six. Remember, we are looking for guidance as to where Christ is now working. It is striking that only ONE CHURCH stands out as a continuation of the true Church of God. That Church is the Philadelphia Church of God with Mr. Gerald Flurry as the hu-

man head. Let's consider the PCG as well as the other five:

1) Church of God Oklahoma (John Tresscott 1986). He preceded Mr. Flurry by 3 years. But who had heard of Mr. Tresscott? And he died in 2005. Also 1986 was too early, as we shall see as we proceed.

2) United Biblical Church of God (C. Patton and C Kimbrough 1987). Again, who had heard of them, and where are they now?

3) The Berean Church of God (Clarence Lucas 1989). The timing (1989) is about right, but where are they?

4) Church of God Philadelphia Era (Martin Fillepello 1987). Again, never heard of him, and are we not now in the Laodicean era?

5) Twentieth Century Church of God (C. Ken Rockwell 1990). Again, never heard of him, and 20th Century COG in the 21st Century?

6) Philadelphia Church of God (Gerald Flurry 1989). The major contender stands out very powerfully as the Philadelphia Church of God.

Notice now something we said we would come back to regarding the four years of 1986-1990:

“Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down (Luke 13:7-9).

Mr. Flurry explained this in *Malachi's Message*:

“ God gave the fig tree four years to bear fruit. If it failed to produce, He cut it down. AFTER MR. ARMSTRONG DIED, GOD ALSO GAVE THE WCG FOUR YEARS TO BEAR FRUIT. When the WCG failed, God raised up the Philadelphia Church of God to do His work.

Mr Armstrong died in January 1986. The Philadelphia Church made the first mailing of Malachi's Message in January 1990 – EXACTLY FOUR YEARS LATER! We planned none of this- God did the planning” (MM, page 150).

Those who loved God's truth were desperately holding fast deep within the inner court of the spiritual Temple. These spiritually strong brethren were beseeching God to get the Church back on track. *Malachi's Message* was the answer to those prayers. It was first sent out on the fourth anniversary of the death of Mr. Armstrong, January 1990. As that mailing went out, responses began to come from brethren who were followers of Jesus Christ. The Philadelphia candlestick still burned brightly in the inner court.

Let us understand that the Philadelphia era did not end at the death of Mr. Armstrong. The WCG continued as the spiritual house, the Church of God. The Laodicean candlestick had not yet been lit, and was not lit until 4 years after Mr. Armstrong's death. The faithful Church members were right there with Jesus Christ in the WCG. There was absolutely no need to leave or change churches just because HWA was no longer around. We followed the man as he in turn followed Christ.

“ Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation (Heb. 13:7).

We were not following Herbert W. Armstrong. Nor would we follow Joseph W. Tkach. But we were following the FAITH of those who had the rule over us. We were looking through the man and following our real leader, Jesus Christ.

“ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps (1 Pet. 2:21).

However, there were some in the WCG who were not faithful. Some were men-followers, or men-pleasers. So Christ began conducting a very important test. Mr. Armstrong had already said that some just didn't get it. He was right! A liberal, laid-back attitude had already started even before Mr. Armstrong died. Down through history there have been those who were called of God but would not follow Jesus Christ. They claimed to be Christians, yet by their actions were deceived followers of Satan.

Christ has only ONE Church, and yet men want to establish their own churches. This was true even in the first and second centuries AD (2 Pet 2:1-3). Now, from 1986 to the present day, many contentious separate church groups have sprung up. Yet, as we have seen, in the period just after Mr. Armstrong's death there were only a possible six contenders for the title “true Church of God.” And as the final Church era came about, the Laodicean Philadelphia Church of God stood out from the rest.

At a Philadelphia Church of God ministerial conference, Pastor General, Mr. Gerald Flurry, exclaimed, “We have it all, we have it all!” He might just as well have said, “We are rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing” (Rev 3:17). These words confirmed to a few faithful brethren that this was in fact the Laodicean Church, but this certainly wasn't apparent in the early days.

In December 1989, the Laodicean angel delivered the message of Malachi to Mr. Gerald Flurry. *Malachi's Message to God's Church Today* was the answer to many prayers.

“ Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets (Amos 3:7).

Here it became plain to see A FAITHFUL TRANSITION from one true Church to the next. Actually it was the same Church--the one headed by Jesus Christ. It was just a change of human administration. The faithful brethren recognized where Christ had moved to: a transition from the Worldwide Church of God to the Philadelphia Church of God. This is how Mr. Robert Ardis explained the transition in his book, *Elijah's Message to the Philadelphia Church of God*:

“ Gerald Flurry and John Amos had been recently disfellowshipped and fired by Joseph Tkach Jr. Mr. Tkach had been informed that *Malachi's Message to the Church of God* had been privately taught to a few members of Mr. Flurry's congregation; thus he and Mr. Amos were ordered to come to Pasadena where they were summarily questioned and fired from the WCG ministry. At that precise moment,

it appears the PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK was removed from the leadership in Pasadena and given to John Amos, and the LAODICEAN CANDLESTICK was ignited and given to Gerald Flurry.

The PCG was established and became incorporated in DECEMBER of 1989. John Amos was a kind and loving minister to those who knew him. He was also a stabilizing influence to Gerald Flurry. These two "candlesticks" worked together for 3½ years as the PCG until John Amos died in 1993... The PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK was passed on to another who was completely unaware of that which Christ had in mind. (*Elijah's Message to the PCG*, page 28)

During the early 1990's under the leadership of Mr. Flurry, the PCG became the well organized work of God. It became a powerful voice, crying aloud, and warning of the destruction of God's Church. The PCG was raised up by Christ with Mr. Flurry as the very zealous physical leader of the seventh candlestick/Church-Laodicea! Certainly Christ blessed Mr. Flurry and the Laodicean work. The growth of the PCG and its valuable acquisitions and properties are impressive. And yet, unbelievably, Satan struck again at God's Church.

After seven years of faithfully following Jesus Christ, things started to go wrong in the PCG. Tithes, offerings and membership began to decline. One reason was abusive governmental control over the members. People were being put out of the Church for merely asking questions. Another reason was the excessive no-contact rule. And so with declining membership, Mr. Flurry needed something to excite

the brethren. Satan inspired Mr. Flurry to illegally seize *Mystery of the Ages*. He then went on to proclaim that he fulfilled the prophecies of "that Prophet."

“Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished (Prov. 16:5).

It was incredible that he would take on a title that belongs only to Jesus Christ. But even more incredible is that most of his followers believed him! But some faithful members of the PCG were not followers of Gerald Flurry. They were followers of Jesus Christ. So the same question that they had when they were in the Worldwide Church of God now presented itself again. What do you do? Where do you go? If the PCG was the true work of Christ, but has gone off course, where do you turn? The answer is that you cry out to the One who called you into the Church in the first place (John 6:44). God called us out of this world. God called us out of the WCG. God changes not, so He will call us now and direct us to Christ. There is a FAITHFUL TRANSITION. It simply is a matter of following Christ.

In an earlier quote we went back to a time when Mr. Flurry and Mr. Amos were disfellowshipped from the WCG. Here is part of that quote:

“Gerald Flurry and John Amos had been disfellowshipped and fired by Joseph Tkach Jr...At that precise moment, it appears the PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK was removed from the leadership in Pasadena and given to John Amos, and the LAODICEAN

Continued on page 12.



Did Christ Establish Your Church Ministry?

Part I

by Andres N. Yparraguirre, Jr.

Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior prophesied of the times we are now living in. He prophesied of the time when the Church of God would be broken up, shattered and scattered in a manner we could never have imagined—until it happened. This account is recorded in chapter 24 of the book of Matthew.

“And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down (Matt. 24:1-2).

Perhaps the disciples thought our Lord would be impressed with the elaborately designed and adorned temple as they showed it to Him. Whether Jesus was impressed we aren't told; but He told them that the temple would be destroyed, utterly destroyed, to such an extent that every building block would be thrown down.

Today we are aware of the historical fact that this was exactly what happened to that magnificent Jew-

ish temple there in Jerusalem! It was destroyed completely in 70 A.D. during the Jewish-Roman War (66-73 A.D.), just as prophesied.

However, Christ's prophecy was dual, and the temple had to be destroyed *physically* and *spiritually*. Spiritually, God's temple is His Church, the same Church that Jesus Christ would build. Christ said:

“...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18).

“Know ye not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, *which temple you are.*” (I Cor. 3:16-17)

“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? *For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* (II Cor. 6:16)

What happened in 70 A.D. was a physical fulfillment of the temple destruction. The spiritual fulfill-

ment was to occur over 1900 years later in God's Church. But only a very few of God's people understand this.

Late in 1989, just a few days short of the fourth anniversary of the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the man he appointed as his successor, incredibly, became the prophesied “*man of sin*” of II Thessalonians 2:3. Through satanic subtleties, that man deceived a great number of the ministry to “*fall away from the truth*”—and with them, the **majority** of the members of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG).

For quite a while much of the ministry went along with the “man of sin” rejecting God's truth and teaching the doctrines of the world. Instead of clinging to the fantastic truth of God's family vision, the WCG actually began teaching that God is a *trinity*. Instead of teaching the Gospel of the coming Kingdom of God they taught the world's gospel about Christ—a false Christ. Consequently, the Church began to fall away from truth and began to fragment—DIVISION set in!

The apostle Paul warned the Church about this in his second letter to the Thessalonians. II Thess. 2:1-3:

“Now we beseech you brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him. That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed.

The “falling away” of the Church and “the man of sin” were powerful signs that had to be fulfilled before the Day of the Lord could come! These signs have been fulfilled in our time. The *falling away* did come about soon after Mr. Armstrong’s death and we are still witnessing the impact of its results—the divided ministers and members of the once glorious and powerful WCG. Indeed, as Jesus Christ himself prophesied, there was not left a stone upon another stone that was not thrown down. The former ministers and members of the WCG have been split and splintered into 300 plus “churches of god” (little c, little g), or synagogues of Satan (Rev. 3:9) as Jesus Christ calls them!

Today those churches are competing and warring against each other. Thus, if you are a minister or member of one of the DIVIDED churches, shouldn’t you question whether your church and its ministry are really of Christ? Did He establish your church? Or to put it another way, shouldn’t you ask if your chief minister was appointed by Christ to lead God’s Church?

One former WCG member who is caught in the 1986 time warp and is unable to connect the unfolding events after the death of Herbert Armstrong, believes that all the

different churches that were established after the breakup of the WCG have NOT been ordained by God.

If you are a minister or member of one of the churches, you would certainly disagree! But how sure are you that Jesus Christ has established your church? How can you be absolutely positive that your chief pastor is not a self-styled deceived minister who is only seeking a following? It is apparent that something is drastically wrong in the confusion and division of the split and splintered churches.

Has Jesus Christ actually established your church and appointed your leader as His chief minister? Isn’t there only one true ministry in existence today that God has ordained? And if there is such a ministry, what would be its work today?

God’s Ministry Must Go On, Despite the Falling Away!

The former WCG member cited above is so convinced that there is no TRUE ministry today that he challenges all former members of God’s Church, especially the ministers, to ask the question: “Has God ordained every split, splintered, divided mini-ministry that has come forth from the old mother church—the WCG?”

This former member has taken the negative position. To his mind the prophecies of Jeremiah and other related scriptures are on his side as the following quote tends to show:

“Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people: Ye have scattered my flock and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit

upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord (Jer. 23:1-2).

Had this man continued reading Jeremiah 23 he would have known that God’s ministry must go on despite the falling away of the majority of God’s people. The Lord says:

“And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their fold(s); and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord (Jer. 23:3-4).

That scripture says that the Lord “will set up shepherds.” And this is after condemning the ministers (pastors) that caused the flock to be scattered—to *fall away*.

Applying this verse to our particular situation today—after the *falling away*—our Lord Jesus Christ states in Rev. 3:9:

“Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Verse 8 establishes the time frame for this event:

“I know thy works: behold I have set before thee an open door...” The time is after the work of the Elijah was done.

Let’s read II Thess. 2:3-8 again:

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, ex-

cept there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.

The “mystery of iniquity” (II Thess. 2:7) was at work before Mr. Armstrong died, but the synagogues of Satan did not materialize until after Mr. Armstrong’s death. It was after the 6th candlestick/church (WCG), led by Mr. Armstrong, finished the work of preaching the Gospel throughout the entire world as a witness to all nations (Matt. 24:14).

Then Mr. Armstrong was taken away by death (2 Thess. 2:6-7) and the *falling away* could occur (verses 1-3)—then the synagogues of Satan became manifest.

Revelation 3:9 and Jeremiah 23:3-4 pertain to the *rescue work* of the *sleeping virgins of Matthew 25* who are the *lost sheep of the house of Israel*. Christ’s *rescue work* will cause the revival of the *woman* of Rev. 12:13-17! That mighty *WORK* lies directly ahead in our time now!

Christ is doing this *rescue work* even now through a tiny but faithful ministry that He has established to continue God’s work. God has

preserved a tiny group of faithful servants who will receive and minister to the *remnant* of the divided flocks when our Mighty Lord will cause them to return to the ONE TRUE FOLD (Rev. 3:9).

If there were no ministry today actually ordained by God, as the man mentioned above believes, the work of God would stop and the true Church would cease to exist.

And that would be contrary to scripture!

“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt. 16:17-18).

“The gates of hell shall not prevail against God’s Church.” This means the Church of God and its ministry continues to exist even after *the falling away* of the hireling ministers and most members of the old WCG.

But HOW can we know which group or organization is God’s one true Church today? There is definitely a WAY and we can be assured that God will help those who sincerely seek His Church! So, let’s seek out the TRUE CHURCH of Jesus Christ!

Whoso Reads, Let Him Understand

Unknown to the great majority of God’s people is the fact that an extremely significant sign that reveals the imminence of the Great Tribulation has been fulfilled spiritually. The reality of the spiritual “*abomination of desolation*” (Matt. 24:15) is *standing in the holy place*—right now!

This important sign has become a reality! And Jesus Christ has admonished us: “whoso readeth, let him understand” (same verse). The fact of the “*abomination of desolation* standing in the Holy Place” emphasizes how dangerous and serious the period in which we are now living really is.

God’s people really need to understand the urgency as the Great Tribulation (verse 16-22) comes closer with each passing day. To help us understand the issue at hand, let us keep in mind that God always sets apart a tiny *remnant* in times of invasion or *falling away* of his people.

“Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like Gomorrah. (Isa. 1:9)

This is a very scary statement that applies spiritually to God’s people today. If not for the very small remnant of faithful brethren that God has set apart after the falling away of the WCG ministers and members, God’s people might have been destroyed as were Sodom and Gomorrah.

“The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem ... Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken. I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the holy one of Israel unto an-

ger, they are gone away backward. (Isa. 1:1-4)

The above vision described by the prophet Isaiah is also a spiritual reality in the Church of God today. With more than 300 splits and splinters of the baptized members of God's Church, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that these people have forgotten the God who called them out of this world.

Jesus Christ tells us in John 17:11:

“And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, *that they may be one, as we are.*”

Our Lord asked the Holy Father to “keep them by the power of your name so that they may be one as we are one.” The more than 300 splits and splinter groups know that they are God's people—they continue to appropriate God's name in the titles they adopt for their groups.

However, striving to be reunited with their former brethren is NOT their prime objective. Each church leader wants to be the preeminent one! But Jesus Christ calls them what they really are: the synagogues of Satan.

Clearly, in their contentious division, “they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the holy one of Israel unto anger.” They have provoked Christ to call them *the synagogues of Satan*.

Thankfully, God makes sure that there will always be a very few faithful that will remain—who love and uphold TRUTH. Jesus Christ describes this small group as having “little strength” and as having kept HIS word and not denied HIS name (Rev. 3:8).

Small as the remnant might be, God has ordained its ministry.

Now, suppose you are a baptized former WCG member who does not belong to God's tiny true remnant, but you are searching for the true ministry of Christ! How will you find it? The following guides will help you know.

God Always Sanctifies the Church with His Truth!

One very important attribute of God's true Church is revealed in Christ's prayer to the Father in John 17:12-17:

“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name, those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition... I have given them thy word, and the world hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world... *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*”

And God has done this with the true Church of Jesus Christ—He has set the Church of God's Faithful (CGF) apart from ALL the rest by the identifying sign of *revealed TRUTH!*

Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, continues to give new truth directly from the *written* Word of God! New truth sets the CGF apart from those who say they are *churches of God*. These new truths consist of new understanding of God's Word and revelation of fulfilled prophecies in our time.

To His true Church, Jesus Christ has given understanding of deep spiritual truths such as:

- *The Day of the Lord and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are two different events!*

- *We are now in the Day of the Lord!*

- *The plain truth of the 144,000 firstfruits!*

- *The Pentecost Resurrection!*

- *The abomination of desolation standing in the holy place!*

- *The numbered days of the book of Daniel!*

Through growth in the *grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ* (II Pet. 3:18), God has revealed more than ONE HUNDRED new truths that were NOT understood during the time of God's end-time apostle Herbert Armstrong. These new truths are proof of the true ministry that Jesus Christ established after the *great falling away*.

Nonetheless, many say that as long as they *hold fast* to the teachings of Mr. Armstrong, they are assured of “*holding fast to their crowns*”! But wasn't that the attitude of the Sardis era Church of God? Didn't they refuse to grow in *grace and knowledge* when Mr. Armstrong came in among them? They refused to grow, and therefore they became a dead Church. Christ changes not! The split and splintered churches are in a dangerous situation now—to refuse to grow in new truth is a sure step toward the Great Tribulation.

* This article will conclude in the next issue of *The Midnight Cry*, as the Church of God's Faithful will be further identified as the one true Church of Jesus Christ. ❖

Continued from pg. 7.

CANDLESTICK was ignited and given to Gerald Flurry...These two "candlesticks" worked together for 3½ years as the PCG until John Amos died in 1993... The PHILADELPHIA CANDLESTICK was passed on to another who was completely unaware of that which Christ had in mind (Elijah's Message to the PCG).

That "another" was Mr. Robert Ardis whom God had decided would carry the sixth candlestick (the Philadelphian remnant). Mr. Ardis and the Church of God's Faithful have been set apart by truth. God has given Mr. Ardis many new truths, starting with the amazing understanding of the Day of the Lord. Here is what Mr. Ardis wrote in his book, *The Day of The Lord--6000 Years have ended*:

“One of the TRUTHS of the ‘things to come’ that we have always sought to understand is, WHEN will Christ and the Day of the Lord COME? On the evening of the Feast of Trumpets, October 1, 1997, as I began preparing the sermon for the Holy Day, I knew 6000 years were supposed to be ending. However, the GREAT TRIBULATION had not yet occurred, nor had the heavenly signs been seen that were to usher in the GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH. The Day of the Lord's Wrath was to occur after these awesome events...Had God held back a vital TRUTH from the Church until this very specific TIME, and then suddenly REVEALED it? With the REVEALING of this astounding TRUTH other vitally important prophecies can be brought to light, one at a time! God does

everything perfectly and right on time! (Page 23)

Now in the Day of the Lord, Christ is once again separating and sifting out His precious treasure. The sixth candlestick burns brightly as the Church of God's Faithful. The faithful elect are not deceived—the transition is complete! God has led His people from the WCG in the Philadelphia era to the PCG in the Laodicean era, and now to a small remnant group of Philadelphians who are knocking on the door of the Laodicean PCG (Rev. 3:14-20).

God is also using His Church of God's Faithful to warn others. There are still a number of errant "church of god" groups out there (Rev. 3:9). We must add that not all CGF members have come through the WCG/PCG route. Some have come from the streets and lanes of the city--and even from the highways and hedges (Luke 14:21,23)! God calls an individual in His (God's) time. The CGF has members called directly into the CGF, but all are faithful members of the true Church of God led by Jesus Christ.

What a journey God's true Church has been on; and make no mistake--our journey and work will not be in vain. Written words, Internet exposure, or powerful sermons will convince very few that the CGF is the true Church of God. No! God in His own time will show His people where the true Church is located. One must assume that most, if not all of the split-off groups teach that they are the only true church of God. That being the case, mere words or discussion will not convince them otherwise. But think on this:

The CGF is the only Church, as far as I am aware, that has identified the ONE Laodicean Church in this Laodicean era. Anyone who be-

lieves that we are indeed in the Laodicean era will know there will be God's Church somewhere. That Church has been identified as the Philadelphia Church of God. Now according to Rev. 3:20 there will be a group of Philadelphians warning them.

“But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matt. 10:6-7).

What is needed to show where this warning group is located will be fully supplied by the Head of the Church when Christ decides it is time. At this time, God is supplying new truth and the urgently needed inspiration and guidance to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

Many of the members of the CGF have followed Jesus Christ in the transition from the WCG and PCG. If you are now in one of the split-off groups, you don't have to wait for the fulfilment of Rev. 3:9. You can come and worship God in the Church of God's Faithful right now. It is so important in this crucial end-time to know where our Head is.

Let us conclude with these words from the apostle Paul:

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his spirit: for the spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” (1 Cor. 2:9-10).

Faithful brethren of God, let us think on these things! ❖

This Month's Top Articles from

The Faithful Watchman

Newsletter of the Church of God's Faithful



Through *The Faithful Watchman*, we endeavor to keep ourselves abreast of how our Lord Jesus Christ is orchestrating the ride of the 4 Horsemen as He sets the scene for the Two Witnesses to begin their 1260 days of prophesying and for the Great Tribulation to begin. Read daily updates to *The Faithful Watchman* online at setapartbytruth.org.

Wilbur Ross: US Economy Dangling on Verge of Recession

The U.S. economy is poised to slide into a recession thanks to anemic job growth, weak industrial production figures and consumers who spend more than they're taking home, says international investor Wilbur Ross, CEO of WL Ross & Co.

A slew of dismal economic indicators points to a fresh economic downturn in the world's largest economy, especially the Bureau of Labor Statistics May jobs report.

"In the most recent jobs report, only 69,000 net jobs were created. We need to create over 100,000 just to keep the unemployment rate constant," Ross tells Reuters.

"Second, the industrial production figures were awful; they've actually declined and third, consumers have been outspending the growth in real income. That can't continue forever."

President Barack Obama's regulations on the banking, healthcare and other sectors aren't helping either.

Uncertainty hampers demand and investing and is killing recovery.

"And fourth and I think most importantly, there's a lot of concern on the part of the public with the direction the country has taken under the Obama administration, and I think that uncertainty will keep going until the fall elections," Ross says.

<http://www.moneynews.com/...>

Comment: These are serious times for the American economy as it slips closer and closer to recession. The people of course are concerned about the way they are being led by the Obama administration, and are increasingly unhappy with President Barack Obama's handling of the situation.

It's not all his fault, the whole western world is in the grip of serious financial meltdown, but they need someone to blame and as their leader, he is held responsible. It would help if our leaders knew what to do and had the moral strength to do it!

"And he spake a parable unto them, can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch?" Luke 6:39

The problem is that mankind, and that includes our leaders, choose not to look to God for the answers to these awful problems and so the solutions are always going to be impossible for them to understand and solve.

"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jer 10:23

The Pope's message is clear: Conform or else

Fundamental fever grips the Vatican. The affliction is evident in the renewed mission of the church to separate the wheat from the chaff among Roman Catholics in the United States, to cull the conservatives from the liberals who cause so much trouble.

Under Pope Benedict XVI, a paternalistic pattern of crackdowns, censorship, and intolerance for dissent is emerging. The largest Christian denomination in America, and one of the world's largest religions, has taken a hard turn to the right.

The Catholic Church is on a path toward imposed orthodoxy. Like a father who pulls unruly children into line, the mission of Benedict and his bishops is to regain control over freethinking faithful who dare to question their authority.

This is miter muscle. Power is maintained through dictate, not dialogue. No one but the church hier-

archy has the wisdom to decree the right words to pray, what to think on issues from contraception to gay marriage, why to believe, or who can belong.

To question the church's stance on liturgical changes, the male-only priesthood, opposition to insurance coverage for birth control, human sexuality, or any other issue is to be unfaithful. But the notion that church precepts are not open to discussion is difficult for American Catholics to grasp.

<http://www.toledoblade.com/...>

Comment: Yes, this message is very clear to those who understand Bible prophecy. The Book of Revelation portrays a mighty power called "the Beast" made up of church and state and led by the dragon, or Satan himself. For its short life the power of the "Beast" will be ultimate. No other power will be able to make war against it.

"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him...And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." Rev 13:4, 7

People should be very concerned about this latest clear message from the Head of the Catholic Church. No amount of cosy chat-room discussions or eloquent speaking will distract this power from its aim. As the article pointed out, the "power is maintained through dictate not dialogue."

British queen leads 1,000-strong jubilee flotilla

LONDON (AP) — The River Thames became a royal highway Sunday, as Queen Elizabeth II led a motley but majestic flotilla of more than 1,000 vessels in a waterborne pageant to mark her Diamond Jubilee.

In a colorful salute to the island nation's maritime past, an armada of skiffs and sailboats, rowboats and paddle steamers joined a flower-festooned royal barge down a 7-mile (11-kilometer) stretch of London's river.

With a crowd of rain-soaked spectators estimated by organizers at 1.25 million cheering from the riverbanks, the pageant was the largest public event in four days of celebrations of the monarch's 60 years on the throne. On Monday, the queen will join thousands of revelers at an outdoor concert beside Buckingham Palace, headlined by pop royalty including

Paul McCartney and Elton John.

After a celebratory peal of bells from a special belfry barge, the royal boat sailed downstream at a stately 4 knots (4.6 mph, 7.4 kph), accompanied by tugs, pleasure craft, narrow boats, kayaks, gondolas, dragon boats and even a replica Viking longboat.

<http://news.yahoo.com/...>

Comment: It has been a wonderful and spectacular four days of the Queen of England's Diamond jubilee. This delightful lady may not be fully aware of the tremendous meaning of the throne she sits on, and there lies the difficulty with the majority of her subjects. As Shakespeare would say, "Aye, there's the rub."

And the rub is, that as magnificent as this celebration was it really only was a distraction, a temporary sop to ward off the impending disastrous outcome of our dire financial and economic situation. People may cling on with hope looking forward to the 2012 Olympics, but what of the rest of this year?

The biggest shame though is that people are so materialistic that they do not recognise the Throne of David even as it is thrust upon them by the 60 year celebration of the present incumbent. Any spiritual aspect has been lost in the physical celebrations, with little knowledge or reference to the eternal implications of this office.

"While we look not at things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor 4:18

The celebration of the king of kings will pale into insignificance these present celebrations, and they will last forever!

Iran is 'laughing all the way to the bomb,' warns Deputy PM Ya'alon

"Iran is laughing all the way to the bomb," Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Ya'alon told a conference at Tel Aviv University on Wednesday.

While Tehran's officials negotiate with the West to buy time, its centrifuges keep spinning, he said, adding that in the last three months Iran enriched 750 kg of uranium to 3.5%, and another 36 kg to 20% purity. Iran, he said, has more than 6,000 kg of low enriched uranium — enough, potentially, for five bombs.

Speaking at the Institute for National Security Studies conference, Ya'alon added that Iran "is showing

no sign whatsoever that it feels threatened, despite economic difficulties.” Sanctions, he said, have yet to “bring the regime to the dilemma: the bomb or survival.”

Ya’alon was speaking after several recently retired high-ranking security officials had weighed in at the conference on the question of whether an Israeli military strike against Iran’s nuclear facilities is either a grave mistake or the only option left for the Jewish state.

As a former chief of staff, Ya’alon said he knew “better than anyone” that military force could only be used as a last resort. He stressed that the Iranian threat was not only directed against Israel. “We’re the little Satan,” he said. “America is the big Satan.”

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/...>

Comment: “Laughing all the way to the bomb” is an interesting ploy on the usual phrase but it does point to the fact that Iran’s nuclear bomb making facility is not going to recede into the background never mind be stopped altogether.

“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars:... Matt 24:6

If Iran does not yet have a nuclear weapon, it certainly has the potential to produce five bombs at least. Israel is nervous because the threat to them moves forward by a margin that is a little too close for comfort! Iranian President Ahmadinejad believes that Israel should cease to exist, and when he has the capability to carry out his belief, that is a little more than a “rumour of war”

About four years ago the Israeli Prime Minister made an interesting statement when he said that Israel had the ability to create the tools needed to ensure its continued existence. Hinting at Iran he went on to say, “We will not place ourselves in a position where anyone will, in an effective manner threaten us with destruction...But here my friends, the Jewish people can fight, and when it needs to, it fights, and when it fights, it wins.”

Things are hotting up. Certainly a little more than “a rumour of war”

Shock: British Teens Have as Many as Seven Abortions

New figures from the British government show hundreds of teenagers in the U.K. are having multiple taxpayer-funded abortions with three who had several government-funded abortions before their 20th

birthday.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper obtained official NHS figures using a Freedom of Information Act request and determined that two teenage girls had their seventh abortion in 2010, the most recent year during which the government has figures. Another four teenage girls had six abortions paid for at taxpayer expense.

“Fourteen teenage girls had their fifth abortion in 2010, 57 teens had a termination for the fourth time and 485 women aged 19 or under went through the procedure for a third time,” the newspaper indicated.

Of the abortions carried out on teenage girls in 2010, more than 5,300 were on teenagers who had already had at least one termination. Out of the 189,574 abortions carried out in 2010 for women of all ages, more than 64,300 terminations were for women who had already had the operation in the past.

Some 85 of those women had undergone at least seven previous terminations, including 30 women who were aged under 30.

<http://www.lifenews.com/...>

Comment: It is a shock to know that teenage girls, that are girls between the ages of 13-19, have so little regard to morality or human life. One abortion for every year of their teenage life is too awful to contemplate. Couple this with the fact that one child in four in Britain has a lone parent. At least those mothers did not commit murder! Single parent families are usually with the mother looking after the children. As with those that have abortions the question must be asked. Where are the fathers?

Men must be responsible for their actions especially when it involves a tiny defenceless human being, a potential God! The Bible is very condemning for such individuals saying that they are worse than someone who has no faith or belief in anything.

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” 1Tim 5:8

We wouldn’t be having so many unwanted pregnancies and abortions if the moral standing of men, and women, was a lot higher. This horrible trend will only be reversed when people understand the true value of the family unit.

This will not happen in this broken society but will be restored in the soon coming Millennium rule of the king of kings, Jesus Christ under the direction of God, who is the ultimate caring Father of all.

Brussels wants e-identities for EU citizens

The European Commission is set to launch a substantial review of rules governing personal documents with the aim of making electronic identities take off across the EU. But the proposal faces likely opposition from civil rights groups and member states where identity cards do not exist.

Neelie Kroes, the EU's Digital Agenda Commissioner, will present by the beginning of June a new legislative proposal which aims "to facilitate cross-border electronic transactions" through the adoption of harmonised e-signatures, e-identities and electronic authentication services (eIAS) across EU member states, according to an internal document seen by EurActiv.

"A clear regulatory environment for eIAS would boost user convenience, trust and confidence in the digital world," reads the paper. "This will increase the availability of cross-border and cross-sector eIAS and stimulate the take up of cross-border electronic transactions in all sectors."

Brussels has long been trying to facilitate the emergence of a parallel system of electronic identification, on top of the the real-world existing documents. This has mainly been linked to the struggle for establishing a truly functioning single market, rather than on security grounds.

A directive was adopted in 1999 establishing a common framework for electronic signatures. The rationale for the legal text is that if EU citizens feel

comfortable in signing documents online, they will increasingly move to the immaterial world of the e-commerce to do business and shopping, regardless of national borders.

<http://www.euractiv.com/...>

Comment: There must be a balance between invasion of privacy on one hand and security of individual's assets on the other. Unfortunately the EU seem to want more and more control on our movements and transactions. This "big brother is watching you" scenario makes many people very uncomfortable; and rightly so if you believe in the prophecies of the Book of Revelation, and a soon coming "Beast" power.

"And he caused all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, (work or labour) or in their foreheads: (Intellect or mind)

And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Rev 13:16-17

Of course there are those in our society who would rather take what someone else has earned rather than produce something themselves. So it is necessary that extra security measures be put into place, but this will be an opportunity for the EU to eventually seize full control of the population under a new name the Bible describes as a Beast power! This power will have the authority to put to death those that oppose the severe restrictions applied to the population.

Right now our freedom is being restricted, but as the Bible predicts, the worst is yet to come!

HEADQUARTERS & CANADA

Mr. Jonathan Ardis
136 Woodland Drive,
Harleyville, SC 29448,
USA.
(843) 462-7977.
jardis@setapartbytruth.org

USA

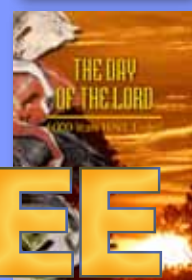
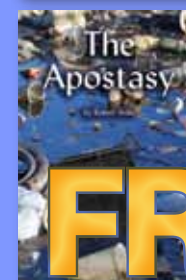
Mr. Gerry Ardis
136 Woodland Drive
Harleyville, SC 29448,
USA.
Work Tel: (+1) 843-922-1125
Home Tel: (+1) 843-922-1460
gardis@setapartbytruth.org

UK, IRELAND, EUROPE & AFRICA

Mr. John Durrad
19 Lansdown Close
Daventry, Northants NN11 OGP
England.
Tel: (+44) (0) 1327 706930
Mobile: (+44) (0)7815 900003
jdurrad@setapartbytruth.org

PHILIPPINES, AUSTRALIA, FIJI & NEW ZEALAND

Mr. Wallace T. Lawton
Tel/Fax: +649-5371464
Mobile: +642-188-2929
Pager +649-5371463
wlawton@setapartbytruth.org



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