



The
PRESENT TRUTH
and
Herald of Christ's Epiphany

SPRING 2009

A.D. 2008 — A.M. 6137

WHOLE NO. 725

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"The Lamb opened the seventh seal." "Ye have approached Mount Zion, and the City of the Living God, The Heavenly Jerusalem ... See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh ... saying ... 'Yet once more I shake not the earth only but also heaven' ... Wherefore, receiving a Kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." "Christ being come an High Priest ... by a greater and more perfect Tabernacle ... obtained eternal deliverance." —Rev. 8: 1; Heb. 12: 22, 25, 26, 28; 9: 11, 12.



"CLEANSE ME FROM SECRET FAULTS" — PSA. 19: 12

THIS article is designed, first to set forth ethical thoughts helpful to our cleansing, and then doctrinal thoughts, both intended to help us prepare for a worthy participation in the Lord's Supper, which comes this year after 6:00 P.M., April 8. The prophetic prayer, "*Cleanse Thou me from secret faults,*" on which are based the ethical thoughts of this article, represents well the heart attitude of the fully consecrated and earnest Christian. While realizing forgiveness of the "sins that are past through the forbearance of God," through the grace of God which was in Christ Jesus, which assigns

our sins to Him and His righteousness to us who believe in Him, nevertheless the well-instructed soul realizes its faults, and its shortcomings. These secret faults may be of two kinds: (1) They may be faults which were secret to ourselves at the time committed—slips, unintentional errors. Of course the earnest heart, desiring full fellowship with the Lord, will regret even its unintentional shortcomings, and will strive and pray for Divine grace to get the victory over these; and (2) There are, besides these, other secret faults, which are secret in the sense of being unknown to any one but ourselves and the Lord—imperfections or faults of the mind before they take the outward form of actual and presumptuous sins of any kind. A presumptuous sin is a sin that is acted out and performed by us either mentally or physically or both.

All Christians of experience in the battle against sin and self have learned that there can be no outward or presumptuous sins that have not first had their beginning in secret faults of the mind. The sinful thought may be one of pride, suggesting self-exaltation; it may be one of avarice, suggesting unlawful acquisition of wealth; or it may be some other fleshly desire. The mere suggestion of the thought before our minds is not sin; it is merely the operation of our faculties, and of the influences which surround us, inquiring of our wills whether or not we will consent to such thoughts. Many consent to thoughts of evil who at the time would utterly repudiate any suggestion to commit evil deeds; but if the thought be *entertained*, it is a secret fault, and the growing tendency would surely be toward the more outward and presumptuous sinful conduct, the tendency of which is always from bad to worse. For instance, suppose the suggestion should come to our minds of a method by which we could advance our own interests of fame or honor or reputation by the undermining of the influence and reputation of another, how quickly the evil, selfish thought, if entertained, would lead to envy and possibly hatred and strife! Almost surely it would lead to back-biting and slander and other works of the flesh and the devil. The beginnings are always small, and correspondingly much

PRESENT ^{The} TRUTH and Herald of Christ's Epiphany

ISSN: 0032-7700

Published by the

Laymen's Home Missionary Movement
1156 St. Matthews Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425-2700, U.S.A.
Published regularly since December, 1918

4 issues a year

(Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter)

Annual Subscription

\$12.00 (single issue, \$3.50)

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Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Laymen's Home Missionary Movement
1156 St. Matthews Road
Chester Springs, PA 19425-2700, U.S.A.
Periodicals Postage paid at Kutztown, PA

Other Publications

The Bible Standard

Foreign language editions

French, German, Polish, Portuguese, Tamil, Malayalam,
Kannada, Ukrainian and Lithuanian

Free from all sects, parties, organizations, and creeds of men, but bound to God as it understands His Word, this magazine stands for —

- The defense of the Parousia Truth, given by the Lord through "that Servant," as basic for all further development of the Truth;
- The defense of the arrangements, charter and will given by the Lord through "that Servant," as binding on controlling corporations and associations among Truth people; and for
- The exposition and defense of the unfolding Epiphany-Basileia Truth, as meat in due season for the Lord's people, as He is pleased to provide it.

easier to deal with than in their developed form. Hence the prophetic prayer, "Cleanse me from secret faults," and thereby restrain or keep me back from presumptuous sins.

In the Epistle of James (1: 14, 15) we read, "*Each one is tempted when he is drawn away of his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*" Here we have the same thought differently expressed. The temptation consists at first in the presentation to the mind of suggestions which are impure or unkind or unfaithful to obligations; but there is no sin, no fault, as yet. The fault begins when we harbor the evil suggestions; begin to turn them over in our minds and to consider the attractions which they may have to offer. This is where desire, taking hold of the evil thing instead of resisting it, causes a beginning of the secret fault; and it is only a process of development, which in many instances under favorable circumstances may be very rapid, that sin, the presumptuous, or outward acts of sin, results—for instance, bearing false witness against a neighbor, or slander, or other evil deeds. The evil course having begun in the fostering of the evil suggestion, and having progressed to presumptuous sin, there is great danger that the entire course of life will be ultimately affected thereby and bring the transgressor into that condition where he will commit greater transgression—willful, deliberate, intentional sin, which will damage his character and may affect his standing in the Kingdom.

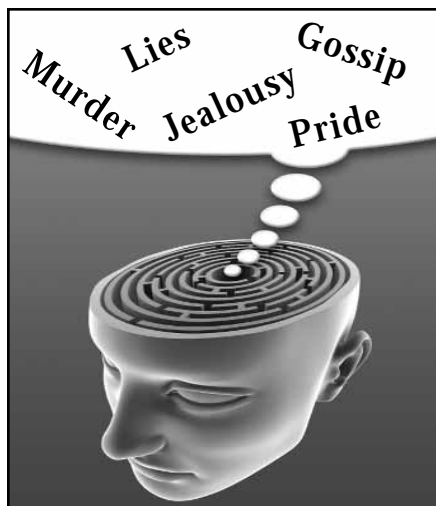
It would appear, then, that every intelligent Christian would continually pray this inspired prayer, for cleansing from secret faults, that he might be restrained from presumptuous sins; and if he prays earnestly, and at the same time watches his heart attitude, to keep it in full agreement with the Lord, and goes continually to the Throne of Grace for help in time of need, and for forgiveness and cleansing through the precious blood for every mistake, he will be kept pure and safe from the pitfalls of the way. We cannot hope to live in close fellowship with the Lord, if we merely guard against outward sins, presumptuous sins, and neglect to watch for the beginnings of sin in the secret of the mind and heart. We might as well expect to avoid small-pox or any other noxious disease by outward cleansing while we permit the germs of disease to be taken into our system. The germs of presumptuous sins enter through the mind, and the antiseptics and cleansing

of the Truth and its Spirit must meet them there and promptly kill the microbes of sin before it germinates and leads to such a condition of evil as will manifest itself in our outward conduct. For instance, whenever the influence of pride and self-importance present themselves, let the antidote be promptly administered from the Lord's great medical laboratory for the healing of the soul. The proper remedy to offset this species of pride is found in the words: "He that exalts himself shall be abased, and he that humbles himself shall be exalted," and "Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall."

If the thought presented to our minds be the infection of envy, then let us promptly apply the antidote which declares that envy is one of the works of the flesh and of the devil, and contrary to the Spirit of Christ, which by our Covenant we have adopted as ours. "*Love envies not,*" we are instructed (1 Cor. 13: 4). Let us remember that envy is closely related to and apt to be followed by malice, hatred and strife, which under some circumstances mean murder, according to our Lord and the Apostle John (Matt. 5: 22; 1 John 3: 15). If avarice is the contamination which presents itself to our minds, with the suggestion of unjust methods for its gratification, let us properly apply to it the medicine furnished in the Lord's Word, "*What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*" And again: "*For the love of money is a root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have departed from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows*" (Matt. 16: 26; 1 Tim. 6: 10).

The more attention we give to this subject the more we will be convinced, from our own personal experiences, of the truth of the Scriptural declarations respecting the beginnings of sin as secret faults in the mind; and the more we will appreciate the statement, "*Keep your heart [mind, motives, affections and will] with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life*" (Prov. 4: 23).

We are not to wonder that God has so constituted us as to permit temptations to come to our minds; nor are we to pray that we may have no temptations; for if there were no such presentations, no such temptations, then there could be no victories on our part, no overcoming of sin and of the Wicked One; and we know that for this very reason we are now in the school of Christ. We are not to expect that there we will be shielded from all temptation, but that we may learn from the great Teacher how to meet the Tempter, and by our Master's grace and help come off



conquerors, victors, in the strife against sin. The degree of our success in this conflict will depend largely upon the keenness of our faith and trust in the great Teacher. If we have implicit confidence in His wisdom and in His help in every time of need, we will follow closely His instructions and will keep our hearts (dispositions) with all diligence. Faith in God's wisdom is necessary to us in order that we may be thoroughly obedient to Him; and hence it is written, "*This is the victory that overcomes the world, even your faith,*" it will be by the exercise of faith and the obedience which flows therefrom that we will be enabled to come off "*more than conquerors through Him that loved us*" (Rom. 8: 37).

We are to recognize that we have made a Covenant with the Lord and are His. He is near us at all times, in every trial, in every temptation. His assistance is ready at our call, if we will accept it and act according to His direction. So our prayers should be for help in the time of need, as well as for the Lord's blessing and care for each day. In the moment of temptation the heart should lift itself to the great Master, in full assurance of faith, recognizing His love, His wisdom and His ability to help us, and His willingness to make all things work together for good to those who love Him (Rom. 8: 28). Asking for His assistance in our time of need will surely draw to us the counsel, help and strength of the Lord that we may be righteous, true, pure and loving. To ask for His assistance will enable us to be ever victorious—daily, hourly and finally. One difficulty may be that we are looking for some great battles, and we do not avail ourselves of the Lord's provision for keeping our minds cleansed from secret faults—the little battles. These are much more numerous than the large ones, in which we will gain most of our victories with their rewards. "*Greater is he that rules his own spirit than he that takes a city*" (Prov. 16:32).

The grand results of obedience to this counsel of the Lord, the grand attainment of those who have faithfully kept their hearts with diligence, is expressed in the words of the text quoted at the beginning of this article, with its context, and may well be the repeated, earnest prayer of each of the sanctified in Christ Jesus: "*Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me; then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer*" (Psa. 19: 12-14). The thought of these verses is especially important to realize in our daily lives just now, as we are approaching the Memorial. At this time the Adversary may draw near to us, seeking to impede our progress in overcoming our secret faults, and to our taking

steps to rid ourselves of them. This is, therefore, the special time for us to cooperate with the Lord in our cleansing from secret faults, as well as for our putting aside every evil that manifests itself in sinful deeds. As for the annual typical Passover, the natural Israelites put all leaven out of their houses, so let us as Spiritual Israelites cast out of our hearts and heads the leaven of sin, error, selfishness and worldliness, as we approach the annual antitypical Passover. The best way to do this is to become filled with the Spirit—"Walk according to the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh" (Gal. 5: 16). So cleansed we will partake of that feast worthily, that we will not be caught in some sifting, that will manifest us as losing our class standing, and be cast away from our present call, if we do not, especially at this season, cleanse ourselves. Passover time is for this reason an especially dangerous time in our lives; but if we use its temptations aright, it is a blessed cleansing time for us, and therefore a time for more freedom from evil and more advancement in grace, knowledge and privileges of service. May we, therefore, in word and deed pray, "*Cleanse me from secret faults.*"

MEMORIAL—WHO MAY PARTAKE?

First and foremost, the Little Flock, the members of Christ's Body (1 Cor. 12: 12-27; Eph. 4: 4), were given the privilege of partaking, and that in the fullest sense. By their participation therein they symbolized three things: (1) the death of our Lord Jesus (1 Cor. 11: 26); (2) their faith, appropriating justification, obtaining the forgiveness of sins and the imputation of righteousness, through His broken body and shed blood, His death (Matt. 26: 26-28); and (3) their sharing with Him in the privilege of the sacrificial death for the world (1 Cor. 10: 16, 17; 15: 29; Phil. 3: 10). The Great Company did share in the first two senses just mentioned but were not privileged in the Lord's Supper to symbolize their death with Christ, for they are not members of His Body, partners in His Sin-offering. They did partake of the Lord's Supper to symbolize (1) His death as the Lamb of God, and (2) their faith, appropriating justification through His sacrificial death—His body broken for them and His blood shed for them for the forgiveness of their sins. Likewise the non-Spirit-begotten consecrated servants of God may also celebrate in this sense.

We have especially two reasons for believing that it is appropriate for the non-Spirit-begotten consecrated servants of God to partake of the Lord's Supper for the two purposes set forth above as (1) and (2). First, not only the firstborns, but all Israelites by Divine command and approval (Ex. 12: 25-27, 47; Num. 9: 2-5, 13; Josh. 5: 10; 2 Chron. 35: 1-19) partook of the... *Continued on page 15*

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

TROUBLE PROLIFERATES
WORLD'S ECONOMY IN FREE-FALL
ISRAEL UNDER SIEGE—WITHIN AND WITHOUT
RELIGIOUS WORLD—BABYLON IS FALLEN
THE BIBLE HOUSE

At this late date in the continuing advancement of the Divine plan, we perceive that we are in the Great Tribulation period that our Lord spoke of and that it should now be apparent to those who have their senses tuned to the “signs of the times,” that it is afflicting the world’s society (Matt. 24: 21). It is not that our brethren cannot discern the prophesied great Time of Trouble; they see that, but they find it difficult to admit that it is in our midst, because to do so, would manifest them as not being of the Bride class. This is because, with the advent of this special Trouble period, the Scriptures indicate that the completion of the 144,000 Saints who were at that time, “sealed in their foreheads,” is marked as being timed together, with the Tribulation. Not only is the Church complete in glory but the Great Company has also finished their earthly course and are recipients of their heavenly position which is not of the Divine nature on the throne, but nonetheless, it is a heavenly spirit existence, before the throne (Rev. 7: 9-17). Those of us who remain will have the privilege of ministering under the Ancient Worthies as Youthful Worthies or as Consecrated Epiphany Campers in the earthly phase of the Kingdom (Joel 2: 28). There are no easy lessons coming forth for the world, mainline Christianity or for God’s consecrated people. We need to change our mind-set of insisting that we should be of one specific class or another, to that of accepting the Divine will for our place in the Kingdom. Dogmatically holding to the place we want may ultimately cause some to be in a lower position in the Kingdom. Time has progressed from that of the last spirit-begetting in 1914, some ninety-five years ago, to the present. There have been millions of nominal church people during this time, claiming to be of the Church. They have failed to recognize any progress in the Divine plan and are still back in their comprehension to the time of Jesus’ First Advent. The Truth people associated in the various groups, have on the other hand, progressed much further on in perception of the Plan, to the Harvest period of the Gospel Age, during Bro. Russell’s ministry as “that servant” and for the most part they understand that the Second Advent occurred in 1874 (Matt. 24: 45-47). Due

to the close of High Calling privileges in 1914, with the sealing of the very elect (Rev. 7: 4), and the imminence of the separation of the Little Flock and the Great Company; which occurred from 1917 onward, there was not a clear perception of the closing of the door. Many could not discern the Lord’s leading and the trial of separation coming upon God’s Harvest Truth people. (Write for P.T. Autumn 2008, “*What Does It All Mean?*”)

WORLD'S ECONOMY IN FREE-FALL

To address the present financial status, it almost seems that the latest news is old news before this typing even hits the page. The predictions of the money experts after the crash in 1929 said that due to the protections then put in place they would give the assurance that the stock markets could never be put in jeopardy again. The financial picture becoming increasingly dubious in 2008 and particularly in the month of October found world markets tumbling out of control; the governments in Europe, Asia and Australia are frantically trying to find answers and seeking to gather hundreds of billions of funds to shore up the old system.

Here at home in the U.S., leaders in Congress and the President are advising large tax breaks in order to fuel economic growth and are in the process of digging the deepest red ink deficit since the end of WW II. This spending will push the national debt toward the \$1 trillion mark for this year alone. The government has pledged as much as \$1.5 trillion to prop up the teetering economy. This provides new mortgages for struggling homeowners, salvage procedures for failing financial institutions, a bailout for the auto industry and a \$700 billion package for banks paralyzed by the crisis.

Congress called experts to congressional informational sessions in an effort to determine what caused the largest financial crisis since the crash of the ‘30’s, to find out what plans the government has in place to deliver the country from this financial mess.

A former Federal Reserve economist said that the rationale is that the economy is in recession and a lot more people are going to lose their jobs and we can prevent some of that by raising government spending

and cutting taxes. Others say that looking ahead the prospect should dampen talk of further spending, while many say it is better to spend the money now in an effort to protect jobs and smooth over the harshest effects of a recession than to lose the money later through lower tax revenue and higher unemployment payments. As you can see, there are divided opinions as to the methods to employ for relief and for sure the future does not give a feeling of security. The forces in the world are too powerful to be stopped. The governments themselves need support. They are so heavily in debt, and are borrowing at such high interest rates and are spending money so rashly that they are only furthering the malady they might otherwise cure or at least forestall. The doctor is as sick as the patient. The nations as well as the giant financial corporations in this great Time of Trouble (Dan. 12: 1; Matt. 24: 21) “reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit’s end” (Psa. 107: 27).

THE RELIGIOUS WORLD—BABYLON IS FALLEN

Major denominations in the Christian world are still suffering from the sex abuse scandals. In a small city in western Massachusetts six large Roman Catholic churches have closed their doors. This ailment, in one community, is by no means the end of the affliction, for the malady has spread to the whole county and the entire State. There has been a decline in church attendance and also a decrease in the number of priests. The U.S. priesthood has been shrinking for decades. More than 3,200 of the 18,600 U.S. parishes do not have resident priests according to a report from Georgetown University.

The Church of England, at home and in the world at large, has been tarnished through sex abuse, a pretentious gay ministry and women clergy, which has resulted in their stepping into the teeth of clear Biblical condemnation of all three practices. To add to their general spirit of accepting everyone and everything in order to be winsome to the worldly, they are now manifesting that their senior bishops of some 126 years ago exhibited more concrete knowledge of God and the Divine plan than their modern counterparts. The Church of England is scheduled to apologize to Charles Darwin for the censure of him and his theory of evolution. Although the Bible clearly indicates a process of adaptation within the confines of Divine supervision and regulation among the lower animals, it declares that the first human pair were created directly at the hand of God. We get a glimpse of the unreasonable conclusions of evolutionists. When they declare in the development

of various animal species that in due time one of the first microbes which had reached the monkey degree of maturity, got a noble idea before his mind: He said to himself, I will discard my tail, and cease using my hands as feet, and will shed my coat of hair, and will develop a nose and a forehead and a brain with moral and philosophical organs. I will wear tailor-made clothing and a high silk hat, and call myself Charles Darwin, LL.D., and write a record of my development through a process called evolution (SITS Vol. 6 p. 21).

Mainline churches in the U.S. are in decline and this affects both Catholic and Protestant sections. The religious population is no longer glued to their original home-grown affiliation and they are moving from one group to another and many are more comfortable to be unaffiliated all together. One in four adults, ages 18 to 29, claim no affiliation with a religious institution. Confidence is dropping in traditional organized denominations.

According to a recent survey the Roman Catholic Church has lost more members than any traditional faith because of faith exchanging. Nearly one in three Americans are raised Catholic, of these fewer than one in four say they are Catholic today. This means that about 10 percent of all Americans are ex-Catholics. Even so the overall Catholic population has remained fairly constant due to the influx of immigrants from Latin America. Nearly half of all Catholics below the age of thirty are Hispanic.

In an article from a national publication titled “In Hard Times, Houses of God Turn to Chapter 11 in Book of Bankruptcy,” it decries a countrywide malady that is afflicting many churches. A drop in church attendees, many who have lost employment, add up to dwindling collections and the ability of congregations to meet their financial obligations as to borrowed monies and to keep properties in repair. Some have had their savings dwindle and can no longer stand by their original commitment to the church. Some church mortgage and lending institutions have had to close their doors also. This is a case of the clouds of trouble thickening—affecting not only churches but businesses large and small and the world’s populace as a whole.

On the Protestant side, their changing affiliations are increasing the numbers of nondenominational churches. The traditional Baptist and Methodist groups are steadily losing members. The group with the least ability to retain its members is also the fastest growing—the Jehovah’s Witnesses. Only 37 percent of those raised in the group say that they remain members. Jews account for 1.7 percent of the overall population. Considered separately

both Buddhist and Muslim populations are less than 1 percent of the country's total numeration.

ISRAEL UNDER SIEGE—WITHIN AND WITHOUT

Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert stepped down as head of the Kadima party and was replaced by Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni. Livni then became Prime-Minister-designate, and was charged with creating a coalition, which she failed to do. This made new elections necessary. (Israel's national elections were held February 10, 2009. At present Binyamin Netanyahu is favored to be the next Prime Minister, but it is not yet finalized. *editor's note*)

The Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and his replacement Tzipi Livni seem to be bent on giving land away to prevent what they fear will be a "bi-national state." Netanyahu's response: "The real debate is not about the greater Land of Israel, but rather the little Land of Israel in which the Prime Minister and his people want to leave us. . . . That is what the debate is all about—the abandonment of areas with no Palestinian presence. They want to give up as much as possible, and we want to retain as much as possible in areas that are saturated with both historic significance and security significance for us. Today in light of our abandonment of Gaza and the Hamas takeover there, it is clear to anyone who considers himself a 'State of Israel lover,' and not just a 'Land of Israel lover,' that if we give away more territory, it will be taken over by Iran and its appendages."

The latest intrusion into the Gaza Strip by the Israeli Air Force, dubbed "Cast Lead," was implemented on December 27, 2008 and concluded January 21, 2009. Its mission was to take out Hamas launching pads that have been responsible for sending hundreds of rockets into Israel causing untold damage to property, and human life. There is a rather insecure cease-fire in place for the present.

THE BIBLE HOUSE

We are holding our own, here at headquarters, with a minimum of workers which constitute the same number as last year. There are three full time and two part time brethren.

We had another wind storm in June which inflicted much damage to the trees on the property (see the



pictures below). Fortunately, the buildings were not damaged. Brethren came to help with the massive clean-up, and to perform work in the warehouse. We are very grateful for the service of the brethren who come to help on a temporary basis throughout the year.

Much more could be accomplished toward witnessing with the Bible Standard and Present Truth magazines in special mailings, if the help was available. The Lord sees our plight and can change conditions when and if He sees it necessary. Many of the Lord's faithful are placing the Bible Standard magazines and tracts at grocery stores and doctors' offices etc., to further our outreach efforts and seeking to present the Truth to those of inquiring mind. We still have a great need for names and addresses of people that might enjoy receiving a complimentary copy of either of our magazines depending on their religious affiliation. The attitude of people toward the Truth message is much improved of late. They are more willing to seek for answers as to why the present troubles in the world are proliferating at an alarming rate.

We should recognize, however, and expect that the Truth will bring about a certain amount of opposition as it did with Nathanael (John 1: 46), the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 15: 9), Bro. Johnson (PT 384 p. 182) and Bro. Jolly (PT 561 p. 35).

THE ENDING THEME

The Movement's conventions this past year were well attended despite the fact that our numbers have been affected by several brethren finishing their journey to the Kingdom. The spirit of those attending was in agreement with the Truth as due.



SUMMARY OF WORK IN THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 1, 2008 — DECEMBER 31, 2008

PILGRIM AND EVANGELISTIC SERVICE		CORRESPONDENCE	
Pilgrims	2	Letters and postals received	10,954
Auxiliary Pilgrims	9	Letters and postals dispatched	3,703
Evangelists	17	(Includes e-mail).	
Public and semi-public meetings	266	LITERATURE CIRCULATED	
Attendance	6,799	Present Truth subscribed/ordered	3,603
Parlor meetings	1,011	Bible Standard subscribed/ordered	15,960
Attendance	8,803	Bible Standards volunteered	22,382
Miles traveled	213,576	Bound volumes (magazines)	72
FINANCES		Studies in the Scriptures	682
General Fund		Epiphany Studies	165
Receipts		BSCyclopedia CD	19
1. Donations	\$209,685	Photo-Drama of Creation	60
2. Investments	\$ 82,422	Photo-Drama Study Guide	68
3. Books & Sale of Literature	\$ 22,017	Life-Death-Hereafter	131
4. Total Income	\$314,124	Hymnals	40
5. Balance on hand—Dec. 31, 2007	\$ 74,737	Manna Books	70
6. Total funds available	\$388,861	Poem Books	67
EXPENSES		Bound Watch Tower sets	5
7. Cost of goods sold	\$ 37,830	Booklets (Hell, Spiritism, Tab. Shadows)	54
8. Convention expenses	\$ 5,615	JHP, JW, RSV, AI, GT, HUD,	
9. Administrative expenses	\$ 46,730	PYR, SAT, BA, FOZ, RI, etc.	196
10. Ministerial—Pilgrims, Evangelists	\$ 79,238	Indexes & Q. A. Books	48
11. Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 49,301	Others' publications	264
12. Equipment	\$ 5,786	Charts & Mats: Divine Plan, Tabernacle and Pyramid	116
13. Utilities	\$ 29,617	Children's books	20
14. Taxes	\$ 25,150	Bible cassettes, videotapes	8
15. Insurance	\$ 8,394	Volunteer booklets	13,486
16. Advertising	\$ 2,167	Leaflet tracts	87,138
17. Postage and Delivery	\$ 28,146	Miscellaneous cards, restitution pins	966
18. Web	\$ 1,880	WEB WORK (U.S.)	
19. Volunteer Mailing	\$ 19,305	(January 1-December 31, 2008)	
20. Total Expenses	\$339,159	Visitors (people paying some attention to content)	48,000
21. Balance in General Fund—Dec. 31, 2008	\$ 49,702	Visitors per day (average)	142
		Page Views (pages opened and looked at)	80,000
		"Hits" (number of times the site is "clicked" on)	230,000

* * *

ABRAHAM'S FAITH — TYPE AND ANTITYPE

"God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham,... Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you'" Genesis 22: 1-18.

Genesis 22 sets forth: (a), the supreme test of Abraham's faith, in connection with God's charge to him to offer up Isaac, typing the supreme test of God in

His love, in connection with offering up Christ; (b), Abraham's course in response to that charge, typing in a most touching manner God's great love for the human family from before the foundation of the world and onward; (c), Abraham's greatest sacrifice, typing in detail God's greatest sacrifice, the sacrifice of Christ; (d), Isaac's relevant attitude and course, typing most beautifully the full compliance and willingness of Jesus

in laying down His human life in sacrifice and His resurrection as a New Creature; (e), the seventh and final statement to Abraham of the covenant promise, in vs. 16-18, the other six being in Gen. 12: 1-3; 12: 6, 7; 13: 14-17; 15; 17; 21: 12, 13; (f), the first specification of both the heavenly and the earthly seed in the same connection, as represented respectively in the stars of heaven and the sand which is upon the seashore; and (g), God's oath added to His covenant promise, as binding Him, giving double assurance that it would be fulfilled (comp. Psa. 105: 8, 9; Luke 1: 72, 73; Heb. 6: 13-20). Surely a reverent study of these things should enhance our appreciation of the great sacrificial love of our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus (John 3: 16; 15: 13; Rom. 5: 6-8), and should awaken in us a greater desire to imitate them (John 13: 34; 1 John 3: 16)!

God in His wisdom, justice and power brought a great test upon Himself in His love [God did test, Hebrew word *nasah*: test, prove, try, see NKJ, A.R.V., Rotherham—compare its use in Ex. 16: 4; 20: 20; Deut. 8: 2, 16; 13: 3; 2 Chro. 32: 31; see also Heb. 11: 17;] God never tempts anyone to do evil—(James 1: 13). In this great test He in His love responded readily to His other great attributes “Behold, here I am,” and was charged by them to take His only begotten Son “Take now your son, your only son Isaac,” (v. 2; comp. John 3: 16; Rom. 5: 8; 1 John 4: 9), the object of His special affection “whom you love,” (comp. John 1: 1, 18; Prov. 8: 22-30; P 5, p. 93), and go into the sphere of great self-sacrifice, which He in His wisdom, justice and power had foreseen and foreordained “go to the land of Moriah” [*Morijah*: seen, chosen, of Jehovah]; (comp. 2 Chro. 3: 1), and there to offer Him in sacrifice in accordance with His arrangements, an acceptable sacrifice (a burnt offering; E 8, p. 499, bottom).

THE JOURNEY TO MT. MORIAH

Just as in Abraham's heart Isaac was slain even before they began the journey, so “the only begotten of the Father,” “the Lamb of God,” was “slain from the foundation of the world,” “who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world” (John 1: 14, 29; Rev. 13: 8; 1 Pet. 1: 19, 20; Titus 1: 2). Even though it meant His greatest sacrifice, God in His love was willing and prompt “Abraham rose up early in the morning,” (v. 3) to begin making preparations for the course of procedure that led to the laying down of the Ransom sacrifice by Jesus and to His resurrection; two of the central features of the Divine Plan of the Ages. These preparations included His providing and arranging true prophetic teachings concerning a coming great Deliverer, to rule over and bless all nations “saddled his

donkey”; (E 9, pp. 266, 284), His arranging for two classes as servants “took two of his young men with him,” His angels (1 Pet. 1: 12; E 2, pp. 88, 89, 153, 154) and His prophets, through whom He gave the Old Testament prophecies (Matt. 13: 17). His taking the Logos, His only begotten Son “Isaac his son”; (comp. E 2, pp. 48, 49, 79-82, 87-91) and His carefully preparing truths, such as are set forth in the Old Testament, pertaining to the sacrifice of Messiah “clave the wood”; (Judg. 6: 26; E 5, p. 193), to make it acceptable to Him, in His wisdom, justice and power “burnt offering.” After making these preparations, God in His love began, after Adam sinned in Eden, His course of procedure toward Calvary “rose up, and went to the place.” While in the type all the preparations were finished before the journey began, in the antitype the preparations, e.g., the preparing of the truths, as set forth in the Old Testament, continued after the journey began. Accordingly, various features of the type worked on to a completion (E 9, p. 37).

We are not to think that the Heavenly Father is devoid of feeling, and that He made no sacrifice in offering His only begotten Son (Isa. 63: 9). Some have mistakenly thought that John 3: 16 should have emphasized Jesus' sacrificial love, rather than God's; but our present study helps us to see that the Father, in His love, made by far the greater sacrifice, for He had offered His beloved Son, who “was daily his delight” (Prov. 8: 30), from before the foundation of the world; and so He had carried this burden in His heart for a long time, even long before the antitypical journey began, whereas the Son did not know about the matter for so long a time; He evidently was not fully acquainted with the nature of the sacrifice and all that it included until in the beginning of the fifth thousand-year day after the human race had fallen into sin and under the death sentence, and into the need of salvation. Though Jesus came into the world prepared for sacrifice (Heb. 10: 5), it was not until He came to Jordan that “the heavens [the higher, spiritual, things] were opened unto him” (Matt. 3: 16; E 15, p. 62). On the third thousand-year day of the journey from Eden to Calvary, the day in which the Law was given (death having reigned “from Adam to Moses”—Rom. 5: 14), God in His love came to the stage in the unfolding of His plan of salvation where He pointed out through the sacrifices of the Law and otherwise, that the related part of the sphere of great self-sacrifice was coming into our Lord's understanding “on the third day Abraham . . . saw the place afar off” (v. 4).

God's prophets inquired and searched diligently regarding the significance of the prophecies concerning the coming great Deliverer (His sufferings, glory, etc.) that God by the Holy Spirit gave through them, but they

were not permitted to understand these matters clearly “*Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister*”—in their writings; and likewise the angels desired to look into these things, but were not permitted to understand them fully (Matt. 13: 17; 1 Pet. 1: 10-12; P 5, p. 412). God in His love told both of these classes to remain with the prophetic teachings, in so far as God permitted them to be understood then “*Stay here with the donkey*” (v. 5); also, He indicated to them that He and the coming great Deliverer would continue the antitypical journey and engage in a special sacrificial service “*The Lad and I will go yonder and worship,*” and would in due time return to them “*will come back to you,*” with consequent blessings.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC PROCEED ALONE

God in His love assembled the truths relative to Messiah’s acceptable sacrifice, as set forth in the Old Testament, and placed the burden of them upon His Son; also, He arranged for fiery trials that would consume that sacrifice and for the instrumentality capable of causing His Son’s death, and, so equipped, proceeded on the antitypical journey (v. 6). If not before, at least by the time He was twelve, Jesus in His study of the Scriptures and meditations on holy things was inquiring about His Father’s business (Luke 2: 46-49) and His share in it, and this continued as He grew in wisdom and grace (v. 52); God in His love assured Jesus of His presence with Him and His help. In His study and meditations, Jesus in due time learned from the Scriptures (Psa. 22; Isa. 53; Dan. 9: 24-27) that there would be fiery trials connected with Messiah’s sacrifice and that many Scriptures testified of that sacrifice and its acceptableness to God; but, because these matters had not yet been clarified to Him, He did not yet realize that these Scriptures testified of Him (John 5: 39); He did not yet understand and was inquiring as to the identity of the acceptable sacrifice (v. 7).

God in His love graciously answered Him, but not fully at that time, telling Him that a sacrifice would be Divinely provided (v. 8). The Heavenly Father in His love spared Jesus until the time just before and at His consecration from understanding about the great sacrifice that lay ahead of Him (Judg. 6: 11-18; E 5, p. 186-190; E 15, p. 56, top), even as Abraham kept the heavy burden on his own heart and spared Isaac from understanding until the last that he was to be the sacrifice. At the time Jesus consecrated Himself, God in His love, together with Jesus, had finally reached the part of the sphere of great self-sacrifice that God in His wisdom, justice and power had chosen. Then and there God in His love established the humanity of Christ as the great

antitypical Altar of Sacrifice; He unfolded and applied in the proper order the truths of the Scriptures to that great sacrifice; and, after showing His beloved Son from the Scriptures that He was to give Himself as that sacrifice, He by the Truth and the Spirit of the Truth bound His Son, and in harmony with the purposes of that sacrifice, as indicated in the Scriptures, devoted Him to the laying down of His life as the Sin-offering (v. 9). God in His love exercised His power and began to proceed to the use of the instrumentality that was capable of causing His Son’s death (v. 10). Jesus’ spirit of full consecration, His manifest willingness to be fully consumed in sacrifice (Psa. 40: 8; Heb. 10: 7; John 4: 34; 10: 17, 18; 1 John 3: 16), is indicated very clearly in Isaac’s evident non-resistance and willingness to let his aged father bind him and offer him in sacrifice. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

ABRAHAM’S HAND STAYED

It was not the Divine purpose to offer up Jesus as a New Creature, for if He had died as a New Creature, we would have a dead Savior, who could save no one, instead of a living Savior. His death as a New Creature, begotten to the Divine nature, could not have provided the Ransom, the corresponding-price, which was required by justice for the redemption of Adam and the human race, which was in his loins when he sinned. Accordingly, God in His wisdom, justice and power called upon Himself in His love (v. 11) not to bring any harm upon Jesus as a New Creature—in whom as such centered the Covenant promises (Gal. 3: 16)—for God’s great love had been fully tested, and had been demonstrated to be in full harmony with His wisdom, justice and power, in that He in His love had not withheld but had freely and willingly given His only begotten Son to be sacrificed (v. 12; John 3: 16; Rom. 3: 24-26; 8: 32; E 1, pp. 116-119), who, while of different natures at different times, was nevertheless the same individual, whether as the Logos, as a human being or as a resurrected Divine being (Rev. 1: 17, 18; Heb. 13: 8; E 1, p. 531; E 2, pp. 47, 55).

THE RAM CAUGHT IN A THICKET

Instead of sacrificing Jesus as a New Creature, God in His love was directed to Jesus’ perfect humanity, which was providentially available and in every way suitable to be a fully sufficient Ransom or corresponding-price for the salvation of Adam and all of his posterity (John 1: 29; 6: 51; Matt. 20: 28; 1 Tim. 2: 5, 6; 1 John 2: 2); and He offered Jesus’ perfect humanity as a Ransom sacrifice fully acceptable to Himself in His wisdom, justice and power (v. 13). It must forever remain dead, or else the Ransom would be vitiated; but Jesus as a New Creature was in due

time raised from the dead. Jesus was “*put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit*” (1 Pet. 3: 18, A.R.V.); “*though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now [and] henceforth know we him [so] no more*” (2 Cor. 5: 16). So God in His love received His beloved Son back again in the resurrection, even as in the type Abraham received his son, Isaac, in whom the promise centered, from the altar of sacrifice, as it were from the dead, in a figure (Heb. 11: 17-19). How thankful we should be that “Christ both died, and rose, and revived,” that we might have life, and have it more abundantly (Rom. 14: 9; John 10: 10)!

God in His love specially hallowed the sphere of great sacrifice in which Jesus’ humanity was offered on behalf of the sins of the world, and regarded it as the sphere in which the great Ransom sacrifice was provided by Himself as the self-existent God of perfect wisdom, justice, love and power “*Abraham called . . . that place Jehovah-jireh*” [Jehovah will see, or provide—margin] . . . *In the mount of the LORD [Jehovah] it shall be seen*” [provided—A.R.V.]” (v. 14). Prior to God’s offering up His only begotten Son, God was revealed more particularly only in His attribute of power as the One who would bring forth the Messiah. This is indicated in the type by the expression that Abraham used in replying to Isaac’s query in v. 8, viz., “*ELOHIM-jireh*,” which means “*the mighty God* [more particularly God in His power] *will see* [to providing the ‘*Lamb of God*’—John 1: 29, 36].” But now, after God had offered up His only begotten Son, He began to be revealed more fully as the Covenant God of His people, as the self-existent God of perfect wisdom, justice, love and power. This is indicated by the expression “*JEHOVAH—jireh*,” (v. 14), as contrasted with “*ELOHIM-jireh*” (v. 8), (comp. E 11, pp. 40, 90-93; note also the explanation given in E 12, p. 635). This clearer revelation of Himself in His great attributes, which began in the Jewish Harvest, has become markedly evident to His people here in the Parousia and the Epiphany (T 123-126; E 1). As we come to understand more about Jehovah and the operation of His great attributes, in His great plan of redemption, surely it enhances them in our estimation, and causes us also more and more to hallow the sphere of the great sacrifice in which the great Ransom price was provided by Him. Hallelujah—Praise you Jehovah!

God in His wisdom, justice and power made a great solemn pledge that because He in His love had worked in complete harmony with His other great attributes, even to the extent of not withholding His only begotten Son (vs. 15, 16), He would greatly bless, and multiply the figurative descendants of Himself in His love, and that they would overcome Satan and his hosts and be used Millennially in blessing all the families of the earth

(vs. 17, 18). How thankful we are for the two immutable things—God’s great promise and His oath—that make sure the promise to all the seed! Indeed, we have much reason for “*strong consolation*” (Heb. 6: 17-20)! Since the Oath-bound Covenant in its various promises (vs. 16-18) has been so thoroughly expounded by the Parousia and Epiphany Messengers (see, e.g., E 15, pp. 683-690; note also the indexes to their writings), we will not treat it further here.

As a result of the Ransom sacrifice, God in His love returns here in the end of the Age (Acts 15: 16) with Christ (Acts 3: 19-21), and brings great blessings of grace, knowledge and service to His angels, and will in due time, after the New Covenant is sealed Godward, bring them to the prophets also. These blessings will come to both of these classes as they come more and more fully into and remain in the sphere of covenant relationship with God in His love, in which sphere He dwells “*Abraham returned unto his young men, and they . . . went together to Beer-sheba, [well of the oath],*” (v. 19; v. 5). While the Church, the Body of Christ (Eph. 1: 22, 23; 1 Cor. 12: 12-27), is included in antitypical Isaac in a secondary sense (Gal. 3: 16, 29; 4: 28-31), they, in their humanity, are not a part of the Ransom sacrifice. Jesus alone, as the perfect human being with the right to human life and its life-rights, is the corresponding-price, the purchase-price for Adam and the race that was in his loins when he sinned and forfeited his right to life for himself and his race (E Vol. 7, pp. 67, 68). The Church, the Body of Christ, however, is a part of the Sin-offering (E 4, pp. 144, 145; E 6, pp. 355-366; E 7, pp. 461-493). In an attenuated sense, Isaac pictures the entire Christ, Head and Body, offered on the Altar of Sacrifice in their humanity and raised therefrom in the First Resurrection, to bring blessings, as Abraham’s great Seed, to all the families of the earth.

O! The depth of knowledge and wisdom and love and power of our great Almighty God, as manifested in His making the greatest sacrifice in the annals of time and the universe; by providing His only Son to die on Calvary’s Cross for the redemption of the human race and to gain salvation for the Elect, Quasi-elect and Non-elect from the effects of the curse. This zenith of excellence finds its alignment in Jehovah and in Him alone, for which be ascribed all glory, praise and adoration!

* * *

*The beam that shines from Zion’s hill
 Shall lighten every land;
 The King who reigns in Salem’s tow’rs
 Shall all the world command.*

2008 British Report

Dear Brother Herzig: Grace and Peace in His name!

I submit this report, for your consideration and information, on the situation, in both its secular and religious aspects, in the British Isles.

The phrenetic rate of change occurring over this last year has made it almost impossible to summarize in a few paragraphs the most extraordinary happenings in British Society. Not all things have been bad; indeed some great discoveries in medical science, especially in genetics, are totally revolutionizing the treatment of the sick; also remarkable advances in Information Technology and Astronomy are rolling back our ignorance of the Universe and this Earth.

The developing trends noted in our earlier reports continue to accelerate the inevitable decline of Britain in every aspect of its existence. Probably the most striking feature of 2008 has been an unnerving and hysterical lack of confidence in British financial institutions. All that was considered safe and sound is now shaking badly; people who thought themselves secure and protected are now waking to the harsh and unpleasant realities of a financial meltdown.

The hurried fiscal measures taken by the Government are considered to be bold and clever: they are trying to 'spend' their way out of recession. The only way that they can do this is by borrowing unimaginable sums of money and flooding the banks and the pockets of ordinary people with cash, so that they will spend and spend and cause the recession to go away (Ezekiel 7: 19). Some, however, see this as a suicidal policy: for failure will mean utter ruin. (James 5: 1-5).

One of the great temptations will be to print more paper money: this will tend to diminish still further a badly shattered confidence to the point of no return. The Bank rates continue to fall in order to increase confidence. The rate is now the lowest in three hundred years; commentators now openly speak and compare this crisis of confidence with the slump in the 1930s. In fact there is no real way out of this 'quagmire'; for the harder they struggle the deeper they sink in!

However, the most serious crisis for the London Stock Exchange came in 1914; the start of 'the great time of trouble'. So difficult did things become that the Stock Exchange *closed down for nearly six months!* It opened again in 1915 for trade to resume. Never since

it was founded in 1773 had such a massive crisis of confidence occurred before or since *until now*. The brokers had 'bound' themselves together in 1890 (Matt. 13: 30) but it did not save them in 1914!

Famous stores and retail 'chains' are rapidly disappearing from Britain's high streets. In a sense they were symbols of financial stability; their disappearance before a swelling tide of anarchy creates an atmosphere of fear and foreboding. Nor is the anarchy confined to the stock market and banks; many are beginning to realize, for example, that the politicians are now no longer able to monitor the actions of the police, as shown by recent events.

The Government itself admits that it has lost or is losing control of many facets of the civil administration, especially immigration. The minister responsible for immigration confesses that he has no idea how many people are coming into the country. Many Muslims of British birth are going to countries where they are encouraged to kill British soldiers; if they get wounded they can fly back to Britain and get treatment free on the National Health Service!

The 'old lady of Threadneedle Street' (The Bank of England) has done her best to hide any embarrassment caused by recent events; in stark contrast the 'harlot' of Rome continues to 'flaunt' herself as if to taunt her enemies into attacking her and like Jezebel of old she continues 'to paint her eyes' (2 Kings 9: 30 NASV) to make herself attractive to the Conservative-labour governments of the European Union. The conversion of former Prime Minister Blair of Britain is noteworthy.

The Vatican works ceaselessly to remove every trace of Protestantism in Britain: with Jesuitical cunning the Vatican is planning to have a statue of the "Blessed Virgin Mary" to stand in London beside the Thames. A panel on the side of the plinth will show the Reformers *mocking* a crucifix; another will show in a bad light the iconoclastic work (the destruction of idols) of the Reformers. On the whole the remaining Protestant churches are fast asleep to this Vatican plot. However, the destruction of the Papacy is very near; for 'the Scripture cannot be broken': how this will occur is difficult to imagine, but perhaps the horrific events in India at Mumbai may be a clue. The Vatican is the last bastion against the 'Islamisation' of the West; if a

substantial group of suicide bombers were to strike the Vatican, what would be the result if the Pope and Cardinals were assassinated before any effective action could be taken? A sudden end indeed!

The Anglican Church is in its death throes; even the tiny breakaway faction of Bible-believing Anglicans cannot agree among themselves and have split in two! The Watchtower Society is hiding away their main doctrinal teaching; no longer published in their main journal, the Watchtower; but in a separate paper now used by them for their 'studies'. Perhaps a precursor to a major doctrinal change which their leaders might be covertly planning?

British Society is fundamentally changing. In fact the term 'British' itself has changed beyond recognition in the last fifty years. The elevated status of the Christian religion has moved from centre stage to the wings. All that was considered normal and decent is now made to look bizarre and odd. The moral climate has become so decadent that actions and words which would not be accepted fifty years ago are now considered the 'norm'.

The work of the Present Truth in Britain continues in spite of difficulties caused by brethren who have *chosen* to oppose us. Unable to accept the teachings and arrangements bequeathed to us by the Last Member of the Little Flock, they have decided to make their own religion and have their own 'web-site'; in which the Epiphany Messenger is conspicuous by his absence! The

Lord will not be mocked; they must take responsibility for their own actions.

The Brethren generally have come to regard what has happened recently as a cleansing work which has been directed by the Lord. Additionally it has tested *all* of us very thoroughly and it has made us aware of the importance of sound and scriptural leadership, which you have provided over the last five years. This has been essential because we have seen such texts as 2 Tim. 3: 1-9 and Acts 20: 29 being fulfilled to *our amazement* by those formerly with us. 1 John 2: 19.

There is much work to do: this year marks the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth and 150 years since the publication of the 'Origin of Species'. Darwin is a national hero whose image appears on the British ten pound note. It is hoped that, like our Pastor, we will make every effort to refute this 'strong delusion' and deliver some from this fundamental anti-Christian error. If the Lord wills we hope to bring this matter to the notice of the general public during 2009.

Finally, dear brother, we wish to thank you for providing our journals, which are full of edifying and spiritually strengthening articles. Also we wish to thank the Lord that He has delivered us from the "snare of the fowler" (Psalm 91: 3).

Your brother, by His grace.

R. D. Doidge (Pilgrim and Representative.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THE PEOPLE SAID! I HEAR A LOT OF THINGS, BUT...The people said! The people said! Well, look at what they said about our Pastor! Look what they said about Arius! Apostle Paul! About Jesus! We know what hear-say is worth regarding these individuals now don't we?

In Johnson's case for instance, there was the time when a very knowledgeable sounding brother in the Lord wrote that Johnson personally "closed the door" only to reopen it later so that his son could get into the Little Flock. He heard this of course from another very knowledgeable and trustworthy brother in the Lord, who had told him personally... problem is, Paul S. L. Johnson had no son.

I personally set out about 5 years ago to write a book detailing Johnson's errors. I thought that for anyone well versed in the Volumes and in the Reprints, it should be like shooting fish in a barrel. After all, so many knowledgeable and trustworthy people among the friends have said that Johnson was a so and so, and that he had

said so and so, and of course, they all seemed to absolutely insist that he contradicted brother Russell in many areas, bringing in "new teachings"... I had to read these writings to see for myself, and began my research slowly. After three years or so of reading his works, I think I finally found an error, it was a spelling error, a typo. I am still astounded at the, dare I say, perfection of the work. I still haven't read it all. But thus far I am sure that Bro. Paul S. L. Johnson defended Pastor Russell and echoed Pastor Russell and agreed down the line with Pastor Russell more closely than any individual who ever lived.

As I studied more, I heard more and more concern for my own spiritual welfare. You see, your eternal condition, according to some, is in jeopardy just for checking for the FACTS, and if that's the spirit of Pastor Russell, then I'd rather be a moonie. I'm still not saying that the high calling is closed for certain. I would encourage anyone to find out for themselves and don't listen to the hysteria of those who would willfully remain ignorant of the man and his work, but yet willingly cast out his name as evil without knowledge, nor hesitation.

Yours in the Truth, R. B., Gig Harbor, WA

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM FRANCE AND CAMEROON

Dear Brother Herzig,
Grace, mercy and peace on behalf of God and His Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

As every year I am happy to have the privilege to present you the best wishes of all the brothers and sisters in France, to whom I join ours. We assure you of our prayers, our understanding, of our appreciation for your work in our favour. The coming year will certainly be very agitated, we shall need to get closer to the Lord through the teachings of the arrangements which were presented to us by those whom the Lord thought it right to choose - the last Servants of the end of the Age. Here in France, many brethren appreciate the recalling you do of all these fundamental and absolutely necessary truths, in these perilous days.

Now here is the report of our activities in France during this year of 2008.

PUBLICATIONS: we did not make new reprinting because of the abundant and rich literature we already have. However, the work continues with workers incited by the same zeal to prepare the magazines, which take a big part of the time of the brethren who work in this branch after their secular work. As you know, all that we publish is completely prepared by the brothers, from translation until sending. We notice that this work continues with the same regularity; and the brethren, as a whole, are sometimes very happy to show their appreciation to those of whom they know the activity.

PUBLIC WORK: it continues in the same way. One class particularly organizes rather regularly goes out for colporteur, to which it invites willing brothers of other ecclesias, for whom it is possible to join to them. Even if there are sometimes disappointments, joys also are felt when one or two volumes are sold, or booklets etc.; this work is really a mark of unselfish love which we encourage. In the 1950's, when we began this kind of work in an organized way, there were certainly difficulties, but there was less indifference, fewer interdictions, fewer difficulties than presently, and we appreciate the efforts done by those who undertake and persevere in this work.

The work against antitypical Zebah and Zalmunna continues and is fulfilled by all the ecclesias in France, according to the usual methods and in the areas which are appointed to them.

INTERNET: it is with internet that we continue to have the best results about the way of getting in touch with the public, and about the number of visits of our various sites, i. e a site on (1) the MMIL itself, with as main purpose the spreading of articles of L'Étendard de la Bible, and articles of Br. Russell, etc., (2) the site created for a long time, who presents all Pastor Russell's writings, and others ; (3) a special site on the Pyramid and (4) the site concerning Israel. All these sites are the cause of many questions to which it is necessary to answer, and sometimes orders for literature follow. Another brother chooses to use the services of an advertising and sales agency by internet, and that also gives very good results. Gradually the sale of volumes, booklets and subscriptions is encouraging.

However, internet also represents a great danger because we see there, the most execrable things, which exist at the moment. It joins television which is a real school of violence, modifying the behavior of many young people who become saturated with it, and who make of it one of the rules of their life.

Moreover, even by taking only good things, we can spend too much time with secular things to the prejudice of studying and presenting the Truth itself publicly or in private.

ISRAEL: The activity also continues, as we explained that last year, with the visit of Israelian sites that we are not always able to locate, but which re-publish articles from our own site. We cannot know the impact now, but we are sure that it will bear its fruit in due time; because it is a part of our present mission which is to declare the imminence of the establishment of God's Kingdom, and the sovereignty of Israel on its whole land. Then, the sons of Israel will remember that non-Jews announced what would be the blessings they would receive and have the mission to let mankind know them. We thank Thee, Lord, for all these privileges that you give us.

CAMEROON: Cameroon is a country which is under great difficulties. The informations are very rare, but Brother Mbem continues to faithfully look after the brethren in his country; we send all the literature and tracts etc., for which he asks. Let us pray for all these brethren who live in very disadvantaged areas.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SITUATIONS: The current crisis strikes the whole world. In France, as in the other countries, many homes are affected by unemployment, abolitions of employments; and a general dissatisfaction comes out more and more. This dissatisfaction is growing worse in front of the scandals which burst when people are informed of outrageous amount of bonus (gold-colored parachutes) that businessmen, presidents and directors of companies appropriate when they leave their company, while they do not hesitate to dismiss hundreds and thousands of people, from day to day, often without compensation.

We expected this situation; it is the Lord's Army that gets ready. At the beginning of Vol. 4, Pastor Russell showed what has to be the position of the consecrated: merely aware observers, because events of a major importance take place in front of the eyes. This gives the occasion to bear witness to God's Word, not only concerning the daily material aspects, but also regarding the climate changes which affect the whole world. All these elements confirm each other, and are there to confirm in a striking way what the Servants said. For example, in Vol. 4 page 335, Br. Russell shows the responsibility of the western nations, when the silver standard was replaced by the gold-standard, what considerably impoverished the countries of Extreme East, as China. All the chapter VIII, "*The cries of the Reapers*" is of a striking actuality, and we might consider what is connected with the Extreme East as a "retribution".

MORAL AND RELIGIOUS POINT OF VIEW: We see that the example comes from high spheres of society.

A few years ago, a law was promulgated under the name PACS (Civil Pact of Solidarity) and it is a "legal"

cover of all the forms of fornication denounced in the Scriptures. It goes from the free love until homosexuality under all its forms; and homosexuals even claim the right to adopt children. However, a decree has just drawn up by which homosexuals are forbidden to be blood donors. Some scandals of this kind within the religious spheres are shown now, what provokes a refusal of religion in general, and a difficulty to present the Truth. This is very subtle and infiltrates more or less insidiously into the Truth sphere.

Our Lord's words "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" are more and more a reality. Few ears to listen to, or only religions in whom they clap hands, they sing, they dance, i. e. where the feature reverence is completely missing.

THE TRUTHS SPHERE: We may say that many brethren were and are still very tried physically, morally and even spiritually. We need more and more to remain close together, as Ps. 133, says; and I think that however, there is among us a spirit of mutual aid, faith, desire to please the Lord.

CONVENTIONS: We had three conventions, with very appreciated discourses by the brethren. There was an average of 120 hearers for each convention. We continue to have the discourses recorded on tape or by video for the brethren who cannot attend the convention, because of age, illness etc.

May the Lord bless you, dear Brother Herzig, as well as all the brethren who help you. We assure you, as well as all the brethren worldwide, of our brotherly love and prayers.

Pilgrim, Bro. Gilbert Hermetz
French Representative

Continued from page 4 ... annual Passover, the type of the Lord's Supper. The Israelites as a nation were consecrated to God and were in covenant relationship with Him from the day when He took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt (Ex. 12: 40, 41; Heb. 8: 9); and they were "baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea" (1 Cor. 10: 1, 2). Hence all consecrated believers, non-Spirit-begotten as well as New Creatures, i.e., the "church of the firstborn" (Heb. 12: 23), could partake of the Lord's Supper, the Memorial of the antitypical Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5: 7, 8).

Second, the Apostles partook of the first Lord's Supper while consecrated but in a tentatively justified condition; they were not yet begotten of the Holy Spirit, and could not be until the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Before Pentecost their condition was very much the same as that of the non-

Spirit-begotten consecrated servants of God of today, though they had a prospect of Spirit-begotten and membership in the Body of Christ, which here in the end of the Gospel Age, in the great Time of Trouble, is no longer available (Rev. 7: 1-3; Isa. 66: 7; Amos 9: 13).

Each one should "examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup" (1 Cor. 11: 28). Each believer in Jesus as his Savior should consider whether or not he has given up his own will and accepted God's will as his own, as Jesus did (Heb. 10: 7-9); and, if he has not done so, he should consider doing so; after consecrating, such should then partake.

* * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009 LHMM CONVENTIONS

United States:

Seattle, Washington, March 20, 21, 22
Windsor Locks, Connecticut, May 15, 16, 17
Athens/Nelsonville, Ohio, July 17, 18, 19
Minneapolis, Minnesota, September, 18, 19, 20

France: All conventions in Barlin

Spring: April 11, 12, 13;
Summer: July 31, August 1, 2;
Fall: October 31, November 1

Germany:

Velbert, May 30, 31, June 1; Diez, October 9, 10, 11

Jamaica:

April 10, 11, 12, 13

Lithuania:

Kowno, June 20, 21, 22

Nigeria:

Agbado Area, April 10-12; Abia State, June 26-28;
Akwa-Ibom State, August 28, 29; Ibadan, Oyo State, October 23-25;
Abia State, November 27-29

Poland:

Kolobrzeg, April 11, 12, 13; Poznan, May 1, 2, 3;
Bydgoszcz, July 11, 12, 13; Leszno, July 14, 15, 16;
Gliwic, July 17, 18, 19; Susiec, July 21, 22, 23;
Krakow, August 21, 22, 23

Ukraine:

Orlowka, June 26, 27, 28; Lwow, August 14, 15, 16

United Kingdom:

Hyde, August 7, 8, 9;
Sheffield/Barlborough, October 24 and 25

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON CONVENTION MARCH 20, 21, 22, 2009

Site: Quality Inn, 225 Aurora Ave. North, Seattle, WA, 98109. Telephone: (206) 728-7666. Singles and double occupancy \$82.99. Triple \$89.99, plus tax of 15.60%. Transportation from airport to hotel will be supplied by the local class. For further information contact: Bro. Walter Onyszko, 5424 1st Drive W., Everett, WA, 98203; by e-mail: wonyszko@gmail.com; by phone at (425- 737-8147) You will need to give name of airline, flight number, date and time of arrival.

Glossary — R = Reprints P = Parousia volumes 1-6;
SITS = Studies in the Scriptures; E = Epiphany volumes 1-17;

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Bro. Sunday Essien Akpan died October 6, 2008 at the age of 54. He was an Elder in the Ilot Okubo Ecclesia. He is survived by his wife, Nkoyo Sunday Essien and one daughter and four sons.

Bro. G. Daniel of India died December 22, 2008. He dedicated himself to God at fourteen years of age. Bro. Daniel became associated with the L.H.M.M. in 1980. He worked whole-heartedly in doing the gospel work in Kanyakumari District. He was an elder in the Chemparuthivillai Ecclesia for some years.

Sr. Carrie Fitzhugh of Cincinnati, OH, died at the age of 90 on November 7, 2008. She is survived by her husband Bro. Samuel Fitzhugh; children: Sondra, Rochelle, and Michael, and many nieces and nephews. Sr. Carrie attended the Cincinnati Ecclesia of the L.H.M.M. We will miss her sweet smile and gentle ways. Bro. Michael Williams of Trout Dale, OH, officiated at the funeral

Sr. Kataryna Karpiak 89, of the Seattle, WA, area died December 16, 2008. She was a native of Poland. Kataryna is survived by her daughter, Irene and son-in-law Walter Markiewicz. Bro. Markiewicz officiated at the funeral service.

Sr. Grace Nwanyinma Mercyboy Itheme of Umuguru Village in Osusu, Abia State, Nigeria, died at the age of 96 in November 2008. She was active in the ecclesia in Umuguru until her death. Bro. W. S. Ebong, the Nigerian Representative, along with other brothers officiated at the funeral.

**Many sleep but not forever
there will be a Resurrection morn!**

WINDSOR LOCKS, CONNECTICUT CONVENTION MAY 15, 16, 17, 2009

Site: Beverly Hills Suites, 383 S. Center Street, Windsor Locks, Connecticut, 06096, telephone 860-623-4400. Room rate is \$89.00. Continental breakfast. The cut-off date for reservations is May 1. For further information or assistance, please contact B. Herzig, class secretary at 413-592-1834.

TO: