

June 2005

# BA

BIBLE ADVOCATE

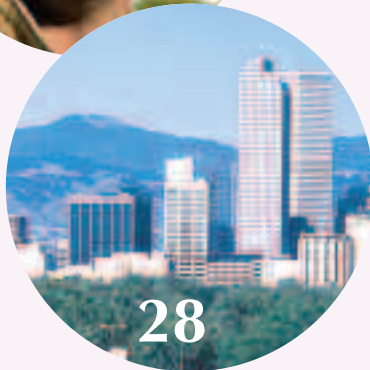
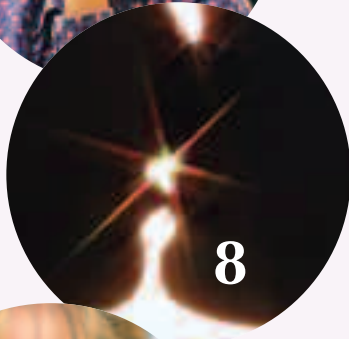
## Marriage Matters

Missing the rupture (p. 4)

Hollywood and holiness (p. 16)

Also . . .

Colorado convention (p. 28)



## ARTICLES

- 4 **Marriage on the Rocks** — by Don Wilson
- 8 **What's So Bad About Sex?** — by Brian Knowles
- 12 **Choosing to Love** — by Kathy Collard Miller
- 14 **Happily Single** — by Heber Vega
- 16 **Faith, Family, and Film: An interview with Michael Landon, Jr.**  
— by Sherri Langton
- 21 **Keeping the Faith** — by Amber Riggs

## DEPARTMENTS

- 3 **First Word** — The Four C's
- 7 **Questions & Answers**
- 11 **Perspective** — Reading Other People's Mail
- 20 **Understanding Scripture** — Corinthians and Thessalonians
- 22 **Health** — Food and the Enemy
- 24 **Mail Bag**
- 30 **International Tour** — India
- 31 **Last Word** — To Care or to Kill?

## 26 CoG7 IN ACTION

### MTS

### 2005 Convention



**Did you miss the last issue on suffering?** View selections from it and download the last six BAs at [www.cog7.org/BA](http://www.cog7.org/BA).

**Coming in the July-August BA:** Christianity above other faiths

**In the June issue of *Now What?*:** a sailor finds Christ (<http://nowwhat.cog7.org>)



A publication of the  
**Church of God (Seventh Day)**  
This magazine is published to advocate  
the Bible, represent the Church, and  
glorify the God of grace and truth.

Volume 139 • Number 4

© Copyright 2005 by the Church of God  
(Seventh Day)

All material in this issue is subject to U.S.  
and international copyright laws and may not  
be reproduced without prior written approval.  
Permission may be obtained by writing the  
editor.

The BIBLE ADVOCATE (ISSN 0746-0104) is  
published monthly, except bimonthly January-  
February, April-May, July-August, and  
October-November by Bible Advocate Press,  
330 W. 152nd Ave., Broomfield, CO 80020.  
Periodicals postage is paid at Broomfield, CO,  
and at additional offices. Subscription is free  
to any who ask. POSTMASTER: Send address  
changes to Bible Advocate Press, Box 33677,  
Denver, CO 80233-0677.

#### Bible Advocate Press

**Calvin Burrell:** Editor

**Sherri Langton:** Associate Editor

**Keith Michalak:** Director of Publications,  
graphics

**Richard A. Wiedenheft:** Staff Writer

**Sylvia Corral, Raul González:** Translation,  
proofing

**LeRoy and Hope Dais, Linda Michalak:**  
Correspondence, proofing, clerical

#### Subscriptions and Orders

Bible Advocate Press  
P.O. Box 33677  
Denver, CO 80233-0677  
TEL: 303/452-7973  
FAX: 303/452-0657  
E-MAIL: [bibleadvocate@cog7.org](mailto:bibleadvocate@cog7.org)  
ORDERS: [bap.orders@cog7.org](mailto:bap.orders@cog7.org)

**Notice:** Send all address changes and other  
correspondence to the address above.

Publications Agreement No. 40042428

Scripture quotations are from the New  
King James Version, unless otherwise  
noted.

The Bible Advocate Online appears at  
[www.cog7.org/BA](http://www.cog7.org/BA).

Cover photo: [www.comstock.com](http://www.comstock.com)

## The Four C's



Welcome to our annual marriage issue. Again we honor the oldest and best system ever devised for civilizing societies, nurturing our offspring, and housebreaking ourselves: holy matrimony! In our CoG7 news, you will meet couples still having and holding after 50 years. Please send us names, hometowns, and anniversary dates of others to whom the same honor is due in 2005.

In recent generations, countless cultural changes have weakened marriage in America. One of them is no-fault divorce, allowing couples to dissolve their legal unions with no compelling cause. Fighting back, some Christians are resisting easy divorce through covenant marriages. Legally recognized in some states, a covenant marriage is one in which husband and wife agree at the start to work through serious problems that arise in a pre-prescribed manner, rather than divorce.

And June is our convention issue. Here in Denver we anticipate the arrival of hundreds of Church families and friends for the biennial General Conference meeting July 4-9. Much has changed since the first Colorado campmeeting at Red Rocks in 1951, but the spiritual and relational benefits of brethren getting together from across the continent and beyond can hardly be gained any other way.

Also this month U.S. citizens will learn results from major cases relating to the civil war on values that rages here. One case now before the nation's highest court deals with the Ten Commandments in public venues. Will city and state governments be allowed to exhibit placards or monuments of the Decalogue, reflecting this society's historical basis in biblical law? Or will such displays be barred from the public square in the name of religious diversity and the creeping secular state?

A later case on this year's docket will respond to an Oregon law allowing physician-assisted suicide. Should a free people have the right to choose their method and moment of death? Is that freedom guaranteed in our constitution? Christians are prayerfully watching the outcome of these two lawsuits.

Court cases, Church conventions, Ten Commandments, and tenacious conjugality: What's the link here? For Christians in America and around the world who face growing opposition to their biblical faith, it's the person and kingdom of Christ "whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end" (Hebrews 3:6).

— Calvin Burrell

# Marriage on the Rocks

Coping with matrimonial decay, its effects and causes. by **Don Wilson**

The caption below a front-page photograph in the local newspaper reads, “Sisters die in highway accident.” The story’s lead relates:

Sarah and Emily Brown\* died in a tragic accident Wednesday. The girls were trapped in a burning SUV that exploded and burned in a one-car crash on state highway 32, Cookson County. The parents, Vestal Rosen and Thomas Kleinsmith, severely injured, escaped though the front passenger door.

The casual reader feels sorrow at the loss of life and injuries but passes over what is, perhaps, also tragic: the fact that neither of the “parents” has the same last name nor do the children have the name of either of the parents. The reader is left to speculate how many times the “parents” had been married, or in a romantic relationship akin to marriage, before the tragedy, and who the biological father and mother of the children are.

One may surmise that Vestal and Thomas loved each other. Likely, they had gone through a wedding ceremony in which Vestal, perhaps as an assertion of independence, chose to keep her own last name rather than to accept Thomas’. Maybe it was a common-law relationship, legally equivalent to marriage. Most likely, we would guess the sisters were from a previous marriage of Vestal. Guided by today’s mores, we know for sure only that two siblings died while two adults escaped the carnage without them.

Another headline: “AMBER ALERT!” — telling us a child has been reported to the authorities as missing. The state- or nationwide alert is broadcast by the media, joining law enforcement in search for the child. Behind the headline, we learn that the child’s parents are divorced, that the father had been granted legal custody of the four-year-old, and that the mother had picked up the youngster on the previous evening for court-

supervised “visitation.” Now neither mother nor child is anywhere to be found.

So-o-o . . . guess what? The mother is later apprehended in a nearby city where her parents live, arrested, and placed in sheriff’s custody after being charged with the crimes of kidnapping and child abuse.

Such is the accepted state of civilization and the all-too-common state of the American family today. How did we get here? Who or what has played major roles in causing the disruption of marriages and families so sadly obvious today?

## Legal system

A legal system reacting to social pressures may bear some responsibility. The courts especially, with elected representatives of the people closely following their lead, react to social pressures in seeking what society believes to be a good result. Existing statutes and judicial interpretations of long-standing laws are set aside in order



www.comstock.com

to reach “fair and equitable” resolution of a particular case. Thus we have, in the example of some judges, the rule of man rather than the rule of law prevailing. Gradually, moral laws, codified in statutes, that have proved themselves throughout the ages are loosened and finally abrogated.

Marriage, a permanent, monogamous union between one man and one woman, has been a vital underpinning to the strength and stability of culture for centuries. In the past, couples in most states were required to have a reason for divorce. Infidelity, abandonment, failure to consummate the marriage, cruelty, habitual

drunkenness, non-support, and insanity constituted some of the reasons set forth in state laws, and divorce was relatively rare.

But now? Around 1960 no-fault divorce, under the banner of “incompatibility,” began to be accepted as civil law in the United States. Today, nationwide, the couple needs no reason at all. “I just don’t care for him anymore.” The judiciary, by the hand of man, using the mantra “The marriage is irretrievably broken,” simply dissolves this most sacrosanct of human relationships, just as salt disappears when stirred in water.

## Online

How would you rate yourself and your spouse in your marriage? Visit the *Bible Advocate Online* ([www.cog7.org/BA](http://www.cog7.org/BA)) and fill out appraisal forms that focus on communication, patience, honesty, and other areas. Then have a discussion with your spouse about the areas that need significant improvement.

## The self

Our legal system can't bear all the blame for the institutional decay of marriage and family. The twin pursuits of self-rule and self-esteem also play major roles for the decline.

"Now I feel good about myself." Moral licentiousness? "She just didn't fulfill me." Perhaps the root cause is selfishness: We want to have it our own way. In response to social pressures, the lawmakers have accommodated those seeking divorce so that now it is just a matter of filling out a few forms. Not much different from reciting "I divorce you" three times.

Call it self-gratification: My love for me is stronger and more important than my love for my children, my spouse, and my God. If I am not gratified financially, sexually, emotionally, I'll find another partner for the job. "Besides," the dissatisfied spouse rationalizes, "my psychologist says it will be better for the kids not to be raised in a house with rancor."

## Society

Society — the world around us — sets the standards and excuses for our behavior and provides another contributing factor to the dismal state of marriage today. We learn from and

are led by TV, movies, and the newspaper. We too easily embrace the popular symbols of status and success. Instead of following the master Shepherd and His teachings, we follow the path worn smooth by the footsteps of this present world.

Christ prayed that the Father should not take His disciples out of the world, but that He would keep them from the evil one (John 17:15). He asked that they would be sanctified by His truth (v. 17).

Regarding marriage, the world says, "Incompatible? Let them divorce." But Jesus says, "What . . . God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:6, KJV). Whose standard do we follow, then?

## What about commitment?

With all these pressures going against the institution of marriage, what can we do?

Western civilization would have marriage decided by an intangible, ephemeral thing it mistakes for "love." Seen in youth, we call it infatuation, or puppy love. Adults, driven by emotions and erotic desire, find it close to the same thing, until it cools. Declaring that we don't love our partner, whom we vowed to cherish "till death do us part," we move to the next relationship. Then we tire of that partner, too.

As the years fly by, we, behaving more like dogs than puppies in our sexual habits, finally realize our folly. It is too late to undo the damage but not too late to come to repentance and restoration under the tutelage of the true Teacher.

On the other hand, why not build it right the first time? By resolutely trusting Christ, making His truth our standard, putting our own predilections aside and our spouse in the place of honor, and placing unwavering faith in God's Word, we can share in the construction of a union that will neither deteriorate nor die. Our love — a decided commitment — for our companion can grow firmer and stronger with each passing year.

This is the heritage we pass on to our children and grandchildren. To obtain it, we must put aside the current wisdom of the world, possibly to face the ridicule and disdain of our humanistic fellows. By the provision of God who works in His people both to desire and to fulfill His perfect will, we can arrive at the point where we look back on our lives, our families, and our spouse with great satisfaction.

When you no longer love your spouse and you're tempted to call it quits, whose standard will you follow? God's, the world's, the legal system's, or your own? If you will, in today's vernacular, hang in there and obey what God says to do, you'll find your love will grow . . . and grow . . . and grow! **BA**

---

**Don Wilson**, an attorney, attends and teaches in the Denver, CO, church, as does his wife Shirley.

\* *The names and the newspaper caption are fictional. The news reports are true.*

## Online

Read the full version of this article, with end notes, on the *Bible Advocate Online* ([www.cog7.org/BA](http://www.cog7.org/BA)).

# Questions & Answers

## **What are your views on having godparents for babies as they are blessed?**

While there is no record of godparents in the Bible, it is believed that the Old Testament rite of circumcision, signifying entry of a Jewish male into Hebrew faith, included someone who stood with the parents during this ceremony. If so, this may be where the seeds for the use of godparents were first sown. All Jewish parents hoped that their children would come to affirm faith in God at an older age, celebrated for sons at bar mitzvah.

The intent for the individuals standing with parents at circumcision was that they would help to assure that the child was guided to full faith even if the parents should die before the child came of age. This explains the meaning of the term *godparents*: godly people who help parents lead their children God-ward.

This custom continued into the New Testament church, most prominently, perhaps, by those who took up baptism of infants. Once again, godparents would stand with the parents during this ritual, pledging to help guide the child to the confirmation of his faith at a later age.

The practice of using godparents continues today among Christians. Many may use it merely as tradition, not understanding its history and meaning. Non-Christians who use godparents usually do so to secure a guardian for their child in the event they die before the child becomes an adult.

The Church of God (Seventh Day) has no official position on the use of godparents. Since there is neither prohibition nor command in Scripture regarding this practice, we are free to pray and do as the Lord leads.

– Elder Whaid Rose

## **What is God's stand on women using trousers, earrings, dressing of hair, and makeup? I have seen CoG7 women displaying these in the magazine. It is regarded as sin in our churches here in Nigeria.**

Space does not permit a full study on this subject here. Comparing Scripture with Scripture and a closer reading of the primary texts, however, lead us to these conclusions. Deuteronomy 22:5, found only in the Mosaic law, does not prohibit Christian women from wearing trousers nor men from wearing robes. First Timothy 2:9 and 1 Peter 3:3 do not forbid Christian women from wearing attractive clothing or decorative accents to their persons. The latter verses stress importance of inward beauty – godly character and good works – but they do not forbid any and all attempts at outward adornment. On the other hand, Ezekiel 16:9-14 and Luke 15:22 offer some approval of luxurious clothing and jewelry for God's people.

Appropriate dress is not fully taught from the Bible alone – not in detail. In addition to Scripture, the culture we live in helps determine this issue to some extent. Nigerians have customs that your churches are wise to respect, provided Bible principles are not violated. The same is true in America, where women may wear loose-fitting trousers, modest makeup and jewelry, and “dressed” hair without being seen as sinful or “worldly.”

On the other hand, American society has often embraced a permissive spirit that disregards the biblical virtues of modesty, propriety, decency, and self-restraint. This tolerance for any and every modern fashion sometimes infects the church – both men and women – and renders Christians too much like the surrounding culture. For our failures and the negative influence we may have had in your country and elsewhere, we ask your forgiveness.

– Elder Calvin Burrell



# What's So Bad About **SEX**?

www.comstock.com

Within the confines of God's Word, this gift, too, is for our good.  
by **Brian Knowles**

**I**n the beginning, God created the human sex drive and declared it, along with everything else He had created, "very good" (Genesis 1:31). The very first command God gave the newly created couple, in the context of blessing them, was to use their sex drive to "Be fruitful and increase in number" (v. 28).

We learn up front that there is nothing intrinsically evil about the human sex drive. It is at once "very good" and a "blessing." That's as true today as it was at Creation. No one should ever be ashamed that he or she experiences sexual urges; it's part of being human. If God had not wired Adam and Eve to be sexually attracted to each other,

they would have been the first, and last, generation of the human race.

God also gave animals an urge to reproduce. They do it on the basis of instinct, physiological and biological cycles, the release of various chemicals, and other natural factors. Animals reproduce simply because they feel like it. In fact, for them the urge may be so overwhelming, they are almost crazed by it.

Both animals and man have a sex drive, but God has made a distinction between man and animals: Only man is created in the image of God (vv. 26, 27). The fact that we bear that image means we are called to a higher

standard of behavior on all counts. We are expected by our Creator to express the blessing of our sexuality within the confines of divinely ordained guidelines. The first of those is marriage.

God did not instruct the first humans to reproduce indiscriminately. The man is called Eve's husband (3:6, 16), and she is called his wife (vv. 8, 17). In the natural order of things, God's intent is that a man, once old enough, should leave the "nest" of his parent's home and "cleave unto" a wife (2:24, KJV), thus creating their own home. In the marriage union, the man and his wife become "one flesh." Since both male and



female are created equally in the image of God, it is in marriage that this fact is most brilliantly reflected.

### Further instructions

Heterosexual marriage, then, is the ideal context to express human sexuality. Once the human race had reached a certain point in its development, God created a special nation — Israel — to be His representative to the rest of the nations. In making His covenant with Israel, God gave them further, more detailed instructions regarding the expression of their sexuality. In Exodus 20:14 adultery (sexual unfaithfulness to one's mate) is forbidden. In verse 17 of the same chapter, we read a prohibition against "coveting" a neighbor's wife. The word *covet* in Hebrew is *chamad*, meaning inordinate, ungoverned, selfish desire. Coveting is not mere desire; it is "ungoverned" desire, meaning that the coveter makes an effort to acquire that which is not rightfully his.

We see this in the use of *chamad* in Micah 2:2. Evil, covetous people saw houses and fields they wanted, so they simply appropriated them. This is coveting at its worst. Coveting implies more than mere attraction or appreciation; it implies action. When David coveted Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, he took steps to acquire her.

In Proverbs 5, a chapter about the folly of getting involved with an adulteress, verse 15 perfectly captures the spirit of resisting covetousness: "Drink waters from your own cistern, running water from your own well." Marital sex should

be exclusive, not "open." Taking steps to acquire another man's wife is itself a sin. Jesus taught that if a man divorces his wife (in modern parlance, "dumps her") in order to marry a more desirable woman, that second union is not legitimate in God's sight. It is considered adultery (Mark 10:11).

In addition, God gave Israel commandments (*mitzva'ot*) against incestuous relationships, sex during the woman's menstrual period, human sacrifice in religious worship, homosexual sex, and bestiality (Leviticus 18:6-23). That these commandments apply to non-Israelites is apparent, for the next verse reads: "Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled" (v. 24).

Earlier, in the context of giving these commandments, God had said: "I am the LORD your God. You must not do as they do in Egypt . . . and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan . . ." (vv. 2, 3).

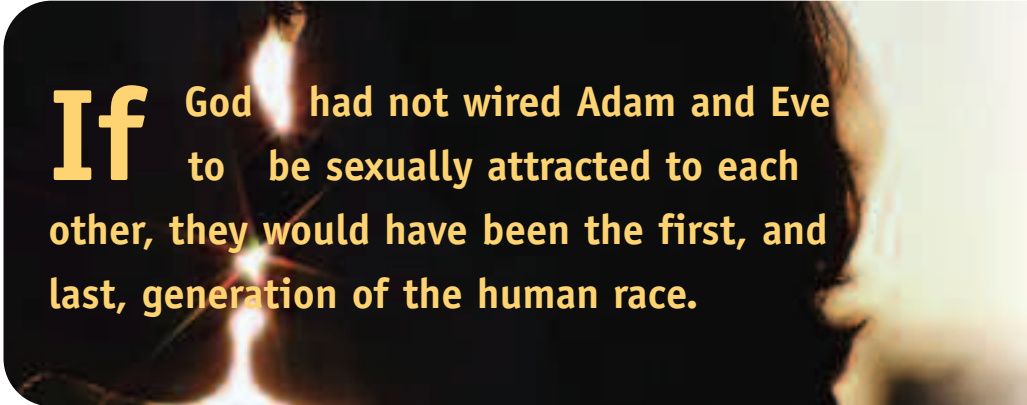
### Why sexual standards?

Throughout the Torah (Instruction) of God are many other qualifications and explanations of the Lord's sexual stan-

dards. The question now before us is, why did God give humanity standards, rules, and boundaries for sexual behavior? Is it simply because He wanted to spoil our fun? When you read the literature of atheists, agnostics, and humanists, you may get the impression that the most offensive parts of Judaism and Christianity are their rules for sexual morality. We are usually characterized as seeking to "impose" those rules on everyone else, but moral standards originate with the Creator.

In his book *Think a Second Time*, talk show host Dennis Prager says:

I believe that we can measure civilization in two ways. One is moral — how decent are a society's laws and how much do its members observe those laws? The other is in terms of holiness — the amount of distinction between the society's behavior and that of animals; the closer a society's behavior is to the animal kingdom, the less developed it is. One such distancing characteristic is the distinction that humans draw between public and private behavior. Animals rarely draw such a distinction, e.g., they relieve themselves and have sexual relations in public. . . . while a married cou-



**If God had not wired Adam and Eve to be sexually attracted to each other, they would have been the first, and last, generation of the human race.**

ple making love in private is beautiful, the same couple making love in public is indecent.<sup>1</sup>

God's commandments regarding the expression of human sexuality elevate that behavior from the animal level to the level of holiness. They sanctify human sexual behavior. As Paul later wrote, "The law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good" (Romans 7:12). God's commandments raise human sexual behavior to the level of celebration, absolving bogus guilt.

Both Prager and Paul reflect the Jewish view of sexuality.

Judaism posits that sex is a gift from God. How could such a gift be considered evil or sinful? Properly used in a legitimate framework, sex is to be viewed positively as joy and as *mitzvah* [commandment].<sup>2</sup>

Within the Christian world, there are many conflicting views on human sexuality. In the Catholic tradition, the factor of "original sin" is combined with the notion that sex — even within marriage — is still a "venial sin" (as opposed to a mortal one). Christians are all over the map when it comes to issues like fornication (singles sex),

homosexuality, abortion, birth control, and even sexual practices within marriage. Some Protestants believe in the doctrine of sex as the original sin; others do not. Protestants generally do not view marital sex as a venial sin.

It seems the views of Jesus, Paul, and the other apostles were more in line with the positive Jewish view than with post-biblical Christian (Catholic) ones. David M. Feldman writes:

. . . in the age . . . of the Church Fathers — the notion of the superiority of celibacy over marriage persisted as the dominant motif, while the denigration of marriage increased in intensity. Jerome, for example, outdid Tertullian in his antipathy to marriage, while Augustine, who formulated the "goods of matrimony," maintained nevertheless the clear spiritual priority of celibacy and virginity. Marriage is a "remedy for concupiscence," wherein the venereal desire is channeled and rendered relatively harmless. The original sin of sex . . . is somewhat redeemed by the procreative ends of marriage; then marriage, by virtue of its unique mutual pledges, can be called a sacrament.<sup>3</sup>

There is not space to cover it here, but suffice it to say that many of Paul's words on marriage, celibacy, and sexuality have been grossly misunderstood, creating an edifice of error from which much of the church has never fully escaped.

## Holy goal

Humanity bears the image of God; consequently, all of people's behavior, ideally, must rise to a suitable level of holiness. God has provided the human race with the Torah (meaning "Instructions" or "Direction") that enables us to achieve that noble goal. We can glorify God in our sexuality simply by joyfully expressing it within the boundaries and standards He has provided for us.

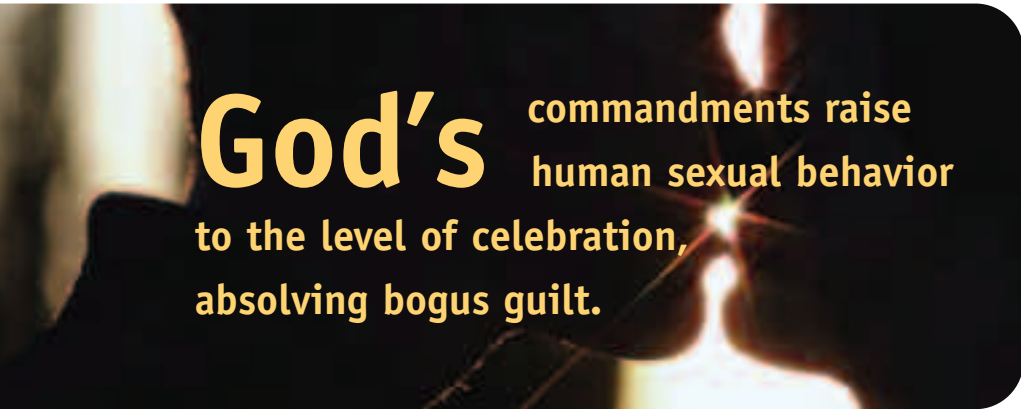
No one should ever feel guilty about his or her sexuality; it is a gift of God. Of and by itself, it is in no way evil. What matters to God is how we express it. Like all other powers or drives, it must be harnessed and brought under control. To express our sexuality without restraints is to lower ourselves to the level of mere animals. **BA**

---

**Brian Knowles** lives in Monrovia, CA. Scripture quotations were taken from the *New International Version*, unless otherwise noted.

## References

1. Dennis Prager, *Think a Second Time*, p. 21
2. Maurice Lamm, *The Jewish Way in Love and Marriage*, p. 29
3. David M. Feldman, *Marital Relations, Birth Control and Abortion in Jewish Law*, p. 23



**God's** commandments raise human sexual behavior to the level of celebration, absolving bogus guilt.

# Reading Other People's Mail

by Richard A. Wiedenheft

When it comes to resolving conflict in marriage, men tend to recall Ephesians 5:22: "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord." Women, on the other hand, tend to be drawn to Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

Rather like human nature, don't you think, that each focuses on the instructions given to the other! Sort of like reading someone else's mail.

Both husbands and wives would be better off if they focused on verse 21: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." After all, Paul's instructions to wives (v. 22), to husbands (v. 25), to children (6:1), to slaves (v. 5), and to masters (v. 9) can all be viewed as an expansion of this overarching principle that calls all Christians to mutual submission.

A wise, loving husband will look for ways to submit to his wife. He will go out of his way to make her life easier. He will try to handle or help with tasks she doesn't care to do. He'll support her in doing things she likes to do so she can develop to the full extent of her God-

given abilities. When a husband reads Ephesians 5, his eyes will be drawn to verses 25-33, which are addressed to him. A wise, loving wife will do the same for her husband.

Dave Ramsey, nationally syndicated radio talk show financial counselor, says he and his wife use the 0 to 10 test. If they can't figure out whether to go her way or his, each assigns a numeric value to his/her choice. Zero means little importance; 10 means great importance. For example, if what she wants is a 6 for her and what he wants is a 9 for him, they'll generally go with the 9. Only a foolish husband would often refuse to submit to his wife when what she wants rates a 10 for her.

But what if there's a real impasse, and they just can't agree? For some men, it's simple: They hold the trump card of Ephesians 5:22: "Wives, submit to your husbands." And they'll try to play that card whenever they choose — to their own detriment.

The real trump card is verse 21: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Or 1 Corinthians 13: "Love is patient, love is kind. . . ." Or James 4:10: "Humble yourselves

before the Lord. . . ."

The remedy to conflict is patience, research, thoughtful discussion, advice from others, and most important, prayer before God until a consensus is reached.

If you are a husband who thinks your wife is not living up to the instructions addressed to her in Ephesians 5:22, take the matter to God in prayer and ask Him to work on her heart. In the meantime, work on sacrificing yourself for her as Christ did for the church.

If you are a wife who thinks your husband isn't taking Ephesians 5:25 seriously enough, take the matter to the Lord in prayer and trust Him to work on his heart. In the meantime, work on submitting to him as you would to Christ.

You have no control over and no guarantee regarding the reaction of your spouse; that's in God's hands. But you will be blessed if you are diligently and prayerfully seeking to please the One who loved you so much He gave His life for you.

---

Scripture quotations were taken from the *New International Version*.

# Choosing to Love

What God did with the rotten remains of a failing marriage. by **Kathy Collard Miller**

**W**hen Larry and I had been married seven years, we were completely disillusioned with each other. I couldn't understand why he didn't love me anymore. He certainly was far from being the Prince Charming I'd married. *Oh Lord, what's wrong with him? I moaned. What's wrong with me? I thought we were going to have a perfect marriage because You brought us together. But now we're such strangers, we might as well be divorced.*

I'd tried everything to restore intimacy between us, but nothing seemed to work. The very character qualities that had attracted me to Larry when we were dating were now the sources of irritation in our relationship. Why did I ever think his ambitiousness and opinionated attitudes were charming?

## Angry words

One morning Larry announced he was flying to San Jose for the day. I quickly suggested, "I'll get the kids ready and we'll go with you. . . ."

"Kathy, I'm sorry," Larry interrupted, "but you can't go. I rented a two-seater plane, and I've already asked Joe to go with me."

"But we never see you. Can't you stay home just this once?"

You're either flying or working so many hours."

"Now I've already explained that I'm working all those hours to secure our financial future. You just don't appreciate all I'm doing for this family."

My face grew hot with fury. "Money isn't helping me cope with these kids!" I snapped. "Darcy makes me so angry sometimes."

"That's just typical motherhood blues," Larry assured me. "You'll be fine. I've got to go now."

Larry walked down the hall as my hands on my hips registered disapproval and disgust. I felt like screaming, "Why don't you love me anymore?"

He walked through the laundry room into the garage, closing the door behind him. To me, it was as if he'd slammed it in my face. I had been eating an apple when our conversation started, and before I realized it, my hand with the half-eaten apple pulled back and sent it flying toward that door. The apple shattered on impact, and red and white pieces flew throughout the laundry room and adhered to the ceiling and walls. I whirled around, marched into my bedroom, and knelt beside my bed. "Lord, make that plane crash! I don't care if he ever comes home again."

## Anger and manipulation

Larry's plane didn't crash, but I felt as if my life had crashed into a pit of uncontrollable anger and depression. *If only I could make him see how much he's hurting me, I thought. If only I could make him stay home more, if only I could force him to do what I want him to do, then I could be happy.*


My angry efforts at manipulation and nagging totally failed. During the months following, the pieces of apple remained on the walls and ceiling of my laundry room and began to rot. I saw them as a memorial to the rotten marriage that God could not or would not change.

## Divine prodding

One day several months later, I sensed God say to me in my heart, "Tell Larry you love him."

I was shocked. I didn't love Larry, and I believed he hated me, so I wasn't about to give him ammunition. If he heard those three little words that I hadn't said or thought for over two years, he might think I approved of his negligence. Saying "I love you" was the last thing I wanted to do.

I flatly refused. In my perfectionist thinking, since I didn't love Larry all the time, I couldn't say I loved him at all.



**I** couldn't change Larry; I could only change myself as I surrendered to God.

www.comstock.com

God gently spoke to my heart the same message a second time, and I adamantly refused again. Then a third time the Holy Spirit caused a sensation in my heart, but the message was a little different: "Then think it the next time you see Larry."

*That's strange, I thought. If Larry doesn't hear me, then he can't use it against me. All right, Lord. I'll do it, even if it's not true.*

### A small step

That evening Larry returned from a flying trip. As he walked toward me, I stared, gulped, and

thought, *I love you*. After a pause, I added, *But I don't really*. Although I was obeying God, I still couldn't believe it was true, because my feelings weren't loving toward him all the time. Therefore, I concluded I must not love him at all.

But the most amazing thing happened. By making that choice to love Larry — a small step — and as I continued to make that loving choice, the feelings of hate dissipated and more loving feelings took over. I also recognized that I'd been holding Larry completely responsible for my happiness.

My "all or nothing" thinking was changed to the realization that Larry couldn't meet all my needs; only God could.

### Corrected vision

God continued to work within my heart. He convicted me of my sin of trying to control Larry and all of life. Through prayer, reading books, Bible study, and asking other women to hold me accountable for my own growth, I began to view my situation in a different light. My vision was corrected when I realized I couldn't change Larry; I could only change myself as I surrendered to God.

On the day I began to see myself and my situation through God's eyes, I went into the laundry room and washed off those rotting apple pieces. I no longer needed a memorial to my rotten marriage. Symbolically, I washed the rotten attitudes off my heart and mind and began to trust God with my marriage and my life.

In time, Larry noticed that I wasn't as angry and demanding of him, and he agreed to go on a couples retreat with me. God used it as a turning point in our marriage in 1978. Today we are best friends and consider each other the most important person in our lives. We tell each other "I love you" several times a day, and we commit ourselves to the best for each other.

Now I enjoy a laundry room free from rotting apple pieces, just like my heart is free from bitterness and anger. **BA**

---

**Kathy Collard Miller** lives in Indio, CA.



Skjold Photographs

# Happily Single

Looking beyond the marriage mindset. **by Heber Vega**

— that singleness is abnormal, that marriage is better — comes through loud and clear. Many believe that God has someone for everyone, and, therefore, they must see everyone married. For some, the success of a singles ministry is measured by the number of weddings it produces.

Nothing is wrong with marriage and children; an individual life may be enriched by such God-given blessings. And nothing is wrong with singleness, also God-given; the life of any individual may be richly enhanced by this blessing. Both marriage and singleness provide precious opportunities to serve God. One is not automatically better than the other.

## God's provision for aloneness

It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18a). Rather than admonition for everyone to find a spouse, this text deals with *Adam's* aloneness. It's about his inability to reflect God's intended purpose without a marriage partner.

On day six of Creation, a pattern was broken. It was no

**“H**ave you gotten married yet?”

I turned around, and, yes, she was talking to me. I couldn't believe my ears. This was a new record: I had just stepped into the lobby. I knew I would answer that question often this week, but this time it came even before the usual convention “Hello.”

Before I could respond, the sweet old lady patted my shoulder and said, “Oops! I guess not. I'm sorry. I hope you find someone this time. The Lord will provide.”

This sister was honestly trying

to comfort me in what she saw as my sorrow. She is not alone: Many people pity singles. They want to help. They believe they can fix whatever is wrong.

The familiar fairy tale ending — “And *they* lived happily ever after” — has added to the misunderstanding that single people are mostly misfits searching for happiness and love, or second-class citizens trying hard to catch up with those who've found it.

Unfortunately, the church contributes to belittling singles when it turns marriage and the nuclear family into icons, almost idols. The unintentional message

longer “Let there be . . . And it was so.” Instead, it became “Let us make . . . in our image, in our likeness” (1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26). God’s perfect unity and equality in relationship with His Son became the new pattern. The final element of Creation would be in *their* own image.

In Genesis 2 the pattern is broken again. “God saw that it was good” becomes “It is not good.” Adam’s aloneness was not good. By himself, Adam did not reflect what God pronounced: “in our image, in our likeness.” By himself, Adam could not experience what the Father and the Son experience and share; Adam was incomplete. Eve completed him: “Male and female he created them” (1:27).

The final breaking of pattern came when “God saw that it was good” became “God saw . . . and it was very good” (v. 31). God was not just providing a spouse but an entire human race. It was not good for Adam to be alone; he needed other humans. The plurality of humans would now reflect God’s image and likeness. Humanity was designed and equipped to share in perfect unity and equality with each other, just like the Father and the Son.

### Humanity’s reversal

Sin ruined everything. “You will be like God,” Satan lied to Eve (3:5b). Adam and Eve were already like God, created in His image, but sin stripped them from the ability to share in pure unity as did Father and Son. After the Fall, the unity and equality that Adam and Eve shared as bearers of God’s

image were gone. Therefore, humanity did not inherit the perfect image of God but rather something broken and marred — something not good.

This translates into an unending, desperate human search for intimacy, purity, unity, and equality. The culture has a simplistic answer to such a longing: “Just settle down, find that special someone, and you will live happily ever after.”

### The real answer

Sin did not change God’s design for humanity. Surrounded by other humans, we still feel alone, longing for that lost unity that reflects God’s image. As God sees our situation, He declares, “It is not good.” This time there is a greater provision: The Second Adam, God’s Son, completes us. Jesus Christ gives us back what we lost because of sin: the bearing of His likeness (Colossians 3:10).

The remedy for our aloneness isn’t entering into a relationship with another human being. It is God’s own Son and His church, summarized by Jesus’ prayer for the believers in John 17. He prayed that believers would be one, just as God is in Jesus and Jesus is in God. He didn’t stop there, however. Jesus prayed that as we become one with one another, we would also become one with Him and the Father. He prayed for complete unity among believers. What a way to restore the bearing of His likeness!

### Gift of singleness

Singleness is a gift. It is the time in our lives when we can place our undivided attention on the Lord. Whether we are single by preference, circumstance, or change, we may see this stage as a blessing. Whether we will be single for months, years, or a lifetime, the calling is still the same: that we may live rightly in undivided devotion to the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:35). Bearing the restored likeness of Christ and experiencing unity and intimacy with Him and His church: These fill the void left in us since the Fall.

**S**ingleness is a gift. It is the time in our lives when we can place our undivided attention on the Lord.

I echo Paul’s declaration: “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. . . . I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:11b, 13).

I don’t know about tomorrow, but as of today, I am happily single! I’m already living happily ever after. **BA**

---

**Heber Vega**, son of Antonio and Alba Vega, serves as pastor in the San Diego, CA, church. Scripture quotations were taken from the *New International Version*.



Michael Landon, Jr.

# Faith, Family,

**B**orn to a famous father who made his name in the *Land of Make Believe*, Michael Landon, Jr. learned to love film while watching his dad in *Little House on the Prairie* and *Highway to Heaven*. At age 18, Michael Jr. trusted Jesus Christ and, despite routine doubts and his parents' failed marriage, remains committed to his faith.

Following in his father's footsteps, Michael worked on various TV and movie sets before trying his hand at writing and directing. His 2002 film *Love Comes Softly* struck a responsive chord with TV audiences, as did its sequel last November, *Love's Enduring Promise*. Based on books by bestselling author Janette Oke, these movies drew the Hallmark Channel's highest ratings.

Michael and his wife, Sharee, have been married more than 20 years. They live in Utah with their three children — Ashley (13), Brittany (10), and Austin (6). In March my phone conversation with this man of faith yielded many insights into his values.

**It's unusual for someone out of Hollywood to produce something with strong moral/biblical values. What prompted you to do *Love Comes Softly* and *Love's Enduring Promise*?**

In the early nineties, I was given Janette Oke's *Love Comes Softly*, and I immediately took to

the material. For one thing, it's 1850s pioneer genre. I grew up on that, of course, with *Little House*. I love the genre; it's actually my favorite of my father's work. In addition to that, there was Janette Oke's natural way of weaving faith into her stories and the lead character, Clark, who embodies everything I aspire to be as a father and a husband. For all those factors, I pursued the project.

It took a while — almost ten years. It's very rare when Hollywood wants to do anything that has any kind of faith element to it, and on top of that, this genre and the material is what Hollywood would consider "soft." They have always felt that no one would tune in, no one would be interested to watch something like this. Then when *Love Comes Softly* aired on the Hallmark Channel, it ended up being their highest-rated movie in the history of the channel by 40 percent. That success was why they wanted to proceed with the second one, *Love's Enduring Promise*.

**Did the viewers include people of all ages?**

It was a very strong female audience — twenty-something through late forties. The interesting thing, though, is that the DVD sales are off the chart for this size movie. It's one of their best sellers in the family genre.



# and Film

A BA exclusive interview with Michael Landon, Jr. by Sherri Langton

So it's appealing, I believe, to the entire population. The interesting thing, too, about *Love Comes Softly* is that it brought the female audience to the TV, but the male audience ended up watching as well. A lot of the men responded in some ways even stronger than the female population.

### **I wonder why.**

I think it is the connection to the male character, Clark. There's not a lot of stuff out there that actually gives the male something to look up to or want to emulate.

### **What is the need for this kind of entertainment? Why do you think the films resonated with viewers?**

First of all, they aren't being served by Hollywood. All you have to do is turn on your TV, and pretty much the programming nowadays is going to have constant sexual, in-your-face kinds of moments or ones slightly more subtle. You have sitcoms, reality TV, and then edgier dramas that revolve around *CSI* and dead bodies and mystery or court dramas, but really nothing directly geared to family. There isn't any alternative entertainment out there. I think that this kind of material is what a large majority of the public is looking for, and yet for whatever reasons, Hollywood has steered clear of

it either by their own convictions or because they don't feel that the marketplace warrants making material like this.

### **What shaped your views of marriage and family? A recent *Christianity Today* article online talked about your father's affair with a makeup artist on the set of *Little House on the Prairie* and your parents' divorce. Did this affect your commitment to marriage?**

It ended up giving me somewhat of a perspective. Through my earlier growing up years, I saw how wonderful marriage could be. And then when my parents separated, my father had the affair and divorced my mom, I saw the amount of pain caused by divorce and all the other stuff that goes along with it. It's given me a deep understanding of what I would never want my wife or my family to go through. I love my wife *dearly*, and the last thing I'd ever want to do to her is to cause her and my children pain.

On top of that, I really do want to preserve my testimony, and I want to run the race the best that I possibly can. I want to finish right with God, and I want to finish right with my family. This all affects what my children will become. Through free will, granted, they could obviously end up doing whatever they want to do. It's going to be their life. But while I'm having a

chance to shape their lives, I want to do everything I can to do things right.

### **That's an uncommon parenting style these days, isn't it?**

No two ways about it. Things are so upside down right now, more so than I've ever seen or experienced. To me, the pendulum needs to swing back, or we're not going to recognize this country. I'm a partner in an



Dale Midkiff as Clark Davis in *Love Comes Softly*



Internet company called Max.com. I've done enough through the company and have spoken to thousands of pastors and women in different venues regarding our families and our children to know that we are raising a generation of kids who will never know what innocence is. I think that is going to be one of the most destructive forces. It is already ravaging the family. Specifically, I'm talking about pornography, but it really is everything in general in the culture.

One of these days, this country is going to wake up and it will have gone too far to bring it back. It won't be possible. Right now that kind of verbiage for some might sound a bit over the top. It's the frog in the boiling

water scenario. You stick the frog in the water, you turn on the heat, and eventually, without even realizing it, he's cooked. As we continue down this path, allowing more explicit stuff, as we slowly desensitize our minds and our hearts, eventually there won't be any turning back. There won't be an understanding of what good is. People don't know what it is to be good.

#### **No absolutes.**

The fact that there are no absolutes is massive. I think that's one of the major things that's ripping this country apart on a philosophical level, which then obviously branches out into how we live our lives. I've heard the arguments, and they don't hold

up for a nanosecond regarding absolutes on a philosophical level. When you hear Barna Research polling even believers who are beginning to doubt whether or not there are moral absolutes, it's staggering. So they're buying into the argument. I'm a firm believer in great gentlemen like Ravi Zacharias where the believer, the church, really needs to be more aggressive in understanding the issues.

#### **How hard is it to remain true to Christian values in the entertainment industry?**

It's very difficult. Hollywood is really good at what they do as craftsmen, as storytellers. But we need to ask, what is the story really saying to us? I don't mean to make a blanket statement

that everything that comes out of Hollywood is awful. There's some awesome work out of Hollywood. I don't necessarily think it helps to demonize the entire industry either. There needs to be, in discourse and storytelling, different points of view on issues and on human nature and drama. I think it's starting to change. In the marketplace of ideas it would be nice to have alternative ideas out there, which have really been stifled. All you have to do is look at what Mr. Gibson went through with *The Passion*. It's obvious that there's a very, very intense bias against certain ideas and certain subject matter. But I think that is changing.

#### **With regard to pop culture, what do you advise teens and young people about their reading, listening, and viewing habits?**

You will be affected by what you allow your eyes to see and your ears to hear. It might not be overtly obvious, but it will definitely affect you. It's in Philippians 4:8 where Paul says to set your minds on things that are praiseworthy and good. I guarantee you that there's a reason that advertisers spend billions of dollars a year trying to influence you to buy certain products, so the same thing happens if you listen to certain types of music and see certain kinds of images. It will break down whatever convictions you have. You'll start to doubt what you believe, and it will create choices that could ultimately change the course of your life.

I always felt loved by the fact that my parents did not want

me to see certain things growing up. I would have friends who might be seeing a movie or something, but their parents were allowing them to see it and my parents didn't. I might grumble at the time and think they were being mean for no reason, but at the end of the day, I knew it was because they loved me.

**What is your approach to our country's civil war on values, and how do you recommend Christians respond to it, especially in regard to the media?**

The media responds mostly by what affects their pocket-book. Facts speak to the mind, but stories speak to the heart. We have a craving for good stories and good storytelling, so there's always that struggle for us: Should we go see this movie or not see this movie? Should we turn on this program or not turn on this program? If you're convicted and you feel it's not appropriate, the best thing to do to make a change is to not support it.

As an artist, I'm still responsible for what I create. I can't disconnect who I am from what I make, whereas some people feel differently. I just think that's fundamentally wrong. I think if you're willing to put something out there, then it is a part of who you are and you can't separate the two.

I also believe what Bishop Jakes says: You can't give an answer if you're not willing to ask the question. What I believe he means by that is you have to deal with difficult issues. You can't water them down so that they don't have an effect. You

have to be somewhat bold in terms of making it real. *The Passion* was rated R because it showed the brutality of our Lord being crucified. You never want to be exploitive or salacious or gratuitous, but sometimes reality has a bite to it.

**But your kind of films aren't that bold. You take a different approach.**

It's an issue of the subject matter. There's no reason for it to be that way. There are certain parts of the Bible that are very graphic, and it's not necessarily something that you open your Bible to and read to your children because of the nature of what is taking place. What I'm saying is that in terms of the storytelling process, there's room for both.

**In your stories, there are Christian messages, but they don't thump people on the head.**

My goodness, no. That's the other problem. Rick Warren said something brilliant to me and some other gentlemen: You don't have to always feel like you have to tell the truth; you just need to expose the lie. That's so smart. People will get it. You don't have to feel obligated to bring the person to the altar when telling a story. You just have to make them question what it is they're being fed or what they believe at that time, and once they start to question it, they'll begin to want to search for answers.

The other thing is that the Christian filmmaker isn't allowing the truth to be enough at times. I'm not making a blanket statement. In terms of what I've seen, they feel like the truth isn't enough. And it is. **BA**



*Logan Bartholemew as Willie/Nate and January Jones as Missie in Love's Enduring Promise*

Paul's approach to problems and prophecy . . .

# Corinthians and Thessalonians

**First Thessalonians** was written to a city in northern Greece where Paul had founded the church a few weeks before (Acts 17). The apostle urges the infant church, facing opposition, to move ahead in their unselfish love, holiness, and constant waiting for the Lord's return. His teaching on Christ's coming is a graphic description of what believers may expect at the Day of the Lord, warning that it will come unexpectedly — like a thief in the dark. The brightest stars in Paul's prophetic heaven shine in this letter, starting with 4:13 and continuing through 5:11.

**An unintended result** of the first letter was that some believers thought Paul meant that Christ had already returned or would do so momentarily. This over-zealous view, born in the heat of persecution and the hope of relief, evidently caused some to forsake life's ordinary pursuits in favor of passive waiting for the Lord to appear. To correct this fanatical sloth, Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians. In it he teaches that the Day of the Lord will not happen until a great apostasy comes first, until

the "man of sin" is revealed and deceives many (ch. 2). Therefore, brethren should work diligently and worship patiently while waiting. They must not abandon earthly responsibilities to their families, to each other, or to God.

**First Corinthians** must be understood in context of the large and largely unwashed city where the church existed. Corinth, Greece was notorious for all the idolatry, immorality, and worldly wisdom that the trade and traffic of the Mediterranean world could bring. But Paul had invaded the city with his gospel (Acts 18), and a beachhead of Christ followers had been planted. Knowing these new

converts would have trouble making clean breaks with former degradations, Paul fills this first letter with the patient teaching and correction necessary to bring the church to personal and doctrinal maturity.

**Among the problems** facing the church in Corinth was that of teachers and preachers who made inroads, trying to discredit the apostle and change the message of Christ's gospel, if only in subtle ways. It was the work of these "false apostles" that largely prompted 2 Corinthians. This is Paul's most personal writing and, with Galatians, his most intense.

**Corinthians and Thessalonians** make indivisible pairs and are understood only in light of their backgrounds. Read them when the church struggles internally, when evil threatens, or when death overtakes and the blessed hope of Christ's return and resurrection grows dim. Paul's thought in later letters may grow more profound, but he never gets more helpful or more hopeful than in these early letters to Corinth and Thessalonica.

— BA

Thirteen New Testament letters are directly attributed to the apostle Paul. They can be grouped by dates of writing, subject matter, persons or churches addressed, etc. Paul's early letters, Thessalonians and Corinthians, were written from A.D. 50 to 55. They contain encouragement and correction for local church problems, as well as instruction on doctrine and on the Lord's return.

Paul's salvation letters, Romans and Galatians, were written from A.D. 55 to 60 and deal with issues of law, grace, etc. Paul's prison letters — Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon — were written from A.D. 60 to 62 and are Christ-centered. The pastoral letters were written from A.D. 63 to 66, not to churches but to individual pastors, Timothy and Titus.

# Keeping the Faith

Maintaining focus on Christ is important for graduating seniors. **by Amber Riggs**

**T**he Unknown. For those graduating high school, a way of life far different from the years of studying, testing, and acquiring a diploma dawns upon them. The Unknown holds college or a full-time job, perhaps moving out of the house, and learning what it means to be an adult. This can be the most exciting time in graduates' lives – or the worst, depending on what they decide about Jesus.

If you're a Christian, you chose sometime ago to follow this Jesus and find out why He called you. Now the next few years hold opportunities that can take that relationship to an entirely new level.

Here's the catch: The same experiences with potential for tremendous spiritual growth will also result in many members of your class walking away from Jesus and venturing into The Unknown – alone. To better prepare yourself for this next stage of life, do this:

**Determine to follow Jesus.**

When you were a child, you probably learned to believe in God because someone important taught you about Him. Even after you accepted Christ, you still relied on adults to shape your perspective of Him.

Growing older, you've come to realize that your way of knowing God may have been

“secondhand” and that others' answers won't always work as you face new people, places, and experiences. God is setting the stage to strengthen your faith by showing you how He interacts with every part of your life. Decide *now* to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus no matter where He takes you.

**Know why you believe.** You will come in contact with peers, co-workers, supervisors, and professors whose way of interacting with God and life will make you look closely at what you believe, and why. You may ask questions like “Am I seeing God correctly? What is it about Him that I don't know and that He wants me to know?” Allow God's Word to provide the answers. Remember, no matter how many changes you undergo in the next few years, God himself will not change (Malachi 3:6).

Although it can be frustrating, the process of questioning, examining, and reclaiming beliefs gives you a closer relationship with Jesus and a better understanding of how He interacts with your life.

**Seek support.** It is also important to seek out people who respect your decision to follow Jesus and support your determination to grow in your faith. Some examples:

- **Friends.** Surround yourself

with peers who are also committed to following and growing in Christ. Join a young adult Bible study or a Christian service organization, or volunteer with a campus ministry. God can connect you with people who are fun to hang around and will challenge you to discover new things about Him.

- **Mentor.** Ask God to bring a mature, adult Christian of the same gender into your life who can be a sounding board and help you focus on becoming who God created you to be.

- **Community.** Remain part of the community of believers by making worship and fellowship a priority, even if it means driving home or to a nearby church each weekend. Attending church in a multi-generational congregation gives you a bigger picture of the Holy Spirit at work.

Will you let Jesus lead you into The Unknown? Following Him now will bring you a better glimpse of who He is and more amazing things He has planned. Get ready for the most significant and exciting years of your life! **BA**

---

**Amber Riggs** serves as coordinator of Ministries Training Institute. She and her husband, Bryan, live in Eugene, OR.

# Food and the Enemy

by Guillermo Contreras Morales

**H**ave you noticed that food can be a powerful weapon, either for good or for evil, in our lives? Our Adversary has often used food to come between man and God.

In the Garden of Eden, for example, God's first instruction to Adam and Eve was about food, and humanity's first sin was eating of the forbidden tree (Genesis 1:29, 30; 3:1-6). Later, after the Flood, food in the form of wine caused problems for Noah and brought a curse upon Canaan (9:20-25). Esau sold his birthright for lentil soup (25:29-34), and when Isaac wanted to bless his firstborn, Jacob and his mother used food to steal Esau's blessing (27:1ff).

When Israel complained about their food in the desert, again a curse came (Exodus 16:3; Numbers 11:4; 21:5). In the New Testament some of the church's first struggles were over food (Romans 14:3; 1 Corinthians 8:7-13).

If Satan commonly used food in leading people astray in Bible times, he will likely use the same appetite today to prevent us from enjoying God's mercies and serving Him. Can poor judgment about anything so necessary and so delicious as our daily meals really harm our walk with the Lord? With the constant bombardment of sen-

suality, lust, and other sins of the body, even mature Christians easily fall prey to such temptations.

As a hospital intern, I observe how people can be destroyed because of food. Arterial hypertension, other cardiovascular diseases (stroke, aneurisms, etc.), and obesity have become major causes of death and disability worldwide. In Mexico alone an estimated 465 persons die daily from these diseases. (In the U.S. 2,739 people die every day of cariodvascular disease.) Illness and premature death can stop our work for the Master. Very subtle of Satan, don't you think?

How many church people suffer with such diseases who otherwise would serve God in a better way? (I am talking here about the entire context of the disease, from the cost for treatment to the limitations it places on us). It would be better to invest our time and money in work for God than in treatment for a disease that was preventable.

Although diseases are caused by many factors, our nutritional habits are a primary influence in them. By choosing an adequate nutritional plan, adding a little more physical activity, and learning to leave our anxieties with God, we can make it more difficult for these diseases to attack us.


In the Bible we also find men who fought similar battles and were victorious. Daniel was one of them. Almost forced to eat something he knew he shouldn't in a strange land, Daniel asked the royal official for more wholesome food, thus demonstrating loyalty and obedience to God (Daniel 1). Daniel "resolved" (v. 8). That's something we can do too: resolve in our hearts to face each day against this giant that often appears as just a small bite.

Just as Jesus memorized Scripture and overcame the Enemy, so we can use texts about caring for our bodies to overcome unhealthy choices (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; James 1:12-15). Let's ask for wisdom and self-control from the Holy Spirit, not only to discipline our appetites but also to be conscious of our mission and to serve God and others before ourselves.

God places people in your life who can help you: doctors, nutritionists, etc. Recognize your weakness and move toward overcoming it — before it overcomes you! **BA**

---

**Guillermo Contreras Morales** is a post-graduate medical intern and a member of the Church in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.



*Each time I see flower petals unfold,  
Geometry and symmetry sublime,  
The artistry of colors soft, yet bold,  
The many shades of leaves from blue to lime,  
I see the signature of God whose art  
Proclaims one at play in whimsy and grace,  
Whose sole delight is to fill every heart  
With love overflowing, showing His face  
In bounty, forgiveness, and compassion.  
He's given us a vibrant world of life.  
He's cried our tears in His Son's own passion.  
He grieves to see us turn from Him to strife;  
He calls us back home with a lover's tears,  
His perfect love to melt away our fears.*

*Carrie Ann Thunell*

# Mail Bag

## New skin

Just wanted to tell you guys Great Job! on the BA. The new skin looks fantastic, and the articles were beefed up too. Loved it! Keep up the good work.

S. L.  
e-mail

I love the new look and format. Awesome job, guys. I was a biker, leader of a prison gang, and have just served 12 years. Now I live for Christ (2? years) and will continue to walk in Him upon my release. Your magazine has been a true blessing to me. Please keep it coming.

D. C., inmate  
New Boston, TX

I appreciate the BA very much. Sounds like you may revise it a bit, but that's all right. The Lord will guide you.

V. N.  
Edmore, ND



## Timely articles

The Jan-Feb. '05 articles were timely, since I am teaching a women's class on "How We Got the Bible." Adding them to my notes, I

was surprised to see that my file already contained pages from 1983 BAs by the same title as my class! So some of your old issues are still used. K. S. from Kannapolis, NC (January-February '05, p. 24) would have found the 1983 issues more to his liking — very deep and informative. I strongly disagree with some of your doctrines but always look forward to your magazine and find something profitable in it. Thanks for sending it!

J. B.  
Monroe, MI

## Sabbath advice

Your advice to the young reader who asked about doing homework on the Sabbath ("Questions & Answers," March '05, p. 8) was excellent. Still, I thought of one more aspect: It may be that the reader has obligated himself/herself to too much schoolwork for the semester and should consider taking fewer courses next time.

J. B.  
Columbia, SC

## Thoughts and prayers

Feeling shame that I couldn't pray for hours like some people say they do, I apologized to our Father for the short prayers I've offered for years. What a lift to my heart and mind as I read Jan Johnson's "Turning Thoughts into Prayers" [March '05, p. 18]. I gained new ideas on praying without ceasing. My heart groans all day as I read a paper or listen to the news and think of my great-grandchildren. Thank you all!

(I'm 80 years old and support a 1973 Plymouth Valiant. I write 80

letters a month to prisoners and family. It makes my life worthwhile.)

B. R.  
Collins, MO

## Evolution vs. intelligent design

I would like to pass on my appreciation for the new format of the *Bible Advocate*. In the [March '05] issue there are several well-written articles that are very helpful to Christians as we walk with Christ in this life. The article on evolution (p. 4) gives lots of useful information.

J. W.  
Folsom, LA

Thank you for your wonderful article "Evolution vs. Intelligent Design." It is excellent. I am bringing it to my high school youth this evening. It contains the exact answers to their questions from last week. I appreciate your comprehensive and clear response to such an important issue!

C. R.  
e-mail

Behe argues that [the mousetrap, the bacterial flagellum, the blood's clotting mechanisms, etc.] bespeak intelligent design.

Evolutionary biologists have answers to these objections. First, there exist flagella with forms simpler than the one that Behe cites, so it is not necessary for all those components to be present for a flagellum to work. The sophisticated components of this flagellum all have precedents elsewhere in nature. The key is that the flagellum's component



structures, which Behe suggests have no value apart from their role in propulsion, can serve multiple functions that would favor their evolution. The final evolution of flagella might then have involved only the novel recombination of sophisticated parts, initially for other purposes. Similarly, the blood-clotting system seems to involve modification and elaboration of proteins that were originally used in digestion. So some of the complexity that Behe calls proof of intelligent design is not irreducible at all.

E. M.  
e-mail



Reply by Dick Wiedenheft, author: Like all challenges to deeply entrenched points of view, Behe's arguments for intelligent design have met with criticism, including Scientific American's "15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense," referred to by E.M. Readers interested in following the debate can read Behe's response at [www.trueorigin.org/behe08.asp](http://www.trueorigin.org/behe08.asp) or at [www.discovery.org](http://www.discovery.org) (search under Behe).

One telling statement in the "15 Answers" article is this: "Thus, science welcomes the possibility of evolution resulting from forces beyond natural selection.

*Yet those forces must be natural; they cannot be attributed to the actions of mysterious creative intelligences whose existence, in scientific terms, is unproved." In other words, science is open-minded as long as there's no hint that some force beyond the natural world might have been involved. This is strange, given the fact that 90 percent of Americans (and probably of scientists) believe in God.*

*To be sure, as soon as one proposes a non-material factor in the debate, he has moved away from the strictly scientific realm to that of philosophy or religion. But in refusing to entertain the possibility of outside intelligence, Scientific American may be shutting its mind to truth of far greater value than all the flimsy, naturalistic explanations that science can observe and test. I urge Eric and all scientists to keep an open mind to the possibility that something/someone beyond what can be observed in the laboratory just might have been involved in the origin of life as we know it on planet Earth.*

*To follow the debates on evolution, creationism, young-earth vs. old-earth creationism, and related topics, visit these Web sites: Center for Scientific Creation, [www.creationscience.com](http://www.creationscience.com); Creation Science, <http://emporium.turnpike.net/C/cs/>; Institute for Creation Research, [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org); Discovery Institute, [www.discovery.org](http://www.discovery.org); Creation-Evolution Encyclopedia, [www.pathlights.com/ce\\_encyclopedia/](http://www.pathlights.com/ce_encyclopedia/); Answers in Genesis, [www.answersingenesis.org/news/scientific\\_american.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/news/scientific_american.asp) (has a response to Scientific American's "15 Answers" article).*

## BA far away

Every end of month, we receive the BA (Spanish edition) and find very interesting the topics you all write about. I told the pastor that I would like to write to you [that] we would be extremely happy that you consider visiting us one of these days. He said I couldn't ask you just like that; you would think I was playing a joke. I would really like you all to know that we exist here, specifically from Buena Vistavillage, Corozal District.

N. K.  
Belize

Take my greeting and convey it to all brethren and sisters wherever they are. English is not my mother tongue. I can't find a word to describe how our Father in heaven has been leading you to handle His truth through His wisdom. Mistakes can be made in my talking, even spelling. I have no wealth to support this work, but our Father knows how His truth was to be spread all over the world with His own power, as He planned. So forgive. Thank you very much!

M. W.  
Kenya

## A friend in Jesus

I am baptized Catholic and attend the Catholic Church. I am reading *Woman Rides the Beast* and have learned much history. I read the *Bible Advocate* and appreciate all the articles. I do love Jesus Christ; He is our Savior!

D. A.  
Elk Grove, CA

# CoG7 in Action



What's new with . . .

## ► MTS

- Activities at the G. C. convention

## National FYC

- Gimme Five awards, p. 25
- SWD Youth Camp in Jasper, AR, June 15-19

## Publications

- Be sure to check out the new brochure mailed in May

## SWORD

- Camp at Sis-Q Meadows, July 20-24



## Ministries Training System

Calvin Burrell, Director

You are invited to enroll in the MTS Convention Classroom in Denver, Colorado, July 5-8:

### Lectures in Church Doctrine (one credit)

- "True to Our Heritage: Commitment, not Compromise"  
by Elder Robert Coulter
- "True to the Scripture: Clarity, not Confusion"  
by Elder Dale Lawson
- "True to the Law: Obedience, Not Legalism"  
by Elder Richard Cress
- "True to Our Calling: Distinct, Not Exclusive"  
by Elder Whaid Rose

Lecturers will be from 8:00 until 10:30 a.m., Tuesday - Friday. Church Doctrines is a required course for lay pastors and prospective pastors.

### Conference Sampler (one credit)

Students will attend and report on ten convention sermons, seminars, etc., coordinated and evaluated by MTS board chair Harv Fischer. This course is recommended for continuing education.

Open to English and Spanish language students.  
Tuition costs: \$50 for one course; \$85 for both.  
Pre-registration required. Contact MTS office:  
Calvin Burrell, 303-452-7973 or [training@cog7.org](mailto:training@cog7.org)  
Raul Lopez, Hispanic coordinator, 713-674-5978

## 05's Golden Pairs

For several years, the BA has compiled and published the names of CoG7 couples married 50 years or more. About 160 couples made the list prior to 2005. Now we add those who celebrate a golden anniversary this year. Congratulations to these long-term lovers:

George and Jean Milligan of Church Hill, TN (March 29)  
Willard and Ruth Hawkins of Kirksville, MO (June 4)  
LeRoy and Hope Dais of Thornton, CO (June 7)  
Calvin and Vertie James of Mocksville, NC (June 12)  
Melvin and Marybell Sweet of Stanberry, MO (June 26)  
George and Gina Tolbert of Thornton, CO (July 24)  
Weston and Lucille Carver of Loveland, CO (September 1)  
Nelson and Wilma Caswell of Kansas City, MO (October 10)  
Robert and Darlene Harris of Monroe, OR (November 5)  
*Please forward other 2005 golden anniversaries to the BA.*

## Veteran Pastor Authors Book

Elder Wesley Walker of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, has written a 200-page book entitled *Answers to Your Bible Questions*. Suitable for both beginning and mature students, it can be ordered at any bookstore (iUniverse Publishing Co.) or purchased online at <http://www.shawnee.cog7.org/walker.php> (click on "iUniverse, Inc." at the top). Or go directly to [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com), click on "Browse the

Bookstore," and type the book title under "Search." Sale proceeds are used in gospel work.

## National FYC Awards

Congratulations to Gimme Five award winners for 2004:

- High Five for the Top Five awards go to youth groups with the most activity, balance, and/or improvement: Marion, Iowa; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Harrisburg, Oregon; Houston - Pasadena, Texas; Venus, Texas.
- Jacob Solis Community Service Award goes to the youth group demonstrating excellence in service: Harrisburg, Oregon.
- Honorable Mention award goes to San Antonio, Texas (Heart of Worship).

Thanks to all groups who participated in Gimme Five!

— Kurt Lang

## LITES Ends Second Term

This year's LITES team shared exciting times of study in God's Word. We explored God's principles and their application in these areas:

- refusing Satan's lies and establishing God's truth
- God's perspective on romance and relationships
- the difference between pruning and discipline
- living each moment aware of God's presence
- and much more . . .

God has graciously given us several ministry opportunities in Stanberry and other locations. We extend our thanks to Him and to *you* for prayers and financial support! If you or someone you know is interested in LITES, please visit our Web site at <http://lites.cog7.org> or contact us at LITES Ministries, P.O. Box 172, Stanberry, MO 64489; 660-783-9544; [lites@cog7.org](mailto:lites@cog7.org).  
— Christine Griffie

## New Assignment

Richard "Dick" Wiedenheft, veteran writer, speaker, and minister among Sabbathkeeping Churches of God, was appointed as superintendent for the Church's Northeastern District effective May 1, 2005. He replaces Victor Burford, who held that post for more than 20 years. The Northeastern District, stretching from New England south to Washington D.C. and west to Michigan, is home to about 96 million people — 34 percent of the total U.S. population.

In accepting this assignment, Richard added to his other CoG7 duties of part-time MTS instructor and BA writer. Previously he served as SVA director and principal, executive secretary of the Bible Sabbath Association, and field minister in the Worldwide Church of God. Contact [Richard.Wiedenheft@cog7.org](mailto:Richard.Wiedenheft@cog7.org).



# Welcome to Colorado . . . to mile-high Denver, to our CoG7 offices, and to the Marriott Tech Center for July 4-9, 2005!

## A word from the program chair

From the beautiful Rocky Mountains, we invite you to enjoy the Biennial Conference Convention in Denver July 4-9. The program is set; speakers and activity leaders are ready. All we need is for you to come and, in the words of the late John Denver, experience a Rocky Mountain high: Colorado.

Monday, July 4, is **Family Day** for any of the Denver area attractions, including Six Flags Elitch Gardens or Coors Field, where the Colorado Rockies will play the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Come hear the preaching on **“Pursuing the Heart of Jesus,”** by Elders Al Haynes, Lynn Taylor, Antonio Vega, Dale Lawson, Loren Stacy, and Whaid Rose. Attend **workshops** on parenting, leadership, evangelism, church technology, stress and depression, children’s ministry, family issues, and many more. Our G. C. president will address **daily plenary sessions**, and an **MTS credit course** in Church Doctrine is scheduled.

What else? Concerts, singspirations, afterglows, business sessions, children and youth activities, a health fair, and plenty of fellowship!

The convention is at the Marriott Denver Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse. Convention registration (303-452-7973) is required for a reduced room rate at the Marriott (800-228-9290). All activities are in the hotel except Thursday through Saturday evening services, scheduled at Denver First Church of the Nazarene, nearby at 3800 E. Hampden Ave.

— Michael Vlad

## Did you know that . . .

- Colorado is the nation’s highest state. Stretching from Alaska into Mexico, the Rocky Mountains reach their zenith here with 54 summits above 14,000 feet. Two of these, Pikes Peak and Mt. Evans, can be “climbed” in your car.
- Colorado is the eighth in size among 50 states, 26<sup>th</sup> in population, and 38<sup>th</sup> to join the U.S. — in 1876. The state is home to four national parks: Rocky Mountain, near Estes Park; Dinosaur Ridge, in northwest Colorado; Mesa Verde, in southwest Colorado; and Great Sand Dunes, near Alamosa.
- Eighty percent of Colorado’s 4.4 million people live along the front range of mountains between Colorado Springs and Ft. Collins, including Denver. This metropolitan area has many attractions, like Red Rocks amphitheater, the U.S. mint, the state capitol (look for a 5,280 ft. marker on the steps), city park with its museum of nature and science, and even DIA, a world-class airport now ten years old.
- Since the Church offices moved here from Stanberry, Missouri, in 1950, this state has hosted exactly half of our biennial campmeetings/conventions — 14 of 28. Seven were held at the former Assembly of God camp-



## Have you registered for the convention July 4-9?

Please do **one** of the following:

- E-mail your name and address to [convention@cog7.org](mailto:convention@cog7.org).
- Fax your name and address to 303-452-0657.
- Call 877-264-7329 to leave your name and address.
- Write us at P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233.
- Register online at [www.cog7.org](http://www.cog7.org).

grounds on South Broadway in Littleton (1953-1965). The others:

- a CCC camp near Red Rocks in Morrison ('51)
  - a church camp in Palmer Lake ('67)
  - the University of Denver campus ('81)
  - the Denver Sheraton Tech Center ('87, '89)
  - a Sheraton Hotel in Colorado Springs ('01)
  - back to Denver's Tech Center – now the Marriott – for '05!
- Beyond Colorado, only California ('71, '95) and Oklahoma ('77, '99) have hosted more than one G. C. convention. Ten states – South Dakota ('69), Ohio ('73), Missouri ('75), New Mexico ('79), Kansas ('83), Utah ('85), Arkansas ('91), Minnesota ('93), Tennessee ('97), and Texas ('03) – have hosted one each.

## For Youth at Convention . . .

Daily recreation, social, and community service activities, plus special guests:

- Lakita Garth ([www.clubvarsity.org](http://www.clubvarsity.org)) will speak on abstinence, purity, purpose, etc.
- Illusionist Dave Horsager ([www.specialdeliveryproductions.com](http://www.specialdeliveryproductions.com)) will lead workshops.
- Lauren Evans ([www.laurenrenewans.com](http://www.laurenrenewans.com)) will sing on Wednesday evening.

A benefit concert will be given by our CoG7 performers Saturday night!

## For YAs at Convention . . .

Can I make sense of my life?  
Can I know God's plans for me, and experience life

to the full? (Jeremiah 29:11; John 10:10)

Can I discover my gifts and the works He has for me, and know where my talents will flourish? (Romans 12:6; Ephesians 2:10)

Can I know when to say yes – and when to say no – to ministry opportunities?

Yes! You can find your PLACE . . .

- P - Personality discovery
- L - Learning spiritual gifts
- A - Abilities assessment
- C - Connecting passion with ministry
- E - Experiences of life

. . . in ministry at the SWORD workshop by that name Friday, July 8, in Denver. For information on the SWORD convention program, visit <http://sword.cog7.org> or e-mail [sword@cog7.org](mailto:sword@cog7.org).

Since 1972, CoG7 offices have been at 330 W. 152nd in Broomfield – 15 miles due north of downtown Denver along Interstate 25. Members and friends are invited to tour the offices on Sunday, July 3 (3 - 6 p.m.), Monday, July 4 (9 - 11 a.m.), or Thursday, July 7 (2 - 4 p.m.).



# International Tour

## India

The Church in India was planted by Elder V. J. Joseph, from his home in Burma, early last century. Elder Joseph's son, Utham Rao, later moved to Calcutta and then into south India, where he established congregations in Andhra Pradesh. Elder Rao now rests in the Lord, and his son Jacob pastors the Hyderabad church and assists in developing the Association for the Churches of God (Seventh Day) in India (ACoG7I). Both SDA and CoG7 groups acknowledge that the Rao family, through their Grandfather Joseph, is responsible for bringing the Sabbath truth to India.

Through representatives, about 225 congregations in India have signed the Hyderabad accord, forming the ACoG7I. Several other Sabbatarian churches may yet join this effort. Presently, ACoG7I represents 10,000 or more persons in this country of more than a billion people. Its officers are P. Kennedy, chairman; T.V. Rao, vice chairman; Jacob Rao, general secretary; G. Hnamte, board member; and H. Thathleia, board member.

### Mission India, 2005

HYDERABAD – International Ministerial Congress President Ramon Ruiz Garza of Mexico and Missions Director William (Bill) Hicks of Tennessee arrived here February 22. They came to attend the dedication of a building that serves the Hyderabad church and provides offices for ACoG7I, and to train and encourage leadership in the country.



About 300 persons, including guests, attended the dedication service in Hyderabad. Elder Ruiz presented the Church's doctrinal beliefs, published for the first time in the region's Telegu dialect, and a banquet was held.

The mission team attended a pastors' conference in Khammam, where Elder Ruiz reported the work of IMC and Elder Hicks urged the pastors to consider their calling in Christ. They attended services in a community of disabled persons and their families, where conditions defy description but the desire to worship God through the Lord Jesus is evident. ACoG7I funds will assist this community to drill a water well and build a church.

The team visited many churches, including those in Narapanenipalli, Dharbhagudem, Vegavarum, Bayyanagudem, Laxmipuram, and Umamaheswaram, where hundreds attended. Several projects were funded in this West Godavari District, including purchase of land for church construction, bathroom facilities for another church, replacement of roof in another, and doors/windows for yet another.

The team traveled to Vuyyur, Krishna District for a pastors' conference with the City Church of India under the leadership of Dr. Joshi Kumar Jedi.

MIZORAM – On February 28 the team flew from Calcutta to Mizoram, a protected province requiring government permission to visit. Met by busloads of brethren, the team traveled with motorcycle escort up the Himalayas to the city of Aizawl, along and atop a mountain. Along the way, they stopped for a picnic and baptismal service.

At a joint pastors' conference, Elder Ruiz presented the work of the IMC, Elder Hicks presented the two doctrinal pillars of the CoG7 movement around the world, and difficulties of 100+ churches in that region were discussed. A dinner in the home of Elder G. L. Hnamte honored guests from Nepal, Burma, South India, Mexico, and the U.S.

Returning to Calcutta, the team attended dinner with the Victor Rao family, worshipped together, and sang praises to God for His many blessings during the tour throughout India. They returned home March 4.



## To Care or to Kill?

It's been said that in relating to the sick, the suffering, the incompetent, the disabled, and the dying, we are always to care, never to kill. At times some will deem it an act of compassion, but killing is never a means of caring.

This speaks directly to the battle over the life of Terri Schiavo, a disabled young woman who died in a Florida hospice on March 31.

**Warning:** The Schiavo case is a microcosm of a much bigger battle in our culture over biblical values, ethics, and morality.

After thirteen days without food and water and several failed attempts to have her feeding tube reinserted, Terri died; but the battle continues. This case, some believe, is the *Roe v. Wade* of euthanasia. Yes, we were warned: If life isn't valuable at its start before birth, it will not be valued at the end. How we treat the most defenseless among us — the unborn, the disabled, and the elderly in particular — speaks volumes about the moral conscience of our nation.

At the heart of this debate are fundamental questions of life, human dignity, and morality. What is a human being? What, or Who, is the source of all life? Must one be capable of demonstrating a certain quality of life to deserve to live?

To answer intelligently, we must be aware of the ways in which the right to die movement plays upon people's weaknesses and emotions, as well as hidden meanings and nuances in its language. Fear of prolonged suffering and frustration over the declining health of loved ones is understandable and deeply felt by many. Finding ways to eliminate those who suffer, however, not only plays the role of God in their lives but also avoids our moral duty to them.

Furthermore, a big difference exists between allowing someone to die and causing a person's death. Some experts asserted that Terri was brain dead, but others insisted she was not. Unable to swallow, she received food and water through a tube inserted into her stomach. That's not the same as being on a ventilator or artificial life support.

Terri was not allowed to die naturally, as many believe; she was starved to death. This is reprehensible. Considering that God is just and that He judges nations based on their treatment of the oppressed and defenseless, I tremble for this country.

When medical treatment is no longer deemed useful, it may be proper to refuse or withhold such treatment, if the patient has earlier expressed those wishes. Think about the facts in this case. Terri Schiavo signed no will stating her desire to be starved. Rather, death by starvation was ordered by her husband, who had, while still married to her, moved in with another woman by whom he had fathered two children. He said nothing about Terri wanting to die until seven years into her disability. Intent on her death, he confined her to a hospice, a place for the dying, rather than to a medical institution dedicated to her healing.

Most disturbing to me is that her parents and siblings begged to take her home and care for her, at their own expense, but were denied that privilege. She was given the sentence of death, and nothing could stop it — not even the United States Congress or the President's signature.

If it seems to you that I am taking sides on this issue, you are correct. I note that God takes sides in the Bible, always with the oppressed and helpless. The gospel is good news for the lost, the least, and the last. By this we can know where God stands, and by His grace, I am committed to the same side as well. May all God's children dare to stand with Him till Jesus comes.

— Whaid Guscott Rose  
General Conference President



Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau.

- Enjoy Denver and the Rockies on Family Day, July 4
- Convention program begins Tuesday morning, July 5
- Worship and the Word: “Pursuing the Heart of Jesus”
- MTS lectures on doctrine; health fair for all
- Visit home offices of your General Conference
- Check out more convention attractions inside (p. 28)
- Last great day of spiritual feast, Sabbath, July 9
- Register: 303-452-7973 or <http://home.cog7.org>

Bible Advocate  
(USPS 054-160)  
P.O. Box 33677  
Denver, CO 80233-0677  
USA

Periodicals  
Postage Paid  
at Broomfield,  
Colorado and  
additional offices