

Our purpose is to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,” and to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

OLD PATHS ADVOCATE

“To continue speaking the truth in love,” “endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,” “keeping the ordinance as delivered.”

“Thus saith the Lord, ‘stand ye in the ways, and see and ask for the Old Paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest of your souls.’ (Jer. 6:16) “And they that be of Thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Paths to Dwell in.” (Isa. 58:12).

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NO. 3

“GOD’S WORD DID NOT RETURN TO HIM VOID...”

By VIRGILIO O. DANA O. SR.

“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” Isaiah 55:11. I began receiving the OLD PATH ADVOCATE at its April-May, 1973 issue. Although there were times that I did not receive copies of it, I continued to examine and study its contents, particularly these that pertained to the Communion, and concerning class and women teachers questions. The latest OPA I received was its February, 1981 issue. It takes approximately nine years to accomplish that “which God pleases.” Although it seems very slow; be as it may, still the word of God it carries did “not return void,” but it began to “prosper.” Now there are a number of believers who worship, the same belief and manner you do, patterned in the primitive New Testament Church of Christ, here in Roxas, Isabela, Philippines. And a new mission field has been opened for you, brethren, to consider and to mention in your prayers.

I could not exactly remember how I did happen to receive a copy of the O.P.A. Probably it was God’s providence. Although, at first, I was a little bit indifferent with its teachings, I longed for the OPA when there was a time that I ceased receiving copies of it. Nevertheless, later I began to be interested with the “issues”-the “new doctrines,” I wanted more light. I saw part of the light”-the truth, the issues -- but it was still obscure and vague. I desired to comprehend the total illumination of the light. So in May, 1976, I requested by writing to Bro. Homer L. King, reading materials dealing with the Communion, among others. Bro. H. L. King, however, endorsed my letter to his son, Bro. Don L. King, who also sent to me the requested literature. And my communication with him stopped.

Although, as far as I can remember, I acknowledged receipt of his last letter and the reading materials he sent to me, I intended to stop communicating with Bro. Don L. King. I wanted to study the “issues” by myself, unless if I have questions. For almost five years, from 1976 to 1980, I studied and re-studied, examined and re-examined, searched and re-searched the “issues” and Scriptures, respectively. And as a result, in the early part of 1980, I was already sincerely convinced of the teachings of the

Bible than an assembly of the Church of Christ should use one loaf and one cup in the observance of the Communion (Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-23; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:1-2, 23-38); that members of the Church should assemble together during teaching the word of God service, without dividing apart into different classes as being done in modern Sunday School (Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 14:31); and that women are not allowed to teach in the church, for the task of teaching others has been committed to faithful men (1 Cor. 14:34-35; 1 Tim. 2:11-13; 2 Tim. 2:2). The only problem, so far, which bothered me was concerning the use of musical instruments in Christian worship.

For the past several years, I have written, and even engaged in debates, articles concerning the use of musical instruments. In 1971, after nine years since I graduated from a Bible Seminary, an institution sponsored and managed by a couple, able missionaries of the Churches of Christ/Christian Churches from the U.S.A., in a conference made between our group and the non-instrumental brethren within the liberal Church of Christ in the Philippines, I represent the brotherhood to defend the use of mechanical instruments in Christian worship. Of course, the above stated circumstances had influenced me much. However, despite my still pre-mechanical instrument attitude at that time. I have already been sharing to my co-preachers the Biblical teachings I earlier enumerated. But I wanted to know more about the truth. I then, once more, wrote to Bro. Don L. King, after almost five years of silence, asking him reading materials, preferably a written debate on the instrument issue. The materials he sent to me had indeed helped me much in my studies.

Bro. James Orten informed me about his desire to visit me here in Roxas, on his way back to the U.S.A. from Malaysia, on August, 1980. I was glad, for at least, I can study with him personally the issue on the instrument. But I was dismayed when I was told through letters later by him and Bro. Bill Page of Malaysia that he went to the wrong place in my country. Nevertheless, I continued to pray to God to help me in my studies. I began to feel that I was standing spiritually on a “dangerous ground.” I began to fear the consequences of my situation might bring me in the future. I was then determined to settle this problem, once and for all, at the earliest possible time. I knew God answered my prayers when I received a letter from Bro. Paul Nichols informing me that he and Bro. James Franklin

continued on page six . . .

CONTENTS

Vol. LXXXIII No. 3



ADVOCATE

ANNOUNCEMENTS 9

God's Word Did Not..... 1

Father Forgets..... 2

The Querist Column 3

The Church of Corinth 3

Israel, The Christian 5

Pages From the Past..... 8

Leon Can't Do Everything..... 12

FROM THE FIELDS 10-11

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Editorial

FATHER FORGETS

By: DON McCORD

The following article appeared in this journal in June, 1954. It was submitted by Don McCord. In reading some other things, I came across this piece and thought our modern day fathers could probably benefit from it. Every father or mother has been impatient with a child and only later realized how that may have been perceived in their little minds. Please, read it and if it helps you in some way, God be thanked. DLK

(“The following, under the above caption, was written by W. Livingston Larned. It is sure to find a cordial welcome in the hearts of those of us who have the privilege, and it is a privilege, of having little ones committed into our keeping. Too, it is sure to instill within us that sacred desire to do our best to make of our boy today the kind of man that we and the Father in Heaven would want him to be tomorrow.)

“Listen, son, I am saying this to you as you lie asleep in your little bed, one little paw crumpled under your cheek and the blond curls stickily wet on your damp forehead. I have stolen into your room alone. Just a few minutes ago, as I sat reading my paper in the library, a hot stifling wave of remorse swept over me. I could not resist it. Guiltily I come to your bedside.

These are the things I was thinking, son; I had been cross to you. I had scolded you as you were dressing for school because you gave your face merely a dab with a towel. I took you to task for not cleaning your shoes. I called out angrily when I found you had thrown some of your things on the floor.

At breakfast I found fault, too. You spilt things. You gulped down your food. You put your elbows on the table. You spread butter too thick on your bread. And as you started off to play and I made for my train, you turned and waved a little hand and called, ‘Good bye Daddy!’ and I frowned and said in reply, ‘Hold your shoulders back!’

Then, it began all over again in the late afternoon. As I came up the hill road, I spied you, down on your knees playing marbles. There were holes in your stockings. I humiliated you before your boy friends by making you march ahead of me back to the house, lecturing you all the while. Stockings were expensive, and if you had to buy them you would be more careful! Imagine that son, from a father! It was such stupid, silly logic.

Do you remember, later, when I was reading in the library, how you came in softly, timidly, with a sort of hurt look in your eyes? When I glanced up over my paper, impatient and irritable at the interruption, you hesitated at the door.

continued on page eight

THE QUERIST COLUMN

BY RONNY F. WADE

Question: Are there different measures of the Holy Spirit?

Answer: Yes, I believe there are, and I will notice them in the following order: (1) the baptism of the Holy Spirit. There are two incidences of this baptism recorded in the scriptures the first in Acts 2:1-3. The apostles were “all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” that is they were immersed in the power of the Spirit. As a result the apostles were able to perform miracles, speak in other languages, and impart to others certain gifts of the Spirit. The second instance is recorded in Acts 10:44-48 and took place in Caesarea at the house of Cornelius, which prepared the way for the preaching of the gospel to the Gentiles. Since the scriptures affirm that there is but “one baptism” (Eph. 4:5), it follows that the baptism of the Spirit is no longer available for people today. Those who seek and often claim to have received Holy Spirit baptism are deceived and misunderstand the purpose for which it was given. Many times the chief reason people seek it, is because they have been taught that only by its reception are they able to speak in tongues. Unfortunately what they call “speaking in tongues” is some kind of gibberish rather than an intelligible language like that recorded in Acts chapter two. All other miraculous manifestations of the power of the Holy Spirit were the result of some apostle (who had received the baptismal measure of the Spirit) laying hands on the person and imparting a particular gift. 2 Miraculous gifts of the Spirit received. There were nine special gifts that were imparted by imposition of the apostle’s hands. They were: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. When all the apostles died there was no one left to impart such gifts to men, when the last person died on whom an apostle had laid hands, the miraculous gifts ceased to exist. Unfortunately, today there are scores of men who claim to possess these powers. Such claims declaring the ability to speak in tongues or heal the sick or even raise the dead are often made. These powers are available, they say, because they have received the baptism of the Spirit. All such claims are totally unfounded and a review of these proclaimed “miracles” show them to be false and without scriptural foundation.

Examples of the impartation of these gifts may be found in the following scriptures: at Samaria Acts 8:14-19; Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6, at Ephesus Acts 19:2,6; at Corinth 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 12:4-11; 14:26-33. 3. The ordinary measure of the Spirit i.e. the non-miraculous indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit indwells the Christian. The question of “how” the Spirit indwells is one over which there has been considerable controversy and disagreement. Guy N. Woods correctly points out that the “Spirit strengthens Eph. 3:16, sanctifies 2 Thess. 2:13, saves Titus 3:5, justifies 1 Timothy 3:16, witnesses to us Hebrews 10:15, prompts us to love God Romans 5:5, leads us as God’s sons Romans 8:16, and will eventually raise us from the dead Romans 8:11.” The question is “how does the Spirit do these things?” Does He indwell the Christian personally or in some indirect manner? It is the conviction of this writer that the Holy Spirit indwells the Christian through the word of God. The word of God is the agent of the Spirit. This does not mean that the Spirit is the word or that the word is the Spirit, but that the Spirit operates on the Christian through the word. Whatever influence the Spirit exerts upon the Christian is through the revealed word of God. It is not the word alone, or the Spirit alone, but the Spirit working through the word. Whatever influence the Spirit exerts upon the Christian is through the word. (Send all questions to Ronny F. Wade P.O. Box 800337 LaGrange, GA 30240 or rwwade@charter.net)

THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

BY BENNIE T. CRYER

1 Corinthians Commentary #3

1 Corinthians 1:10, Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Paul is doing more than just asking the church in Corinth to do the things mentioned in this verse. When he used the word beseech this meant he was appealing (NW), pleading (NKJV), and exhorting (NASU) them to follow his instructions. He loved the members of the church and that love would not permit him to leave them in error. Like Moses in the Old Testament when he was leading the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage the people discovered the Egyptian army was pursuing them reminded Moses of their former word when they cried out in Exodus 14:12, Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone,

that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness. Many people have always been like that. When they are reminded of their wrong doings they are apt to say, let us alone. They, like the Israelites, would rather remain in sin's bondage. In many places in this epistle to members of the church in Corinth he is pleading with them to come out of their sins. Unlike some of our preachers today who say some error and sin is alright but others are not. Paul loved the church members enough to not leave them alone. Furthermore he was writing them through (by) the name of the Lord Jesus Christ which means he has all the authority of Jesus Christ backing him up. These words have the blood of Jesus sprinkled on them and this makes them binding on the church members. This pleading was not just Paul's writing these things. He had all that the name of Jesus stood for behind him so that, in effect this exhortation was as though Jesus was writing them himself, 1 Corinthians 14:37, If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

Why would the Lord want the members in Corinth to speak the same thing? Because this is one of the basic things necessary in order to have unity in sentiment and design. Study Genesis 11:1, And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. Because of this unity in speech and voice they rebelled against God instructions for them to replenish the earth. They had found a likely place and wanted to stay there. They wanted to build a great city and tower whose top would reach unto (toward) heaven. Why? Read Genesis 11:4, And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. They wanted to stay at this good place instead of going out to replenish the earth as the Lord wanted them to. So Jehovah disrupted their unity and scattered them. How? Genesis 11:8-9, So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth. So, how does Jesus Christ propose that the members at Corinth have unity? By speaking the same thing! In other words speaking the same things God has revealed. 1 Corinthians 2:12-13, Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. This latter statement simply means that we are to use the words that the Holy Spirit chose from the mind of God and revealed to the apostles and

prophets. They penned these words so we can speak the same things.

Paul then forbade them to have no divisions among themselves. Christ had only one physical body and since he is not on earth now he built and purchased the church with his own blood. In Ephesians 1:22-23 we learn that his church is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all. The local congregation including the one that was at Corinth was his body. The idea of the local church being divided and left alone without correction is foreign to the scriptures. What kind of divisions was Paul forbidding them to have? Had they broken away from the church Paul had started there and formed another? No! Matthew 9:16 teaches the kind of division the writer has in mind: No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. "Rent" in this verse means there was a tear in the garment. The garment was still together but it had a tear in it. The church in Corinth was still together but they had these "tears" in it over various issues Paul would be dealing with beginning in the next few verses. If some member at Corinth would take one of these "tears" and push it to the point where they were separated from the other members then they would be guilty of being a heretic. Instead of letting these "tears" over several different spiritual issues get that far along the Holy Spirit saw the need to immediately correct them. So, Paul writes toward that end and teaches them that they are to be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. Paul uses a tense that they were to get this action completed. But what action is commanded in being perfectly joined together? Strong's tells that the word translated into this phrase means to complete thoroughly, i.e., repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust. In the KJV it is translated into fit, frame, mend, perfectly joined together, prepare, and restore. An example of what Paul is telling them to do is found in Matthew 4:21 where Jesus found James and John mending their nets. Their fishing net had holes that had been torn in it and they had to mend or repair the net before it could fulfill its purpose in their fishing business. This is just like the members of the church in Corinth who had these schisms in their relationships. These tears or holes needed to be repaired and he was telling them to do it immediately. He did not want them to continue endangering their relationship with the Lord or each other. He wanted their minds to be repaired so that they would have the same purposes and intentions. He wanted their judgments to be repaired so they would have the same attitudes or way of thinking. Only in this way could they have the unity (not union) that the Lord Jesus requires of his followers. Remember, as you read and study this first epistle to the Corinthians that the problems Paul starts adjusting or repairing among these members is not just their opinions they differed on but serious doctrinal issues. -OPA

ISRAEL, THE CHRISTIAN & CARNAL WARFARE

BY SHAHE GEVAIAN

In arguing the scriptural validity of a Christian's right to bear carnal arms, many have pointed to the Old Testament example of Jewish warfare to justify the Christian's right to participate in the same. No Bible student would argue that the Israelites did not engage in carnal warfare. However, is this a true parallel for the Christian? To be a legitimate comparison, valid applications must be made between their situation and ours.

Numbers 33:51-53 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places; you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess" (NKJV).

The first thing we learn when looking at their warfare is that they engaged in it by revelation and by Divine direction. God said, "Go to war!" "Drive them out!" "Tear down their idols!" "Dwell in their land!" There was no question about God's will in the matter. He commanded them to destroy the inhabitants of the land.

Secondly, God revealed the reason that they were to drive out the inhabitants. Numbers 33:55-56 "But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them."

From a Christian perspective, we can understand the beauty of that logic. We can see readily that the world would certainly be much more appealing if we removed the ungodly infidel. The unbeliever can certainly be "harassing" and a "thorn in the side." However, there was a deeper reason revealed for God's desire to remove them at that time. Further revelation shows the real rationale behind God's concern:

Deuteronomy 7:1-4 "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly."

As we can see, there was a religious motivation for removing these Gentiles. God was concerned for Israel's spiritual welfare. He knew that if His people intermingled with the heathen they would eventually apostatize. Here is the revealed reason for this charge to make war! "Remove them or they will cause you to depart from following ME!"

The third factor under consideration in this revealed warfare is the land. God was going to give them a section of land to reside in. This was the "promised land." Therefore, their revealed warfare was directed toward this land area.

Finally, before attempting comparisons with contemporary Christianity, there is one more factor to consider in this revealed warfare. Simply put, not all the Israelites were allowed to engage in carnal warfare. The Levites and priests were not numbered for war. God explains the reason for this. In Numbers, chapter one, God instructed Moses to number all those that were able to go to war (verse 30). However, he states the reason that the Levites were not counted in verses 47-50:

"But the Levites were not numbered among them by their fathers' tribe; for the LORD had spoken to Moses, saying: "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, nor take a census of them among the children of Israel; but you shall appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the Testimony, over all its furnishings, and over all things that belong to it; they shall carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings; they shall attend to it and camp around the tabernacle."

In the above verses, God explains that the Levites were not to be numbered for war because they were going to be involved with "religious" things. They were going to be involved in spiritual activities. They were to minister about the tent of meeting. This whole tribe of Levi was sanctified for priestly functions.

Let's quickly examine each of these revealed reasons for Israel's warfare and see if we can draw comparisons to the Christian calling. First of all, Israel went to war by direct revelation. Has any Christian ever received a direct revelation to bear carnal arms in order to inflict injury and death upon another human being for which Christ also died? I have no knowledge of such a revelation in scripture. I do recall Jesus making the following statement, however.

John 18:36, Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Examining the second reason for Israel's revealed warfare, we find it was to remove sin and the sinner from the land. Is this the reason why the United States goes to war? I realize that in being a self-proclaimed "Christian" country, Americans would like to assume that our carnal warfare is righteous and holy. But is it, really? Why did we fight the war of independence? Why the war of 1812? Why the Spanish-American war? Why the war with Mexico? Why the war in

Vietnam? Why either of the wars in Iraq?

If you search America's designs for fighting, you will discover that these national causes were not spiritually motivated. Let's be realistic. America, like every other nation, goes to war to advance their national goals. God may use them to serve His unrevealed purposes, but like the Assyrians of old, their war aims were entirely self motivated. If Americans were really motivated -- according to God's revelation to Israel -- they would make war upon San Francisco, New York, and even some of the "hot beds" of sin right here in Columbia, MO. There is simply NO parallel to be found.

I've heard some say that the Christian must decide whether the cause for which he is fighting is moral or immoral. This sounds good, but it is without scriptural foundation as well as entirely impractical. Can you imagine the commanding officer gathering his men together and asking how many were in agreement that the national war aims were moral?

This argument is introduced only because of the inherent conflict caused by the prospect of a Christian killing another human for which Christ died. The argument is spurious and skirts the real issue. There is no parallel to the revealed reason that Israel went to war.

The third reason God revealed Israel's war effort was to "take and occupy the land." The land was promised to Abraham and his children through Isaac. Its boundaries were carefully revealed and laid out by God Himself. It was the place on which God would choose to put His name.

What land has the Christian been promised? The Christian has been promised no land here on Earth! In the New Testament, several references are made about the fact that we are strangers and sojourners on the Earth. We haven't even been promised an earthly city much less a country!

Hebrews 13:13-14 "Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come."

The "one to come" is described as the "heavenly Jerusalem." Peter, after teaching that Christians are a Royal Priesthood and a Holy Nation states in 1 Peter 2:11: "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,"

He had already admonished Christians in 1 Peter 1:17 "And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear." A pilgrim is a person without a country!

What was the reason for this teaching? Both Peter and the Hebrew writer make it clear that these first century brethren were being persecuted for their faith. They were suffering the loss of possessions and many of them were being thrown into prison (Hebrews 10:33-34). They needed

encouragement to understand that the Christian's hope is not found on Earth. This is the main reason the apostle Paul reminded the church in Philippi, "... our citizenship is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20).

We should understand this fact as Christians sing the song, "This World is Not My Home." Another parallel breaks down: there is no promise of land to the Christian. There is no legitimate comparison to be made to Israel's warfare existing in the land promise.

The fourth point previously made bears special emphasis. Even though the nation of Israel was directed by God to go to war, the priests and Levites were excluded. They were eliminated for two reasons. One, they were chosen and set apart to minister about the sanctuary. Two, they were barred from war because they were to receive no land in Israel. God was to be their "land." He was to be their "portion."

Here is a true parallel and it CAN be applied to the Christian today. Christians have received no inheritance in the land. We are all priests in the kingdom of God (1 Peter 2:9). The Christian's purpose also includes spiritual sacrifices (Romans 12:1). Christ is our portion. Christ is our land. Heaven is our inheritance. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).

Continuing this thought in Colossians 3:1-4, Paul writes, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

As you can see by now, there are no rightful parallels between Jews and Christians when it comes to carnal warfare found in the first three points. The only true comparison that can be made lies in the exclusion of the Levites for war. Their function was religious and priestly. The Christian's functions are religious and priestly. This real parallel must be dealt with by the proponents of carnal warfare. -Shah Gergian shahegergian@yahoo.com



GOD'S WORD DID NOT continued from page one

Jr. will visit me personally. During their very short visit here in the Philippines, and a very limited time for Bible study, much has been accomplished. Regarding their visit, in my letter to Bro. Don L. King, I stated, among other things, the following: "It was our short study of the musical instrument while we were in a Manila hotel that helped me grasp deeper meaning and application of Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16, particularly the meaning of the word PSALLO. I did not ask them many questions regarding it for I have already asked these to others before. But the point which I did not give much attention previously

which has suddenly come to my mind as I was having my studies with them was this: If the word PSALM as used in Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 means a song with musical instrument, and if the usage here of said verses is an admonition or command given to EVERY Christian during worship service on Sunday, this obligates EVERY CHRISTIAN TO HAVE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT. Of course, I have already come across this question before, but only I did not pay much attention to it. My simple answer to this before was that every Christian is not obligated to use instrument if he can not afford to have it. And this is acceptable before God, just as He exempts and forgives those who are sick and could not go to Church during Sunday. But this argument seems to be irrelevant and is inconsistent. We do not expect that most of the brethren are always sick the rest of their lives; and we do not expect that most of the brethren could not afford to have musical instrument all the rest of their lives. (A Christian who has no musical instrument now must have to buy one and begin learning and practicing how to play it, in order to be able to obey Ephesians 19 and Colassians 3:16. If the word PSALMS used in said verses requires each Christian to sing and accompany his song with musical instrument, then most of us are sinning because we are transgressing this command for we use no mechanical instrument. But if we do accept that the HEART is the instrument required as per Ephesians 5:19 to accompany our singing, then we do not meet the problem as far as in the implementation of Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 is concerned. To me this point, at first, seemed a little thing to be considered; and I just simply ignored it. But as I ponder it now a little bit deeper than I used to do, I could not but help closing my eyes because of the sudden bright illumination of truth that comes out of it. The same way I ignored previously the use of one cup in the Communion, for I thought it was just a little thing that I did not pay much attention to it. But as I dig deeper in search of the truth, I found out that this 'little thing' is a big Biblical truth, partly hidden by the thick dust of human innovations introduced into the Church."

Truly, while the 148 Bible scholars who translated the Bible into the King James and American Standard versions, not to mention anymore others who personally had done similar works, are unanimous in translating PSALLO into "sing," most Lexicographers agree with them as shown in their New Testament definitions of same word, PSALLO. And I know I am standing on firm foundation if I humbly accept without reservation this fact.

When Bro. Don L. King and Bro. Jerry Cutter visited us here in Roxas, Isabela, Philippines last March, 1981, we have already been implementing the use of one cup in the Communion. However, through them, we were taught of the Biblical order of the observance of the Communion. And it was when they were here worshipping with us in the Lord's Day (March 8th) that the first congregation established in the Philippines as fruit of my communication with Bro. Don L. King, and with the help of other visiting brethren, like: Bro. Paul Nichols, Bro. Jerry Cutter and Bro. James Franklin Jr., has started to function as a New

Testament Church of Christ. I praise God for almost all the brethren attending the first worship service (4:00-6:00 AM) of the Church here in which I was in charge for about two years, have accepted simple New Testament Christianity. Actually we are joining hands in the newly started task of sharing with others the truth we have known, despite the fact that we are now separated from the opposition. However, God is blessing our endeavor. On April 4th, we baptized 12 very precious souls, while we have 1 more baptism on April 11th.

News of my resigning my work as a Radio Preacher with the Philippine Mission Churches of Christ of Northern Luzon, Inc. rapidly spread throughout the Cagayan Valley, a valley composing the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirine, Isabela and Cagayan. I am looking forward to the time when I will explain to them through our radio program, why I left the said Mission. Now our work for Him Who died for our sin is beginning to spread throughout the Cagayan Valley.

Regarding our future work, in my letter to the brethren who personally visited us here, I said: "My plan now is to start teaching others who can teach others also. The more trained, trusted and decided preachers we have, the faster we can establish local congregations in different places. (To begin with, Christ had prepared 12 apostles, only a few chosen from the many, for the proclamation of His Word. And the history of Christianity can vouch in time immemorial their success, together with their sacrifices and dedication, in the propagation of His glorious Kingdom on earth.) So I am now prepared to go on forward to recruit brave and dedicated soldiers of the old Cross, joining our hands together as we advance onward, spreading the good news of salvation, for the glory and honor of the One Who redeemed us from the bondage of sin.

This teaching and preaching may be accomplished through, among others, the use of radio. I am fully convinced that the use of the radio is one of the fastest and most effective ways of disseminating the word of God; and my experience as a Radio Preacher for the past 10 years qualifies me for this work. And I am glad that Bro. Don L. King and Bro. Jerry Cutter show interest in this kind of evangelism. Another area of spreading the TRUTH is through the printed page. Because my experience as one time editor of a religious paper can also help me in this kind of ministry, I intend to put up a paper particularly dealing with the issues to be sent free of charge. (The success of these endeavors, however, depends on your prayers, love and generosity, as God supplies our needs. Please be assured that whoever God will use in these works will do his best just to be worthy of the trust the Lord and you will extend to him). "I request you please mention us in your prayers, particularly the newly stated work for him in the Philippines, for I knew that at the start many hardships, problems and even persecution--misrepresentation and character assassination--may be encountered by us as we continue laying the very foundation of the work for Him here. Please pray with us that God may give us strength,

wisdom, and unwavering faith in Him, as we go marching on, bringing the TRUTH to the people in this part of the globe.”

Indeed the word of God sent to me here through the OLD PATHS ADVOCATE did not “return void.”

I request preaching brethren to visit and help us in the promulgation of the good news of salvation in my country, the Philippines-- “the Pearl of the Orient Seas.”

The Philippines: A new mission field in Asia! For further information regarding the work in the Philippines, please feel free to write to Bro. Don L. King, 41931 Chadbourne Dr., Fremont California 94538, U.S.A., or to any of the brethren there who personally visited us here whose names appeared in this article or to Bro. Virgilio O. Danao, Sr., Dist. No. 2, Roxas Isabela, Philippines.



FATHER FORGETS continued from page two

‘What is that you want?’ I asked querulously.

You said nothing, but you ran across in one tempestuous plunge, and threw your arms around my neck and kissed me, again and again, and your small arm tightened with an affection that God had set blooming in your heart and which even neglect could not wither. And then you were gone, pattering up the stairs. Well, son, it was shortly afterward that my paper slipped from my hand and a terrible, sickening fear came over me. Suddenly I saw myself as I really was, in all my horrible selfishness, and I felt sick at heart. What has habit been doing to me? The habit of complaining, of finding fault, of reprimanding- all of these were my rewards to you for being just a little boy.

It was not that I did not love you; it was that I expected so much of youth. It was measuring you by the yardstick of my own years. And there was so much that was good, and fine, and true in your character. You did not deserve my treatment of you, son. The little heart of you was as big as the dawn itself over the wide hills. All this was shown by your spontaneous impulse to rush in and kiss me good-night.

Nothing else matters tonight, son. I have come to your bedside in the darkness and I have knelt here, choking with emotion and so ashamed! It is a feeble atonement. I know you would not understand these things if I told them to you during your waking hours, yet I must say what I am saying. I must burn sacrificial fires, alone, here in your bedroom, and make free confession. And I have prayed God to strengthen me in my new resolve. Tomorrow I will be a real daddy! I will chum with you and suffer when you suffer and laugh when you laugh. I will bite my tongue when impatient words come. I will keep saying as if it

were a ritual: ‘He is nothing but a boy- a little boy!’

I am afraid I have visualized you as a man. Yet, as I see you now, son, crumpled and weary in your bed, I see that you are still a baby. Yesterday you were in your mother’s arms, your head on her shoulder. I have asked too much, entirely too much! -D.B. McCord

PAGES FROM THE PAST

FASHIONED ACCORDING TO THIS WORLD

BY RONNY F. WADE

The following article was written by Brother Ronny Wade. This article first appeared in the Old Paths Advocate in the September 1959. One of the biggest challenges facing Christians is being different in a changing world. This excellent article shows us that Christians must avoid becoming like the world around them. Rick Martin

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.” Rom. 12:2. The word conformed as used here could as well be translated fashioned, and the word world literally means age. The meaning of the passage is this: “Be not fashioned according to the moral and spiritual characteristics of this age, but be changed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove, etc.”

This thought presents a grave challenge to every member of the body of Christ. That challenge demands that we refrain from growing like the age in which we live. I have no desire to be a fanatic, but sin must be opposed. How can we claim to be a royal priesthood and a holy nation when we do the same things, go to the same places, say the same things, and dress the same way the world does? I do not believe in drawing lines. Or after drawing one, seeing how close I can come to it without going over it. However, I do believe in valleys. Do you not remember the story of the conflict between David and Goliath? The Bible says that the army of the Lord was on one mountain and the army of the Philistines was on the other and there was a valley between. When there is a valley there is no mistake. Everyone can see the difference. I believe that is what we need today, brethren. The kind of living that will distinguish us from a world of moral and spiritual corruption.

Notice the following scriptures: 1 Jno. 2:15-17, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.” James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that

the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is an enemy of God.”

James 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

The above passages remind every Christian of the solemn duty he has in separating himself from the world. Read Gal. 5:19-21 and note the many sins that Paul mentions. Many of those sins are in vogue today and people are guilty of them without giving it a second thought. However, brethren, if we are sure that a valley exists between us and the army of Satan and sin we need never worry about losing our identity as God’s people. I have been appalled lately at the seeming indifference that characterizes so many when it comes to worldliness. I realize we have many problems with which to contend, but we should never forget the problem of worldliness in the church. It is a problem, brethren, and unless we realize it and do something to combat it we may, because of our own sin, lose all ability to save others from their sin.

Announcements

The annual trip to the Philippines for 2011 took much of the month of January. Brother Matthew Trent went with me this year. It was his 3rd trip and my 31st. It was a pleasure to travel with him, and he certainly did a splendid job preaching. His lessons were timely and to the point. I especially appreciated his sermon about “Leadership God Desires.” The brethren really enjoyed hearing him. I would be happy to go with him anywhere. If you call him, you will not be disappointed.

This year was a good trip but also a sad one. Brother Virgilio O. Danao, my long- time friend and preaching companion, had passed away November 15. To say we missed him would be an understatement. Nothing quite seemed the same without him in the car and in the pulpit with us as well. I missed him saying, “Well, we are on the road again.” Still, we managed to make our way around Luzon and later the Island of Palawan preaching sometimes several times a day. This year others translated for us, and we appreciated their efforts so very much. They all did well. There were 90 responses to the gospel invitation, and that made the trip worthwhile.

Brother Danao’s death put the brotherhood in a state of shock, and there will be a period of time during which a time of adjustment will take place. However, overall the work is healthy and growing; and this made us very happy. It is gratifying to see the growth that has taken place over the years. A younger generation is coming on and fresh talent is showing itself among the younger men. There are still a number of talented and sound preachers who are stepping forward and accepting the load in the work. These are preachers who have excellent Bible knowledge; and Lord willing, they will be there

for a long time to come. The congregations have grown in size and new ones have been established in various places. Personally, I feel confident that the church in the Philippines will continue to grow and flourish. Brethren Conrado Libertino and Eduardo Danao were to make a trip into Mindoro, Mindanao, etc. after our departure for the USA to check on the work in the South. Lord willing, all was well there also. We hope to have a report soon. Continue your prayers for the work, please. -DLK

MEDICAL BILLS FOR BROTHER DANAO

Several have asked about Brother Danao’s medical bills incurred during his illness and subsequent death. The bills in the Philippines topped \$38,000. The family went to the bank and borrowed money to pay about 80% of that amount. About \$10,000 remained and has largely been paid by congregations who sent to the need. What they have borrowed will have to be paid back, of course, and if a congregation can send some toward that debt she will appreciate it. The bills in Hawaii are perhaps not all in yet but we know they owe a few thousand there as well. If you can send to that need it will be of great help. Sister Danao is in Hawaii at the present time endeavoring to get the family belongings moved out of the house so that Brother Eric Stone can move there soon. He has agreed to move there to continue the work Brother Danao was doing before he became ill. You can reach her by mail in Hawaii at the following address. Lucena Danao, 94-371 Ikepono Street, Waipahu, Hawaii 96797. -DLK

Our Departed

COOK- It is with sadness that we heard the passing of Travis L. Cook, son of Clovis T. Cook and Velma O. King Cook, and grandson of Homer L. King. Travis departed this life February 2, 2011 at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield, MO after a long illness. He was just a few days short of this seventy-fifth birthday at the time of his death. I had known Travis since we were twelve years of age. As teen-agers we enjoyed each others company in both Texas and Missouri. For the past several years we worshipped together at the Mission Hills church in Springfield. He was a true friend and brother. I had talked with him by telephone just a few days before he entered the hospital. He told me at that time that he wasn’t feeling well and was having difficulty breathing. His heart condition had limited his activity and greatly curtailed his ability to move about and work as he once had. Early in life he married Peggy Blair and to this union one son Marty was born. Peggy suddenly died at the young age of twenty four. Her death was a severe blow to the whole family. Several years later in 1964 Travis met and married Shirley Rogers who remained his faithful and caring companion for the rest of his life. To this union one son, Kendall, was born. The last years of his life were happily spent on the family farm near Bolivar, MO. Travis enjoyed fishing and hunting with both his boys. He loved the church as was evidenced by his life and dedication to both its services and teachings. He will be missed. He is survived by this wife Shirley,

sons Marty and his wife Carrie and Kendall, and his wife Nicole, and grandsons Karsen and Kole Cook. It was my privilege, along with his son Kendall, to speak words of remembrance and warning to a large crowd of friends and fellow Christians. We buried his physical remains in the beautiful Rivermont Cemetery in Springfield, MO on a cold, snowy day in the beautiful Ozarks that he loved so well. –Ronny F. Wade

Richard Lee Davis – Brother Richard Davis departed this life on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at the age of 54 due acute respiratory distress syndrome. Richard obeyed the gospel of Christ at the age of 12 and was a faithful member of the Chapel Grove congregation. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Marshall Lee Davis and Mildred Pratt Davis. In June of 1989 Richard married Linda Johnson of Modesto California and to this union of over 21 years the Lord blessed them with two sons, Keith and Nathan. Richard was a devoted and faithful husband and he loved his sons more than his own life. The evening before his funeral hundreds of brethren, friends, and relatives came to the funeral home to pay their respects. While sitting with Linda I witnessed several coaches, teachers, and parents of her boys' friends comment on the outstanding character, goodness, and respectfulness of her sons. What greater tribute could be paid any Christian or any parent than this! Richard was known for his stories and jokes and I watched Keith and Nathan stand beside their father and listen respectfully and laugh along with the rest of us even though they had heard them told many times over. I could see the love and respect they had for him in their expressions and in their eyes even at ages when most children are a bit embarrassed by their parents. Richard loved the church and possessed a great knowledge of the scriptures, surpassed by no one I have ever known. He and Linda drove a great distance to attend the services of the church and rarely ever missed a service, faithful as well in attending gospel meetings at the surrounding congregations. They are known for their hospitality and humility in serving and helping others, generous in giving, especially from their vegetable garden. I have been encouraged through difficulties and trials of many kinds during our 30 year friendship, not only by spoken words and cherished letters, but also by prayers (sometimes offered while on the phone) from the good heart of this man who was to me a faithful brother and friend. I remember well what Richard said upon the death of his mother. Looking at her lifeless body he said, "This is not my mom, that's just the house she used to live in. She has moved to a better house in a better neighborhood!" I believe we can say the same about him. I have no doubt that his sons will rise up to fill the void left by this great man of God. Brother Johnny Fisher and I were given the honor of conducting the memorial service at Neal Funeral Home in Lawrenceburg TN. A large group of fellow Christians sang beautifully led by Brother William Davis. Richards's body was laid to rest at the Chapel Grove Cemetery where Brother Phillip Patton spoke

appropriate words, read from the Psalms, and concluded with a prayer. –Ed Daniel

Field Reports

Feb. 1st, 2011. Darrell Crawford 208 E Baldwin Rd Unit S, Panama City, Fl. 32405 bugz1955@hotmail.com. Greetings to all, hope all is well with the brethren everywhere, and that you are having a blessed new year so far. We are very busy in the Lord's work here in Florida, we are having visitors every week including a Catholic woman that we have met. She really enjoys the services. We are still working with a digressive couple here in the area, hoping we can convert them to the truth, they would be such an asset to the church. We have studies pending with two digressive preachers on the cup, one of which we have studied on classes before. We pray that the Lord will bless these efforts. We solicit the prayers of the brethren for our efforts here that the Lord will bless all we do and that we can assist the church to grow spiritually as well as numerically. We cannot believe that we have been here a year now, it just doesn't seem possible. We want to thank everyone for their support prayerfully, morally and financially as well. We know that the fields are white unto harvest and that the Lord will bless in all things. We want to reach as many as we can while there is yet time. May we all stand for the old paths. and may the Lord bless His church everywhere.

Greetings to the brethren; From Roger Owens, Freeman Road Congregation, Neosho, Missouri. What a winter we are having. It seems with economic discomforts still haunting us and then to top it off we are now covered up in snow. Last Sunday we held morning services only. I must tell you it was a great blessing as a young man out of duty was restored. What a wonderful way to start our week and the new year work. The members here are so excited and always working to bring family, friends and neighbors to the services. The men here that help in the public speaking have grown so much in the last two years. By the way our crowd last Sunday was one of our best even with four local members unable to attend and 15 inches of snow. Somehow I believe this is what the Lord intended for his people to do, that is, just keep on keeping on. Thanks to the West Highway 60 congregation we were able to overcome some short term debt. We have many visitors that just stop in to visit and to this we ask God's blessing upon all. The Murry family continues to suffer the loss of Bob as do we all. So much trouble in the brotherhood and I pray God shall help us all to deal with wisdom and understanding in correcting these troubling issues. I have found the best way to fix many internal problems is to get the people busy doing and that way they don't do so much undoing. The church will always have issues it always has but strong leadership can protect the flock when wisdom is applied. (Acts 20:28, Ephesians 4:1-16) Thanks to the brotherhood for your support and prayers. May the Spirit of God be with you all both now and forever. AMEN. Roger L. Owens P.O. Box 239 Neosho, MO. 64850 1-417-776-8123

Don L. King, 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550, old_paths@juno.com February 11- Since returning home from the Philippines we have been grateful to be at home for the most part. It was nice to preach here and we also enjoyed hearing Brother Stan Owens preach several times at Manteca during a meeting. We plan to hear Bennie Cryer at Turlock tonight, Lord willing. We hope all will resume sending material for publication to me once again and we wish to say "thank you" to Brother Ronny Wade who graciously handled the publishing responsibilities of Old Paths Advocate for the last several months. We also appreciate those who have subscribed or renewed their subscription recently. A number have subscribed online and we are happy you are doing that. We appreciate Brother Rick Martin and others for taking care of that good work. We are publishing an excellent article by Bro Danao on the front page this month. He wrote it only a few months after our first meeting in 1981. I recommend it to be read by all. May we encourage the preachers to send their field reports and articles also? The paper always needs your materials and we are counting on you. Pray for the work everywhere.

Shahe Gergian, February 4, 2011 - At the time of this writing, seven months have transpired since Liz and I moved from Bakersfield, CA to Columbia, MO. In this time, our work with the Rice Road congregation has been a great blessing to us, and prayerfully a benefit to the church in this area. The church here is strong and I am surely standing in the shadow of men who have labored here before me. In August, brother Clint De France and I held a week long tent meeting a few miles from the church building, near a freeway off-ramp. This meeting was a huge success! Throughout the week we had twenty-eight different community visitors, with many of them returning for several services. Clint's preaching was spectacular as always. Then in October, brother Bill Ferguson held a five day meeting here in Columbia. This meeting was an encouragement to all, and Bill's sermons were timely and well-delivered. I have had the distinct honor of preaching at many new places since moving to the mid-west, and it has been a joy to meet so many brethren for the first time. On March 14th- 18th, the Rice Road congregation will be hosting a Mid-Missouri Preacher's Study. We will have two sessions each evening at 5:30 and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, for a total of ten services with ten different preachers. They will be presenting topics that are important for our brethren today. In April, brother Kevin Presley is schedule to hold our spring meeting. This will take place April 20th through the 24th. We are looking forward to a busy year in the Lord's vineyard, and our prayer is that God will bless His people wherever they may be. - 1900 Mayberry Drive, Columbia, MO 65202, shahegergian@yahoo.com

Bob Johnson 1945 Marble Falls Ln. Little Elm, Tx 75068 Bobusj@gmail.com January 11, 2011. On behalf of myself and the Lord's church in Frisco, Texas we are happy to say that all is well on the home front. Since my last field report to the OPA we have had twenty one responses from our

weekly ad in "Coffee News" in which we offer a Bible Correspondence Course. This is a publication that consists of one sheet with articles and advertising on both sides. Many of the fast food restaurants have it on display, and many will read it while eating or waiting for their meal. Though not everyone has been good to do the lessons, several continue to actively mail their lessons back for grading. We can only hope and pray that those who complete the course will open their hearts to further studies. In December brother Ron Courter held us an excellent meeting. Many of the brethren from area congregations were in attendance. Lord willing, we are looking forward to our fourth Annual Young Speaker's Meeting, February 25-27. Brother Nathan Battey took charge and hosted the meeting last year, and will do so again this year. He has done an excellent job in lining up the speakers and their assigned topics. Nathan will be our final speaker on the Lord's Day that ends the meeting. This past October I was called upon to conduct a meeting for the Lord's church in Arizona City, Arizona. It was good to be in the home of Bob and Betty Orear. One particular couple that attended the meeting obeyed the gospel shortly after our return home. Another sister in Christ made confession of faults. We pray that this new year will be a fruitful one as we continue to reach out to the lost. We solicit the prayers of the faithful in this endeavor.

P. Duane Permenter, 1705 Pecan Dr., Cleburne, TX, Feb 12-It is exciting to be back in the USA. We are in the process of trying to figure out a place to live. We have started some work around the area. If you have family or friends living in the south west Fort Worth area let us know and we will visit them. It was a pleasure to recently attend a meeting at Green Oaks in Arlington where Brett Hickey was in a meeting. It was good to see Brother Joe Norton and young preacher, Nathan Battey who is working with the church in Arlington. Melvin and I have some work going on together and it is a pleasure to work with him. Melvin is working with five different congregations and his work is spread out very thin. He is a tireless worker in the kingdom of Christ. We will start our current schedule of meetings in June this year and will send the dates at a later time. My new telephone number is 817-240-1944. God bless the brotherhood! duane_and_laurie@yahoo.com

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THE BACK PAGE . . .

LEON CAN'T DO EVERYTHING

BY CARL M. JOHNSON

A commercial appeared on TV a few years ago that parodies the self-centeredness and inflated egos of many professional athletes. The commercial shows a reporter questioning a football player named "Leon" about the devastating defeat his team has just suffered. Leon responds, "Man, football is a team sport and I have to put the loss squarely on the shoulders of my supporting cast. Hey man, I've been carrying these guys all season, but I can't do it all. I need some help." With a puzzled look on his face the reporter asks, "So, your four fumbles weren't a factor in your mind?" Leon retorts, "Not if one of those other guys had jumped on the ball! Again, Leon can't do everything!"

I met another "Leon" during a meeting I was conducting in San Angelo, Texas, several years ago, however, who came the closest of anyone I know to being able to do everything. When Leon Brown was born, his cattle-rancher father just assumed Leon would become a cowboy, and thus, he nicknamed him "Buck." Leon's mother, however, had other plans. She wanted him to be a scholar and a gentleman. (That is not to say cowboys cannot be both.) Consequently, most of Leon's early years were spent studying and he did indeed become a scholar, a violinist, a linguist (he spoke all of the Latin-based languages and some Cherokee), an appreciator of the arts, and a gentleman.

When he finished school, he left the San Angelo area to become a recording studio musician in Austin, where he met and played with Willie Nelson in Willie's clean-cut years. He later lived in Lubbock where he became friends with Buddy Holly and the Crickets. They all worked jobs during the day (roofers, milkmen, etc.) and jammed at night in Holly's garage.

Leon could see early on, however, that the life of a professional musician was not for him. He was particularly turned off by the drug culture associated with that life. When recording sessions were over he would return to his room alone and read. He was passionate about reading and he read everything. He once said he could be happy living in a library while owning nothing but a cot and a coffee pot. He became a loner, almost a recluse, because of his passion for reading.

He enrolled at UCLA and earned several degrees in the history, literature, and agriculture of ancient civilizations. He was the first one to mention to me that the Mayan calendar would end December 22, 2012, and that I should anticipate a lot of hysteria from folks expecting the end of the world as the date draws near.

He compiled copious notes from his studies of the Egyptian Pharaohs during Moses' era, and compared them carefully with the narrative in Exodus. He knew the names of all the Pharaohs from the time of Joseph to Moses, the names of their wives, and the color of their hair! On one occasion he asked, "Did you know Moses wore makeup?" I replied, "With all due respect, Buck, you cannot convince me a macho guy like Moses wore lipstick." He laughed and explained that the makeup was for practical purposes and consisted of a red-colored lip balm, and a substance called "kohl," which was used to darken the eyelids. He continued, "The eye shadow reduced the harsh glare of the Egyptian sunlight, sort of like our sun glasses. The lip coloring was similar to our use of Chap Stick and Carmex." Check out the pictures of King Tut and other royal Egyptians of that day. He was correct.

He was knowledgeable about almost any subject, ranging from the profound to the trivial. He loved Mozart, but he enjoyed portions of every genre of music.

When he returned to San Angelo from California about 25 years ago to take care of his ailing parents, he had never married and was in his 50s, but looked much younger because of his Cherokee genes, he claimed. He stood over 6 feet tall, straight-backed, and had a full head of black hair. He resembled Garrison Keillor of "Prairie Home Companion" fame. It was during that period that Leon became a Christian.

The past few years he emailed me on a regular basis, always inserting the words, "News from Ft. Lonesome," on the subject line, hinting at his life as a recluse. His messages were masterpieces of eloquence and information delivered with humorous insight. They probably should be published for the enjoyment of others.

Two nights ago I received one last message from his computer. A relative sent a message to those of us in Leon's address book with the sad report that Leon died on Wednesday evening (2-2-2011). He injured himself in a fall and his cancer-weakened body could not recover. He was 77.

Leon couldn't do everything. He couldn't beat cancer. Of the things he could do, however, the most important was to prepare to receive "a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor. 5:1). carlmj@cableone.net