



Volume 11 No. 1

# QUARTERLY



The  
Church of God  
**M**inistries **I**nternational

# Serving the CHURCHES OF GOD *focus*



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# EDITORIAL



## New 4 Part Warning for America

THE  
UNCHANGING  
WORD  
The  
Church of God  
Ministries International

## Special Thanks to All DEFENDING LIBERTY and GUCW'S NEW STUDIO



Members of the family of God's called out ones enjoy a twofold blessing in America. The first is the wonderful blessing of our heritage of being an American, and the recipients to the Divine promises and blessings promised by God to the descendants of Jacob. Secondly, being called to an even greater blessing, that being the blessing of being called to be part of the firstfruits.

The theme of God's Unchanging Word's new studio is built around those twofold blessings, God and America. Each of the four studios sets work seamlessly with one another, yet each set can be used independently. We've captured the early American nautical and marine look while incorporating a look that is unique to New Orleans.

Lighting is one of the essential ingredients that makes all of this work effectively. Danny Ellis, Deacon for the New

Orleans congregation, was able to build a powerful lighting system working from 21 light banks all set on dimmers to gives us any lighting combination we need. Additionally, nearly all lights are LED's, or Fluorescent creating a versatile low cost of operation.

We also were blessed to design and build nearly all of the walls, props, and special features of the sets, including the first set with the large wall picture, podium and the massive nautical look light box hanging from the ceiling. It is the focal point of the studios as you walk into the auditorium.

All of the props you see in the picture are movable on wheels or lightweight and exchangeable, including the walls many which are made from lightweight Styrofoam panels.

### Cost for the Remodel

The most amazing *Continued on p. 7*





# Has This Generation Been Warned?

By Tom Kerry

**W**alk down any street in America and ask someone about the return of Christ. Ask them if they understand the importance of keeping the fourth commandment, ask them if they ever heard that Easter and Christmas have their roots in paganism and have nothing to do with Christ. Ask them to describe the Beast of Revelation that will arise before the return of Jesus Christ. Ask them if they believe that America will fall before that dreadful day. Maybe those questions are too difficult even for the theologians? OK, how about something simple. Do you believe the law of God is in effect today? Does the Bible condone homosexuality, is abortion murder? You may be shocked at the answers you will, or in most likelihood; won't get.

Literally the tens of millions of Americans, and the hundreds of people around the world have no idea of what is coming. Yet, the Bible says "they will know a prophet has been among them." (Ezk. 2:5, 33:33) This clearly shows that God will raise up a work that will be focused on repentance, on the warnings of what is coming, and the return of Jesus Christ. That insight tells us that the most important and greatest push is still ahead for God's precious called out ones, the firstfruits.

When we look at the conditions around the world, most of those in the church will tell you we don't have much time, and they would be correct. But, and this is a big "but", in Revelation 10, when the angel is about to sound the seventh trumpet, God stops him and says: "*And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.*" (Rev 10:11) It appears at the time that was appointed; that God would instruct His angels to blow the trumpet and bring this chapter of God's plan for mankind to a close; God postpones the trumpet. In God's compassion, He delays the trumpet and sends His church back into the world to call more people to repentance and be a part of that first resurrection. Could we be at the beginning of that time?

## Are We Moving into the Time of the Warning for This Generation?

Following WWI, Germany faced economic reprisals for their failed attempt to take over the world. The amount of debt, the fines and economic punishments following the war trials and the end of the war gave them an economic situation they could not pay back or ever recover from. They spiraled into a poverty state of utter helplessness. At that point, they clamored for anyone that could lead them out of the situation they found themselves in; thus the rise of Adolph Hitler and the German war machine. For most Germans it didn't matter if they agreed with who he was, what he stood for, or even how he could accomplish the task of economic revival. The fact that they thought he could, was enough for the majority of the people. The world would never be the same.

In America, we are not yet at that point, but we are getting dangerously close to it. The election for the next president shows us some very interesting analogies that bear our attention. Let me make one point clear in this analogy, I make no attempt to parallel anyone in this election to Hitler. That has recently been brought up by the pundits on television to incite the voters, and that is very sad and uncalled for. I am only referencing the conditions of a nation that evolves into desperation to do what only months or years earlier was unthinkable. Let me give you one example of the rise of desperation today. It is in one of the most profound statistics of this election of who the majority of Americans are choosing. On the Republican side, the majority of votes are going to the top contenders that "do not share the voter's values." In other words, the voters are willing to choose someone they know does not live up to the same values and standards they place upon their own lives. On the Democratic side, the voice of the people reveals a sad reality that is even

worse. When the question of trustworthiness is asked, the Democratic frontrunner for the next president reveals she only gets a resounding 8 to 15 percent that trust her. In one poll, 92 % of those polled responded that Hillary was untrustworthy. That's really bad, but that's not the shocking part of the story. The shocking story is, the majority of those who said she is untrustworthy voted for her anyway. That's hard to believe, but those are the undisputable facts.

What are we witnessing? The truth is, Americans feel betrayed and sold out. In 2013 I personally covered that in detail in a four part series titled "America Sold Out." In that series I showed that what the people in America wanted could not happen. I detailed that the path America chose in the election of 2012 was a path that would not benefit the American people, but instead, would increase the spiral of America's decline and ultimately lead to its destruction. It was the most requested sermon series of our work up to that time. (If you have not heard that series yet, it is available online, or you can write for those sermons.) Four years later things have not gotten better as Washington tries to convince us. (See the article in this issue, "The Number One Concern for Americans").

People are tired of being lied to and want answers to their problems. They have lost all confidence in Washington and the political system. Over eighty percent of the victories in the primaries have gone to outsiders. We have entered a time that is very similar to the time of the 1960's and 1970's. It was a time of upheaval in America. Nearly everyone, nearly every view, nearly every social demographics across all walks of life was swept into the turbulence. We are even beginning to see the political violence like that in the sixties.

Following WWII, America grew to the zenith of its power around the world. At the peak of its power, America began to turn its back on God. About two decades later, the power and influence of America



begins grinding to a halt. The sixties was the time of the initial push of removing God from society. Looking back, the American people and the pulpits in America allowed the removal of prayer in our schools, followed a few years later by the introduction of abortion. We see the beginning of the break down of the values that bring blessings. It was the beginning of America's decline and began its slide into deterioration. Yes, there have been times where things in America appeared to be positive and on the right track to success and the turmoil settled, but if you look at the engines behind America's conditions, it's finances, and direction, the slide is unmistakable.

### **The Rise of the Church of God and the Decline in America**

The 1960's and the 1970's was also a time when the people in America were crying out for answers to their woes and all the problems they were facing. It was a time of civil unrest, financial difficulties, political upheaval, and the Viet-Nam War. It was a time not unlike the problems of today. It was during that time that there was one voice that was "crying out" in the wilderness to repent and turn to God. It was the time of the greatest growth in the history of the Worldwide Church of God. Literally tens of thousands of people came into the church. The church had explosive growth. There were three universities, over a thousand ministers, millions and millions of magazines given away monthly, and there wasn't a time when the *World Tomorrow* program wasn't on television somewhere in the world.

Many dignitaries and leaders from around the world were introduced to the truth. Most people are not aware of that today, the broadcast from 1978-1983 of the *World Tomorrow* television programs are recorded and stored in the Library of Congress. (Reference point: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/main/religion/mptv.html>) This was not an easy feat to accomplish. On a personal side note, I sometimes wonder if God didn't do this on purpose so that after Christ returns, when those claim "you never told us," we were never warned that God can simply replay from the recorded warnings and say, "take a look." By the end of the 1980's and finally in the 1990's after years of explosive

growth, the Worldwide Church of God collapsed. Go down any American street today and ask someone if they know of the Worldwide Church of God, or the warnings of the Armstrongs; you will find that they have not. Walk down any street in America and ask someone about the return of Christ. Ask them if they understand the importance of keeping the fourth commandment, ask them if they ever heard that Easter and Christmas have their roots in paganism and have nothing to do with Christ. You will find that they have not heard the warning. You will find a resounding "no!" But, this is the point, by the time of the return of Jesus Christ, God says they **will have known** that a prophet was among them; this is written past tense. Since this generation has not been warned yet, it means the job of the warning is yet to be accomplished. At some point between now and Christ's return, a warning must go out! Are we at that point in time? No one can be sure, but I believe it is quite possible that we are at that point in time; the time where we read in Revelation "to go again and warn the nations." (Revelation 10).

Time will tell if we are or not. But please remember this, the bottom line is it doesn't matter whether we are or not, we are commanded to go and warn this world. It is the hallmark of the commission personally given to the church by Jesus Christ, beginning with His apostles in Matt. 28. But here is the big difference from that time to today, if we are, we will be moving into the time where God will give an open door to His called out ones, His ecclesia, the Spiritual Body of Jesus Christ, to reach out and warn the world. Let me share with you one of the reasons I feel the way I do. Last year we began the Gideon Project. It was obvious that we were not yet large enough to have a weekly national television outreach for God's Unchanging Word. We chose to run specials on specific vital subjects facing our nation today and test the waters to reaching out to the world. We trusted that God would lead us and the results were beyond our wildest hopes. Our very first time we did our outreach, God allowed us to obtain favor with the Lesea Broadcast Network. They are the third largest religious broadcasting network in the world. We were able to ob-

tain 14 full hours of national and international programming on three networks, aired to 22 countries and 250 million homes for the cost of just under \$8,000.00 dollars. Those numbers are unfathomable in media today. But it happened. God showed us that if we continue to trust Him, He would multiply the little. The phone calls, the letters, and emails came pouring in. The scriptures tell us we must be faithful in little, if we are to grow. I believe that what we witnessed is only the beginning of what is ahead for God's people.

### **Outreach to This Generation**

There is one big difference today than in the 1960's and 1970's and 1980's. The Worldwide Church of God failed and the churches are scattered across the breath of America and around the world, as prophesied to happen before the return of Jesus Christ. The prophet Daniel was instructed to record for the end generation "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. (Vs 7) And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that lives for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished:" (Dan 12:4,7)

The Hebrew word "scatter" in verse seven can also be translated in English as "to sow." This opens a greater more comprehensive understanding of this verse. Look at the Church of God today. It is no longer a central single work headed up by one man. Today the Church of God, which is the ecclesia, the spiritual body of Jesus Christ, not a single organizational entity, it is scattered everywhere just as we read in the prophesied book of Daniel. It also closely resembles the condition of the church found in the New Testament that began following the Day of Pentecost in the book of Acts. When we look at the church today, we see the scattering of the power of the holy people is actually God taking all of those He has called and sown them through the earth. Why?

*Continued on p. 6*

# Dedication Sabbath

By Audrey Kerry

**O**n the Sabbath of March 5, 2016, the New Orleans *COGMI* hosted the new *GUCW* studios “Dedication to God.” The service was broadcast live through online streaming. Along with the local attendance, 297 logged in to watch online. This special service included a tour of the new studios by Tom Kerry followed by a special slide presentation showing the renovation of the New Orleans church building. It was moving to watch how we came from such humble beginnings to the beauty of what God has blessed us with now. Seeing the love and hard work done by brethren, many of whom have passed away, brought a tear to many of us.

There was special music by the local choir led by Clayton Evans and a special song with music video accompaniment filmed and produced by Tom Kerry and performed and written by Audrey Kerry. Services included a sermonette by Danny Ellis in studio 1, which is the “old world” studio. Tom Kerry gave the sermon in studio 2, the “modern studio” with the large

monitor which was used for his PowerPoint presentation. The messages, as well as the special music, were inspiring and all seemed to fit into the theme of doing God’s work, individually and collectively.

When one looks at the fruits of the labor of the *Church of God Ministries Int’l*, we can see that God has been adding to this work little by little over the years. We pray that

are moveable. The sets add to the sanctuary and do not distract from worship services.

The New Orleans congregation is very grateful to the *COGMI* and its associates for making it possible to be instrumental in adding to the quality of what the *Church of God Ministries* as well as *God’s Unchanging Word* produces. It’s quite inspiring to know that God is truly blessing the *COGMI* and all of

the independents who want to be a part and share in spreading the gospel as a witness and warning. And so as we dedicated the new studios to God, we asked that He bless all of our efforts and help us use what He has given us wisely and to the best



the new studios, add to the quality and ease of production to present the messages in a powerful and effective way that is also aesthetically pleasing, creating a receptive environment for viewers. There are four sets which can be used separately or in unison. The sets include an old world theme, a more modern theme, and a New Orleans courtyard setting. The backgrounds of each set can be changed since the props and walls

of our abilities. We also asked that His mercy never leave us. March 5, 2016, was a day of rejoicing, praise, and inspiration to continue doing God’s work. God has given us the means, and we give Him all the glory.

**(The Dedication Sabbath Service can be seen on the *COGMI* website, [www.thecogni.org](http://www.thecogni.org) under the ‘Complete Re-Broadcast..’ photo section)**



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To address that question, let me close with a thought and a question. Looking back, we see the incredible work God did through the Worldwide Church of God. The fruit from that work remains today, scattered everywhere as Daniel told us. The conditions we are facing in America today are very similar to that of the greatest growth of the church in modern times as seen by the WCG. Additionally, conditions around the world are failing faster than any other time since WWII. Last year this nation turned its back on God one last time as they rejected the sacred covenant

of marriage between man and woman established at creation. In the midst of all of these calamities and changes, God has been quietly moving His people throughout the world to be ready to care for those that will come out of the final push just before the return of Jesus Christ.

Revelation shows us at the end time there will be an innumerable multitude that will come from that final push. “*After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And one of the elders an-*

*swered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

<sup>14</sup> *And I said unto him, Sir, thou know. And he said to me, these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”* (Rev 7:9,14)

The greatest work of God for the end time is yet to come. It looks like all of the condition are lining up for that final push and the final warning that will go to this generation. I asked the question earlier, let me ask again; are we at that time? Time will tell, but from all we can see, it looks like we are. We will see.



# Williamsburg, Virginia Feast of Tabernacles 2015

*The following is a late article we were unable to get into the previous Quarterly*

**By Tom Verrell**

We had a very enjoyable Feast of Tabernacles 2015 in Williamsburg. In addition to the daily services which were very inspiring there are many sites to see and things to do. Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown Battlefield are close by. We had a guided tour of the Mariner's Museum and a private showing of Jerusalem the Movie in the Imax theater at the museum.

One of the highlights of this feast was the Watering Hole. Why the Watering Hole? For many of us, the Feast of Tabernacles has become a week of going to services every morning for two hours. We also experience the joy of fellowship, talking to old friends and meeting new people, before and after services. But what about the rest of the time? Is it just going to a different city for a vacation to tour the local attractions? For the past two years, the Williamsburg feast site has provided a

"watering hole", a place where the brethren can assemble to eat, talk, and fellowship. Every evening doors opened at 6 pm and closed ..whenever. Food was not a heavy seven course meal, but light finger sandwiches, fruit, and salads. Some of the brethren brought other things ..... such as pizza. Brethren came whenever convenient, served themselves buffet style, sat wherever they wanted, moved to other tables when wanting to talk with others, and left when they desired.

So, what is a watering hole? For our purposes, we will use one of the definitions from *Dictionary.com*: a source of drinking water, as a spring or well in the desert. For pioneers traveling west and for cattle drives during the early part of our nation's history, the watering holes were literally a matter of life or death. Using the analogy of water as God's Holy Spirit, the feast of tabernacles could be considered a watering hole in the desert of a world lacking in His Holy Spirit. On the

physical side, the watering hole can be considered a place where God's people can meet, eat, and fellowship. From Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. From Deut. 14:23 And you shall eat before the Lord your God ..... that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

Planning has already begun to again use Williamsburg, Virginia as a feast site. This year we are planning to cybercast most of the services. This will allow us to hear the best of available sermons. The morning cybercast will be provided from the Church of God Ministries International. Afternoon services will be cybercast from the Church of God Fellowship. Brethren will be able to decide which service (or services) to attend based on personal needs. Again, we plan to open the watering hole at 6 pm each evening. Hope to see many of you again in Williamsburg for Feast of Tabernacles 2016.



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## Editorial Continued

*Continued from p. 3* story behind the newly designed studio is the unbelievably low price of the remodeling that came in just under \$4,500.00. The majority of that cost, approximately \$2,800.00, came from the electrical. Part of the reason for that cost was we chose to use the new LED lights. The LED lights have revolutionized the studios as they are much smaller and lighter, operate with much cooler temperatures, and use very low wattage. They also have a greater life expectancy. When we weighed out the overall cost of using these lights and their longevity, we knew that if at all possible, we needed to go this route.

It was imperative that the lighting was done according to code and would be safe. Danny was also the person who literally wired the entire building when it was purchased in 1997 by the New Orleans congregation. If we had to hire an electrician, the cost alone for electrical

would have been well over fifteen thousand dollars. God certainly knew our needs and provided what we needed.

### Importance of the New Studio

The appearance and versatility of the new studio is only the beginning. The most important aspect of the redesign is our ability to expand on how we do our programs. The opportunity is limitless. We've never had the freedom to create new programs with such options as we have now. With God's help, we will be bringing you a variety of looks throughout the year to keep the program fresh, alive, powerful, and relevant.

We are striving to create our programs that not only focus on subjects that will support the faith once delivered, the warning of cry aloud and spare not, and the soon coming return of Jesus Christ; but also on messages like Defending Freedom in America, the Constitution and By-Laws of America, the upcoming Supreme Court Nomination, and programs on subjects

that affect people's lives and make a difference on the way we live.

Please accept our sincerest appreciation for all of you who have made all of this possible. Last year was the most successful and powerful years we have had since we began just over ten years ago. From all we can tell; from all of the new names and new responses, the calls, letters, and emails, this year will surpass the success of last year.

Time is critical, the world is changing so fast, that it is nearly impossible to keep up on everything. With God's help and thanks to all of you, we begin anew, totally debt free, with unlimited possibilities, and God's blessings as we move forward. Thank you all, and please, remember to keeps us in your prayers, as we here keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers. Blessings to all and thank you,

# Big Changes for the Feast on the East Coast

*It's never too early to prepare for the Feast*

We have two locations, and possibly a third site will be set up. Why so many? To help give everyone an opportunity to attend. We heard from many who wanted to attend, but the sites were too far for them to travel that would require an extra night stay each way in addition to the extra meals and gas, running their cost beyond their means. We want to help and are adding an additional site this year to fill the needs. Please let us know which location you are considering attending, it will help greatly with our preparations

## Myrtle Beach

**This is one of the most popular locations on the East Coast. We're going Back. The Grand Shores Ocean Resort and the Horizon have given us great rates to make it affordable for all.**

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2 King & 2 Double Beds, Sleeper Sofa, 2 Baths and Full Kitchen \$97 \$87 \$46

**2 Bedroom / 2 Bath Condo** 2 Queen Beds, 1 Bath & Fridge \$43 \$40  
1 King & 2 Queen Beds, Sleeper Sofa, 2 Baths and Full Kitchen \$73

**1 Bedroom / 1 Bath Condo** 2 Queen Beds, Murphy Bed and Sleeper Sofa, 1 Bath & Kitchenette \$53  
**Efficiency Hotel Room** 201 77th Avenue North Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

### Standard Hotel Room

2 Queen Beds, 1 Bath & Fridge \$43 \$40  
*All rooms plus taxes and fees*

When making reservations please mention the Church.

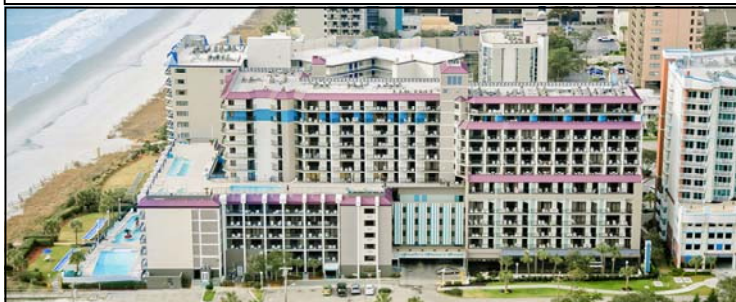
843-692-4161

201 77th Avenue North  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

**For questions and more information contact:**

**Joe Shuster 540-662-4241**

**Elwood Woodcock 478-923-6103**



## Williamsburg

While we are moving to Myrtle Beach, there are many from that site with health issues that would prevent them from going elsewhere. Tom Verell and Bob Born have volunteered to host a satellite site at the same location as last year that will include live video links of other sites.

### Mayfair Inn & Suites

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**For More Information Contact :**

**Tom Verell 757-229-6973 [everell@junn.com](mailto:everell@junn.com)**

**Bob Born 336-963-7485 [born-bob@yahoo.com](mailto:born-bob@yahoo.com)**

## ATTENTION SPEAKERS

If you are on the speaking schedule in your area, please let us know ASAP where you will be attending this year to give us enough time to plan for the speaking schedules.

Contact the Feast coordinators or call

Tom Kerry at 504-367-2005

## New Feast Site Coming in the Northeast

*Please let us hear from you if this sounds like it will work for you or your family*

Charles Gray is presently looking for possibility locations Pennsylvania, New Jersey, There are many locations that are beautiful and offer amenities and sites for the families attending. The goal is to find a central location that offers affordable housing, attractions, possible camping, sight seeing etc.

If you are consider attending a site further north, that will work better for you, please let us know, or if you know of a location that you believe would work as a Feast site, we would like to hear from you.

Contact: **Charles Gray 215-519-6264 [bjcsgray@verizon.net](mailto:bjcsgray@verizon.net)**

# Feast Sites for the Rest of the Country

*It's never too early to prepare for the Feast*

## New Location in Branson, MO

*Steve Councill has found a great new location this year for Branson*



When making reservation please mention the Church of God, Ministries International. Their staff will be more than glad to accommodate them with their reservation.

**Standard Room (2 dbl beds or King)**

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*For more information contact:*

*Steve Councill*

*(574) 584-2001*

*[secouncill@comcast.net](mailto:secouncill@comcast.net)*

## Auburn, Indiana



also several church sponsored events to help all to participate.

**For questions about the Feast Site, please contact:**

**Bruce Chapman -**  
616-636-9209

Or: Chuck Hunt Jr.  
517-581-1624

[15.chunt@nhaschools.com](mailto:15.chunt@nhaschools.com)

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**[www.cogmimi.org](http://www.cogmimi.org)**

**Be Sure to Mention the Church of God, Ministries International for the discount.**

**A**uburn will be the location again this year for the northerners. Establishing Feast Sites is one of the most challenging responsibilities of the church in servicing the needs of its members.

Distance, expense, the economy, what the area has to offer, motel availability, restaurants, and the list goes on.

After speaking with many of the members it was decided to remain where we have been for one more year to help more of the brethren attend.

This is a wonderful site filled with many activities, and events. Additionally there are

## Ft Walton Beach, FL

It's back to Ft Walton Beach

### ISLANDER BEACH RESORT

**This is the same location we had when we were in**

**Ft. Walton beach last year. They are offering 30% off the fall rates to us.**

*For more information contact:*

**Tim Hall 870-612-4301**  
[thall0824@icloud.com](mailto:thall0824@icloud.com)

**or**

**Tom Kerry: 504-367-2005**





# Nearly Every Poll Asks the American Voter: What is the Number One Concern for Americans?

By Tom Kerry

**I**s that the right question that we should be asking? Inevitably, the questions that are asked will channel the person's mind to the direction the question is pointing them to. Of course, you might say, isn't that the purpose of asking the question? Yes, but what if it isn't the right question we should be asking? What if the intent of the person who asks the question is to direct your mind away from the real concern? What if the person asking the question is to direct your mind elsewhere? In chess it is called misdirection. The objectivity of the actions in chess is to point to the person's thoughts in a direction that leads them away from the real danger, checkmate. In the case of this question by the polls, the question is actually designed to direct us away from the root cause of the problem, and focus on the results or the fruits of our actions.

The results of the surveys are then taken to the candidates and they are grilled with new questions based on the results of the questions asked in the surveys. It doesn't matter if the questions were the wrong questions

or not, or if the questions even address the root cause of the problems or not. Everyone is happy that they asked and answered the question of what is the main concern of the American voters. Everyone goes home happy and fulfilled. Four years later we do it again and the cycle continues to repeat itself. Each time, the voter is in worse shape than in the previous four years. But, it doesn't matter because we asked and answered the question and all are satisfied that they did their jobs. Again, the misdirection of the questions never gets to the root cause of the problem.

The better question might be; what **should the** number one concern of American voters be? Before we address that, let's begin with the former question, what is the number one concern for American voters? The answers are varied and often confusing. Additionally, it also depends on when you ask the question. For example, when the question was asked several months ago as to the primary concern for the American voter, the universal answer was terrorism within our borders. The time frame was just shortly following the terrorist

attack in San Bernardino, CA and the terrorist attacks in France. The news media was in frenzy and nearly every waking moment was spent talking about the dangers in America of the potential of terrorists slipping into this country and the possibility of more incidents like San Bernardino. When addressing the question, the answer often depends on whom you ask and where they live. For example, those living on the southern borders focus their main concerns on the borders and the tens of thousands illegally coming across daily taking jobs needed by Americans.

Let me put this in a different perspective that is easier to understand. Suppose you get an infection on your foot. You go to the doctor and ask him, "Doctor, can you fix this problem?" You asked him the obvious question and you get an honest answer. Most likely he will tell you he can by prescribing medication to treat the infection and it goes away. Two months later the infection comes back. You go back to the doctor with the same question, getting the same response, the same

*Continued on p. 14*

# Passover Principles

By Anna Samons

As the springtime approaches, our thoughts turn to keeping the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. We know from Leviticus 23 that these are the first of the seven of God's appointed annual feast days. But where does the term "Passover" come from?

## Exodus Passover

Most people automatically think of the story in the Old Testament of the ancient children of Israel who were held captive for years in Egypt; how they cried out to God; how Moses bargained with Pharaoh; and how God sent nine terrible plagues upon the land culminating in the tenth plague of the death angel descending upon the Egyptians, killing the firstborn of both men and beasts.

We read in Exodus 12 the story of this horrendous event and that God through Moses instructed the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb, taking its blood and spreading it on their doorposts with branches of hyssop, and to stay inside their dwellings

until the morning. This was an act of faith and in doing so identified them as belonging to God. Through these faithful actions, the death angel "passed over" their homes and their firstborn were spared. Thus, the term Passover.

## Genesis Passover

But was this really the first Passover? In Genesis 15 we read of another "Passover" – the first one ever to take place. This is the account of Abram whose name was later changed to Abraham. He and his wife Sarah were childless and beyond the childbearing age. But God spoke to him and promised that he would indeed have a son and that his seed would be as numerous as the stars of heaven. In verse 6 it reads that Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Abraham asked God to show him how he

would know God's promise to be true. So, the Lord told him to prepare a sacrifice or offering of a three-year old heifer, a three-year old female goat, a three-year old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. He was to divide them down the middle and lay each piece opposite the other. The birds were not to be divided. This took place during the daylight part of that day. Verse 11 tells that Abram had to drive off the birds of prey that were circling above the slaughtered animals.

Then in verse 12, as the sun was going down, a deep death-like sleep and a horror of great darkness fell upon Abram. This pictured his death; the same death-

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# Passover Principles

Continued from p. 11

like watery grave we experience at baptism, as well as the future death of our Savior Jesus Christ.

It was during this deep sleep that God appeared as a smoking furnace and a burning lamp that “passed” between the pieces of sacrifice (verse 17). Verse 18 tells that on that same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram. This “passing over” of the bloody animal sacrifices by the Lord is very significant. It is called a Maledictory Oath or blood oath. This was not an uncommon practice in Abraham’s day, but was used to portray the seriousness of the oath between two individuals. Without blood, the covenant could not have been ratified or made binding.

## Old Covenant – Obedience For Blessings

The entire covenant can be found in chapter 17 of Genesis. These covenant promises were later passed down to Isaac, Abraham’s son and then to Jacob, his grandson, and ultimately to Joseph and his sons. This is called the birthright promise. As spiritual descendants of Abraham, this covenant or birthright promise belongs to us as well. The covenant promised obedience on the part of Abraham and blessings on the part of God and was sealed with the blood of animal sacrifices. This is called the “Old Covenant.”

## Old Covenant - Circumcision Required

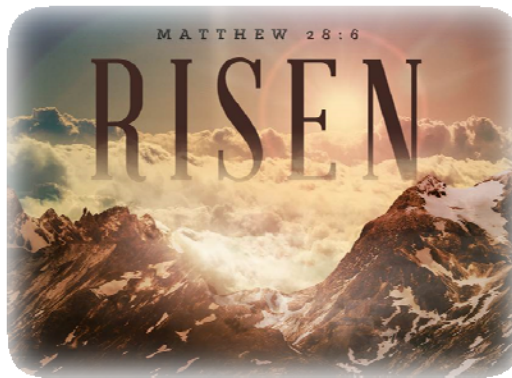
Now back to the Passover that we’re all familiar with. In Exodus 12 we see that the Israelites were commanded to keep the Passover in their homes that fateful night, but that no stranger or non-Israelite was allowed to keep it (verse 43). However, if a stranger or non-Israelite desired to observe the Passover with them, then all their males had to be circumcised. It reads that “*no uncircumcised person shall eat of it*” (verse 48).

This act of circumcision was a literal physical act which portrayed a willing-

ness on the part of the person to obey God’s laws, statutes and judgments. In other words, to become a “spiritual” Israelite. Most of the ancient Israelites were not given God’s Holy Spirit. Only a few of God’s chosen received His Spirit. The Israelites were not required to be baptized but circumcision was required. It was part of the laws of health that God gave to them. But it also had a spiritual meaning.

## New Covenant – Circumcision Not Required

Today circumcision is not a physical requirement of the New Covenant, but is a spiritual circumcision of the heart as seen in Galatians 5:6 and Romans 2:28-29: 28. *For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, neither is that circumci-*



*sion which is external in the flesh; 29. Rather, he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart, in the spirit and not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.*

This is the New Covenant we all promised to keep when we were baptized. Our emersion into the watery grave pictured the death of our old sinful self and the renewal of life into obedience to all of God’s laws and to walk in His way for the rest of our physical life. So, even though physical circumcision is not required to keep the Passover under the New Covenant, baptism or spiritual circumcision is (Col. 2:9-13).

## Baptismal Requirements

The first requirement for baptism is

repentance. We must be truly sorry for the way we have been living and for the breaking of all of God’s laws.

Second, we must be willing to forsake all of our old ways and to be willing to walk in a newness of life Christ’s way. We must be ready to change and become a “new” person in Christ.

Third, in order to do all of these things, we must be mature enough to recognize right from wrong. We must be able to understand God’s words and laws as written in the Bible. Some of the Godly principles are hard to understand and require a mature mind in order to comprehend them. For example, the sin of lawlessness committed by Job – or the taking credit to ourselves for something that God has done for us or given us.

We must be able to understand that sin is the transgression of God’s law. Therefore, we must have a good understanding of what God’s laws entail. We also must have self-control so that we do not sin when under pressure or through a sudden impulse. However, if we do sin, we must recognize it and immediately repent. Only through maturity can these things be accomplished.

At what age do these requirements of maturity usually take place? Do children have the consciousness they need to be ready for baptism? Some children at age 12 – 13 are very zealous, but according to scientists their minds are not mature enough to make proper decisions. This is one of the reasons why God does not hold a child accountable as an adult. Their frontal cortex is not fully developed until after age 20, usually age by 25.

There are several instances in the Old Testament where those 20 years of age or older are numbered as adults or accountable to God. In Numbers 1:3 it reads: *From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel....* All those age twenty and upward were not allowed to go into the promised land but died in the wilderness (Num. 14:29). Read also Exo-

# Passover Principles

dus 30:14 and 38:26.

So, if baptism requires a mature mind to make the commitment to live according to God's laws, and only a baptized person can partake in the Passover, then children do not qualify. It is also very important that we who are mature and have been converted and baptized NOT push anyone else, especially young people, into being baptized prematurely. Baptism is a once in a lifetime commitment to God and should not be taken lightly. There is no second chance – our eternal salvation is at stake (Heb. 6:4-6).

Baptism does not prevent future sins, but only forgives past sins. It is important to understand that baptism does not take away the temptation of sin, but through the receiving of God's Spirit, we can have control over it for sin will no longer rule in our lives. This is why taking of the Passover symbols of the bread and wine are so important. Our God is merciful and knows that while we are in this human flesh, we will sin, but He allows us the opportunity to repent and have these sins completely washed away through His sacrifice pictured by the Passover ceremony.

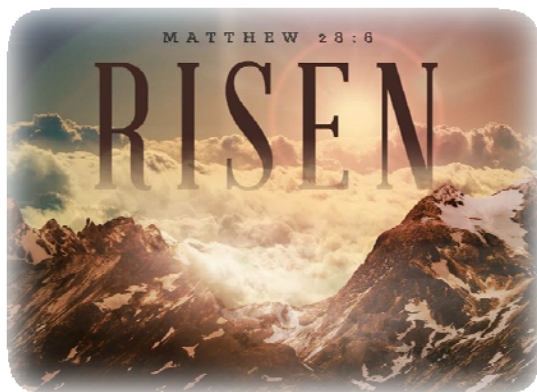
## New Covenant – New Symbols

The sacrifice of a lamb at Passover time was still taking place during Christ's lifetime. However, Christ is our Passover (I Cor. 5:7). Only He had the authority to change the symbols of the Passover. It was right before His crucifixion at His last Passover service that He instituted the new symbols and gave the New Covenant. This can be found in I Corinthians 11:24-31. It is also found in Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, and John 13 – 17. So, the symbols of the New Covenant became the broken body of Christ for our healing, and the shedding of His blood for the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of eternal salvation. Read all of John 13 through 17 for a complete understanding of the New Covenant.

## Preparing to Take the Passover

As converted baptized members of the body of Christ, we are commanded to keep the Passover each year (John 6:53-58). But, we are told in I Corinthians 11 that we are not to take the Passover unworthily. What does this mean? Unworthiness can be observing the ceremony in an improper manner with improper symbols or on the wrong day or at the wrong time of day. It could also mean taking the bread and wine in an attitude of rebellion or callousness. If we do not properly discern the body of Christ or His blood, we are taking it unworthily.

In order to keep the Passover properly, we must obey what is given in vers-



es 27 through 30 of I Corinthians 11: *Verse 27: For this reason, if anyone shall eat this bread or shall drink the cup of the Lord unworthily, he shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28: But let a man examine himself, and let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup accordingly. 29. Because the one who eats and drinks unworthily is eating and drinking judgment to himself, not discerning the body of the Lord. 30. For this very reason, many are weak and sickly among you, and many have fallen asleep (died).*

Examining oneself should be done constantly throughout the year, but especially prior to the Passover. Ask for God's guidance. Ask Him to show you your faults and sins, but with love and mercy. Then ask for God's forgiveness and

more of His Holy Spirit to help you overcome these faults and sins. Have the faith that He will. This is why only a mature person is capable of self-examination.

## Memorial and Covenant Renewal

We know that the observance of the Passover and the rest of God's annual Holy Days (Lev. 23) is commanded as our part of the New Covenant with Christ. He commands us to keep His laws, statutes and judgments (John 14:15, 15:10, & I John 5:3) and to walk in His way (II John 6, I John 1:7). Our continuing to walk in His way is pictured by the foot-washing part of the Passover service.

Once a year, every year of our newly baptized life we are to observe the Passover service which is a remembrance or memorial of Christ's death and resurrection (Matt. 26:26-28, Luke 22:19-20). The definition of a memorial is something such as a holiday that is designed or established to serve as a remembrance of a person or event. An example is Memorial Day. This is a holiday that is celebrated only in the United States for honoring our nation's dead service men. It is not celebrated by other countries. So, just

because something is celebrated as a memorial, does not mean it must be celebrated by everyone everywhere.

But the Passover is also a renewal of our baptismal covenant when we received God's Holy Spirit and we promised to obey Him in all things. By our taking of the bread and wine each year, we are rededicating our lives to Christ and promising to continue our walk of faith (Rom. 6:3-4, Titus 3:5). Even though the Passover is a memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, it doesn't mean it must be kept by everyone. However, those that have been baptized and accepted the terms of the New Covenant, must take the Passover each year. It is mandatory in order to receive salvation.



# The Number One Question for Americans

*Continued from p. 10* treatment, and you are happy the infection goes away. Two months later, the infection is back. At some point you change the question. This time you ask the doctor, what is causing this problem? You get my point. The right questions need to be asked. God's words tell us: "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (II Tim 3:7)

Before we move on, it is important that we examine the very next verse in Timothy. "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." (II Tim 3:8) Why is that important here? When we consider the condition of America today, it is imperative to recognize that the issues that got us here and the clear facts staring us in the face are not being addressed. Those that could bring out the truth as to what got us here, and who are responsible for change do as Jannes and Jambres, resist the truth, mock the messengers, and become reprobates concerning the faith once delivered and established by our founders in America. As sad as this may sound, the news media and their pundits are often the gatekeepers of the issues that could lead America to the questions that could bring real issues to the forefront. Unfortunately, the majority of the media's intent is rooted in the left's social issues of gay rights, abortion, and socialism. Thus the true reformation of a nation doing as we see in II Chron 7:14 will never happen. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Those who strive to do that receive the wrath of the media and are hounded into obscurity.

## What is the Main Concern of Most Americans?

Regardless of whom you ask, or where you ask, there is one answer that constantly comes in first or second; it is the state of our economy and the need for good paying jobs. This resounding fact was the primary focus in a state that used to have enormous workers, and was the pride of blue collar America, Michigan. That chant was loud and clear on March 8<sup>th</sup> for the Republican and Democratic primaries.



It is hard to convince the "tens of millions" of American out of work that things are doing as well as the Obama administration is telling us. It's difficult for most Americans to digest the lies that we are better off today than 8 or 12 years ago. Today there are literally forty six million people living in poverty, forty one million without insurance, forty five million on food stamps, "ninety three million people not in the work force." That's twenty four million less workers than in 2000 and the smallest workforce since the 70's. Another interesting fact is that there are now one hundred and sixty one million people receiving government benefits.

Ask the youth how they feel about

how they have been sold down the river with the debt now over nineteen trillion dollars and student loans now over 2.1 trillion dollars and why America can forgive nearly every country on earth their debts, but will not forgive the youth in America their student loans. Ask the youth about the unfunded liabilities totally nearly 101 trillion dollars that will fall on their shoulders to pay back for the rest of their lives. (Note: these numbers come directly from the U.S. government website, U.S. debt clock). Recent surveys show that somewhere between 66 to 80 percent of Americans believe that they have been sold out and betrayed by those in power. They believe they have been sold out

by the governmental officials they voted for and put in office. These officials spend a life time in Washington getting rich off of those that counted on them to help make their lives better and brighter. They also feel sold out by businesses that uphold the mighty dollar of greater value than the lives of those that

gave them the prestige. For many, after a lifetime of service, these businesses move their factories and money offshore and to other countries ultimately leaving them in difficult times. Finally, Americans have been sold out by the religious leaders who have kept their mouths closed for political correctness and the almighty dollar of those who support them.

## The Ultimate Betrayal

There is one more betrayal that no one wants to face; it is the betrayal of ourselves. This horrible painful fact is an issue that this nation just doesn't want to look at.

# The Number One Question for Americans

Ezek. 2: 2-7 “And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee. And the spirit entered into me when he spoke unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spoke unto me. And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, thus says the Lord GOD. And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them. And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou do dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.

Historically, we see that God sends the warnings to His people over and over, often times for many years, decades, and in the case of Noah for 120 years. But people reject those warnings. God has left for us a history of ancient Israel and how their own actions brought them down. They had news pundits in their time, leaders spouting off how much they know or how intelligent they were in deciphering the problems of their day. Look what God says through the prophet Isaiah. “Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that

they may add sin to sin: That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion. For his princes were at Zoan, and his ambassadors came to Hanes. They were all ashamed of a people that could not profit them, nor be an help nor profit, but a shame, and also a reproach.” (Isa 30:1-5)

Our leaders who got us into the condition we are in today do not listen to those who could help them, but instead do as ancient Israel did and seek counsel of nations and people

cause ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant. And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit.” (Isa 30:7-14)

It does not matter how many times we are told from either of the political parties that they have the answers for our problems, or that all we need is to vote the right person in office to solve our problems; God's Holy Word assures us, they do not have the answers. That message needs to resonate across the nation. It is going to take Jesus Christ to fix the mess this nation and the entire world has gotten itself into. Unfortunately, this message will not be accepted by anyone other than those whom God is calling today. It doesn't matter, we are



who cannot help. God goes on to send a sobering warning:

“For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, their strength is to sit still. Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. Wherefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, be-

told to tell nations regardless of “whether they will hear or whether they will forbear,” we are to tell them regardless.

God is setting up for His final calling of the last generation that will eventually lead to the innumerable multitude found in the book of Revelation. It will also lead to many more firstfruits that God will call to be a part of this final push just before the return of Jesus Christ. Pray that God will continue to empower us to be a part of the warning witness in doing all that we can do to be a faithful servant and bring honor and glory to our Heavenly Father and Elder Brother Jesus Christ.



# New and Upcoming Events happening With The Churches of God

## Harrisburg 7th Day Church of God

Our congregation meets for services at 2 pm and after services, we have a fellowship meal every Sabbath. We then have an interactive Bible Study and encourage participation. We then fellowship until sunset where we have some kind of activity every Sabbath. Virtually every Sabbath some don't leave until close to midnight! We often go bowling, play cards or dominoes, play laser tag in town, have a fish fry, fun show, karaoke, movie night, etc. We believe God's people should fellowship with each other regularly! We usually have around 25 - 30 brethren and love to have others who want to stop by!

We will also be having Passover, the Night to be Much Observed and Unleavened Bread at our building. We will be meeting all 7 days during UB. On the first and last day our services are at 2 pm. On the other days we will be getting together at 6 pm for a Bible Study and various activities afterwards.

**For more information, contact: Tim Hall**  
**Tim Hall 870-612-4301 thall0824@icloud.com**

## Williamsburg, Virginia COG

We are a small fellowship group meeting on Sabbath (Saturday) to cyberscast services. In you are in the area and would like to attend and enjoy fellowship with other brethren, please give us a call.

**For more information, contact Tom Verell,**  
**757-229-6973 everell@juno.com**

## Special services in Petersburg, WV

Joe Shuster will be conducting special Holy Day services for the First Day of Unleavened Bread on Saturday April 23rd, 1:00 PM at the Fort Hill Motel  
For directions and more information

**For questions and more information contact:**  
**Joe Shuster 540-662-4241**



**Having a special event, or Sabbath service in your area?**  
**Let us help you to promote it. Send us the information**  
**and we can post it online and in our newsletters**

## Church of God South, W. VA MAY7, 2016

### Special Combined Sabbath Services

The Church of God South, W., VA will be having a special combined Sabbath on May 7th, 2016 at Bible Study with Joes Shuster will begin at 10:30 AM followed by a break for lunch.

Sermon to begin 1:00 PM by Tom Kerry

There will also be snack and a meal to follow services for those staying for fellowship

**Location: The Cedar Lake Convention Center**

**For more information Contact: Franklin Rogers**  
**304-372-3569, or 304-531-6618**



## Heartland Church of God Tonganoxie, KS

**Guest speaker will be Tom Kerry for Sabbath Services on May 14th.**

**Saturday, May 14th, 2016**

Heartland Church of God  
201 W Washington St. Tonganoxie, KS 66088

Guest Speaker: Tom Kerry

Services @ 11:00 am; Bible Study @ 10:00

Potluck lunch to follow

For More information:

**John & Kathy Monahan - (913).845.2426**  
**jpklmon@sbcglobal.net**

## Church of God, Ministries International Gretna, LA

If you are traveling, please stop by and have services with the brethren here in New Orleans.

**Ed Malone from TX, will be in town and will be the guest Speaker for the First Day of Unleavened Bread**

Services are for 1:00 PM

Pot Luck meal and fellowship to follow



# GrassRoots OUTREACH



The continuing efforts of **The GIDEON Project**

## YOU HAVE A VOICE! LET IT BE HEARD

Be a part of a Nationwide Outreach by the  
**GRASSROOTS Community of the Churches of God**

### REPENT AMERICA

#### What is Project GO?

The idea of **Project GO**, "**Grassroots Outreach**" began as a concept from the powerful response from the TV Special aired called "**Handwriting on the Wall.**" Never had we seen this much response from anything we had done in the past. Something was different this time. This time, we began receiving calls from pastors in the Protestant community wanting to get a copy and share with their members.

The question that continued to be raised was, if these pastors were willing to share the warning to their members, what about all of the pastors who hadn't seen the special? Would some of them want to share it? If so,

how could we reach them?

**Project Go** was created from a network of the independent COG community to join forces with one voice to bring this warning to the outside community of churches.

For the first time since the scattering of the churches there is an opportunity for the independent COG community to join efforts with one voice that didn't require giving up your independence, members, or money to fulfill the commission of Matthew 28:16.

Spread the word, be a part, and send for your information on how you can be a part of this nationwide outreach to warn the nation. It all begins this spring in time to have the warning out for the Spring Holy Days.



**COG should be leading the way of warning the nation to repent.**

Whether you're an individual or a pastor, a small home fellowship or church congregation, you can be a part of this effort. While we are scattered, we can be connected by the common goal to

**"Go ye therefore into all the world." (Matt.28:16)**

**For Details: go to: [WWW.GUCW.ORG](http://WWW.GUCW.ORG), or Call:**

**504-367-2005**, to get the DVD and the information packet to see how you can be a part of this vital outreach to warn the nation.



## THE CHURCH OF GOD

*Ministries International*

# GU CW'S New Studios

Welcome to God's Unchanging Word's new Studios. Below is a picture tour of the new studios that was dedicated in a live broadcast on March 5, 2016. For the story of the studios and the dedication go to pages 3 and 6 Below Left: Studios from the entrance of the meeting room. Looking from the first studio to the back wall. Below right, the local church choir performing special music during the dedication service. Center left: look at studio from the rear of the meeting room. Bottom left: focus on the central main studio. Bottom right: Tom Kerry in the main studio for sermon for the dedication to God.



Below: This picture is central focal point of the first studio as you enter the churches' meeting room that doubles for GUCW. The Writing on the picture is the theme of Christ's commission. Go ye therefore into all the world"



# GU CW'S New Studios

Below Left: View from opposite entrance to large screens for viewing for live audiences. Below Center: View of large screen from studio 1 lectern. Below Right: Rear wall showing through window to picture. The picture gives the effect of a large room though the doorway. Upper left: Specially designed and built light box to match the set and the background wall. Left lower: View from studio one to podium. Lower Center: Complete shot of studio one. Below Right: Studio equipment for audio/video switching. Bottom: The bottom picture is a panoramic picture of the studios and the churches stage and podium. The studios are designed to work together and / or independently of each other. The background gives us over 50' of wall space for filming. Additionally, there are 23 independent light switches that run all the light banks to create numerous looks and appearances.



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*"The Fall of a Nation"*



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In this brand new four part hard hitting series, Tom Kerry focuses on the heart of why America is in a freefall. America's freefall continues to accelerate at an alarming rate. While America is embroiled in the battle to pick the "Right Person" to lead America out of this freefall, this series covers the root cause for the dilemma we are in and why America cannot save itself short of Repentance and Jesus Christ.

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