

ACTS

Advocating Christ The Savior
February/March 2011

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by Yana Ray

ACTS

ADVOCATING CHRIST THE SAVIOR

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Statement of Beliefs:

1. The Bible to be the inspired Word of God, God the Father is the supreme Deity, Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, and the Holy Spirit is the promised Comforter.
2. In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; His virgin birth; His sinless life; His miracles; His vicarious and atoning death; His bodily resurrection late on the Sabbath day; His ascension to the right hand of God in heaven; and His personal return to establish His kingdom and rule this earth in great power and glory.
3. The only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Jesus and obedience to our Lord's command to be baptized (immersed) in the Name of Christ for the remission of sins.
4. That by faith we may receive healing for our bodies.
5. The Scriptures enjoin the observance of the Ten Commandments, including the observance of the Seventh Day Sabbath (commonly called Saturday) to be observed from sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday.
6. The Lord's Supper and foot washing should be observed once a year at the proper and appointed time.
7. In the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust, the just to eternal life and the unjust to eternal death.
8. The dead are in a state of no consciousness.
9. The true church organization taught in the Bible is local autonomy and that the Bible name for the church is THE CHURCH OF GOD.
10. That the tests of Christian fellowship are the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.



Hello Readers!

I hope this letter finds you thriving in the work of the Lord and living in His grace every day. I praise God for the many blessings He has given me in my life this year.

As the day approaches for the birth of my son, the topic of this month's *ACTS* becomes more and more meaningful. Love is a Choice. Many would say that the love of a father to his son is not so much a choice as a natural instinct. This is true, to an extent. However, the manifestations of that love are daily choices. We choose to take actions that display our love for others. Will a child feel love if the parent chooses to not display that love?

That is the choice that we need to make, to display love to one another. God's love needs to be shown to everyone in the world around us. If we are not spreading God's love, we are not fulfilling the Commandment that Jesus laid out for us when He said "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*"

Ken Walker, in his article "*Missions...*" says that we should continue to focus energy on taking the love of God to those that have open hearts to hear what God has to say to them in the form of foreign missions. The wealth and comfort we have experienced here in America have led us to have a closed ear to God.

In his article "*Love,*" Derwood Stewart attempts to explain the definition of the word. Everyone knows when they feel it, when they see it...and when they don't, but since the invention of the pen, every writer from Shakespeare to John Keats has attempted to bring us a sufficient definition. Derwood turns his pen to the task with great success.

Sister Hutchinson takes us on a walk through the Bible, showing different loving relationships in the Bible that are the epitome of "love" in her article entitled "*Love is a Choice.*" She also encourages us to show the agape love to one another that God has shown us in the many stories of the Bible.

I hope that this issue brings to mind the many people in your life that you affect every day and encourages you to make a positive change in their lives through showing God's love to them. Feel free to write in and let us know what's going on in your life; we would love to hear from you!

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Moore'.

Craig Moore



Love

By Derwood Stewart

What is Love all about? Love in its purest form is an ACTION word! Love is something that is spiritually and physically portrayed from the one loving to those that receive it and/or reject the same.

Love as defined by Webster's Dictionary is: strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties; affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests.

But the Love that I would like to write about is based on the Purest Form of Love, the Love of God and the Love of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus, for mankind.

We read in St. John 15:13: *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."*

Who have you or I laid-down our life for today? Are we the type of person that insists on having our way regardless to who it may ill affect? Are we the type that is willing to be satisfied from our own self, as in Proverbs 14:14? Or, are we the type that seeks the wellbeing of others, preferring them above our-selves, as in Romans 12:10?

Love seeketh not her own, 1st Corinthians 13:5 and as a good man is satisfied from himself, Proverbs 14:14.

King Solomon in Proverbs 17:9 wrote: *"He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends."*

A person that displays the True Love of God is willing to look past the short-comings of others; and does not maliciously disclose the same to others because, *"a whisperer separateth chief friends"* Proverbs 16:28b.

In St. Matthew 19:19b in part we read: *"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."*

Everyone that loves themselves endeavors not to say or do anything that will cause themselves to look less than the way they want others to see them as or that will cause their-self harm. Therefore, according to the Written Word of God, the Bible, we should do the same for one another.

The Apostle James in James 2:8-9 wrote:

"If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convicted of the law as transgressors."

Royalty denotes the Highest Order of Position, therefore, to love our neighbor as our self is the ultimate display of love.

In 1st Thessalonians 5:6-8 the Apostle Paul wrote:

"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

The heart is where love is generated; one could also say that a *Breastplate of Righteousness* as found in Ephesians 6:14 could be considered the same as a Breastplate of Love, because Righteousness is nothing less than Right-Living according to the Written Word of God, the Bible.

In other words, loving your neighbor as your-self is a "Right thing" to do in Word and in Deed.

The Apostle Paul in 1st Thessalonians 4:9 wrote:

"But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another."

Are we truly taught by God, God's Holy Written Word, the Bible, or are we holding the traditions of mankind, to do unto others before they do unto us?

Love does behave in a proper manner and is not unseemly; in other words, love acts in good taste or Biblically established standards (see 1st Corinthians 13:5).

One Scripture states that we are knit together in Love, Colossians 2:2. Being knit together means that we are bound together in the Fabric of Christ Jesus, if therefore we are knit together in Jesus, to hurt or not love others in a Godly manner is to not only hurt the other person but our own-selves and Jesus too.

In 2nd Timothy 1:6-7 the Apostle Paul wrote:

"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

In, through, by the Precious Shed Blood of Jesus, and by the Power of the Holy Ghost, God has bestowed upon the Saints His Own Righteous Nature that we should be able to EASLEY display His Love to one another. Anything less is to deny the Love of God bestowed upon us. True Love is a Power that cannot be defeated because it is Godly.

Love is kind, 1st Corinthians 13:4. Kindness, like Mercy and Grace, is given even though it may not be deserved.

Love beareth all things and is kind;
Love endureth all things,
1st Corinthians 13:7.

The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:1-2 wrote:

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

As a child, did you ever play a game called, "Follow the Leader?" In this game, every participant was required to do exactly as their leader did or they would be disqualified from further participation in the game.

To love one another is to be a follower of God and this is no game; it's as real as it gets. Therefore, we need to make sure that we keep our eyes on Jesus through His Holy Written Word, the Bible and do as He said and did.

Love beareth all things and is kind; Love endureth all things, see 1st Corinthians 13:7. Sometimes, love is difficult but when love is hard to give, when given, it is a greater form of love.

In Romans 13:10 the Apostle Paul wrote: "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

If we love our neighbor as God intended for us to do, we will obey the Commandments of God. All too many people are not reading the Bible today, but you can be sure that they are Reading or watching you.

Therefore, if the Light that is in us is darkness, how great is that darkness, see St. Matthew 6:23. In other words, if the love that we display is not according to Scripture and we ill treat our neighbor; our neighbor may think that because we profess to be Christians then, there must be something dead wrong with our Christianity or profession thereof.

"Love thinketh no evil" 1st Corinthians 13:5. To think evil or ill of our neighbor is to think ill of Jesus because He died for them too and He wants us to Love our neighbor unto Him.

The Apostle Paul in Romans 12:9a in part wrote: "Let love be without dissimulation" {a false appearance}.

To display a false appearance of love is to be a hypocrite. The Prophet Job said that the Soul of the hypocrite will be taken away or eternally Lost, Job 27:8. Therefore, it behooves us to maintain Perfect Love, not only for one another but for our neighbor and our enemy too.

In 2nd John verse 6 the Apostle John wrote:

“And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.”

According to the writings of King Solomon, there is nothing new under the sun, Ecclesiastes 1:9, therefore, the Commandment to Love one another as Christ Loves us still stands true for us today.

The Apostle John in 1st John 5:1-3 wrote:

“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

How can we truly say that we Love God if we do not show Godly Love towards one another? If we say that we Love God **and do not observe and do those things that He has commanded us to do**, we have made ourselves a liar and the Truth is not in us.

Kindness, like Mercy and Grace, is given even though it may not be deserved.

In 1st John 4:7-17 the Apostle John wrote:

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation “Atonement” for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”

If the Saints would judge themselves by the Written Word of God, the Bible, they will not stand in Judgment when Jesus returns to claim His own unto Himself, 1st Corinthians 11:31.

The Saints Boldness in the Day of Judgment comes from their complete obedience to the Word of the Lord. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego experienced this kind of Victory in being Bold for the Word of the Lord.

Daniel was delivered from the power of a den of lions and those other Hebrew boys were delivered from the Power of the Fire. You can read about it in the third chapter of the Book of Daniel.

Saints, we too can have that kind of Boldness in the Day that Jesus returns in the Clouds of Glory if we have been Born Again, in, through,

and by the Precious Shed Blood of Jesus, and we follow on to Know and Serve Him in Spirit and in Truth and in Love.

The Apostle John in 1st John 3:18 wrote: *“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”*

I'll say it again; If we say that we Love God and do not that which is Truth, by not showing forth the Love of God to **ALL** mankind, we are a Liar and the Truth in not in us.

In 1st John 2:1-6 the Apostle John wrote:

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation “Atonement” for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

Love is a Commandment of God because we are Commanded to live by Every Word that Proceedeth out of the Mouth of God, see St. Matthew 4:4.

I hear so many people say that the Saints cannot be Perfect but all throughout the Bible I read where the Written Word of the Lord says that the Saints can be perfect. One way that we can show that Perfection is by obeying the Written Word of the Lord in Loving our neighbour as ourselves.

Love believeth all things; Love rejoiceth in the truth, 1st Corinthians 13:6-7. Believe this, the Written Word of God, the Bible, is True and the Saints of God are Commanded to Live by Every Word in it.

True Love is a Power that cannot be defeated because it is Godly.

The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:15-16 wrote:

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

The Saints are Built-up in Jesus as they demonstrate the True Love of God to one another and to others too. In other words, the Saints are Strengthened in showing forth Love to ALL mankind as unto God and to His Holy and Righteous Son, Jesus.

In Philippians 2:1-2 the Apostle Paul wrote:

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”

The True Saints of God greatly desire to fulfill the Joy of the Lord by being like Jesus in showing forth Pure Love even when it is not deserved.

“While we were yet sinners, Christ died for our sins” Romans 5:8b. Can we afford to do any less for whosoever? Love never fails, (1st Corinthians 13:8) and we as Saints of the Most High God cannot afford to miss the Mark and fail to Love one another as Jesus first Loved us.

In closing, to quote an old Hymn, *“The Love of God is Greater far than any tongue or pen can tell.”* This is the kind of Love that we who are called Saints, are to possess and display in our daily lives. May the Heavenly Father richly bless and keep you as you follow on to know and serve Him, in Spirit and in Truth.

Your Faithful Servant in the Lord;

Derwood A. Stewart, Minister
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LOVE IS A CHOICE:

By Evangelist B. Hutchinson

***“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour:
therefore love is the fulfilling of the Law”
(Romans 13:10).***



The dictionary defines love as; ‘*warm affection, pleasurable, tender,*’ and the meanings go on and on.

Love began in the Garden of Eden when God made man in His own image. Not in the image of the birds, the beasts, or the fishes (that He had created before creating man), but in **His** own image. Love began there! The **CREATION** shows us the true meaning of *Love*.

Eve was made from one of Adam’s ribs. Close to the heart! How much more intimate can that creation be? When God brought Eve unto Adam, He immediately named her. He called her **WOMAN**, because a part of Him was used to create her. Seeing Eve was a shocking and exhilarating experience because the match was perfect. Adam loved her (Genesis 2:21-25).

Adam tells us what should happen in a marriage: He tells us of a priority change for the man. A man should separate from his parents when he takes a wife. He tells us of passion, and permanence, the sexual union, child conception, and spiritual and emotional intimacy, and support (Genesis 2:24). The gospel of Mark also supports Adam’s statement on this (Mark 10:6-9).

In *Genesis* Chapter(s) 12-23, we read of the love and adventures of Abraham and his beloved wife Sarah. They loved each other until her death. Sarah would have done almost anything to please Abraham.

Although God had arranged the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah, it was ‘*love at first sight,*’ for both of them, and his love for his wife helped to comfort him after his mother’s death (Genesis 24:64-67).

Jacob loved his beloved Rachel so much that he contracted with his uncle Laban to working 7 years in advance of marrying her, and another 7 years after marrying her (Genesis 29:18-30). ‘**Love is a Choice.**’ Rachel was Jacob’s first choice as a wife.

The story of David and Bathsheba shows the wrath of God and His forgiveness and love for David: After David commanded the death of Uriah the Hittite in order to marry Uriah’s wife Bathsheba, (2 Samuel 11:1-27) God punished David by causing their first child to die (II Samuel 11:27, II Samuel 12:14). But God in His mercy and love for David gave them another son, which they named Solomon. And through Nathan the Prophet, God said the child should be named ‘**Jedidiah,**’ ‘**Because of the Lord**’ (2 Samuel 12:24-25). Who could have loved like this except the Lord? God was still showing His divine love for David, as well as Solomon.

And no one speaks of love with more passion and intimacy than Solomon: As King Solomon in the book, ‘*The Song of Solomon*’ he speaks endlessly and with passion about his beloved.

In *The Song of Solomon* Chapter(s) 5, 6 & 7, Solomon becomes poetic as he describes his bride’s beauty. Solomon describes her to be as beautiful as Jerusalem, as awesome as an army with

banners. He compares her whole entire being to things around him that he sees in their entire beauty. The *Song* also contains portraits of the Shulamite woman along with a full array of her garden produce. Solomon's love as described in the *Song of Solomon* was sensual, pleasurable, deep, and endless. One would almost believe that Solomon was intoxicated with love. As we should be for God. It is said, that many verses from the *Song of Solomon*, has been used during courtships, as well as a goad to drifting marriages, to encourage openness, growth, and a joyous relationship between spouses.

But, of all the love mentioned above, there is none to compare with the love given to us from our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. '**Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends**' (John 15:13). Only Jesus would have given His life for our sins. No other example of sacrificial love is written. There is no love on this earth, to compare with the love Christ has for His people.

"*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you*" (John 15:12). The servant-master terminology describes the believer's relationship to Christ and to the Father very vividly. But none is quite as profound as when Jesus called His disciples **friends**. This speaks of mutuality and love (John 15:15). Jesus concludes His passage of the **believer's relationship with each other** by giving us an order, a command that we must '*love one another*' (John 15:17).

Jesus wants us to love one another as He loves us. He wanted Peter to affirm his love for Him by asking him 3 times if he loves Him, and telling him 3 times to '**feed His sheep**' (John 21:15-17). The choice is to love God and one another, likewise.

This great "*agape love*" (unconditional love, love without boundaries, endless love), is what Christians must have for each other. Jesus Christ is our example of such love. Our Lord and Saviour instructed us to love each other without conditions. If our love for Christ is deep and strong, then it will be easy for us to "*love one another.*" **Love is a choice!**

Evangelist Hutchinson is a member of the Remnant Tabernacle Church of God 7th Day, Toronto, Canada



Missions—WHY SHOULD WE LOVE MISSIONS?

The NIGERIA REPORT

By Ken Walker



It is a sad fact that overseas mission work is a somewhat controversial subject. Many people do not want to support Mission work that is overseas because they have been “burned,” i.e. a negative past experience, before or they know someone who was “burned” by an overseas effort. Is this a valid reason not to support an effort overseas? It is true that there are many con men that use stories of tragedies in an attempt to get money from us. Most of them are claiming to be pastors with followers in dire need because of persecutions, robberies, etc. Con men use children and orphanages extensively to bring out our sympathies to get us to bring out our checkbooks. The con men understand that Americans have big hearts and are a very generous people.

For these reasons many people say that we need to concentrate our efforts here at home and not abroad. However, Jesus gave us a command:

“Go ye into all of the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”
Mark 16:15, 16.

Some of us have heard this command all of our lives. We have heard this so much that our hearing may have gotten dulled. It is still true and it is still a valid command for us today, just as much as it was to the 12 Apostles and the original converts to the teachings of Jesus. We need to spread the true gospel to every Nation as Jesus commanded us to. We need to be very concerned about the increase that Jesus is going to demand from us at His 2nd coming (Luke 19:12-21).

We need to be realists. We must keep trying to spread the gospel here in America but we also need to realize that it is probably going to be

slow for a while. America must (and I believe it will) come down to her knees before her people will be willing to listen to the true message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is only when America is brought to her knees by catastrophic events that the people are willing to listen to the gospel of true repentance, which is where our salvation starts.

The problem we face here in America is similar to the one that Jesus faced. When Jesus came to Israel He faced a Nation that knew of God, but as the Apostle Paul said in Romans 10:1, Israel was not saved in their present condition even though they were very zealous for God. In Romans 10:2 it explains to us that it takes more than enthusiasm, that zeal for God, for us to have the eternal life that He promised. Salvation comes through the rules that God has put in place (according to Knowledge). Salvation requires a “heart transplant” provided by God personally and not just “head” knowledge from the wisdom of this world.

We are faced with the same situation now. Americans have the name of Jesus in front of them everywhere that they look. Everyone, even atheists, “know” the name of Jesus just as Israel knew the name of God. The question that we need to ask ourselves is this: Is enthusiasm, that zeal, for Jesus enough? To put it another way “has God changed His mind?”

**“WHAT DOES THE
GRACE OF GOD
TRULY TEACH US”?**

The scriptures in the book of Romans tell us that it was not sufficient when Jesus walked the earth the first time so why do we think that just having enthusiasm is good enough for salvation now? If just being enthusiastic is enough then why did Jesus tell us that the way to salvation is narrow (not wide or broad) and there will only be a few that will actually find it (Matthew 7:14)? And In Matthew 7:13 Jesus told us that the broad way, or wide road, will lead us to destruction and that is where most people are going. In case there is any doubt in our minds, Jesus was talking about the way to salvation in this passage. Eternal life for us only comes through the terms of the New Covenant and the Ten Commandments are at the center of the New Covenant.

The message that is being preached now by mainstream Christianity is that of an easy grace. In essence the people are told that they simply have to accept Jesus as their savior and go on with life as it has always been. Preachers daily assure the people that this is the way of salvation as Christ and the Apostles taught, especially the Apostle Paul. However, the salvation message that most people hear now is wrong, it is a far cry from the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Apostles.

The question everyone needs to ask is, "What does the grace of God truly teach us"? Titus 2:11,12 tells us that:

"...the GRACE OF GOD that bringeth salvation hath APPEARED to all men, TEACHING US THAT DENYING UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS, WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY IN THIS PRESENT WORLD."

The Apostle Paul also told us in 2 Timothy 2: 24-26 that:

"...the SERVANT of the Lord MUST...be gentle...apt to TEACH...INSTRUCTING THOSE THAT OPPOSE (are against) themselves if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of THE TRUTH, and that they may RECOVER THEMSELVES OUT OF THE SNARE OF THE DEVIL..."

This is the long way around to simply "...*stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.*" 2 Peter 3:1. We need to be ready to preach the true gospel: WHEREVER the door is open, and pray for the Lord to open more doors. We need to redeem the time (Ephesians 5:16)! I TRULY BELIEVE THAT THE BLESSINGS OF GOD will be poured out on us as individuals and as an organization in these last days if we will do what God has asked us to do through His son Jesus. If we are obedient, then I believe that we will see a difference in our churches even here at home. People always feel better and feel much more **alive** in the Lord when they see that something good is happening and they are part of it. Right now the door is open in Nigeria and some of the other surrounding foreign countries.

I traveled to Nigeria, Africa with Woodrow 'Sonny' Faust. The Missouri Watchman and the Marceline Church in Marceline, MO sponsored my trip. We went over to try to connect with some of the Sabbath keeping Churches that are still sacrificing animals while claiming the name of Jesus. Also, our mission was to strengthen the brethren in the Churches that are trying to reach and teach the churches that continue to sacrifice and yet claim the name of Christ.



We went out and lived with the people. We did not go over to stay in a nice hotel and make the people come to us. We went over to meet and to work with the people and serve them as Jesus commanded.

If you took the area of the state of California and doubled it you would end up with an area that is just a little smaller than the entire nation of Nigeria. If you doubled the population of the state of California you would have a little less than 40 million people. Nigeria has almost 135 million people and the field is truly ripe and ready for harvest now. How long will this door stay open, we do not know.

We worked in 4 states in Nigeria. When combined, the total area of the 4 states equals roughly the size of Vermont, USA. Vermont has about 700,000 people and the area we covered has a little over 15 million people. We taught in 18 separate sessions to 16 different groups.

Our base of operation was the city of Aba in the state of Abia. It is a city of over 1 million people. Aba is situated in the heart of the delta area of Nigeria. There were travel warnings posted on the US government website. When we arrived we did not have the freedom of movement that we would have liked for security reasons. We could not hold crusades or in any way publish our schedule.

For almost 2 years the rebels have been taking over the city of Aba. They vowed that they would rule the city. Before we got there they had taken the city over to the point that groups of them would control the streets and intersections. They operated openly in the daylight and without fear of reprisal. They were very well armed and not afraid to use force. Their main weapon, besides fear, was the kidnapping of foreigners and wealthy Nigerians and holding them for ransom. For that reason most of the foreigners' and wealthy Nigerians left the city.

We arrived in November, which is only one month after the Nation of Nigeria sent Federal troops in to clean up the city. They came in October since the state of Abia was unable to control the situation. There were still armored troop carriers and armed military visible everywhere when we arrived. The hotel where we stayed was in a compound and would not allow us to leave the compound by ourselves because of the danger.

In spite of all of this we were able to succeed

in reaching many people. After you get past the vultures at the airports we found the Nigerian people to be very warm and loving with very good hearts. They are eager to be taught the truth. From the questions that were asked by many '*white robe brethren*' it was obvious that we made some very serious inroads into their thinking by God's grace.

The main thrust of our messages was to show that God's eternal Holy Covenant of Salvation, the 10 Commandments, came from the Garden of Eden and has **never** changed. We showed that this is the Covenant of Salvation (Exodus 19:5-6) given by God and is totally separate from the Law of Moses. We showed that Christ ended all sacrifices (Hebrews 10:3, 4, 18).

The majority of the churches that we went to are working hard to try to teach the people that continue to sacrifice animals to come out of that system. At every church that does not sacrifice animals that we attended we found '*white robe ministers*' from the animal sacrificing churches, which were there because they had been invited. We always tried to have a question & answer session afterwards. This was very good since the "*white robed brethren*" that sacrificed were our target audience to begin with.

As an example I preached at one church that was totally into sacrifices. They had 2 high Priests and several lower priests. They did not sacrifice any animals while we were there but during my teaching one of the high Priests got up and left. So did the head woman. The rest of the people and one of the high Priests stayed and listened. I saw many heads nod in affirmation as the lesson was presented.

At the end of the service the high Priest that stayed came up to me and shook my hand. He told me that he was very glad that we came and he enjoyed the lesson. He said that he wished that we would come back and teach them some more. I truly believe that in the middle of Satan's playground God touched him and some of the others. The door is wide open for the spreading of the gospel in Nigeria. How long it will stay open only God knows. I am also reasonably sure that when God shows us an open door He expects us to walk through it and go to work.

Twice we preached and taught in a Sunday keeping church of over 100 people that is almost ready to step out and keep the Sabbath. Ambrose Okorro and his family have been working with them for a period of time now. We held question and answer sessions for them after each of our teachings. It seemed to be a very profitable time spent.

We met some of the leaders that were overseers or bishops as they call themselves, that are very solid in their theology and **very committed to spreading the true gospel**. When you see the work that they are doing you know that they love God. It is a very good sign that none of the leaders asked for or hinted for any money.

We met a man in his 60's that has started and oversees 5 churches that are alive and well and is in the process of starting a 6th church in Abuja, the Capital of Nigeria. It is quite a distance away from where he lives. We taught in one of his churches and then held a seminar and question and answer period for the ministry that is involved with him. This is not an animal sacrifice group. They have solid doctrines. They also invited some of the 'white robe priests' to come for the teaching and some of them did attend.

Another very good man that we met is bishop over more than 20 churches and none of them are animal sacrifice groups. There is literally hundreds of Sabbath keeping churches scattered around in Nigeria, and yes, some of them are animal sacrificing churches but when you investigate you find that many of them are not.

We met a man, Jerry Egbuatu, which gave up a good job to serve the Lord. Jerry is a man that can be trusted. He opened the door to many of the churches that we visited, and he worked as our translator. He is well known and well respect-

ed and can also open the door for us to spread the gospel in other neighboring nations. He is trying very hard to bring the churches together in unity and righteousness, as taught by God, and preparing the people for the soon coming return of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is trying to publish a magazine, *Bible Insight*, in Nigeria to help facilitate this.

In Nigeria the dedication of the people is wonderful, which is also part of the definition of a healthy church. I saw young men and women that were eager to evangelize. I saw young men that were eager to get into the ministry. In one church I saw parents who would bring their young schoolboys to the pastor and leave them for the weekend so that they could be taught how to study and pray and serve God. This tells me that the church in Nigeria is alive and well and God is truly blessing it!

I will close this with some:

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

I realize that our cultures and our societies are very different. Is not society and culture something that we need to overcome in this life, if society and culture get in the way of our service to God?

Ken Walker is the head of *Missions* for the GENERAL COUNCIL. Also, He is currently the *Ministerial Coordinator* for the GENERAL COUNCIL.

He is married and has two children. He currently resides in Missouri and attends the Marceline Missouri Church of God 7th Day where he shares speaking duties with the other Elders. He has had missions abroad in the Philippines and Ghana. He worked with his father Frank M. Walker in writing some of the articles that were produced in God's Watchman ministry.

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<http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/Nigeria/Map>.

THE MAIN THRUST OF OUR MESSAGES WAS TO SHOW THAT GOD'S ETERNAL HOLY COVENANT OF SALVATION, THE 10 COMMANDMENTS, CAME FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN AND HAS NEVER CHANGED!

We, the GENERAL COUNCIL Board, are requesting that GENERAL COUNCIL Ministers that would be willing to help in any way with evangelism, counseling, Bible studies, etc. as requested by other members, let us know your availability and region in the United States which you are willing to work in or go to.

For assistance in foreign locations, Ken Walker, our Missions Coordinator will coordinate these requests

All requests should be sent to the GENERAL COUNCIL for approval and action. We would anticipate there would be someone available for the region requesting help.

To contact the GENERAL COUNCIL with your request or assistance:

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Fax: 208-888-6670

Or write to us: GENERAL COUNCIL
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Meridian, ID 83646-1653

"Take, eat: this is my body,
which is broken for you: this
do in remembrance of me."
After the same manner also
he took the cup, when he had
supped, saying, "This cup is the
new testament in my blood:
this do ye, as oft as ye drink
it, in remembrance of me. For
as often as ye eat this bread,
and drink this cup, ye do shew
the Lord's death till he come."
1 Corinthians 11:24b-26

The Lord's
Supper Service
will be after
sundown on



April 17th, 2011

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2011 CAMP MEETING

OUR ANNUAL CAMP MEETING

AT MERIDIAN, IDAHO

WILL BE DURING JULY 1ST—JULY 9TH

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US

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