

SHIELD OF FAITH MISSION INTERNATIONAL

SFMI

**Prayer/News
UPDATE**

Fulfilling the Great Commission Through Establishing New Testament Churches



**Watching the Republic Unravel
While Preparing for the
Coming King**

see p. 3

Watching the Republic Unravel—P. 3

Gleanings from the Revelation of Jesus to John—P. 5

Fire from on Low—P. 6

Warriors—P. 7

Missionary Reports—P. 9

2010 Memorial Day Conference—P. 10

March/April 2010

P.O. Box 144 • Bend, OR 97709
(541) 382-7081 • email sfmi@sfmiusa.org
fax (541) 382-4471



From the President's Desk

No Farewell to Arms

War is not in vogue today, and that is no surprise. Modern weapons have not only increased war's deadliness; they have decreased the one-on-one confrontations where a warrior showed his prowess and valor. Modern weapons have also brought war and death to the non-combatant, so that war is now a tragedy on all sides, with no winners and little cause for celebration.

Nevertheless, there are still causes for which it is right and honorable to go to battle. And there is a battle raging which has nothing to do with nation's rights or politics. This war is fought with weapons not seen on any other battlefield. The weapons of truth, love, martyrdom, and sacrifice go up against the weapons of hate, deception, and wanton destruction. The advance of the Gospel of Christ is the real war of which the Iraqs and Afghanistans are simply pictures, overspillings of the war in the heavenlies.

This Update is a call to battle, action, sacrifice, but not in the military nor in politics. It is a call to battle on the fields where the Gospel of God is confronting resistance, indifference, demonic distractions, and detractions. Ephesians 6:18 tells us that a key part of that battle is prayer.

So, as you read, remember:

“The Lord is a man of war.”
(Ex. 15:3)

“Gird up your loins now, like a man.”
(Job 38:3)

“Quit ye like men.”
(1 Cor. 16:13)

As always, thank you for taking the time to read and pray.

Steve Montgomery

Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

*The LORD is a man of war:
the LORD is his name.*

Exodus 15:1-3

Watching the Republic Unravel While Preparing for the Coming King

By Dick York



What's going on? Has our idea of liberty done us in? It seems that our worship of personal freedom has inevitably led to fragmentation, with each person pursuing his own self-interest. The Apostle Peter, inspired by the Holy Ghost, said:

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily will bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And with covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you...¹

The liberties we have enjoyed in America were based on the godly and biblical concern for the well-being of one's neighbor, all of which is contrary to the basic nature of man when not cultivated by the infusion of God's word and laws that are based upon it.

When and while those principles prevailed, "the American Dream" prospered; and, with God's blessing, this country became the land of liberty, unique among the nations and the envy of all the others: the evidence being that America was the place to which the whole world aspired to migrate. They came from every corner to breathe the fresh air of freedom and to prosper.

Of course, not all who came found Utopia. Because of man's fallen nature there was crime and poverty and disappointment as well; but in all of it there was liberty, for those who would, to pursue the principles of God's word, which is the manual for peace with God and with man and also for prosperity of the soul. Those who availed themselves of it were blessed even though their circumstances were often hard.

Some, in recent years, have come thinking that "free" means free food, free education, free housing, freedom from responsibility and from any obligation to obey the God from whom came the blessings that they sought. They didn't remember—or perhaps never knew—that God's Word says that "if any would not work neither should he eat."²

They brought with them the gods that had given them poverty and oppression in the lands from which

they came and introduced them to the disobedient, rebellious, and unbelieving who dwelt among us; and, of course, the freedom, of which we boast, afforded them the opportunity to subvert the source of liberty and poison the well from which it sprang.

This was not a new thing. It happened also to Israel when they began to worship the gods of the nations that Jehovah had displaced when He brought His people into the land of Canaan: gods that could neither protect nor prosper those people who served them. God had recorded all of that in His holy Word in order that we might know and have a light for our path and a lamp for our feet. But casting His Word behind our backs, we eagerly followed the false teachers who deigned to make merchandise of us.

With Karl Marx providing the godless political agenda, and his contemporary Charles Darwin providing the apologetics to explain a creation without a creator, the current modern revolution was set in motion to extinguish the light and immerse the world in darkness. That agenda has moved inexorably forward, putting the lie to the thought that man, through ingenuity or politics, can create Utopia in this world. There have been, throughout the course of history, those who have had expectations that their human efforts to create a perfect and peaceful society would succeed, but all of man's best and most noble attempts have failed, ending as their predecessors' had.

The yearning of the masses is to live peacefully in prosperity and plenty, but in every generation that dream has remained elusive and, for many, has degenerated into a nightmare. Even for those who have attained to financial prosperity or have become men of renown, Utopia remains an unattainable wish. But, to many, life in America has always seemed like the best hope and the closest thing to that dream. Why is that? Well, although there are those who would deny the fact, it is because her God was Jehovah; and the intent of her founders was, in principle at least, to rule according to God's Word. From the beginning, there have been many dissenters and adversaries to this effort, but nevertheless, the guiding principles, for the most part, prevailed, and God honored His word; and whatever blessings we have enjoyed as a nation have been the result—so much so that some began to believe that America was the kingdom of God.

There were those who subscribed to “British Israelism” and thought that the Anglo-Celtic people were the “ten lost tribes” of Israel and that the United States government would be the one that would bring in the kingdom of God. There were also the Mormons, who thought that God had told them to build the New Jerusalem in Jackson County, Missouri, or, as was later determined, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Obviously these are the flawed views of natural men—radically religious, but nonetheless natural. However, even those less radical—and among them many true believers—have mistaken conservative politics for Christianity and, equating the two, have placed a great deal of hope and invested an inordinate amount of energy in trying to reverse the present liberal and Marxist direction that American politics has taken, thinking that a return to the Constitution and a revival of the conservative politics of our founding fathers will restore us to the godly nation we perceive America to once have been.

No matter how well-intentioned, the weakness of this theory lies in the nature of the human heart. Man is flesh, but God is Spirit. Man’s government is natural, but the kingdom of God is spiritual. That is why the biblical nation of Israel stumbled even though they were God’s chosen people. Although God’s law was their constitution; because they continually accommodated the lust of their flesh, they could not live by it in order to retain God’s blessing. They, like we, defined liberty as the right to do as their flesh dictated to them. In the days of Isaiah the prophet, when Israel was in trouble, they turned to Egypt instead of to Jehovah for a solution to their problem. Here is what God had to say about that and the lesson that we are to learn:

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 to 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.³

Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!...Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not Spirit. When the LORD shall stretch forth his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.⁴

The message here is that if we believe that our help comes from the flesh—whether it be a political party or a conservative leader—we will be disappointed. The kingdom of God is not a republic; it is a kingdom, and Jesus is the king. His kingdom is not meat and drink but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, of which we can be partakers here and now. It is also a literal, physical kingdom, which will govern the whole earth; and it will soon appear, not because we will have ushered it in by our effort, our conservatism, or even our goodness but because He has promised, and the time that He has set will soon overtake us. The peace we seek, the righteous government we crave will be found only in the kingdom of God; that is our message. But first, all that we have trusted heretofore must fall away, and the ultimate corruption of human government must be revealed.⁵ And then the promise of the kingdom of God will come, when Christ shall put down all rule, and all authority, and power.⁶

In the meantime, while we wait for that day, we have the example of the Thessalonian believers to whom Paul wrote:

...ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.⁷


While they waited, they served the living and true God, even under an evil government that they could not change. Their vision was for the coming king. For us, the kingdom is much closer than it was for them, but our hope is the same as theirs and so should be our focus. Of course, we must oppose corruption and encourage righteousness wherever we can, but through gain or setback, our hope is the same—not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, by which we fulfill our sole responsibility—to serve the living and true God, who will soon bring all men into account.

Matthew 24:14 says: “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come.”

So we know what our present priority is: there are sinners to rescue from the judgment to come, and there are unreached nations to be evangelized with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and of His coming kingdom. We are not all preachers, but we are all witnesses of His resurrection,⁸ and we can all make clear to others wherein our hope lies.

Let us prepare to welcome back the King, who will bring righteousness to bear and will set in order the affairs of the nations.⁹

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection from the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.¹⁰

And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.¹¹ 

Endnotes

- 1 2 Peter 2:1-3
- 2 2 Thessalonians 3:10
- 3 Isaiah 30:1-3
- 4 Isaiah 31:1,3
- 5 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5
- 6 1 Corinthians 15:24
- 7 1 Thessalonians 1:9,10
- 8 Acts 5:32
- 9 Isaiah 2:1-4
- 10 1 Corinthians 15:20-23
- 11 1 John 2:28

Gleanings from the Revelation of Jesus to John

By Mike Ball

I have often asked: "What is in this book of Revelation for me or the church?" In chapter 1:3 there is a blessing promised for those who hear and keep the things written in this book. Since this statement of blessing is repeated in verse 7 of the last chapter, I have to ask: "What is it, in this book that I just read, that I must keep?" In the past, I picked up several commandments from chapters 2 and 3 and also the last chapter. Other than that, it seems those holding a pre-trib rapture position breathe a sigh of relief and thanksgiving after reading this very interesting book: "I'm sure glad I'm not going through all that. Thank God for the Rapture!" If you're like me and not convinced of this theory, you are encouraged because you know the Rapture is coming, regardless of the timing, and that you will have the blessings of heaven, the Millennium, and the new heaven and earth, as they are described in this book. But these things have not satisfied my question, "What are the things contained therein that I must keep and obey?"

This year as I opened the Revelation, having read much about the purpose of suffering and martyrdom in the church, my mind and heart were opened to a new understanding and appreciation that this book was written for the church. John tells us in 1:4 that it is written to the seven churches of Asia. This is not for the lost, to warn them of what awaits them if they continue in their sin but for these seven churches going through tribulation and persecution at the time. In verse 1:9, John identifies himself as their "companion in tribulation;" and this revelation is given by Jesus (given to Him by God) to His servants to encourage, strengthen, exhort, correct, and even rebuke them. I do not believe that this revelation was limited to a detailed chronological account of events that would still be futuristic 1,900 years later and not also be applicable to the saints throughout all ages. What good would that do them in the hour of their torture and death? Nor was it given to encourage

them with the hope of the Rapture, evidenced by the absence of any clear mention of it in this book (unlike other books). The command in 1:3 indicates to me that this revelation would reveal some truths and commandments that would be a blessing to the saints throughout all history as they go through tribulation, persecution, and war waged against them. I believe that by analyzing this book simply to understand the order of events in the end times, the present day church has been robbed of much of what God wants to say to His servants as He closes out His written revelation for mankind. This revelation is His last word spoken to us, in these last days, by His Son, and they are for the good of every servant of God, whether they ever see these events or not.

What is in this revelation that would strengthen those who were at the point of being torn to pieces by wild beasts in the Coliseum, tortured by the Inquisitors of the Roman Catholic Church, or drowned by the leaders of the Reformation that would cause them to sing and praise God? Would it be the belief in a pre-tribulation Rapture? I don't think so. Would it be the fact that one day in the future the Antichrist would be defeated, as this book reveals? No, I believe that there was something that God spoke here that would be a very real and present help in their hour of persecution, in their moment of choice between comfort and pain, even between life and death. Not only would this be a help to them but also to other servants of God who would go through peace and prosperity. Not all seven churches were suffering persecution at the time. One was very prosperous, lukewarm, with false spirituality. Others were encountering false doctrines, worldliness, coldness, or formalism. These words that we are to hear and keep are for those saints also. One thing that is revealed in these visions is that there is a war going on, with Satan and his angels against the saints. John tells them that he is also their companion in the

Continued on page 8



Fire from on Low

By Steve Montgomery



As a young believer, I read these words of Christ in Matt. 16:18: "...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

I pictured a group of Christians cowering within tall walls. Above, flying like a monstrous bird of prey, flapped giant wooden gates. Yet these gates were not able to hurt them because our Lord had promised they would not prevail.

I only stopped to wonder why gates would be attacking years later, around the time I first studied Ezekiel 28. I found my entire view of Matthew 16:18 turned on its head!

In Ezekiel 28:1-2, the prophet speaks to the prince of Tyre. We read a description of this prince:

- He saw himself seated in the very throne of God.
- He believed his authority made him the center of the nations.
- He was rich and his policies and practices had made him richer.
- He believed himself to be incomparably wise.
- He believed he was a god.

This doesn't sound like a prince. Throne, riches, and policies all seem to be talking about a *king*, not a prince! Then verses 11-12 hold a message to the *king* of Tyre. The prince is seated on the throne, but the true power behind the throne is him of whom God says in vs. 13: "Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God."

Clearly, He's speaking here to Satan! Apparently; the ruler of Tyre was possessed by Satan, and after giving his warning to the possessed man on the throne, through Ezekiel God speaks directly to Satan, the possessor!

We can learn many things about Satan from these verses—the gemstones, his identity as covering cherub, his walking among stones of fire—but I want to note specifically verse 18:

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy

traffic; **therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee**, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

God declares that He will deal with Lucifer's iniquities by bringing fire out of Satan's midst to devour him and bring him to humiliation.

What is Satan's "midst"?

Satan is the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4); and the whole world lies in wickedness or, as some translate, in the Wicked One (1 Jn. 5:19). Our race is taken captive by him (2 Tim. 2:26). Jesus Christ came to destroy him that had the Dominion of Death (Heb. 2:14) and translate us from Satan's kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God's Son (Col 1:13). From the time Adam rebelled against God, Satan's kingdom has been *men*, sons of fallen Adam. All of us were, in time past, part of that kingdom, walking "according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). So God is going to bring out fire from Satan's own kingdom to destroy him.

Jesus stated, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation" (Matt. 12:25). This is a simple statement of fact. Yet today, there are men, sons of Adam, natural inhabitants of Satan's kingdom, who are nevertheless part of a different kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

Having been captured by God himself, boxed in and brought to surrender, God is not content simply to make us His POWs. He insists on winning us, wooing us with His love, forgiveness, and grace and then training us to be guerilla warriors against that very kingdom of which we were members! Satan's kingdom is divided against itself! It is destined for desolation! God is taking fire—you and me—from the midst of Satan's kingdom and destroying that kingdom with it!

And that is the teaching of Matthew 16:18. The gates of hell are no match for the church of Jesus Christ. We storm those gates, breaking them open, to drag out, kicking and screaming, yet a few

Continued on back cover



Warriors!

By Jim Lucas

King David was known to be a man after God’s heart, and his love for God is seldom questioned. Nevertheless, he was also known to be a man of war, and sometimes we have difficulty in reconciling these two aspects. We hear Jesus teaching us to love our enemies, and we hear David saying he hated his enemies with a perfect hatred. In Psalm 139: 17-24, he prays:

How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? And am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

David is saying, “How precious are thy thoughts to me.” We should notice his confidence in God’s love for him; this is why he loved God: because he knew that God first loved him (see 1 John 4:19). He also had understanding of God’s holiness; and that’s why he could say, “Surely thou will slay the wicked.” King David is a foreshadow of our King Jesus, the Son of God. In the book of Hebrews, we can see that they had a lot in common:

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows (Heb.1: 8,9).

In order to reconcile how we are to love God and hate our enemies, we must understand who our enemies are. In Ephesians 6:12, we find: “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Our enemies are not the ones they appear to be. Satan delights in our thinking that certain people are our enemies, when, in fact, they are only servants of our enemy.

All those who are not in Christ Jesus are under
SFMI Update

Satan’s domain, just like you and I were until we were rescued by the grace of God.

The servants of the most-high God have nothing to fear—not even Satan himself is any threat to those who are in Christ Jesus. Our father has promised to teach us about this warfare. For a better understanding, let’s look at Isaiah 54:13-17:

And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” In righteousness shalt thou be established: *thou shalt be far from oppression*; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

The enemy will come against us, but they shall fall.

Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

We see here that it is God who has created the waster to destroy. Satan is an instrument in the hand of God, and he can do nothing against us that is not *allowed* of God. Then our Father gives us this wonderful promise:

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. *This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD*, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Our Father has promised to teach us and to establish us in righteousness (see verses 13,14). My prayer for you and me is that He will do this as we speak. David has given us a good example of a warrior. He says, “I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed” (Ps 18:37). The righteous man will hate sin, and he will hate the evil spirits that are at work to deceive the sons of men. Far too often we think we are to have pity for “the sinner,” and indeed we should; but be careful—because you might be having sympathy with the spirit of deceit! If we truly love the victim, we hate the evil that is out to destroy him; and we will not be satisfied until the evil influence has been consumed. The enemy wants us to be “understanding.” Of course, we understand the temptations

with which we are all tempted. The real fact is that we need to be understanding of the deception that is taking place in every situation. A warrior cannot afford to be timid. David had passion and zeal for His Lord. It is not enough that we understand the temptations; we need to go after the evil forces that are deceiving us. We are warriors in the King of Kings' army.

Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two edged sword in their hand; To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: *this honour have all his saints*. Praise ye the LORD (Ps 149:5-9).


We should not be foolish enough to think that we have any ability in ourselves. If the Kingdom of God is going to be extended in our generation, it will be because we are *pursuing it in prayer*:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled (2 Cor.10: 3-6).

Why aren't more of the saints pursuing in prayer? Many have failed to put on their armour: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and *having* done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:13). If we are weak in one area, we are vulnerable and unable to stand. If we are having difficulty standing, how shall we pursue? Many presume they are standing, but in reality they have fallen long ago. They have become accustomed to that fallen condition and believe that they are living the normal Christian life.

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:12,13).

If you are frequently being *taken* in temptation (notice that I didn't merely say "often tempted"), you are often sinning. Consequently, you are not standing. Those who are not standing cannot do warfare. If we cannot stand for anything, we will fall for everything.

Due to lack of space I am going to close here. I would like to say more about the whole armour of God, perhaps at a later date. Comments and questions are always welcome. 

Gleanings from Revelation, continued...

kingdom of Jesus Christ. In this kingdom, there is and will be tribulation and war against the saints until Satan is cast into the lake of fire. The encouragement for the saints of all times is not only that Satan will be forever dealt with sometime in the future but that there is a way by which the servant of God can overcome him now!

I believe that this is the reason for this last revelation to the church. All of the apostles of our Lord, save the writer of this book, had gone to be with their Lord. Those who had received special revelations from the Lord for the establishing of the church were no longer present, except for John, who was an old man by then, and exiled—separated from the churches. Now, the One who walks in the midst of the candlesticks, His church, speaks one last time through this last of the twelve apostles of Jesus, to the whole church of all time, to tell them the "way" to overcome in this war against Satan. I believe this is what the Spirit is saying to the churches, because "overcoming" is mentioned to each of the seven churches and elsewhere ten times.

We are given a hint of the "way to overcome" in the very beginning of this book, just before John's first vision. Revelation 1:9 says, "I, John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."

This word, "patience," (that of Jesus or that of the saints), is spoken of six times throughout this book. In the seven letters we see phrases such as, "I know thy patience," and "thou hast kept the word of My patience;" and twice elsewhere, "here is the patience of the saints." Also, in the letters to the churches, the saints are encouraged to hold fast, speaking of patience in the midst of the war it looks like they are losing. To overcome in this war, we must be companions in the "patience of Jesus Christ." We, being in His kingdom, must stand and fight in "His patience." We know that in His kingdom we partake of His death, burial, resurrection, and seating. We also can partake of His wisdom, righteousness, holiness, His very nature, and, actually, Himself. This is the armor of God that we must put on to be able to stand against the

Continued on page 13

Missionary Reports



Africa (Loma Tribe) Jerry Skiles

Greetings;

Cherry and I have been blessed and encouraged with the beginning of our time in West Africa. It is amazing how smoothly the work can go when God decides to make things happen.



We were able to purchase a new vehicle for much less than we expected. Everything went well with the purchase and paperwork. We had just had it serviced, and the dealer looked at the scratches in it and said “Where have you been?” I did my best to explain the isolation of the tribe and the deterioration of the roads. I flatly said, “This vehicle is in service as a tool—not to be pretty.” I do want to keep it running well and not abuse it, but it is a tool and nothing more. I am working hard at improving our tribal environment, much to the delight of the local population. I think I am the local economic stimulus package. I had a large crew working one day and the next day did not take many workers. Hovare was then confronted by people with real tears in their eyes because they were so



desperate to have some money. We are improving things—it just takes time, and after seven years of neglect, there is a lot of work to do on the house, roads—really on everything. Cherry and I are slowly adapting to the disparities that exist between our world and theirs.



Cherry had a wonderful time with the Hannah team. Wow, they burned on high octane fuel! I felt like an old steam engine compared to a highly efficient jet motor. They got things done! Cherry loved it. I felt overwhelmed by the local population, who know me, trying to leverage their relationship to get a higher triage. The needs are so great and the resources so limited. I know I have to look at the individuals who were blessed, but the masses in need still remain the same. I was happy to translate and explain things for those who were administering professional help to the needy. Next year, I hope to be more able to assist. I am hoping next year to include some of you who want to join a medical team to come with the Hannah project and then run them out to Bwaybiye as part of the ministry.

The school is started at Bwaybiye! Thirty-one students have begun class. It is a God thing! The teacher arrived the day before we did. The school authorities came out and saw the progress on the work on the school building and sent the teacher. I have been busy with getting his house livable as well. The teacher is a young man, and I know that living in the bush village can be challenging. I want to see him stay and be encouraged.


Hovare and I have had some time together, but he is very busy with responsibilities as well. He spent about five days getting medicines for Cherry to use in the Loma tribe. We are blessed to have a local team helping us with the efforts. The church is bigger than any one member can imagine.

I have been teaching in the Bwaybiye church. I am teaching out of Proverbs. I find that a learner’s attitude is essential for improvement in people’s lives. God does not appreciate proud and arrogant attitudes. Proverbs lays out some wonderful principles for people who desire security for their lives.



Thank you for your love, prayers, and support. God has encouraged and blessed us with His sovereign power and blessings.

In His Love (Always)

Jerry & Cherry Skiles 

Africa

Ed and Patty Enns

Greetings everyone,

It's been a while since I sent an update, so I wanted to let you know that we got moved into the guesthouse on the 30th of December. Getting our stuff over here didn't take long, but cleaning and finding places to put it took almost a week! Guesthouse kitchens tend to be pretty disorganized and not the cleanest. This one wasn't too disorganized, which was good, but I decided I wanted to use my own things; so I had to find a place to store a lot of items I didn't need, clean the cabinets, and find places for everything. The major challenge, however, was that the fridge had one shelf! The other shelves were missing because the shelf supports had been broken off. Africans are pretty ingenious, and after three or four days I have shelves in the fridge! They aren't the prettiest but are functional, which is what matters! There are benefits to being here and a few things to adjust to. One has been that we've had mosquitoes in our bedroom just about every night and can't find where they are entering. I heard somewhere that only male mosquitoes make the noise; so when it's a male, I find it hard to sleep; but otherwise they seem to prefer Ed, and I sleep through it!


We had our first overnight guest last Wednesday. Our former co-worker, Baerbel, had not been feeling well since the 23rd of December. After a visit to Tougbo. She had malaria but was still feeling weak, tired, and had frequent nausea after eating. She came and went to the clinic here in Bobo run by CMA nurses. The results

came back that she had typhoid, and so she is taking a course of medicine for that and was told to rest. I wish she lived here in town, so that I could feed her good food, but she returned to Banfora on Thursday. It was nice to spend time visiting with her. She has taken in two Komono boys, and one is to be baptized next Saturday. We hope to go and be an encouragement to him.

For those of you who may wonder if the Groenveld's kids made it to Bobo, the answer is yes! They arrived late into the night the 28th and surprised their parents by driving late into the night the 28th and getting a very early start the 29th; so that they drove the 1000 km. arriving in Bobo by 5 p.m. We had a brief visit with them on the 30th, and it was really nice to see them after ten years for Eloise and about seven years for Josef.

Ed is still working on sermons for our trip to Nigeria and is still planning to do some evangelism in southern Burkina among the Dogose, though he hasn't set a date yet. There are no believers in any of the villages, though there have been some efforts at evangelism by various groups. Please pray for the Lord to prepare hearts to hear and receive the good news of the gospel.

Thank you for your prayers and emails of encouragement. It means a lot to us, knowing that people are praying.

Gratefully His,
Patty Enns 

Ghana

John Kwame

Dear Saints,

Just a little bit of news about what has been happening here. Friday, the 22nd of January, Sammy Spurling arrived in Ghana. Now he has been here for just about one week. He seems to be settling in quite well and is learning some of the Twi language. It is really nice to have him here with us.


Over the last few weeks we have started a few projects around the compound. We had some plants growing along the sidewalk of the house that were turning into a giant mess. Most of them were viney plants that needed something to grow on, so we trimmed all the plants and built some bamboo lattices along the walkway. We also have no place to put our motorcycle where it will be out of the weather, so we have been building a gazebo where we can sit and also park the motorcycle, killing two birds with one stone. The latest project we've started is our garden. We've dug up the ground and have already planted some lettuce. We are also hoping to grow onions, green peppers, hot peppers, cucumbers, carrots, and green onions. None of us are expert gardeners, so it is always a learning experience for us.

As far as the work, things are going along well but slow. The other day I talked to the pastor of the “Church of Christ,” who, when I first started talking to him, was very quick to condemn anyone to hell who was not a member of “the Church of Christ.” I guess the doctrine of the denomination of “the Church of Christ” is that their group is the technical “Church of Christ” that Paul speaks of in Romans 16:16. They do not believe in denominationalism and do not refer to their group as a denomination but rather as the true Church of Christ. They say that if you are a member of the Pentecostal denomination, then you are not saved because only those who are of the “Church of Christ” are saved. What they say is correct in a sense. Someone can be a member of a denomination and still not be a member of the body of Christ. This group has twisted this idea in such a way as to be very convincing if one didn’t know the Truth. In trying to destroy denominationalism, they have simply created another denomination.

Anyway, I began to share with him about the Church and had a wonderful time. It didn’t turn into an argument, but rather we talked for about an hour on the subject. He let me do most of the talking and really seemed to be listening. He had to leave but invited me to come back next week. Please pray for me that I would be humbled before the Lord and that as I speak to him, the Lord would open his eyes to the truth of God’s Son.

We have been having some really good meetings here on Sundays. You can see that the Holy Spirit is really orchestrating the meeting. The songs and the things that are ministered all seem to come together nicely so that you can see what the Lord is trying to say to His church.

Everyone is healthy here for the most part. We thank you all for your prayers and support as we seek to see Christ glorified among the Ghanaians.

By His Grace,
John Kwame 

Valle De Juarez, Mexico **Ed and Abby Drysdale**

We are finally home. It is good to be back and to see everyone again.

We were very blessed to hear that the brothers in Atotonilco covered the Bible studies while we were gone. But we were discouraged to find out that only Misael and Claudia were



faithful in coming.

It is exciting, brothers, to report to you the progress of Misael and Claudia. They are reading the Word of God, memorizing Scriptures, inviting others to the Bible studies, and attending faithfully themselves. Just this week they told us that they want to obey the Lord in baptism. Their sons, Fernando and Caleb, would both like to get baptized as well. I met with them last night, and I’m pretty confident they understand the meaning of this next step. We are planning on holding a baptism the February 14th, after church.

I have been pressed upon by the Lord to start individual Bible studies with each one of the couples attending on Friday nights. I would like to hold a 10-week Bible study with each one. I hope to be able to present the gospel clearly to them. I’d like each one of them to be confronted with their need for a Saviour. After these 10 weeks are up, I believe that if they haven’t seen their need for Christ yet that I’m supposed to leave them in the hands of the Lord and dedicate my time to others. This won’t be easy to do. Please be praying for them.

Ricardo and Lety—they have graciously opened their home to Priscilla. They attend very regularly on Friday nights, and yet, something is holding them back from entering into a relationship with Christ.

Oscar and Gaby—they have just recently started to meet with us. Oscar is Claudia’s cousin. At first they started to meet with us as a “last-ditch effort” for their marriage. They came a couple of times before we left. We showed them the movie *Fireproof* and had a Bible study with them. While we were gone, Oscar got online and downloaded the book, *The Love Dare*, and is presently going through it with his wife. We are meeting with them on Wednesday nights. Today is the day of Salvation!!! Pray that the Lord will add them soon and that they will be teachable in regards to parenting their kids.



Alejandro and Judith—They have been coming for a long time now as well. I believe that knowledge and affluence are keeping them from making a commitment to God. Please pray for this couple—they seem to have allowed education to blind them.

Luis and Anna—they are the ones who run the hotel in Mazamitla. They have agreed to have a weekly Bible study with me at the hotel. I know that Luis has a hunger. Please be praying for them. They are going through a rough financial time.

Raul and Anna—I have had Bible studies with them in the past. Raul battles with a drinking

problem. Anna has attended various churches and has discontinued going for some reason or another.

Dona Raquel met us with very encouraging news. She told us that while they were in California visiting relatives she decided to get baptized. It is good to see her follow through in obedience.

Please continue to uphold Don José as he still doesn't seem to understand the gospel as of yet. Continue to pray for José and Raquel—she is especially close to surrendering all.



“I will open rivers in high places and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water and dry land springs of water” (Isa. 41:18). We are also sad to report that Priscilla has decided to return home. She will be leaving in May. She hopes to attend the May conference with her family. Please continue to uphold her in prayer—that the Lord will guide and bless her steps.

Thank you to all who have faithfully supported her. She has been a blessing to us. Pray as well for our family, as the news of Priscilla's leaving has hit us all pretty hard. Abby will be finishing out the rest of this school year. We aren't sure what we will do next year.

I have one more prayer request. It seems trivial in comparison, but I would like to ask you to pray that things will run like they are supposed to. Since coming home, we have had one thing after another quit on us. We've had troubles with both cars, the washing machine, plumbing, telephones, computers, and flooding in the church building. Many of these are pretty minor; but they take up a lot of my time nonetheless, especially since I don't call myself a handyman.

I thank God for you, fellow laborers.


The Drysdales.

Contact: Want to know more?

Call us anytime at (541) 728 5946. Yes, that is a U.S. number! Want more regular updates? Search for Abby Drysdale on Facebook. A first class letter will get to us in about three to five weeks; so if you prefer pen and ink, here is our address:

Ed and Abby Drysdale

Apdo # 22, Calle Morelos 353

Valle de Juarez,, Jalisco 49540, Mexico 

Atotonilco, Mexico

Steve and Linda Montgomery

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

This morning we start with a medical outreach in the area. Dentists, doctors, nurses, and helpers will escort adults through a basic check of blood sugar,

blood pressure, vision (candidates for prescription glasses or reading glasses) and a visit with the dentist or doctor if they desire. At the same time, children get a class on hand washing, dental hygiene, and will play a nutrition game. Every single person, child or adult, will sit through a class on “Spiritual Health,” where we explain the gospel and how to respond to it. Each child receives a gift bag with a tract inside. Each adult receives a New Testament. Everyone is invited to see an evangelistic film in the evening. For this to bear eternal fruit we need your help in intercession. Here are some things you can pray for:

Monday (We are in Atotonilco today):

Pray for the weather for each day of the outreach. We had rain last night, but the Lord has given us a good day today. Pray that it will be that way all day, every day, and into the evening.

Tuesday (Today we are in San José de Gracia):

Pray for the organization. With a lot of equipment to transport, it is easy to forget some of the things we need. Pray for the volunteers from Atotonilco and San José, who do the lion's share of the work.

Wednesday (Today the outreach is in Arandas):

Pray for the impact of the literature, the gospel presentation, and the evening film. This day will be in a very poor area of the city.

Thursday (From today until Saturday, the team will be in Guadalajara, working with the Briseño church): This is the first time that the Briseño church sponsors this type of evangelistic event. Pray that there will be sufficient volunteers and adequate organization.

Friday: The medical team has been working non-stop now for five days, seeing three to four times the patients they would be seeing in their practices in the U.S. Pray that they will be strengthened and blessed and that the Lord will grant them fruit.

Saturday: The final day, with tiredness, low supplies, accumulated tensions and frustrations, along with (believe it or not) the sadness that the time is coming to an end, often makes the last day hard for the U.S. contingent. Pray that they will continue to take the Lord's grace and that encouraging testimonies will help them through the day.

Every day: Pray that we not lose sight of the purpose of this outreach. Pray that we will have contacts and that Bible studies will be born out of this effort. Pray that some will come into the Kingdom of light through these efforts.

Special request: A brother in Christ, a chemical engineer, who tested samples of the water taken to him from this area, is here with us, and we will be meeting with the mayor tomorrow morning to give him the results of those tests. At that time, we will also discuss the planned visit of representatives from Living Water, a ministry that helps towns, villages and individuals to

Continued on back cover

SFMI Update

Gleanings from Revelation, continued.

enemy. In this revelation, He tells us now that we must live in His patience as John did. This will be repeated and made plain throughout the book. In the above verse, the key to overcoming is found in the reason for John's exile: "because of the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ." These words are repeated several times. The last time is in 19:10 where it speaks of those brethren who "have the testimony of Jesus," and the "testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." As we continue, we will see a clear correlation between these words and the "way to overcome."

In Revelation 22:9, mention is made of those who "keep the sayings of this book." There are two sayings that are common to each of the seven letters: "He that overcometh" is one of the sayings that we are to keep; the other is "he that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." This tells me that what God has to say about overcoming is precisely what the Spirit is saying to all the church throughout all time. In the first six letters, how to overcome is not clearly revealed; only the rewards for overcoming are revealed. But in the last letter we are given a good idea of how to overcome. It is found in 3:21: "*even as I also overcame* and am set down with my Father in His throne." In Philippians 2:8-10, we are told how Jesus overcame to be exalted by His Father: He "became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." This is consistent with how the brethren overcame the accuser. "They overcame him by the blood of the lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Rev. 12:11).

This is one of those sayings that we must hear and keep as Jesus our forerunner did. He overcame by shedding His own blood on the Cross, by His faithful witness of the Father in His lifetime and before Pilate and those who tried Him (thus the importance of His being called the faithful witness in 1:5 and 3:14), by loving not His own life and being obedient unto death: "Not my will but thine be done." This is how He overcame and how all the saints will overcome.

These are not just for the "tribulation" saints but are for all who would overcome the enemy in persecution—or even in peace and prosperity. The enemy's names in chapter 12 reveal three strategies in his war against the saints. Some he attacks as the great dragon, to destroy by aggressive persecution: attacks easily perceived—you can't hide a dragon. This is the way he came against the church at the beginning, with persecution, first from the Jews, then the Roman Empire.

The second name is the "old serpent," the most subtle of creatures. As the serpent, he attacks with subtlety: false teachings, worldliness, false peace, comfort, and prosperity. In the epistles early on, we see these first two strategies. The last strategy was deception: the time of peace that followed several

persecutions by Rome. In spite of severe persecution, the number of saints had steadily increased. I believe they understood the "sayings" of this book and had kept them. They knew that by keeping the testimony of Jesus and not loving their lives unto death, they would overcome not their persecutors but Satan, their adversary, the great dragon. Although many lost their lives, they indeed did overcome. This was Christ's way of building His church.

Then, under the rule of Constantine, came peace, comfort, and even prosperity to the church worldwide. Satan, the adversary, would now take a new approach as a subtle serpent. Little by little, there were brought into the church pagan ways and traditions. Soon, truth became mixed with the very things Jesus had warned about and rebuked them for in the seven letters. Most of the church forgot the "Way of our Forerunner" for overcoming. They thought that the peace, safety, and prosperity in which they were living were signs that they had overcome: "We are rich; we are alive; we have need of nothing," they said, and so we say today in the places where there is freedom of "worship." But the old serpent was deceiving them and is deceiving us. The truth is there is only ONE way to overcome. The *Way* that Jesus overcame is *The Way*.

This brings me to the other name for Satan mentioned in chapter 12: the devil, the accuser of the brethren. The only defense against this accuser is the blood of the Lamb of God. Jesus, our advocate in heaven, presents His blood in our defense. We do not rail against this accuser, we do not defend ourselves, but we "agree with our adversary as we are in the way" and confess our sin. Then our advocate is faithful to forgive and cleanse and defend us. As we stand in His blood, we persevere with patience in the Word of the testimony of Jesus. We hold fast that which we have (Rev. 2:13, 25; 3:11), that which we have received and heard (Heb.2:1, Rev.3:3), and are faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10), knowing that in death, for His name's sake, we overcome the enemy.

These sayings confirm what Jesus taught His disciples, which they passed on to the first believers. Life comes through death, victory comes through defeat. The grain of wheat must fall into the ground and die; he who loses his life will gain it back, but he who saves his life will lose it! This teaching was confirmed by Paul in Romans 6, Galatians 2:20, and 2 Corinthians 4:10-11. In order to live, we must die. The teaching in Revelation was not new. The invisible war going on against the saints may be "new," but the "way to overcome" is not new. Jesus, our Forerunner, taught and demonstrated the "way"; His apostles taught and showed us the "way." Now that the last of those twelve apostles is at the point of passing on, Jesus takes the time to remind the churches of the "way to overcome." He shows them how war is being waged and will continue to be made against the saints on earth and how they will overcome

Continued on back cover

2010 Memorial Day Conference Twin Rocks Conference Center

Greetings again, and welcome in advance to the **May28-31, 2010 Annual Memorial Day Conference** of the Shield of Faith Mission International. This year is the 55th anniversary of the mission and the 47th annual conference. We are looking forward to a very special time with you and your family on the beautiful Oregon Coast.

We are preparing to welcome what the Lord has prepared for us this year, and we are absolutely sure that all will be stirred by what we will learn. Come prepared to be blessed and to be a blessing.

As many of you know, we are almost certain to max out the facility of **Twin Rocks Conference Center at Rockaway Beach, Oregon**, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible. Fill out the registration form on the next page and mail it or fax it to the Cathy Schultz, the conference registrar, right away. If you have friends that you would like to encourage to attend, feel free to make as many copies of the registration form as you need and send them to Cathy ASAP.

Hello, my name is John Jamieson, and I will be this year's 2010 Twin Rocks Conference Administrator. My contact information for conference stuff is: Email: jlj1990@verizon.net or phone: (425)478-4748, leave a voice message, and I will call back as soon as possible.

As with all conferences, we will need lots of volunteers to make this one successful. We are looking for volunteers for the following positions. If anyone is interested, they can contact me via email or my cell.



Thank-you.
John Jamieson

We will need volunteers for the following positions:

- Pre-conference set-up team
- Post-conference take-down team
- Recreation
- Books table set up and take down
- Children's ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Family Campfire Ministry on Sunday night only.
- Communion set up
- Communion servers



Annual Northwest Conference 2010 Shield of Faith Mission International

Registrar: **Cathy Schultz**Mailing address: **9505 73rd Ave E**Phone: **(253) 310-3065**Email: **writeforfun77@yahoo.com****Puyallup WA 98371**Fax: **(253) 845-2789**

Twin Rocks Friends Campground Rockaway Beach, Oregon

May 28-31, 2010

How it works: Arrivals begin at 5:00 pm Friday, May 28. **No early arrivals!** The first meeting begins at 7:00 pm. There will be no meal served Friday night. Please feel free to bring snacks. Saturday breakfast is our first meal, and Monday lunch is our last meal. We have spaces available for tents and RVs. There are family cabins and lodging for others. Bring your own bedding, or bedding can be provided for those in need. Twin Rocks Friends Campground is a **non-smoking** facility. Pets are **not** allowed. Copy as many forms as you need. Mail or fax completed forms to Shield of Faith office. We look forward to seeing you this year. **Register early!**

Family Registration:

Last name: _____ First: _____ Home phone ____ - ____ - ____

Address: _____ Cell phone ____ - ____ - ____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

E-mail contact: _____ @ _____

Spouse: _____ please include infants

Child: _____ age: _____ Child: _____ age: _____

Child: _____ age: _____ Child: _____ age: _____

Child: _____ age: _____ Child: _____ age: _____

Child: _____ age: _____ Child: _____ age: _____

Child: _____ age: _____ Child: _____ age: _____

Circle Choices

Nights staying: Friday night Saturday night Sunday night

Accommodations: Room Tent RV

Meals: Saturday breakfast Sunday breakfast Monday breakfast

Saturday lunch Sunday lunch Monday lunch

Saturday dinner Sunday dinner

Special requests or needs:

would like to work with children's ministry would like to work with youth ministry

Please mail or fax completed form to Cathy Schultz as soon as possible.


Shield of Faith Mission International
P.O. Box 144
Bend, Oregon, 97709

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bend, Oregon
Permit No. 118

Return Service Requested


Gleanings from Revelation, continued.

(13:7). They will lose their lives, but their dying will turn to their blessing (14:13). Meanwhile, He also shows them what is going on in heaven. While the saints on earth are being “overcome” by the enemy in death, the saints in heaven are clothed in white raiment, receiving all the promises found in the seven letters. Now they understand that their faithfulness till death overcame the enemy: victory came through defeat; reigning comes through suffering. They now know that the “way of their Forerunner,” the way of suffering and death, is just and true. It has led them to victory (15:2-3).

Lord willing, we will look at this passage in detail as we finish this study of Revelations in the next Update. 

Fire from on Low, continued.

more who will be transformed into warriors for the Kingdom of the Son.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen (Rom. 11:33-36). 

Missionary News, continued.

set up water purifying plants. So please...

- Pray that we will be able to meet with the mayor (our appt. is for 8:30 am, but we need to pray that nothing will interrupt that) and that the mayor will understand the importance of the information.
- Pray that Christ would be lifted up in our meeting and that we would be able to clearly proclaim our trust in Him.

- Pray that through this project, Atotonilco would be blessed not only with water but with Living Water.

Thank you for standing alongside us in this endeavor,

Steve and Linda Montgomery 