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## What is This Thing Called Worship?

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Language is very important. Contracts are written in very technical terms in order that a precise meaning might be applied to all terms and concepts within the agreement. The scriptures are no less exact. It is important that the language of scripture be precisely translated in order to preserve the message. But over time, language changes and words take on new meaning. Inevitably, therefore, the same words spoken in different eras convey a different message. This, of course, could mean that the meaning of a word or phrase spoken a hundred years ago could be totally different than of the same words spoken today.

One word that has evolved into something different than its original definition is "worship." Originally, it carried the idea of obeisance, bowing down with humility before a being perceived to be august; or rendering homage; humbling oneself in the presence of deity. If the worship was corporate, it may involve prayer, praise and

adoration, including with music and/or voice. In every case worship was

designed to please and revere the object of the exercise; it was not for the pleasure or entertainment of the worshiper. The entertainment value of the worship for the worshiper, therefore, was not the determining factor of how worthwhile it would be to participate, nor should that be the case today.

The act of worship is an offering to the Lord, a sacrifice. It is made spontaneously and out of a pure heart, otherwise, it is not acceptable. According to Proverbs 21:27, "The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?"

A recent "Christian" bookstore catalogue advertised, "*Popular hymns performed in a contemporary worship style by kids for kids. [Company name] worship for kids. The next generation of music from [company name]...developing a heart of worship in every child. Each CD features twelve modern worship favorites. Eighteen awesome, upbeat, and remixed worship songs that will have kids singing, dancing and praising. Ten danceable club versions of top worship hits and three bonus tracks for sing-a-long fun.*"

This is how we package and advertise entertainment, not worship. The new definition for worship is “music.” Although worship may, in some cases, include music, music does not define worship.

Is there something wrong with kids songs and choruses? Not at all! But is this indeed worship? It may be uplifting or encouraging or, as the ad says, “Fun”; but is it worship? Perhaps to the contemporary religious mindset it is; but sadly, it is merely preparation for the new adult version of “doing church.”

A Community “Revival” committee mailed out a brochure recently advertising the program for their special meetings. The music groups were advertised as follows:

“Sunday: Worship by [name of group], Front line worship team from Arizona.”

“Monday: Worship by [name of group] worship team.”

“Tuesday: Worship by [name of group] worship team.”

“Wednesday: Worship by [name], international evangelist.”

It seems clear that “worship” means something quite different today than what that word would have conveyed to the woman that brought her expensive alabaster box of ointment to pour on Jesus’ head (Mat. 27:6), or the other woman that washed his feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair (Luke 7:38). It is probable that our “fun” songs and contemporary concerts would have seemed impudent in the temple where Isaiah saw the seraphim crying “Holy, Holy, Holy,” as they covered their faces in humility and their feet with their wings lest they offend in that holy presence (Isaiah 6); or the prophet Habakkuk, who said, “The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence.”

It was worship when Daniel opened his window toward Jerusalem and prayed to Jehovah, offending the world, not entertaining it. True worship does not divide the Church. Worship is not a concert presented by hot

musicians, who may be lukewarm Christians, that offends the old and entertains the young. Worship is for the Lord, not something designed to please the flesh. They that would worship the Lord must worship him in Spirit and in truth. The Spirit of the Lord is refreshing to all those who have the Spirit of the Lord.



There has been a contemporary redefinition of worship. Today worship means music. Its new purpose is directed at the audience. It is tailored to the taste of a certain segment of the congregation with a view to stimulate a desired emotion, an atmosphere conducive to religious experience—to stimulate a mood of reverence within the “worshiper.” Or perhaps not reverence, but exhilaration. All of this is accomplished by a form of music that currently appeals to the flesh of the contemporary Christian as well as to his worldly counterpart. It is a “concert” to enhance the appeal of an evangelistic meeting to the unconverted we have invited in. It is designed primarily to please the people. We hope the Lord will like it as well.

One of the most offensive aspects of modern “worship” music to the older saints, and the most appealing to the younger, is the employment of drums. There was a time in the very recent past when drums and electric guitars were never heard in evangelical church services, while, even then, they were the basic sounds of the world’s music. It has been many years since I, as an unsaved youth, was an aficionado of worldly music. But I can remember reveling in the exhilarating effect of the prolonged drum solos by such idols as Gene Krupa or his imitators. Our emotions would be stirred and our pulse quickened. The stimulation was purely carnal and emotional.

When I and others of our time came to Christ, those things were left behind; they

were part of another world than that into which we had now been born. Now we wanted to be stirred by that which edified our spirit; the carnal stimulation of our fleshly emotions would be counterproductive. Those sounds, which through ill-advised “evangelistic” compromise have crept into the church’s repertoire, are a part of something that was long ago left behind.

Wherever one travels around the world the sound of drums dominates heathen worship. In the oriental worship of Buddha, the spirit-worship of the jungle tribes of South America, North American tribes worshipping the Great Spirit, or the demon-worshippers of Belize, all beat the drum to communicate with their gods. But that is missing in the Bible. No mention is made of drums in the worship of Jehovah.

The argument is made that it is simply part of our modern culture, and therefore simply a matter of taste. If people today like drums, why should anyone’s aversion to them be indulged? Perhaps it should be acknowledged that for many generations in our culture, while the world’s musicians beat their drums, it was never a part of the Church’s worship, or even of its music. What spiritual advantage has been gained by the addition of this carnal emotional stimulant?

Why should the Church be guided by the world’s choices. Our “worship music” endorses the world’s decadence by imitating it. It has been said that imitation is the purest form of compliment. We imitate what we admire, and, in reality, what we imitate is what we worship. The reason many churches have divided their “worship” services into “traditional” and “contemporary” is because the so-called contemporary music is offensive to many people who have walked with the Lord for many years. Rather than seeing the division that has been forced upon the church as impairment to its unity, we glorify the rift as an asset valued to lure the unsaved. We try to worship the Lord with what is appealing to the flesh. That is

precisely what Cain did, and the Lord rejected his offering.

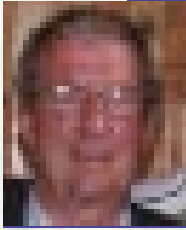
There is obviously a place for music, and although worship may include it, music is not worship. Worship is often silent. It is the bowing of the heart before the awesome holiness of Almighty God. In true worship, the flesh is not entertained, it is broken and humbled before the majesty of Omnipotence. The burning flesh of the sacrifices that we read about in the Old Testament was a sweet smelling savor to God. He is pleased when the flesh is consumed, not entertained.

There is no such thing as contemporary worship or traditional worship, young people’s worship or old people’s worship. Those terms apply only to the music, not the worship. Worship is timeless and changeless. It is not generated by a program. It is the product of our recognition of the Lord’s presence.

In the modern church, there has arisen a phenomenon that has erased the distinctives of most congregations—a homogenizing agent: the worship team. It is a product of the Charismatic Movement and has changed the way many congregations conduct themselves. True worship is frequently interrupted by the insistence of the worship team to impose its agenda in an effort to generate a desired atmosphere. We are led by the musicians instead of by the Spirit.

We may worship the Lord with our music, as evidenced by scripture. We may worship him with our prayers and with our praises. We may worship him with our tears or with our sacrifices. But all of these are true worship only when they are accompanied by our obedience. Although music may control our moods, it doesn’t produce worship, but worship may produce music.

The sales catalogue that was quoted earlier, and the ad for the “revival” meeting, made “worship” and music synonymous, leaving the impression for many that having been entertained and stimulated by the band, I have experienced worship. Could anything be farther from the truth?



# Jim Lucas' Column

## Going Up To Jerusalem

Pilgrim—that's what I am, and if you know the Lord Jesus, so are you. We have been called out of this world, crucified unto the world, and the world has been crucified unto us. In other words we don't love the world anymore; we have nothing to give to the world, and the world has nothing to give to us (See Gal.6: 14). We are commanded to come out and be a separate, holy, people unto God (See 2 Cor.6: 17). Only those who are holy will be allowed into the "Holy City". I long to see the "City of God". It will be a very special place, which is inhabited only with special people, the overcomers. They have the name of God written in their foreheads and the name of the City of God, which is New Jerusalem. Jesus also said he will write on us his new name. (See Rev.3:12)

The City of David was very special to King David. He said; "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief Joy" (Ps.137: 5,6). Well, Pilgrim, do you prefer Jerusalem above your chief Joy? Do you long to see her inhabited and built up? Are you seeking first the kingdom of God (Jerusalem)? Are you the watchmen on the walls of

Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth (Is.62: 6,7).

The overcomers have the name of God written on their forehead. This implies that they are His, and that He takes pleasure in them; they will manifest the beauty of their creator. If this creation of God is signed by Him, this must mean that all is well—they are the ones that He has ordained to be the members of His body. He will dwell in this body for all eternity. All those who wear His name will manifest the Father and portray His glory. They will have the name of New Jerusalem written on their foreheads as well. Obviously, they love Jerusalem and are willing to lay down their lives for the sake of any one of her citizens. Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all (Gal.4:26). Every believer is brought to Christ through prayer and outreach of the City of God. We owe her much. She has shed her blood throughout the generations in obedience to her Lord Jesus. Overcomers are faithful to serve her and are taken up with all that concerns her. Last but not least, they will bear the New Name of Jesus.

This is a very special privilege given to those who love Him and have His heart and mind. Only the overcomers will be there to partake of the tree of life and to have these special privileges. I do believe they are great privileges. We can't imagine how great it will be, but let us try to imagine from time to time. More important, let us pray for a better understanding. Perhaps our Father will give us a revelation like he did John. Jesus said: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

He said, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there you may be also." What do you think, Pilgrim? Is Jesus coming soon, to receive us unto Himself? Soon, right? With this in mind, look at the example of our Lord Jesus, when He knew that it was time that he should be received up.

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that He should be received up, **He steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem**, and sent messengers before His face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for Him. And they did not receive Him, because His face was as though He would go to Jerusalem" (Lu.9: 51-53).

Beloved, Jesus set His face to go Jerusalem knowing that the cross was awaiting Him. We are told that He endured the suffering of the cross for the joy that was before Him (See Heb.12: 2). The only

way we will ever be overcomers is to follow suit, take up our cross and follow Him. The Samaritans did not receive Him because His face was set to go to Jerusalem. The world will not receive us either, if we set our faces to **go up to Jerusalem**.

Set your course, count the cost, and consider all that he has prepared for us. Those who enter in to receive all that He has promised will not be your casual, lackadaisical average Joe. It will be those who storm the gates of hell to set the captive free, and turn the world upside down in the process. Don't get caught up trying to fix the problems of this world, or even just getting along and not making any waves. The only good we can be to this world is salt and light; if we lose that, we are not fit for heaven or earth. This world is not our home; we are just passing through, so don't get too comfortable. Remember, the Son of man had nowhere to lay His head.

Jesus said, "Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God" (Lu.9: 60). In other words let the world take care of the world and let us be about the business of our Father.

Remember, Jesus also said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lu.9: 62). True believers are able to make up their minds and set a course; the double minded are unstable in all their ways. We cannot serve two masters. Our heavenly Jerusalem awaits us just the other side of the cross. Don't even think of the shame we bear. Just think of the privilege to bear the name of our Father and Jesus' New Name and the name of New Jerusalem.





## NEW YEAR IN NEW LIFE

The congregation here gathered on New Year's Eve at the ranch of a family new to the congregation for a meal and time of fellowship.

The beautiful wooded setting mirrored the beautiful fellowship as we ate together and talked among ourselves, the children running in and out among us. Then it was time for the skit. The young children (8-12) had prepared their own drama, an original work reflecting their idea of walking with Christ.

The scene opens on two girls playing on the street. A boy, walking by, sees them. "Oh look! It's the 'Hallelujah kids'!", he calls out mockingly. Coming close, he kicks their toys, then them, yelling "We don't want your kind here!" When the older brother runs to their rescue, the bully turns on him, throwing rocks and leaving him lying in the street.

In the next scene, mom is washing and bandaging the boy's face. "I'll get him back for this!", the boy states angrily, "He'll pay!" "You know that's not Christ's way, son. You need to pray for those that spitefully use you." Moments later we see the bandaged boy on his knees in his room, asking the Lord to change his own heart and that of his persecutor.

Again the girls are playing on the sidewalk. Again the bully attacks them. And again, the big brother comes to their rescue.

"You don't need to that! We're not trying to cause problems with the people here! We just want them to know God's message!"

### Afraid?

Afraid?

Of what?

To feel the spirit's glad release,  
To pass from pain to perfect peace,  
The strife and strain of life to cease?  
Afraid of that?

Afraid?

Of what?

Afraid to see the Savior's face,  
To hear his welcome and to trace  
The glory gleaned from wounds of grace?  
Afraid of that?

Afraid?

Of what?

A flash, a crash, a pierced heart.  
Darkness! Light! Oh, heaven's art!  
A wound of His, a counterpart.  
Afraid of that?

Afraid?

Of what?

To do by death what life could not,  
Baptize with blood a stony plot,  
Till souls shall blossom from this spot;  
Afraid of that?

EH Hamilton

(Found among the belongings of John and Betty Stamm after their martyrdom in China)

“Oh yeah! Like God has talked to you!”

“I mean in the Bible. It tells how people can have their sins forgiven and be certain of going to heaven”

(Suspiciously, but with a grain of interest)  
“Where does the Bible say that?”

The brother explains about the death and resurrection of Christ, inviting the persecutor to believe the Gospel. The two end on their knees in the street, as the former persecutor prays to receive Christ.

The play ends as the two girls and their older brother knock on the door of their former enemy to pick him up for the church meeting.

“Ready?”

“You bet!”, he says enthusiastically, “Let’s go!”

Now it was the parents turn, as everyone gathered in a circle to share testimonies of thankfulness. After half an hour, we began to pray, continuing until the sound of fireworks and gunshots told us that the new year had come.

One new family summed up our feelings about the evening later, when they said. “We had never had, or even imagined we could have, such a wonderful New Year’s Eve!”

### **One extra cause for rejoicing:**

Sometime back, I had a Bible study in Degollado, a city of 10,000 forty-five minutes from Atotonilco. When the family I met with moved away, there were no longer any believers there. At our New Years event, we had a newly-converted family from Degollado! There are now two Degollado families meeting regularly in the name of Christ. The desolate cities are being impacted with the Gospel of Christ!

What a privilege to witness the transformation of lives and families through the Good News of Christ!

## **Charles H. Spurgeon** on Trials and Why God Sends Them

“In seasons of severe trial, the Christian has nothing on earth that he can trust to, and is therefore compelled to cast himself on his God alone. When his vessel is on its beam-ends, and no human deliverance can avail, he must simply and entirely trust himself to the providence and care of God. Happy storm that wrecks a man on such a rock as this! O blessed hurricane that drives the soul to God and God alone!

“There is no getting at our God sometimes because of the multitude of our friends; but when a man is so poor, so friendless, so helpless that he has nowhere else to turn, he flies into his Father’s arms, and is blessedly clasped therein! When he is burdened with troubles so pressing and so peculiar, that he cannot tell them to any but his God, he may be thankful for them; for he will learn more of his Lord then than at any other time.

“Oh, tempest-tossed believer, it is a happy trouble that drives thee to thy Father! Now that thou hast only thy God to trust to, see that thou puttest thy full confidence in him. Dishonor not thy Lord and Master by unworthy doubts and fears; but be strong in faith, giving glory to God. Show the world that thy God is worth ten thousand worlds to thee. Show rich men how rich thou art in thy poverty when the Lord God is thy helper. Show the strong man how strong thou art in thy weakness when underneath thee are the everlasting arms. Now is the time for feats of faith and valiant exploits. Be strong and very courageous, and the Lord thy God shall certainly, as surely as he built the heavens and the earth, glorify himself in thy weakness, and magnify his might in the midst of thy distress. The grandeur of the arch of heaven would be spoiled if the sky were supported by a single visible column, and your faith would lose its glory if it rested on anything discernible by the carnal eye. May the Holy Spirit give you to rest in Jesus”

“Love never faileth...” (1 Corinthians 13:

# Ministry Update

EAST AFRICA

## Report by Jim Lucas

Francille and I, with our granddaughter Janelle, Chrissie Wise and her daughter Sarah, made this journey. Francille and the girls went to work at the new orphanage that has been established in the Kisii district with thirty orphans in their new building. There is a real need for the many orphans in East Africa due to the spread of HIV. Francille and the girls were in Kenya for three weeks. I, for seven weeks.

I taught for two or three days each in Kemera, Sengera, and Mborogo, villages in the Kisii district where we had taught before. I was encouraged with the maturity evident in the fellowships, and their hunger for the word of God. The presence of our Lord Jesus was there, and some unexpected events took place that made this trip very special.

I was invited to go and minister to a family that had just buried one of their loved ones. Most of them were Catholics, Muslims, or Seventh Day Adventists. The Holy Spirit brought the gospel home to well-prepared hearts. The whole group gave their hearts to Jesus. The next afternoon they took me to another family that had just lost a loved one. They also were very open to the gospel, and the fear of God was present; they repented of their sins.

In one village where we stayed in a compound, we had an early-morning visitor come looking for food. He was a very dirty wild man (he had been known to chase people with a machete) who roamed about, sleeping under the trees at night. His clothes were rags, and his hair had not been cut. After he ate, I began to talk to him. He said that he lived in the forest. It seemed he wanted to talk so I began talking about Jesus,

**Brother Geoffrey Auma gives the bushman a haircut**



and he showed great interest. When I spoke of the crucifixion, He began speaking nonsense. I told him to keep quiet, and immediately he became quiet and listened to the gospel. When I spoke of the resurrection, he showed great interest, but then he began babbling again. I stood up and told the spirit to go to the deepest sea and never return again.

He immediately became calm and was like a small child ready to be instructed. He was willing to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus. After praying for his salvation he was like a young lamb—very meek and peaceful. He had a bath, and the brothers gave him a hair cut. We bought him a shirt and a pair of pants. He testified before the whole congregation that he had been a wild man, but Jesus had saved him.

Geoffrey Auma is a brother who worked for Francille and I when we lived in Narok. He has been very faithful, and he is dedicated to teaching the word of God. He is now doing what Tim and I were doing. He has been going to Uganda and is involved in bringing people together from different churches and teaching them the word. He invited me to go to Uganda and minister there with him. We had a very interesting time teaching and helping with the baptism of more than forty people. Many were sick, others possessed, and the Spirit of the Lord Jesus was present for healing and deliverance.

Please pray for Geoffrey. He plans to move to Uganda from Kenya with his family in February, Lord willing.

I then had a week in Nairobi Kenya teaching five hours a day. Jeremiah Omasa had invited me there, and we had a great time

teaching a very faithful group of about thirty people each day. They want us to come back next year.

It would take much time and space to give a full report of our trip; we taught in many places, and people were saved. We had great liberty working with David Omari in Kebabe, James Openda in Isabania and with Liston Menenga in Kisii.

We are enjoying our time at home again, as we get ready for a two and half months driving trip to Mexico and Costa Rica about the first of March.. We would appreciate your prayers for this trip. In Jesus,

James Lucas

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## Jerry Skiles Report

WEC International (Worldwide Evangelization for Christ) is a band of people from many nations and denominations. WEC's heart has always been for the remaining people of the world who have never had the opportunity to learn that Jesus died for them. Beginning with C. T. Studd's trek to the heart of Africa in 1913, WEC has gone on to work all over the world; and now we have about 1,719 active workers who come from 49 countries, working among 83 unreached peoples.(taken from WEC mission's home page)

The Skiles family has always enjoyed the fellowship of the Saints as we have ministered in West Africa. WEC is a mission organization that has been a great blessing and support as we have continued to minister to the tribes in rebel-controlled Ivory Coast. They have graciously made their vehicles available to us to be used as we have returned to the tribal works in Ivory Coast. The WEC team have discipled leaderes that currently work with some of the Loron believers to whom we Skiles have ministered as well.

On my first trip to Burkina Faso to cross into rebel-controlled Ivory Coast, I, Jerry met the president of the Association of National Churches. Pierre is a native of the Lobi tribe, a gracious man, who knew more about me than I knew of Pierre. As we visited, Pierre shared that Cherry and I had helped one of his family members in Ivory Coast when they were sick. Pierre had followed and prayed for us as

we ministered to the Loron and Loma tribe. It is always humbling to hear of individuals who support and pray for you, when you never knew.

Cherry, Brisbin (our son) and I will be returning to Burkina Faso at the end of March. WEC has asked us to teach during their national leadership conference. I will be sharing about work, farming, and the vision to finish reaching the remaining people groups who have no known believers. There remain two unreached tribes in Ghana that are about 150 miles from where the teaching is taking place.

Pray that I will be able to communicate clearly, as the teaching will be in French, and that the Lord will be glorified in all that will be communicated. Pray also that a renewal of vision will be given to the national church for the remaining task of world and tribal evangelism. Pray that the Lord will give a clear vision of opportunities as we seek to liaison American believers to opportunities that will benefit the Saints in West Africa. I currently am seeking opportunities and needs that the Saints in West Africa have that can mesh with those that can be met by American believers. *Eph. 4:12-13 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

After the teaching in Burkina Faso, the Skiles family will travel to Ivory Coast and hold a believers' conference in the Loron and Loma tribes. Pray for encouragement for the Saints as they continue to live under the rebels'



**Jerry and Cherry Skiles**

control. Pray they would have a clear vision for reaching the unreached people with whom they live and come in contact on a daily basis. Pray for wisdom and discernment as the we seek to understand how best to minister in the future to the tribal believers under the current environment in Ivory Coast. ■



# *The Tale of Two Busis:*

## **The first two believers in the Loma Tribe**

God's Grace and Sovereignty was clearly demonstrated in the lives of these two women, whom we called Big Busi and Little Busi.

Our contact with Big Busi came shortly after we arrived in the Loma tribe. Cherry did medical work, and Big Busi was ill. Her husband came to us and asked Cherry to look at his wife. She discovered, when she visited their hut, that Big Busi had been in and out of consciousness for three days. She was unresponsive when Cherry arrived. Cherry immediately called Jerry, and when they could not wake her, they told the family that Busi had to be evacuated to the hospital immediately. The villagers said they would prepare for the hospital stay and contact the Skiles when they were ready. After waiting a couple of hours, the Skiles returned to Big Busi's house and found that nothing had been done. When they confronted them about the inactivity in light of the seriousness of her illness, the villagers said that they were scared of her because Big Busi was demon possessed and what they wanted from the Skiles was for them to pray to God for her. They said that when Busi would wake, three grown men could not control her.

It was hard to imagine that after three days of virtual unconsciousness she could be so intimidating to these men. It was obvious they needed God's help for her healing. After asking everyone to leave, Jerry and Cherry laid hands on Busi and asked in a simple prayer in Jesus' Name for Busi's healing and deliverance. As the prayer ended, Busi awoke with a smile on her face. Jerry and Cherry called the people in and instructed them to give her some water to drink. In reflection, the different responses seem incredible. Jerry and Cherry were struck with amazement, while the villagers seemed to have expected the outcome and accepted it without surprise.

The next day Busi's husband told Jerry and

Cherry that God had chosen Busi, and that she should follow Him. Busi was indeed responsive and, when she heard the Gospel presentation, believed.

The following day Little Busi's mom stopped Cherry on a path and told her that, from her youth, her daughter had not wanted to follow the fetishes that the tribe worshiped. Little Busi had just told her mom that this God that healed Big Busi was the true God, and she wanted to follow Him. So it was that when Little Busi heard the Gospel, she believed and made her decision public through testimony and baptism.

In the following years, Big Busi did not grow in the Lord, but the younger one did, and she became involved with discipling six young girls who began living with her. Little Busi became a very productive influence on the tribe, setting a standard of hard work and ambition. She ended up having a fifteen-acre cashew orchard. Her testimony was renowned, not only in her tribe, but extended into the surrounding regions.

The rebels stole her crop of cashews the first year of their occupation. She persevered, continued to increase her orchard and walk in obedience to the Lord. The following year her father died of an apparent heart attack as he walked to his field. Forty days later she died after five days of illness.

God's work in these two women is apparent. He orchestrates events in the lives of people for His Glory and, for those who respond to His love, for their glory as well. Big Busi's illness was used to demonstrate that He is able to heal when it serves His purpose. God had worked in Little Busi's heart to create a desire that He alone could fill, and when it was shown to her, she knew immediately.

Both Busis continue in life: one in the difficult village life of rural Africa; the other in the wonderful presence of her Lord, free from the toils and hardships of this world. ■



# Mexico

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Loreto, Zacatecas-Mexico

We have been out of touch since our return from the border. [Editor's note: Because of the type of visa that the Balls have, it is necessary for them to make a trip at regular intervals to the border to renew their papers. This trip was fraught with delays and difficulties.] Here is just a little news bit from our trip. We had problems with the van weeks prior to our departure. We thought we had it fixed several times but each time it would fail in the same way. We thought we had it fixed for good two days before departure. The day before, it quit. The mechanic was on vacation. We took off as planned. It quit on the way up & after letting it sit for fifteen minutes it fired up. We got as far the bridge at border, American side. We let it coast down the hill towards the inspection booth. The last few yards on the flat, the guy behind us pushed us each time it was our turn to advance. Once they were done with us at the booth, the boys pushed us into an empty slot. We waited twenty minutes and it fired up and we went on the ten miles to where we were staying. It ended up being computer. So that was our adventure for the trip. The kids remember plenty of those adventures. Not usually adventures for them, but in our life of faith in Christ these troubles become adventures.

On another note, Marcial has decided to take an indefinite period of time away from the ministry here in Loreto. They feel they need to give much more attention to their teen-age boys for their own spiritual well being. Marcial will not be coming over any days of the week. Please pray for Marcial and his family. Their oldest son is the one they are most concerned about, so please pray for him. Of course the congregation here will suffer for his absence. Please pray for the men as they will need to take on more responsibilities. There are three new families receiving studies. They are not saved as of yet.

We are moving to another house that will give us more yard space. We have to fix the house up to live in it. I have enjoyed doing some work with my hands. The house is ready to move into, which we are doing this week. We will not be paying rent, but will continue to do some fixing up, both in that house and another house. I will write more later on the house situation. Need to close for now. Love in Christ, Mike



**Marcial, blind evangelist, was largely responsible for founding the church at Loreto, travelling two hours each way from Aguascalientes by bus three days a week. For several years, he alone was responsible for the**

**teaching of the word and establishing the new believers that comprised the new congregation**

Mexico continued on page 12

Mexico continued  
The Drysdales  
Atotonilco, Jalisco



**Ed Drysdale**

In our last update we had asked for prayer for direction. In this we would still like to ask for your prayer; we still need His guidance. Meanwhile, the Lord has not stopped working here in Atotonilco. With the coming of this new year, the Lord has placed on the hearts of the believers here to ask for six new families to be added to the fellowship. In response to these prayers, the Lord has been adding:

Juan and Margarita (who sell tacos); Margarita has started to attend women's Bible study on a regular basis. The whole family has begun to attend a Bible study that Steve had with another couple in that area.

Yolanda and her husband, Eduardo, have also returned. Her sickness seems to be getting better, and they have made the effort to attend Sunday service again.

Dane and her mother have also been coming to church. On the first Sunday there Dane testified to the congregation that she has been impressed to meet with the fellowship on Sundays. This has been along time coming. In our weekly Bible study it came to my attention that her mother did not have a Bible with big enough letters for her to read. Praise the Lord--I did! She was so grateful for the gift. She asked me to pray a "benediction" over her Bible so that when she opened it the first words she would read would be a message directly to her. It seemed a little funny, but the person who gave her daughter her Bible had done that at a time when she was so sick. The scripture she read had really impacted the whole family. Dane's unsaved sister, Chelo, decided to join us this week for Bible study.

Another lady we have been ministering to, who in truth, at times, has been a real burden, also shows real signs of growth. Ramona has been reading her Bible at home on a regular basis, and has been attending church semi-regularly. On my last visit to her house, she said to me, "Ed, I can't find the virgins or saints anywhere in my Bible. If the Bible doesn't have them how come the priests

teach it?" She also told me that her neighbor had asked her if she was attending our church, and she responded, "Yes, I'm a Hallelujah now!"

I had been giving a Bible study to a young couple for some time, and was quite discouraged when they told me that they no longer wanted me to "go out of my way;" they knew where the church was, and when they could they would come. Needless to say, they have not come. A week ago this same young man was in a car accident. When I went to visit him, he was very glad to receive me, and told me that he has been asking God to show himself real to him. He said that when I used to come, he "didn't like the idea so well," and would avoid me because he was a Catholic. "Now", he said, "I'm on the Christian side. When I'm better I want to start coming to church." He has agreed to meet with me while he's in recovery to discuss the Bible.

His wife, who is the younger sister of some of the ladies on our church, told her sister that her husband had gotten saved. She hadn't; but when she started to have nightmares, she told the Lord that if He would take them away, she would follow Him. She says that she, too, now believes.

We are very excited to see the Lord answer us so quickly. Our goal of six families is well on its way, but we realize that the participation of all of these families is tenuous, and can very easily be snatched away. We ask that you will uphold them in prayer so that they may grow stronger.

There are two other things that I would ask for your support in prayer. One family in the church, along with their three adult, unmarried daughters, who have been very faithful to the Lord, are undergoing great tribulation. The youngest of the daughters, quite surprisingly and quickly, left home with an unsaved young man. She is not showing any signs of being repentant. Please keep them in your prayers.

I also ask that you would pray for the health of my family, especially that of my wife. She has been diagnosed with a thyroid disorder. She gets sick often. On good days, she is 'just tired'. Linda Montgomery is going to be gone some, so my wife will need extra strength to fill in. I would ask that you would pray that the doctor would be competent, and help to resolve this quickly.

In Him, The Drysdale's



My days here in the Middle East have been flying by! If there's extra time I spend it reading my Bible or studying Arabic. I'll have an Arabic lesson during my free time; I really like that.

I've been reading through 1 Samuel lately and have been very encouraged. I want to be faithful to God like David was, even though I don't have as many people around me encouraging me as I would like. I also have been reading about Abigail, Nabal's wife. It was said that she was full of understanding. I'm realizing that no one can be full of understanding unless he is humble. I have a lot of pride in my life. God has been showing me lately that he wants me to be full of understanding, but first I must be humble. God truly is the best teacher and friend a person can ever have.



Your loving friend, Sheila

We have no news from Peter Warren to include in this issue of the Update. But we continue to uphold him in prayer for his work with Chinese University students. We will bring you up to date in the next issue. In the meantime your continued prayer for him is appreciated.



**Peter Warren**

The beloved little and big girls (ages 6-14) in the cell group I meet with every Sunday after church are Yulia, Diana, Sasha, Madina (praying for her poor parents), Camila, Alyona (praying for her rich parents), Nastya, Tanya and Masha. I watch them, try to understand all their discussions in Russian, and love them.

Forty to fifty students from high schools, universities and businesses come to Andrea and I daily to learn English. For example, Vitaly, who also comes to our Bible study every Friday to discuss whether or not there is a God and is always the last to leave so as not to miss anything in life. Shamsiya with whom I spend much time walking, talking, and planning my graduation trip (God helped me finish the APU master's degree program!) to Istanbul during semester break. She goes there to buy yarn for her knitting shops, and wanted me to see her favorite place in the world.

Andrea, Alana, and Hillary are my dear roommates with whom I share kasha (cooked cereal), one small bathroom, one even smaller kitchen, and a heart-sharing time every Thursday morning.

Our ESI teaching team of five men and five women have team worship and Acts study on Fridays.

Mega snow and 37 below! Love, love, love, Peg Mott



**Peg Mott**

Mail:  
Yermekova 49  
Karaganda 100009  
Kazakhstan

Funds:  
Shield of Faith Mission Intl  
POBox 144  
Bend, OR 97709

A question has come from a reader of *Truth or Tradition: Does it matter?*, one of the books available through SFMI. Many have asked this same question.

**Q. This book indicates there is no feast of Israel signifying the birth of Christ. The feasts, each one representing prophetically a significant event in the life and redemptive career of the Lord Jesus, begin with the Passover, which is prophetic of his death. Should we, who do not acknowledge pagan or secular celebrations of Jesus' birth, celebrate the biblical feasts of Israel?**

A. There seems to be a tendency among many who profess to be believers in Jesus to return to the things contained in the Law of Moses. The apostles dealt with this issue early on as the Church was spreading from Jerusalem to the nations. Paul, who was commissioned the apostle to the Gentiles Gal.2: 7-9 as Peter was to the Jews, gathered with the other apostles to deal with this very issue Acts 15. After much deliberation, they concluded that the practices of the law were not to be applied to the nations, except that they “abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.” Acts 15:20

When the believers in Galatia were taught by law-keeping Jews that they too must observe the customs of the law, Paul, referring specifically to the feasts, said, “Ye observe days and months and times and years; I am afraid of you lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain.” Gal. 4:9,10

Other than this epistle to the Galatians, there is no instruction to the New Testament churches about keeping the feasts; and the instruction to the

Galatians is, “Don’t.” The reason is simple. The keeping of the feasts was prophetic. When Jesus came and fulfilled all that the feasts pointed to, there was no more need to observe them.

In the Epistle to the Galatians, Paul revealed the allegory of the two women who represented the two covenants (Old Testament and New Testament). Agar, Abraham’s Egyptian concubine, mother of Ishmael the product of Abraham’s flesh, represented the Law from Mount Sinai. Sarah, on the other hand, Abraham’s wife and mother of the promised son, represented the Gospel of Grace, the New Covenant. Quoting from Genesis, Paul wrote, “Nevertheless, what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.” Galatians 4:30,31 The meaning is clear. The covenant of the Law and the covenant of Grace are not concurrent; they do not intermingle.

The Old Testament was a forerunner and a picture of the New, and it has many examples for us. I Corinthians 10:6,11 But the practice of its ceremonies is no longer relevant; they are fulfilled in Christ. The only “symbolic” practices relative to and commanded by the New Testament are baptism and communion (breaking bread). These signify our burial with him and our remembrance of his death until he comes again.

The Church is not Israel. The reenactment of those feasts that were given to Israel to foreshadow who their Messiah would be and what he would do, have no relevance in the assembly of New Testament believers. Christ is the fulfillment of them all.

The attached Conference registration form (on page 15) should be filled out, clipped and mailed in to the Shield of Faith office as soon as possible. We expect a full house again this year and early registration helps us and the conference grounds administrators to serve you better.. It will also assure you of being assigned to the best accommodations to meet your family’s needs. We look forward to seeing you at Twin Rocks on the Oregon Coast



# Annual Northwest Conference 2006

## Shield of Faith Mission International

Registrars: Mike Williamson and  
Chrissie Wise

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 144  
Bend, OR 97709

Phone: 1-541-382-7081  
Fax: 1-541-382-4471

**Twin Rocks Friends Campground**      **Rockaway Beach, Oregon**  
**May 26 - 29, 2006**

**How it Works:** Arrivals begin at 5:00 p.m. Friday, May. 26. The first meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. There will be no meal served Friday night. Please feel free to bring snacks. Saturday morning 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Please include infants.

Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Circle Choices

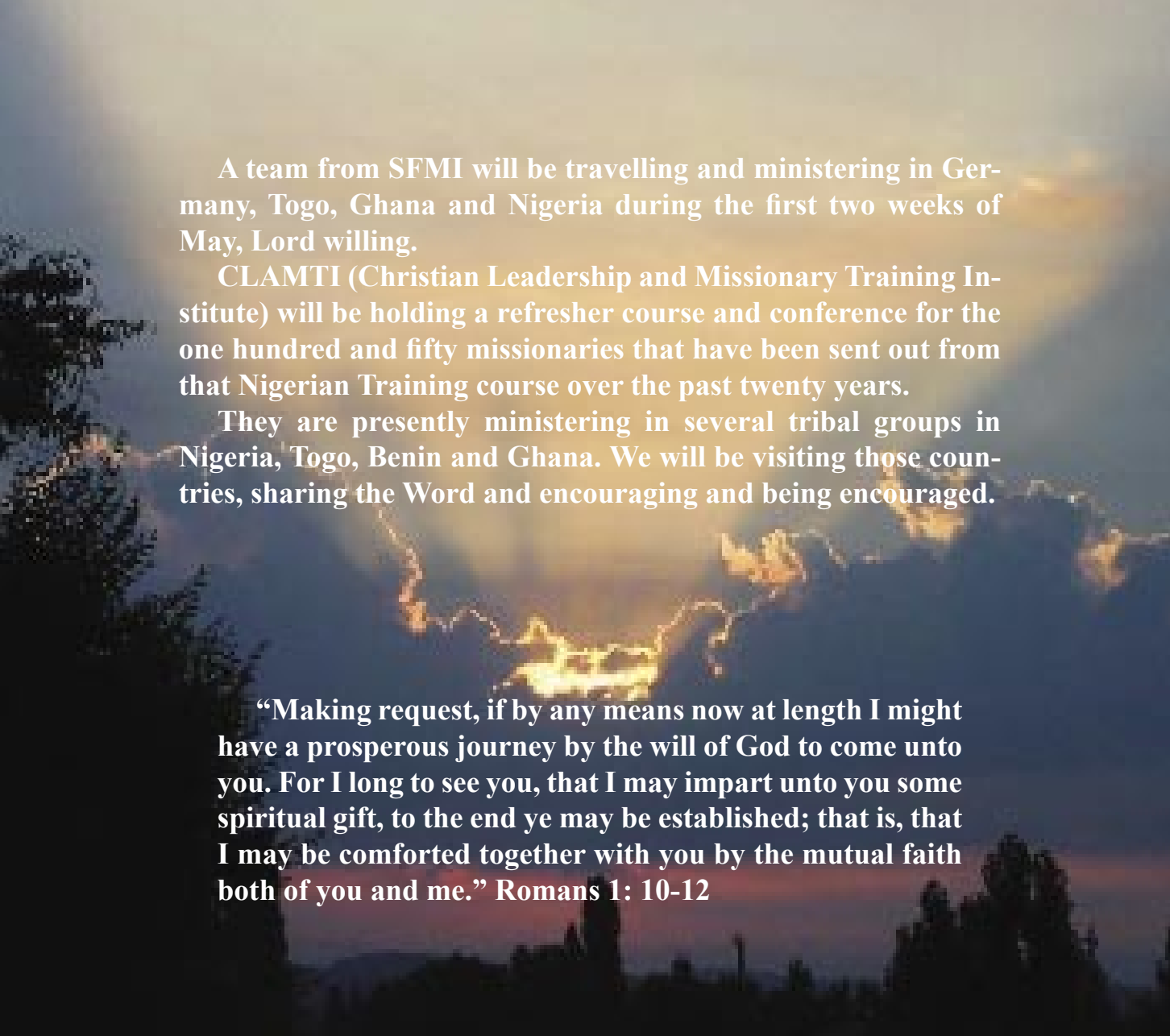
<b>Nights staying:</b>	Friday Night	Saturday Night	Sunday Night
<b>Accommodations:</b>	Room	Tent	RV
<b>Meals:</b>	Saturday Breakfast	Sunday Breakfast	Monday Breakfast
	Saturday Lunch	Sunday Lunch	Monday Lunch
	Saturday Dinner	Sunday Dinner	

*Special Requests or Needs:*

Would like to work with children's ministry

Would like to work with youth's ministry

Please mail or fax completed Form to the Shield of Faith Office.



A team from SFMI will be travelling and ministering in Germany, Togo, Ghana and Nigeria during the first two weeks of May, Lord willing.

CLAMTI (Christian Leadership and Missionary Training Institute) will be holding a refresher course and conference for the one hundred and fifty missionaries that have been sent out from that Nigerian Training course over the past twenty years.

They are presently ministering in several tribal groups in Nigeria, Togo, Benin and Ghana. We will be visiting those countries, sharing the Word and encouraging and being encouraged.

**“Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; that is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.” Romans 1: 10-12**

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

Return Service Requested