



Church of the Open Bible

(Church of God General Conference, Atlanta GA)

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Any Skeletons In Your Closet?

A significant part of our identity is found in our ancestry. Perhaps that explains the fascination and energy many devote to discovering their family's genealogy.

Matthew 1:1 lists "**The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham**". The human connection of Jesus is inescapable; He could no more divorce Himself from His human genealogy than you or I could. It's an intrinsic part of His very being.

The public record of Jesus' ancestry is openly displayed for all to see and there are a few "skeletons in his genealogy closet". He is related to famous cheat (Jacob); a murderer and adulterer (David); and a prostitute (Rahab), to name a few. His ancestry seems just a bit too human for the sinless Son of God. But, warts and all, His ancestry is significant to His identity.

I find comfort in Jesus' all-too-human genealogy. He really is one of us. True, none other can claim Divine parentage as he can, but His human connection is inescapable. His human DNA firmly embeds Him in the human race.

A family historian has shed some light on our family tree and it's at least as flawed as that of Jesus. There are some swindlers and thieves in our past as well as a preacher who got in a bar room brawl and lost his ministerial license, if I understand correctly. It's nothing to brag about but it is a significant part of who I am.

The genealogy of Jesus matters because it clearly indicates that He is one of us. To convert Jesus from the Son of God to God, the Son is to eradicate His human ancestry and radically distort His true nature.

To remove Jesus from His human ancestry is to negate the truth that **"we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."** (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus' human connection puts Him in touch with the reality of sin and temptation and qualifies Him to truly conquer both for our benefit.

The humanity of Jesus in no way diminishes Him but instead perfectly defines Him. Because of it we find great comfort, reassurance, and hope in knowing that **"there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"** (1 Timothy 2:5).

May the Jesus who is inseparably connected to us in our humanity bring peace, joy and victory today as He ushers us into the very presence of His Father and ours, the One true God.

- Pastor Steve Taylor, 3-27-08

CONGREGATION, if something is incorrect or "doesn't look right" in today's bulletin, it can be explained that it was because my 6-month old laptop crashed April 1st (No Foolin'!). I lost all documents going back 2 to 4 months. So I've had to scrounge, very quickly, for information on Thursday when normally I'm ready to print by then. I'm sure I'm leaving out information I had already loaded for this week, but it's now lost. I may think of it later. This crash was to keep me humble. :- / Thanks, Mark, for getting my dead laptop resurrected (repaired) and spending many hours restoring several thousand pictures and most of my documents! Couldn't have done it without you!



[Today we observe the communion service.](#) If you believe implicitly in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, have been immersed in the waters of baptism, are earnestly looking forward to the return of Jesus to establish God's Kingdom upon this earth, and are seeking to live in accordance with the gospel message so as to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance – Gal. 5:22,23), you are invited to partake of the communion emblems with us this morning.



FRED SCHULD entered Bedford Hospital April 2nd with a lesion on

his leg and a possible blood infection. Keep in prayer.

FORMER PASTOR LINFORD MOORE (Iowa) is critically ill. Keep him & his family in prayer.

DAVID AND MEGAN FREDERICK are expecting their 3rd child in November. Our congratulations!

IT'S TODAY!

GOLDEN CORRAL, a buffet restaurant, was selected as the place to hold our annual Dutch Treat church outing. Meal is \$9.95 / \$11.45 with drink. There is a map on its location on the back table.



"MARCH"-ING FOR MISSIONS MONTH" OUR SPECIAL MISSIONS PROJECT

(Extended for 2 weeks in April)



We are earmarking this money to help our late Pastor Beder's family in Peru – his wife and 5 children (pictures by vortex) - **PLUS** helping a team* to visit in April other believers in Uruguay who want to be baptized and begin a new church their country.

****See Team's Itinerary To South America
by Vortex Jug!***

PRAY FOR: Fred Schuld, Czatt Family (by KCain), Edith Speer (therapy), Pastor Linford Moore (1-23, heart attack), Phil May (job search), Sonny Koston (burned), Mellisa (by JWetzel), Marti Wohn (by GWhaley), Jeff Stoneman (cancer, by Whaley), Ruth Schuld (treatments), Ken-Kathy Cramer, Terry James (cancer, by Roper), Evelyn Pennington, Jack Hearp, Ruby Korode, Gene & Gloria Faehnrich, Jacob Hinton*, Kathy Reed*, (*by Skip), W.C. & Craig Blankenship, **College students:** Andrew Weaver, Jackie Schuld, Dan & Rachel Cain (internship / teaching degree), **Shut-ins:** Evelyn Pennington **Military:** Rodger Schuld, Brandon Metzner, **Those serving in other countries:** Lupe Badillo-Mexico, Tracy Zhykhovich-Russia, Pastors in Malawi & Mozambique, Lesly Bertrand and the Pastors in Haiti. **Colleges / Churches:** RRCC, ABC, Golden Rule, Grace Brethren and for the peace of Jerusalem, Ps. 122:6; Isa. 62:6, 7

APRIL 2008 / (We're Extending "MARCH"-ING FOR MISSIONS for 2 weeks into April)

06 Monthly observance of the Lord's Supper

06 Annual All-Church Dutch Treat Outing / Golden Corral

Future Dates: May 11, Mother's Day / May 17 Andrew Weaver's wedding / Jun 1, Rachel's Wedding Shower / Jun 15, Father's Day / Jul 12, Rachel Weaver's wedding / Aug 24, SS picnic / Sep 21, SS Mtg

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45A.M.
WORSHIP 10:45A.M.

Due to computer crash, today's program wasn't finished at time of mailing, but these things were ready ...

Musicians: Sharon and Mark Cain

Worship Hymns: Mark Cain

Prayer / Offering

Mission Devotional: Pam Weaver

Message: Why Did Jesus Have To Die?

Communion: Pastor Cain

Key Texts: 1 Pet 3:18

**If Your Son Died Saving Your Neighbor From A Fire,
How Would You Feel If The Neighbor Skipped The Funeral To Watch TV?**



Jesus has saved us from fire judgment to come – are we skipping the services that honor his sacrificial deed? Please join us in celebrating His Love for us!