



Church of the Open Bible

(Church of God General Conference, McDonough GA)

689 Adams St / Bedford Ohio 44146-3652

Email: rexcain@gmail.com / Web Site: <http://openBible.homestead.com>

Pastor Rex F. Cain / 440.232.3970 / June 7, 2009

Martin Luther On The Sleep of The Dead

In my reading recently, I ran across this quotation from Martin Luther's writings and it struck me forcibly. Here was Dr. Luther, who in 1517, turned the world upside down by nailing 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg. These were challenges to the only church of his day, the Roman Catholic Church.

This quote, though, was made in 1532, after the Reformation had been around for 15 years. He continued his studies, and near the last years he wrote these words in his commentary on Ecclesiastes:

"Just as one who falls asleep and reaches morning unexpectedly when he awakes, without knowing what has happened to him, so we shall suddenly rise on the last day without knowing how we have come into death and through death. We shall sleep, until He comes and knocks on the little grave and says, 'Doctor Martin, get up!' Then I shall rise in a moment and be happy with Him forever."

– "Commentary on Ecclesiastes," by Dr. Martin Luther (AD 1532)

Here was another profound change he made in his theology, no longer expecting to fly away at death, but to remain until the resurrection from the dead which will happen when Christ returns to this earth.

Strangely, Lutherans today and many others think they have an immortal soul that flies off at death. Martin Luther had come to the Biblical position that when he died, along with Abel, Abraham, Moses, even King David, would not receive their reward until a later time. The author of Hebrews says the resurrection will not come to the patriarchs until He comes for us when Jesus returns.

Read Hebrews 11:39, 40. *"These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect."*

So whether we sleep in death before Jesus returns, as those

of Hebrews 11, or are alive and remain until His coming, we know He is coming one day for us.

3-1-09 THRIVE Devotional / Kent Ross, Publisher

JUSTIN KOSTYO (16) stepped forward May 24th at the close of the service to accept Christ and join God's Family with the glorious hope of eternal life. His baptism is scheduled for next Sunday (14th). Join us as Justin professes his faith before God and Christian witnesses.



ANNABELLE MAY & JACOB CAIN will be leaving in a couple weeks for our Ohio State Youth Camp. A great experience!

CALEB SAMUEL AN was born May 26th to Sam & Sarah (Cain) An weighing 7 lbs 15 oz / 20 ³/₄ inches long with lots of black hair. (He's already reciting the Korean alphabet – joking!) Sharon and I returned from GA last Sunday. Thanks, congregation, for the time to be with our daughter and family at this happy time and for keeping us in your prayers.



VOLLEYBALL OUTING AND FELLOWSHIP ON JUNE 14 FOLLOWING THE SERVICE AND BAPTISM!



DID YOU KNOW you can receive an abbreviated edition of the *Progress Journal* from our General Conference every month on line? If you would like to receive this newsy update, you can request it at info@abc-coggc.org

SO NOW IN AMERICA, WE CAN'T HAVE BIBLE STUDY IN OUR HOMES?!!

Pastor Cited for Holding Home Bible Study Without Permit

Christian Post reports that a California pastor and his wife face legal action from San Diego County for holding a weekly Bible study at their home. Officials informed the couple on Good Friday that the meeting constitutes a "religious assembly" and requires an expensive permit. Pastor David Jones and his wife Mary say the "assembly" is simply dinner, fellowship and Bible study in their home. The Joneses and their attorney argue that forcing them to get a permit is unconstitutional under the First Amendment. "The implications are

great because it's not only us that's involved," Mary Jones told Fox News. "There are thousands and thousands of Bible studies that are held all across the country. What we're interested in is setting a precedent here -- before it goes any further -- and that we have it settled for the future."

KEEP THEM IN PRAYER

Joe & Rebekah Martin's African Mission

**Itinerary for This Week in Africa
(Traveling May 28th to July 4th)**

They have asked us to pray for:

- God's guidance in every aspect of ministry
- Security and safety on their trip
- God's spirit to guide them
- Their health and physical needs
- Good communication/understanding of cultures between us and the Africans
- Wisdom in the ministry
- Clean water and food



June 7-14

- 7 Teach Tchakka's area
- 8 Teach Tchakka's area
- 9 travel to Mocuba
- 10 Teach Mocuba area
- 11 travel back to Milange, Mozambique
- 12 OFF
- 13 Teach Lomos's area
- 14 Teach Neva's area in a.m.! travel to Malawi p.m.

THANKS MARK CAIN for speaking in my absence last Sunday.

OUR CHURCH INSURANCE, it appears, will be helping us to remove the old and install the new insulation in the attic plus replace the ruined vents at each end of the church building. Frank has been working with the company for 2 weeks.

I WISH SOME OF OUR VISITORS WOULD STAY AT CHURCH AS LONG AS OUR RACCOONS have chosen to stay! We are pursuing other methods to remove her (them?) from the attic. Our thanks to Frank & Skip who have been keeping an eye on things while I was away!

ARE YOU LISTENING TO OUR CHURCH OF GOD RADIO - COGCAST.ORG?

PRAY FOR: Gloria Faehnrich, Quick INS inspection approval of ABC campuses, W.C. Blankenship (heart), Susan May, Jacob Hinton, Kris Fiocca (by SBurnham), Lucinda (by ASzekely), Jean Szantes (cancer, by Arlene), Josh Eberly (by SMay), David Krogh, Pastors Earl Poland, Ed Goit, Alva Huffer, Don Ward & Leon Driskill; Ken Cramer, Tammy (Koston) Lisiecki, Gene & Gloria Faehnrich, Leslie & Stanley Hervert (by Grace), Ruth Schuld, Susan (Stine) Bradley, Edith Speer, Jack Hearp, Kathy Reed+3 children, Craig Blankenship, **College students:** Laura Schuld, Andrew Weaver, **Shut-ins:** Carol Reed, Evelyn Pennington, Amy Dunbar Puehler **Military:** Rodger Schuld, **Missionaries in other countries:** Gaston Ucanay-Peru, Mauro Apolos Gonzalez-Uruguay, Lupe Badillo-Mexico, Tracy Zhykhovich-Russia, Pastors in Malawi & Mozambique, Lesly Bertrand and the Pastors in Haiti. / **Churches:** Knightstown Family Fellowship IN, Korean Extension Steve & Sam An, RRCC, ABC, Golden Rule, Grace Brethren and for the peace of Jerusalem, Ps. 122:6; Isa. 62:6, 7

JUNE 2009

14 **Baptism of Justin Kostyo**

14 Volleyball Outing, Pizza lunch / Bedford Reservation
21-25 /SUMMIT / Ohio State Camp / St Paris, OH

Future Dates: Jul 8-10 G.C. in Oregon IL / Jul 19-24 National Youth Camp, Manchester College (IN)

SEPT. 13, 2009 / 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

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

Musician: Sharon Cain

Welcome / Announcements / Prayer

Worship Hymns: Mark Cain

218 The Family of God

204 O, How I Love Jesus

Prayer / Offering

Message: "I Was Not Disobedient To The Heavenly Vision"

Key Verses: Lk 15:10; Acts 9:1,2; Jn 16:2,3; Acts 7:54-8-1; Matt 5:43,44;

Rom 12:18-20; Acts 26:9-20; 26:24-31; 1 Cor 11:28
Communion: Pastor Cain
219 Blest Be The Tie That Binds

1959 - 2009 = 50 Yrs!