



Church of the Open Bible

(Church of God General Conference, McDonough GA)

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Pastor Rex F. Cain / 440.232.3970 / Nov. 8, 2009

The Beginning of “Labor Pains”

The following thoughts and words were adapted, with a few additions, from Pastor Wally Winner’s church e-newsletter.

Bible students have been predicting the end of this age and the return of Christ for centuries ... probably as God intended so each generation had just enough “signs” to keep them intensely hopeful for soon salvation. However, in our age, we have the 2000-year dispersion of Israel now returned to their homeland as a sovereign nation (1948 – a fulfillment of one of God’s promises). Jesus said he would come in days that were like Noah’s. At that time, the earth was filled with violence; corruption and men’s hearts were only evil continually (Gen. 6:5-12 & Matt. 24:37). Would you say we’re close to the same conditions?

In Matthew 24:1-8, there are three things from this text that we should note about the labor pains mentioned in v. 8. Jesus’ use of labor pains simply means that the trauma and distress of the final days only grow increasingly more intense ... just like in labor ... until finally there’s a birth. For us, it is the “birth” of the Kingdom Age at the return of Christ!

1. Spiritual Deception (v. 4, 5). Don't believe everything you hear. a couple of things seeding deception today is heresy in the church and a blurring of the truth.

2. International Disruption (v. 6-7a). War has always existed, but now we are faced with the cowardly global terrorism, which uses no battlefields, no uniforms and strikes in cities using innocent civilians as shields. Apocalyptic fever is around us and there is a growing sense of a doomsday.

3. Physical Destruction (7b-8). Famines - 400 people die of starvation every minute. Pestilence - we are fighting many infectious diseases. Earthquakes from 1890 to 1970 (80 years) of 6.0 or greater totaled 39. From 1970 through 2007 (37 years) we had a total of 1,590.

The birth pains are a minute apart; Christ is coming. Are you ready?

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VETERANS DAY (Nov. 11th) not only preserves the historical significance of the date (ending of WW I), but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

WE SALUTE OUR CHURCH VETERANS

Bill Cramer
Charles Jones (deceased)
Mary Ellen Jones
Bill Marsh
Dan Koston

Bill Polzer (deceased)
Dick Richter (deceased)
Fred Schuld
Al Szekely
Clyde Whaley



Phil May

In Memory

The Golden Rule Church sent the Bedford Church a generous check in memory of Charles (Bud) Jones who lived a life of faith. He would be honored that his faith and beliefs are benefited by this support. Thus, in a real sense, Bud's work continues.

BILL & GINNY CRAMER also recently sent a generous check in support of our work here – they have done this for years. We appreciate your concern for the ministry of the Bedford church.

OUR COINS FOR CAMP vortex jug brought in \$201.59 and with some outside help (money sent in) we reached \$251,59. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ARLENE SZEKELY has not been feeling up to par and her leg and hip has been hurting. Your prayers appreciated.

FRANK ROPER will be having out patient hernia surgery Nov. 16th. It appears to be a routine procedure. Prayers appreciated.

SUSAN MAY'S baby is due most anytime – she was in the hospital last Sunday with false labor. She might be induced tomorrow. Keep the family in prayer.

GC/ABC CAO RESIGNS

Dear Fellow Believers and Members of the Church of God General Conference,

It is with mixed emotions that the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Bible College-Church of God General Conference, Inc. is writing to inform you that we have accepted the resignation of Tim Jones as Chief Administrative Officer of the General Conference and President of the Atlanta Bible College, effective immediately. We extend our appreciation to Tim for his years of service to the College and Conference. Tim will continue on staff as an instructor and to concentrate his efforts on a sixty-day project to determine the feasibility of online and distance learning efforts for the Atlanta Bible College. The Board of Directors is considering a proposal for a long-term position to coordinate our online and distance learning efforts, which we view as a vital and exciting component of ABC.

In the interim, Dr. Joe Martin has been appointed CAO and President of ABC. He will work closely with staff to make sure this is a smooth transition as the Directors seek answers to a long-term solution to the leadership of the Conference and College.

We continue to covet your prayers for wisdom during this time as we strive **to serve churches and individuals in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom.**

DID YOU KNOW ...

that you can take our FREE 29-lesson Systematic Theology course on line?

You can go to our General Conference website (this is the G.C. site:

<http://www.abc-coqgc.org/index.html>) or you can go directly:

<http://www.hutchinsoncoq.com/SysTheology/index.html>

(David Krogh Will be Grading Your Lessons – He Will Let Me Know When You Have Completed Them)

**If you complete these 29 lessons successfully,
I'll take you out for dinner!**

PRAY FOR: Frank Roper, Arlene Szekely, Jones Family, Tim Adams (by MCain), Gwyn Studebaker (by Rx), Rebecca Schroth, Skip Reed, Gene & Gloria Faehnrich, Karel (Michal Sittek's g-father), INS inspection approval of ABC campuses, Ralph Childs, W.C. Blankenship (heart), Susan May, Jean Szantes (cancer, by Arlene), Pastor Don Ward, Ken Cramer, Tammy (Koston) Lisiecki, 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

NOVEMBER 2009

26 Thanksgiving

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

Musicians: Frank Roper & Mark Cain

Welcome / Announcements / Prayer

Worship Hymns: Mark Cain

541 My Country 'Tis of Thee

538 America, the Beautiful

Prayer / Offering

Message: Look Not To Your Own Interest

Key Texts: Phil 2:4; 1 Pet 2:13,14; Acts 5:28-30; 2 Tim 1:3;

Rom 1:8-10; Col 4:5-7; Gal 6:9; 1 Cor 11:24

547 We Gather Together



On the Lite Side:

LOT'S WIFE: The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mommy looked back once while she was driving, and she turned into a telephone pole!'